

BAY AREA



WOODTURNERS
ASSOCIATION
A CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT CORPORATION
LOCAL CHAPTER AAW

February 2024

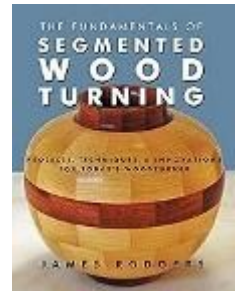
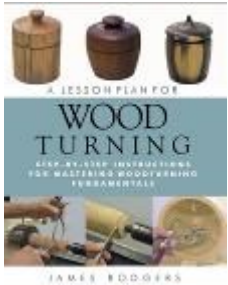
Volume 28 Issue 2



JIM RODGERS
**Hollow Forms Using Traditional/Carbide
Tools & Laser Systems**
February 10th
8:30-12:30

Jim is the long-time head instructor of the MDAE Woodturning studio and has turned for many years. Saturday's in-person demonstration covers turning hollow forms using both traditional and carbide tools and the use of laser systems for hollowing.

Most Friday mornings, you will find Jim at the Mount Diablo School "Drop-In" classes helping students learn woodturning. Jim also has posted, on-line, several informative how-to videos for turners interested in learning and improving their woodturning skills. Jim fabricates woodturning tools and has written two books titled **A Lesson Plan For Woodturning** and **The Fundamentals of Segmented Wood Turning**.





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Club Meetings

Club Meetings-

Meetings are generally held on the 2nd Saturday of each month. We meet in person. Meetings are held at the PHEC Woodturning Center at 1 Santa Barbara Road, Pleasant Hill, CA. The doors open at 8:30am. The meeting start time is 9:00am. See our website at bayareawoodturners.org for more information.

Guests are welcome to attend in person by request to: membership@bayareawoodturners.org.

See bayareawoodturners.org for club information.

BAWA Officers Meeting -

The Association's officer meetings are held each month. Contact Steve Griswold at: president@bayareawoodturners.org for more information.

2024 Event Schedule

| | |
|---------------|---|
| February 10th | Jim Rodgers Use of Carbide Tools 8:30 AM-12:00 PM |
| March 9th | Mike Mahoney Bowls, Platters 8:30 AM-4:00 PM |
| April 13th | Kristin LeVier Power Carving, Bent Wood Turning 8:30 AM-4:00 PM |
| May 11th | Carlos Angulo Natural Edged Bowl 8:30 AM-12:00 PM |

The Bay Area Woodturners Association is a local chapter of the American Association of Woodturners. Our purpose is to provide a meeting place for local turners to share ideas and techniques and to educate the general public regarding the art of turning. The Association usually meets the second Saturday of each month. The Association periodically sponsors exhibitions and demonstrations by local and internationally known turners.

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BAWA NEWS & NOTES



The Annual Holiday Party Wrap-Up

We held our Annual Holiday Party on January 13th, and the turnout was excellent! We had lots of good food catered by La Piñata, plenty of wood and other silent auction items, raffle baskets, and an instant gallery where we enjoyed your beautiful works! Oh, and we had the pleasure of visiting with friends with a common interest...you all!

By all counts, the event was a success, and we owe it to those who volunteered to help. I won't try here to name everybody who chipped in, because there were so many, and I would feel terrible if I miss someone, but please know we appreciate, so much, what you did to make this happen.

There are three people in particular, however, who, without their help, this wouldn't have happened. Anna Duncan, Claudia Foster and Kim Wolfe avoid recognition for all they do and operate behind scenes seldom taking credit for their hard work, but if you enjoyed the party...thank them! Their guidance, expertise and hard work are the factors that elevated this event from a potential disaster to the success it was! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

And thanks to all of you who attended, all of you who donated, and again, all who volunteered to help! It truly does take a village!



Setting up



Silent Auction



Bucket Raffle



Wood



Checking in



Rick Nelson & Peter Travis



The Hutchiinsons



The Ackleys



Bonnie Dewlaney



Joah Hackett



Trish Dolan



Chips

Continued on following page



Bill Walzer with a load of walnut blanks



Robin Hirsh & Jim Rodgers



The Hacketts



Steve Griswold & Jim Campbell



The Bentleys



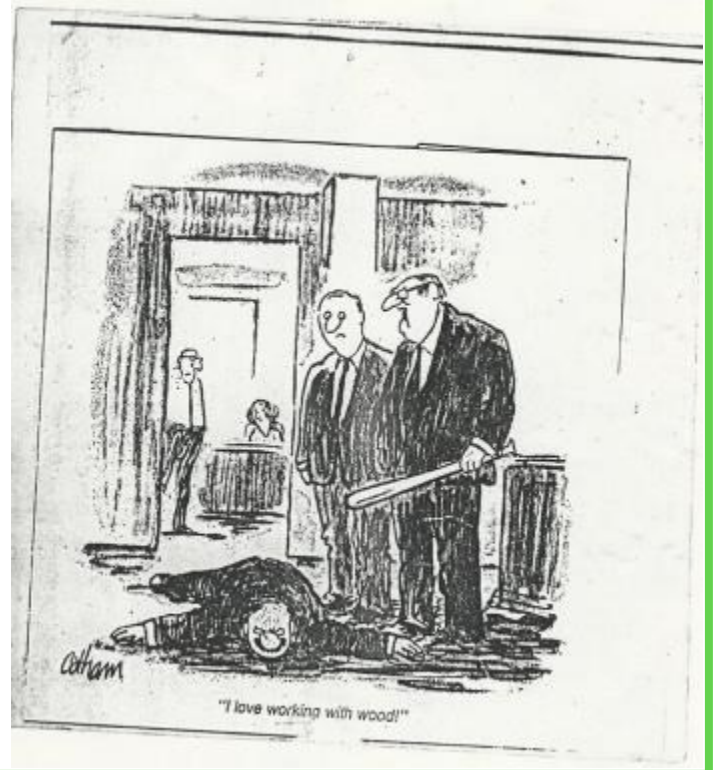
Paying up



Steve presides



Shaker Timeouts



"I love working with wood!"

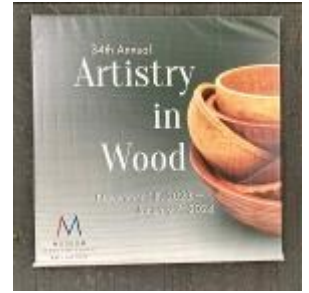


President's Letter

February 2024

Greetings, fellow woodturners,

My message this month is really these two photos. On the right is from the recent Artistry in Wood show in Sonoma, whose banner, seen here on the outside of the museum, featured the work of none other than our very own Hugh Buttrum, long-time BAWA member.



The photo on the bottom is of the terrific BAWA member show that just closed at the Orinda Library. When I look at these pictures, I am once again struck by what an amazing community we have here at BAWA. The creativity of our members just blows me away, and I just love watching our fellow turners evolve in their craft over the months and years with such inventiveness and passion all along. Keep in mind, for instance, that the pieces you see in the BAWA show below are not only from turners with decades of experience, but also members who have started turning within just the past few months, and every stage in between! So, I am filled with gratitude to be a part of this great group of makers, and I give my appreciation to those members who have volunteered their time and effort to help put on these shows as well as all our BAWA activities. Thank you.



BAWA Classified Ads



We want members and others with items to sell or trade, services to render or if you're just looking to find a specific item from fellow BAWA members.

Please send ads to Louie Silva at:
newslettereditor@bayareawoodturners.org

You can't beat the price...FREE!!

Rockler Helps BAWA Members

BAWA members receive a 10% discount when purchasing directly at the Concord Rockler Store at:

<http://www.rockler.com/retail/stores/ca/concord-store>.

Mention your BAWA membership when checking out, to receive your discount. Rockler also donates part of the proceeds back to the club which help support our Holiday Party raffle.



Holiday Party Instant Gallery



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Holiday Party Instant Gallery



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Accurate diameter measurement

I often need to measure the diameter of a workpiece after it is mounted and rough-turned on the lathe. I have tried using a caliper, then transferring the reading to a ruler, but that process feels cumbersome and sometimes my workpiece is larger than my caliper. I could lay a ruler on the nose of the tailstock's live center, but the live center's diameter would keep the ruler's edge off center—not by much, but enough to make me want a more accurate measurement.

I came up with a handy solution: a customized center-finder rule with a small, half-round cutout at the rule's "0" marking. The cutout fits over the nose of my live center, allowing the rule's edge to align with the true center

of the workpiece and giving me an accurate measurement of its diameter. As my rule is made from aluminum, I roughed out the cutout at the bandsaw, then refined it with a small sanding drum in a rotary tool. You could just as easily use a hacksaw and file.

This rule modification works great for accurately measuring a tenon's diameter. It is also useful when laying out markings for a freehand-turned sphere, as you would transfer the rough cylinder's diameter to its length and add a center point. ■

—Pat Miller, Washington



Continued on following page

A Classy Espresso Tamper

Joe Larese

I recently bought an espresso maker, and after using a spoon to pack down the coffee grinds, I realized I needed a tamper. Most commercially sold espresso tampers are made of metal, and some cost more than \$100. I was surprised to find that the woodturning supply companies don't offer a kit, so I decided to turn my own tamper, using a dense, close-grained wood for the tamping part and a contrasting wood species for the knob.

Turn the tamper section

1 Espresso makers have a metal filter basket that fits into a handled device called a portafilter, and the diameter of the filter basket can vary. Measure the inside diameter of your filter basket (*Photo 1*). Mine measured 2" (5cm).

2 Chuck and turn a blank 3½" (9cm) long to a diameter that will fit the filter basket closely (*Photo 2*). Be sure to keep the sides parallel or slightly tapered. Hard maple, apple, or birch would be a good choice for the wood.

3 Turn the end flat or slightly convex and sand to a fine grit. As this is the part that will be in direct contact with the coffee grounds, I finished the wood with just a little mineral oil, but you could also leave it unfinished.



Measure and turn



2 Measure the inside diameter of your espresso maker's filter basket, then turn the tamper to that size. Use a close-grain hardwood for this part of the project.

4 Turn a tenon and a slightly larger shoulder on what will become the top of the tamper part (*Photo 3*). The tenon, which I turned to ½" (13mm) diameter and about ¾" (19mm) long, will be glued into a hole in the knob section later. Sand and finish. I used wax for this part.

Turn the knob

5 Chuck and turn a blank of contrasting wood for the knob. Drill a hole sized to accept the tenon on the tamper portion. Glue the tamper to the knob, then blend the two sections for a smooth transition (*Photos 4, 5*).

Turn a tenon



3 The author uses a parting tool to turn a tenon and shoulder on the tamper.

Glue parts, turn transition



5 Rough-shape a contrasting species for the knob, then drill a hole to accept the tenon on the tamper. Glue the sections together, turn a smooth transition, and finish shaping the knob.

6 Continue shaping the knob, then sand, part, and finish as desired. I decided to finish the knob section with a spray lacquer for increased durability, masking the tamper portion to avoid getting overspray on it.

I can't guarantee your cappuccinos or lattes will taste better, but I'm pretty sure any home barista would be thrilled to receive a handcrafted tamper as a gift. ■

Joe Larese is a member of the Kaatskill Woodturners and the Nutmeg Woodturners League and is a turning instructor at the Brookfield Craft Center and SUNY/Purchase. He is a photojournalist by profession. His website is joelarese.com.

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Creative Solution for an Out-of-Round Bowl

Kevin Neelley

Several months ago, my club, the Kansas City Woodturners, hosted a demonstration about how to take wood from log to lathe. The wood was beautifully spalted hackberry. The turning demo went well, but the blank was turned a little too thin to become a “twice-turned” bowl. Normally, a rough-turned bowl would be left thick enough to allow for movement during drying. A month later, we found that the bowl had gone so out of round that it couldn’t be finish-turned without cutting through its sides.

The diameter across the rim was 8¾” (22cm) in one direction and 9½” (24cm) in the other. The bowl was a full ¾” (19mm) out of round at the rim, and the wall thickness was only ⅜” (10mm). Finish-turning it in its current form was not an option, so I decided to try to save the blank by inserting a segmented filler strip to make the diameter round again.

The process

I cut the bowl in half on the bandsaw, through its longer side—parallel to the grain direction (*Photo 1*). Then I flattened the rough-cut surfaces with a belt sander to ensure sound glue joints.

I laid one bowl half on a piece of paper and drew the wall outline (*Photo 2*), then used a compass to find the best diameter and wall thickness for the filler strip (essentially half of a segmented ring). I made the segmented half-ring of walnut 9½” diameter by ¾” wide by ⅜” thick. Walnut was chosen for good contrast to the spalted hackberry. The half-ring was test-fitted on the paper outline (*Photo 3*). I determined that the hackberry blank was only ½” (13mm) out of round halfway down toward the base; to take this into account, I tapered the segmented half-ring to ½” thick about halfway down.



I added strips of white and black veneer to the segmented half-ring to dress it up, then glued the hackberry bowl halves and segmented half-ring together (*Photo 4*).

I mounted the glued-up bowl on a Longworth chuck so I could turn the bottom flat (*Photo 5*). Then I was able to center and glue a wasteblock to the foot using the Oneway live center setup, allowing me to mount the bowl on a faceplate and finish turning it. I was able to save the bowl and turned it to about ⅜” (3mm) wall thickness. ■

Kevin Neelley has been an AAW member since 1994 and a segmented woodturner with the Kansas City Woodturners for about that long. He has only been turning “chunk” wood for the last few years and usually adds segmented details.

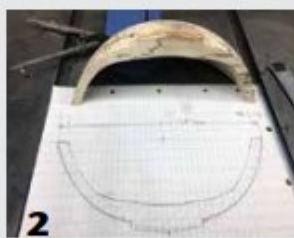
Cut bowl in half



The bowl was cut in half along the grain, then the cut surfaces were smoothed to ensure good glue joints.

1

Determine size of filler strip



Tracing the half-bowl's outline on paper aided in sizing the filler strip, a segmented half-ring of walnut.

2

3

Glue it back together



The author added black and white veneer to the sides of the filler strip, then glued the entire assembly together.

4

Finish-turn



A Longworth-style chuck was used to remount the bowl, turn the foot flat, and glue on a wasteblock with faceplate. The bowl was finally turned to ⅜” wall thickness.

5

Continued on following page



Forgiving Shopmade COLLET CHUCK

Carl Ford

Recently, I needed some extra collet chucks to turn bottle stoppers at a Nutmeg Woodturners' Learn-and-Turn meeting. I own only two of the commercially available collet chucks and quickly decided that purchasing more was out of the question due to cost. Plus, I don't like turning something like a bottle stopper right up tight against the metal collets in a commercial collet chuck; visions of my turning tool running into that metal collet are not pleasant. I decided to make my own custom collet chucks out of ultra high molecular weight (UHMW) polyethylene plastic.

Considerations

A collet chuck needs to be solid enough to grip whatever small project you are turning. It also needs

to flex a little without breaking when you tighten the four-jaw chuck down on it. I chose UHMW plastic because it turns easily with regular woodturning tools, flexes nicely, and yet is really tough. It comes in different shapes and sizes; I bought 2½"- (6cm-) diameter rod from McMaster-Carr (mcmaster.com, item #8701K53).

Custom hole sizes are no problem with these shopmade collets. I can finally make a collet with a ⅛" (8mm) hole, which is not typically included in the commercially available collet sets. Plus, you can shape the collet any way you like. I made mine with a long nose that positions anything mounted in the collet a good distance from the metal jaws of my four-jaw chuck. In the end, I decided I like my UHMW custom

collets better than the commercially available ones.

I made collets that would fit in the #2 jaws of my Oneway Stronghold chuck. Consider the size you'll need for your chuck. The UHMW collet chuck will have a tenon that you'll mount in your four-jaw chuck. A single gap cut in the collet allows the plastic to grip down on a workpiece when you tighten the four-jaw chuck.

Make a collet

STEP 1

Form tenon

Mount a 2" (5cm) length of 2½"-diameter UHMW plastic rod in a four-jaw chuck. True up the end and side of the blank. Then cut a tenon to fit in your four-jaw chuck (*Photo 1*). I find that an

Form tenon



1 Mount the UHMW rod into a chuck, true it up, and form a tenon (coloring for illustration purposes only).

Remount, drill hole



2 With the tenon now held in the chuck, true the end and drill a ⅛" hole all the way through the collet chuck blank.

Custom-shape collet chuck



3 Shape your collet chuck according to the needs of the project at hand. UHMW turns easily with regular woodturning tools.

Continued on following page

88-degree spearpoint tool works well, but you can use whatever tool you like for forming a tenon.

STEP 2

Drill

Remove the blank from the chuck and remount it using the tenon you just made. True up the end of the blank. Then drill the center hole for the collet all the way through the blank (*Photo 2*). Here, I am making a collet that will accept a 1/2" (13mm-) diameter dowel. Thus, I used a 1/2"-diameter drill bit. When you drill UHMW, the drill tends to flex the plastic out a little. So after you remove the drill, the hole is actually a little smaller than the size hole you drilled. This is exactly what we want for the center hole in a collet.

STEP 3

Shape collet

I used a bowl gouge to shape the collet, but you can use any tool you like (*Photo 3*). A spindle gouge would also work well for shaping.

STEP 4

Cut gap

Very carefully, use a bandsaw to cut a gap, or kerf, in the new collet. Cut a gap on only one side, roughly 1/8" (3mm) wide (*Photo 4*). This gap allows the collet to close down and grip whatever is mounted in it when the four-jaw chuck holding the collet is tightened. *Photo 5* shows a 1/2" dowel mounted in the new 1/2" collet. In order for the collet to tighten properly, the gap (highlighted in red for illustration purposes) must be aligned with one of the gaps in the four-jaw chuck.

Carl Ford is an accomplished woodturner, a member of the Nutmeg Woodturners League (Connecticut), and loves teaching people how to turn. His website is carlford.us.

Cut a gap



4 At the bandsaw, cut a 1/8"-wide gap in one side of the collet chuck.



5 In use, be sure this gap (marked in red) is aligned with one of the gaps between the metal jaws of your four-jaw chuck; this allows the collet chuck to close properly.

Bottle Stopper Example

Here is an example of how I used my new custom collet to turn a bottle stopper.

1 Mount a bottle stopper blank in the four-jaw chuck. True up the end and drill a hole for a 1/2" dowel. Glue a length of 1/2"-diameter dowel into the hole (*Photo a*).

2 After the glue has dried, mount the dowel/blank into your new collet chuck. Be sure the bottle stopper blank is driven all the way in and seated evenly on the collet chuck (*Photo b*).

3 Turn the bottle stopper. *Photo c* shows that turning the bottom of a bottle stopper is easy because the metal jaws of a commercially available collet chuck are not in the way. If you cut into the UHMW collet, it is very forgiving and no big deal. Continue shaping the bottle stopper, removing the tailstock only to finish turning and sanding the very end (*Photo d*).

4 Complete the stopper by attaching a cork or other bottle insert onto the dowel (pictured in the opening image).



a Drill wood blank and glue in dowel.



b Mount the dowel/bottle stopper blank in the collet chuck. I used the tailstock ram to ensure the blank was seated properly. Tightening the four-jaw chuck will close the gap in the collet chuck, providing a sufficient hold for smaller projects.



c Turn your bottle stopper shape. No worries if you cut into the plastic collet chuck. Keep the tailstock in place for support until your final cuts on the end.

