



Sept 2012

Steve Heeley and the candlestick.

Steve has been to our meetings several times down the years. A black country lad who is quite happy to demo to just two people provided he gets paid. His previous visits have shown a wide range of skills. This time he had been asked to make a basic candle stick pointing out the key areas where care and rush are to be avoided.



Examples of Steve's work

Steve started by forming the base with a 15cm diam block. He used a parting tool to make the recess for the clutch to grip when the base was reversed.



He then cleaned out the centre with a gouge slightly doming it. He pointed out this could have grooves cut in it if you wanted something fancy. But this will be the underside and rarely seen. It just needs to be neat and clean.

Forthcoming Attractions

- Sept 6th @ 7:30p.m. -Hands on
- Oct 4th @ 7:00pm - John Johnson
- Nov 1st @ 7:00pm - Viv Harvey
- Dec 6th @ 7:30 pm Hands on
- Jan post Christmas Social
- Feb 7th @ 7.00 pm Graham Bell
- Mar 7th @ 7:30 pm A G M
- Apr 4th @ 7:00 pm Malcom Hill

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The block is now reversed so it can be shaped up. First cut the hole for the shaft of the stick proper. Use callipers to measure this. New turners have a tendency to over cut holes then the dowel on the end of the candle stick stem has to be bigger than expected. You can end up chasing your tail so to speak.



Steve also cuts a small 'dovetail' so the rod of the candlestick sits in the base not on it. This means there is no slightly rounded edge at the join. The base is finished by multiple sandings. Steve never uses sanding sealer if the final piece is to be oiled. "The oil is feed for the wood." This is not a view common to other demonstrators.

The next step is to rough out the stem,



followed by cutting accurately the dowel section. Above Steve is using callipers as he did with the hole.

Now you can start on shaping and curving the spindle. Steve used a spindle gouge with long cut edges. He is the third demonstrator to show and use these cut back gouges. All three demonstrators stated you can use the gouge in several ways, one of which is as a scraper.

When making a bead Steve made the key point that you should cut the bead then cut away the horizon so to speak. This method gives a very shape edge. If you try and do it as you go along you will end up with curves at the bottom of the bead. See sketch below.

The end cuts should not be hurried. It is important to ensure you have no flats and the curves should be continuous. Do not try sanding out a ridge or a flat as you will only end up with a discontinuity. Anyone picking up the candle stick will invariably see the fault as they turn it over. So care and light touch with the final cuts. Then you can sand going down the grades as usual.

After sanding just touch the edges of any beads with the parting tool. This will put the sharp and cleanness of the edge back.



Now bring both parts together. At this stage you may need to slightly adjust a curve or two so the whole 'flows' together.

Apply the final polish so the shine is even. It is important you do not have a base with a stem stuck on it. It should appear as though you made it from one piece of wood.