

President's Letter

May 2020



This month the Board of Directors was focused on creating on-line content for our members who are beginning to get a "little" stir crazy.

Our first Zoom meeting event I feel was a success with about 60 members participating in the tour of John Cobb's woodturning facility. The upcoming Chapter meeting will also be a remote demonstration – the first of many to come.

Unfortunately, we have had to address many issues related to the inability to work together. We have moved the July "Turn for the Troops" to November, aligning it with Veteran's Day. While we have not officially cancelled the Summer Picnic, I am dubious as to its possibility – more next month as we have more information.

As we have not been in contact with the faculty and students at Las Lomas High School, we have suspended our scholarship program with them for this year and hope to restart with the beginning of the next school year.

I am looking forward to also creating on-line (Zoom meeting) events and have ordered the technical equipment necessary to operate several cameras efficiently in order to provide the best possible content. I am awaiting the mailman's delivery!

Over the past several months the 2019 and 2020 Board of Directors have been working on revising out Chapter's Bylaws to be more in keeping with the current operational practices. To that end a final draft has been posted on our website under the member's section. Please review the draft (the current version is also posted next to it for comparison). We need the membership's approval to institute the recommendations. To that end, I would like any comments disagreeing with its adoption to be e-mailed directly to me. If I receive none, we will assume approval by acclamation.

The changes were more administrative, reducing the complexity of holding elections, etc. Most of which were already implemented informally.

Lastly, I am completing the Woodturning 150 series of lessons and have posted most of them through my site and Dave Bentley's YouTube channels. Want something to do? Check out each of the lessons, subscribe (to learn when new ones are posted), and go to your shop and:

- Make beads four ways
- Master the skew chisel's five cuts
- Practice turning on three-axis
- End grain hollow with a shallow-fluted gouge
- Turn spheres easily (?)
- Practice creating finials

Stay safe,
Jim Rodgers

Zoom Session Review

"Nice tour of John Cobb's bowl making operation. Very informative, very creative, nice work, well rehearsed, witty and at times, funny.



Good job John."

~Leland Frayseth~

May Zoom BAWA Meeting

May 9th

Zoom will be opened at 8:30 am and the meeting will begin at 9:00 am.

The agenda will include:

- Business meeting
- Show and Tell
- Remote Demonstration by Ed Pretty, Canadian woodturner



An invitation with the link to join the meeting will be emailed to you before the meeting.

Members of the board have been learning the ins and outs of Zoom and working with other local turning clubs to figure out the best way to hold on-line meetings. We have tried various means to do Show and Tell and have settled on having a photographic Show and Tell again for our May meeting.

This is how the Show & Tell will work:

1. Take a photograph or two of the item you want to show and send them to Rick Dietrich, BAWA VP and Photographer, at vp@bayareawoodturners.org.
2. All photographs will be edited, if necessary, and published in the BAWA newsletter.
3. The first 15 folks to send in their photos will also be given time to discuss the item as they are displayed at the Zoom meeting – just like a regular Show and Tell.
4. Topics for your discussion could include where you got the idea for the piece, what wood(s) did you use, what issues did you encounter in turning it and how did you solve them, what finish you used, and more – just like regular Show and Tell.
5. In the interest of time, we would request that discussions be limited to no more than 3 minutes.
6. The group will be given an opportunity to ask questions after your presentation.

Please send in your photos by 5:00 PM on Thursday, May 7 to allow time for processing.

We look forward to seeing your projects!

We are all learning ways of keeping in touch in these days of social distancing.

If you have any questions, please email Rick Dietrich at vp@bayareawoodturners.org.





BAY AREA WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION

A CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT CORPORATION
LOCAL CHAPTER AAW

Club Meetings

Meetings are the 2nd Saturday of each month unless otherwise noted.

8:30 doors open for setup, use store and library, swap ideas, view displays

9:00—12:30 meeting and demo

Meetings will be held at the PHEC Woodturning Center, 1 Santa Barbara Road, Pleasant Hill, CA.

See bayareawoodturners.org/ for directions and club information.

BAWA Officers Meeting -

Officer meetings are open to all members. Contact Jim Rodgers at: president@bayareawoodturners.org if you would like to be on the agenda.

2020 Event Schedule

May 9th	Zoom Meeting Ed Pretty-Replication 8:30am-12:30pm
June 13th	TBD



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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Have You Checked out the BAWA Website Recently?

Since the beginning of the year several changes have occurred to the BAWA Website. Training videos and slide shows 2016 and before have their own page. All of Jim Rodgers training videos including Woodturning 101 and Woodturning 150 are located on their own page. Meeting videos have been organized by year with the latest video of 2020 recently added showing a tour of John Cobb's shop, a fun video.

Four new pages were added in April, three pages labeled Vendors were added, all have links to each vendor site and have a color coding reference that tells if they carry Laminates, Tools, Machinery, Carving, or other products. It saves time if you are looking for a vendor who handles something specific. The fourth page added is a list used by David Ellsworth, his favorite suppliers for hard to find products.

Old information on the home page has been removed and videos on tools and woodturning are shown on the page which makes them available to any person who is interested in becoming a woodturner or thinking about joining BAWA.

The Members Only page, the page only available to current members has the following pages:

- Training Videos & Slide Shows 2016 & Before
- Training Videos (Jim Rodgers + Others)
- Meeting Videos 2017
- Meeting Videos 2018
- Meeting Videos 2019
- Meeting Videos 2020
- Vendors Page 1
- Vendors Page 2
- Vendors Page 3
- David Ellsworth's Vendor List
- Membership Map
- Wood Info
- Wood Pile locations
- Pay Dues
- Club Officers
- Members Only Content
- BAWA Bylaws as Amended October 23, 2016
- Proposed By Laws revision 2020



As we continue to look at the website and update it, we are looking for suggestions from you on items you think should be added or removed. The changes are for the club members: we would like it to become a tool that you can use. If you have any suggestions or would like to help work on the site please contact me at davidbentley9489@comcast.net. You can also e-mail me suggestions or information you would like added to the site.

I am also looking for pictures of what you have made while we have been social distancing because of the Coronavirus. Pictures of your shop, things that you have made and would like to share. For me, I have cleaned and organized my shop, bought a Work Sharp tool sharpener and am in the process of sharpening my turning, carving and wood chisels. I have also turned bottle stoppers, boxes and plates.

We look forward to hearing from you as well as seeing you on our next zoom meeting.

Stay healthy and safe.

Dave Bentley

April Meeting with John Cobb



April ushered in BAWA's first Zoom meeting. From the comfort of their homes, members were able to tour John Cobb's shop. John was kind enough to show us his industrial-scale operation from start to finish.

Located on a hillside in Marin, chunks of wood are piled on the driveway awaiting processing. A nearby converted carport houses his shop containing current projects, several lathes, innumerable tools, plus a collection of chainsaws, a bandsaw, an oscillating sander, and remnants of wine making and ceramics. Turning tools, sharpening, and sanding equipment are within easy reach of the lathes.

Inside the house, a display case is full of items for gallery exhibition. Around the corner is a room set up for photography with lights and gray background. Down the hall is a large room filled with finished pieces and a repurposed ping-pong table holding items being finished. On the floor is an experimental setup of green bowl drying using Fresh Step Silica kitty litter.

Rough turned green bowls spend a few days under a shade tree on the terrace then are brought to the bowl drying room on the side of the house. This dirt floored room has gentle ventilation and allows the hundreds of rough turned bowls to slowly shed their moisture over a year or more.

Shavings are spread down the hill on the hillside and allowed to decompose naturally.

John took time to discuss his techniques and ended with a discussion of marketing, including pricing and his clientele, which include interior decorators.

John used two phones to provide A/V for his tour to good effect. He was able to easily show what he wanted wherever he wanted. During his demo, none of the 67 folks who had joined the meeting signed off.



John's chainsaw pile



Right half of shop



Left half of shop



Display case



Photography setup



Nested oval bowls



Some unclaimed hollow forms



Gallery display setup



Finishing table



Spread shavings



Bowl alley



Drying HF with bottom tenon



Piles of unprocessed wood

Tree Article #36 *Eleagnus angustifolia* – Russian Olive

By: Tony Wolcott

April 2020

Love lost, such a cost

Give me things that won't get lost

Like a coin that won't get tossed

Rolling home to you

-Neil Young



These days of detention with our ruler, Covid-19, in charge, I struggle with which tree to highlight. Then, I remembered a tree that follows me wherever I go. Most botanists tell us that trees do not move; trees can only grow and cover their problems. In some ways, trees do move, a seed carried by a migratory bird, a burr in your sock.

Last year, I spent some time in Colorado, at the family farm just outside of Boulder. My Aunt and Uncle asked me to assess the Russian Olives. This species had escaped from somewhere, suddenly appearing just below irrigation outlet for the lake. The Russian olives settled in and expanded into a dense thicket. The property loss seemed to happen overnight. Now, only a rabbit could love this area and a snake or two.

Elaeagnus angustifolia, commonly called Persian olive, Russian olive, silver berry, oleaster, or wild olive, is a species from the Elaeagnaceae family. The genus *Eleagnus* has several species, *angustifolia* being the most prevalent. The Russian olive or silver olive is native to western and central Asia, Iran, from southern Russia and Kazakhstan to Turkey and parts of Pakistan. *E. angustifolia* is now also widely established in North America as an introduced species. In the Midwest and prairies, this tree is a noxious weed, similar to the tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) here on the west coast.

The Russian olive looks very much like an olive tree, even with olive-like fruit. However, this olive wannabe has deadly thorns hidden along the smaller branches. The silver foliage and fragrant small yellow flowers are desirable traits in many landscapes. Russian olives provide windbreaks and are natural to cultivate, very drought tolerant, one robust tree. Considered a small tree or large shrub, it grows to a height of twenty feet. In native and non-native areas, the silver olive is riparian. You see it growing along riverbeds and often taking over. Shredding dark brown bark contrasts with narrow, willow-like, silvery-gray leaves to two inches long. The Persian olive has nitrogen-fixing roots. Hence the oleaster is often grown in poor soils. Birds flock to the Russian olive, deer do not. Any soil grows this tree.

The fruit is edible and often used for preserves. The genus name comes from the Greek words *elaia*, meaning the olive tree and *agnos*, meaning chaste-tree. Specific epithet means having narrow leaves. Cancer and verticillium wilt are severe problems in some areas, and fungal leaf -spot and rust may also occur.



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You may wonder why I chose such an unremarkable and small tree. In its native habitat, the Russian olive cures just about any health complaint you might have. Here is a list of medicinal and other uses:

- The flower produces an essential oil used in perfumery.
- A gum from the plant is used in the textile industry in calico printing.
- Traditionally the oleaster herb provides an analgesic, antipyretic, and diuretic.
- Russian olive was used as an astringent, kidney stone removal, anti-inflammatory, and pain relief agent.
- The tree was a well-known remedy for fever, jaundice, asthma, tetanus, and rheumatoid arthritis.

<https://symbiosisonlinepublishing.com/cancerscience-research/cancerscience-research51.pdf>

“Abstract”

Russian olive is known as the Functional Novel Natural Medicine, *Elaeagnus angustifolia* L. Extract are considered important for drug development, because they are reported to have Pharmacological activity in the Asia, Middle East especially China and India. For a long time *Elaeagnus angustifolia* L., which is commonly known as oleaster or Russian olive, is a deciduous plant from Elaeagnaceae family. This plant can tolerate and survive a wide variety of environmental conditions. Traditionally, different parts of *Elaeagnus angustifolia* plant especially fruits and flowers have been used in treating some common problems such as nausea, cough, asthma, fever, jaundice, and diarrhea. The use of fruit powder and extract of *E. angustifolia* have shown to be effective in alleviating pain in patients with rheumatoid arthritis and also reducing the healing time of the wounded area. In addition, some recent reports have indicated the anti-oxidant, antiinflammatory, antimicrobial, anticancer activities of oleaster plant. The other important property of this plant is its role in bio-monitoring the environment for some toxic elements and also its action as a biofertilizer agent in distressed lands. It seems that with more advanced studies on *E. angustifolia* and its bioactive components, this plant might be potentially effective and can be used as a natural alternative resource in pharmaceutical industries for treating chronic and serious problems. Keywords: Gastrointestinal Healing; Muscle Relaxant Activity;”



As you can see, this tree may be the basis of an entire wing of the drug companies. Last but not least, the Russian olive wood is considered excellent for turning and carving. The tree makes excellent posts, beams, and domestic items. As with the Catalina ironwood, this tree makes superb walking sticks (minus the thorns).



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Eric Meir, in his book, “Wood” lists Russian Olive because the wood is hard and heavy. Comparing measurements with black acacia—a wood most are familiar with:

Wood Measurements	<i>Eleagnus angustifolia</i>	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>
Average Dried Weight	43 lbs/ft ³	40 lbs/ft ³
Specific Gravity (12% MC)	.59 to .69	.54 to .64
Janka Hardness	1,240 lb _f	1,160 lb _f
Shrinkage	Data not available	Rad. 3.9% Tang. 7.9%

We have an opportunity here to measure shrinkage rates of Russian olive. Does anybody have any oleaster wood? I have seen a few *Eleagnus* here, but not many. Other fun facts about this unusual tree: Russian olive fluoresces under black light, a lone tree is capable of self-pollination, trees can be propagated through root cuttings, stem cuttings, and by layering branches. The Persian olive is well known for growing in all variety of conditions. It does not grow in Florida, too humid.



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.



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!!

Coming Attractions

The BAWA Board has been monitoring California's Social Distancing recommendations and have been adapting our meeting content to ensure the safety of our members. As of this writing, we expect our meeting room at Pleasant Hill Middle School to be closed all summer. As the pandemic evolves, our schedule will be adjusted accordingly. Stay tuned.

5/9 – Ever made a set of matching candle sticks? Table or chair legs? Cups or goblets? No matter what you do they never seem quite right. In May, **Ed Pretty**, a member of the Greater Vancouver Woodturners Guild will be demonstrating replication from the comfort of his Canadian shop. He has been turning for 61 years, longer than some of us have been alive. He will be demonstrating how simple it is to duplicate pieces by hand on the lathe. He will show the use of specific tools and techniques to make the process work. A handout will be distributed to the membership before the demonstration.



There will also be a photographic show and tell.

June – We are working towards getting a remote demonstrator from another Bay Area club. Details to come.

July – Sorry to say, Pen Turning for the Troops will be delayed this year. We hope to be able to do it in the fall. Instead, we will be Zooming in on a remote demonstration.



Attention BAWA members who shop on Amazon.com

BAWA is always looking for ways to generate funds to improve our Club. BAWA recently registered with Amazon's program to support charitable organizations, AmazonSmile. It is an easy, no cost way for our Club to benefit from your Amazon.com shopping expenditures.

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization; **BAWA!** When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same products, prices, and Amazon Prime benefits as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate .5% of the purchase price to BAWA.

Here's how it works:

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you need to designate BAWA to receive donations before you begin shopping. We are one of the almost one million charitable organizations registered with Amazon Smile. From then on when you enter Amazon through <https://smile.amazon.com/> every eligible purchase you make will result in a donation to BAWA.

You may want to bookmark the AmazonSmile URL to your desktop or mobile device to insure that you don't end up at the standard Amazon portal, thus bypassing benefit to BAWA.

If you haven't already done so, please consider registering with AmazonSmile and designating BAWA as your beneficiary. And encourage your friends and family to do likewise! We look forward to updating membership monthly on donations from this unique program.



Virtual Show & Tell April



David Fleisig-
Transitional vase



David Fleisig-
Bracelet



Charlie Saul-
Rattler hollow form



Charlie Saul-
Rattler detail



Jean-Louis Meynier-
Burl bowl



Peter Nakatani-
Pete Nakatani's Twin triangular
wined ikebana vases

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Virtual Show & Tell April Cont.



Steve Smyers-
Bowl repair



Gary Bingham-
Lamp



Steve Smyers-
Bowl



Jack Giolitti-
Segmented bowl



Kim Wolfe-
Bowl



Leland Frayseth-
Platter

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Virtual Show & Tell April Cont.



Hugh Bevan-Thomas-
Fluting setup



Kim Wolfe-
Funky bowl blank



Mark Knize-
Bowl of bubbles



Mark Knize-
Bowl of bubbles detail

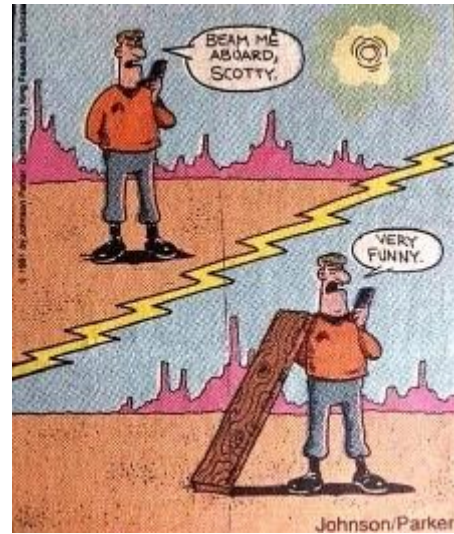
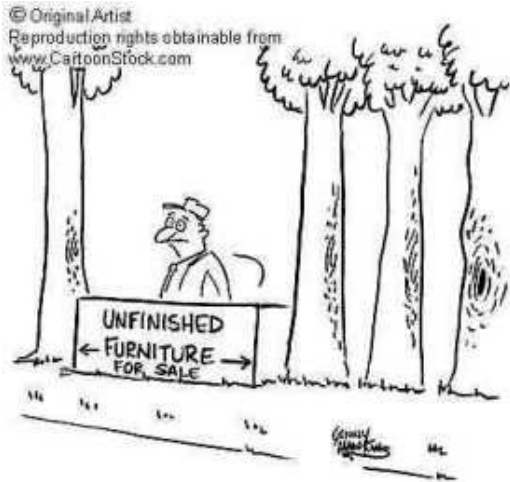


Jay Holland-
Carved baskets with decorated eggs



Jay Holland-
Decorated eggs

FUNNY-WOOD

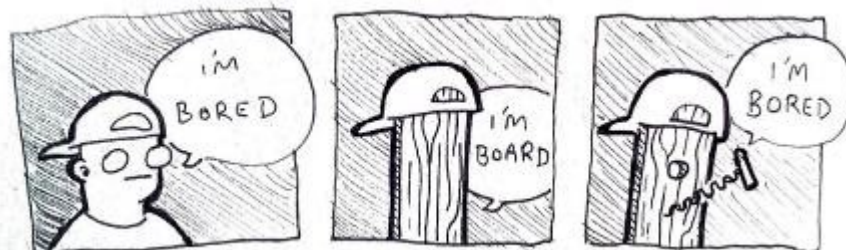


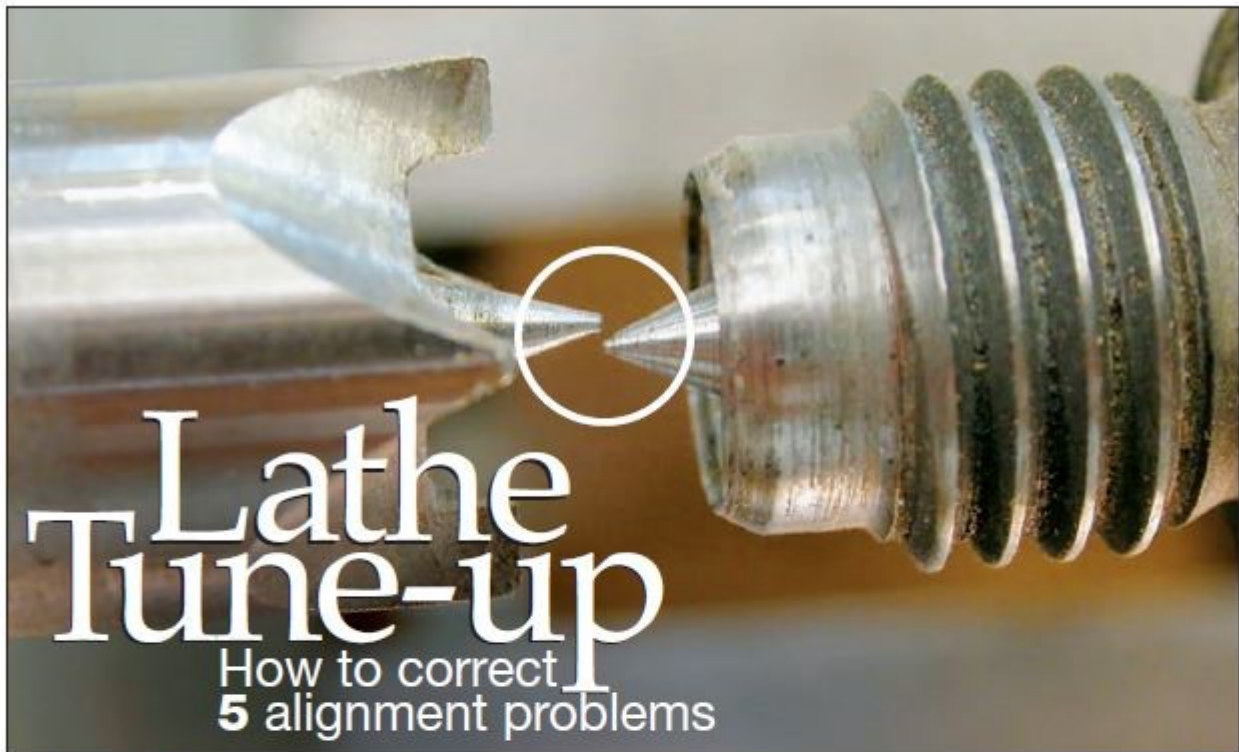
Sniping planer

WOODSHOP NEWS November 2008



WOODSHOP NEWS April 2007





By Jim Rodgers

Oval pens driving you nuts?

Can't align two halves of a segmented bowl for glue-up?

Join the crowd. If your lathe—or your turning work—suffers from poor alignment, call a time-out and review these five alignment checkpoints.

1 Tailstock does not align with the headstock

To check the alignment of your headstock and tailstock, insert a live center into the tailstock and a spur drive into the headstock. Make sure that the points are not dulled or bent in either the spur or the live center—this will mislead you in your measurement.

Bring up the tailstock to within $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the spur center, then tighten down the tailstock and quill. Now, observe the alignment of the two points. If the points are misaligned, you can

compensate by placing a shim under the appropriate corner(s) of the tailstock to adjust the alignment. Often a sheet or two of paper will be adequate to shim the tailstock.

For more exaggerated errors, contact the lathe manufacturer for repair or replacement of the tailstock or tailstock quill. An extreme case may require reboring of the Morse taper on the tailstock quill.

If the lathe headstock is bolted to the frame or ways as with the Jet mini-lathe and Delta Midi, you can realign it with the addition of

a permanent shim under the appropriate corner. On other lathes such as the Oneway, for example, you can align the headstock by adjusting the jack screws provided for that purpose.

If you own a Nova 3000/DVR, you can reposition the lathe ways themselves, as they are screwed to the headstock unit. Be sure to follow the instructions in your owner's manual for all adjustments noted above.

On lathes with a rotating headstock, the click stop positioning may not be accurate enough to return to perfect alignment. A double-ended Morse taper will aid in regularly realigning the headstock each time it is moved.

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2 Live center does not run true

Inexpensive live centers, centers with worn out bearings, or poorly designed live centers like the examples at *right* cause problems. If the live center was inexpensive, just discard it and upgrade.

One of the causes of a live center becoming out of true is excessive wear of the bearings due to operating the lathe with a headstock/tailstock misalignment. Angular pressure on the live center will rapidly increase the radial runout to an unacceptable point. (Oneway advertises that the radial runout of its live center system is less than .001 inches.)

If you have a reliable live center that's repairable, consider replacing the bearings. For a minimal fee, you can return many live centers for bearing replacement.



3 Too much pressure applied to the mandrel in penturning

If your pen barrels are oval and you've checked the first two solutions, applying too much pressure to the tailstock when tightening on the mandrel may be the culprit. The amount of pressure applied should be just enough to stabilize the mandrel shaft and minimize vibration from the turning activity. Too much pressure bends the shaft (*middle right*).

A crooked live center point will also cause the mandrel to operate eccentrically and will enlarge and distort the alignment dimple in the tailstock end of the mandrel shaft (*bottom right*). The better designed mandrels allow the user to replace the shaft when it becomes bent or the dimple has excessive wear.



Tips to improve your accuracy

- Always clean the female Morse tapers before inserting any accessory.
- Remove all defects or burrs from the surface of male Morse tapers.
- Store and protect spur drives and live centers from scratches and dings. Find a place near your lathe where these valuable attachments won't get beat about by lathe tools, hammers, and accessories.

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4 Poor centering with vacuum chucks

If you align a bowl or vessel in your vacuum chuck and it slips or won't hold the desired alignment, the cause may be related to the material used to seal the vessel to the chuck. Foam rubber and other soft, flexible

seals may vary in density throughout the material, thus not compressing equally everywhere, causing the vessel to be forced out of alignment.

Vacuum chuck design and the shape of the vessel also tend to exaggerate this problem. A round vessel held against a rounded

chuck surface may exhibit this problem more readily.

To improve centering, try each of these solutions: Replace the material, readjust the material, or buy thicker (or thinner) stock.

Silicon rubber works well but is difficult to attach to the chuck because there's no known effective adhesive for this material.

On a finished edge bowl, consider using a flat plate as a vacuum chuck, thus spreading out the hold over a large area and minimizing the problem as shown at left.



5 Hole-drilling errors

Improperly mounting a Jacobs chuck on a Morse taper may cause centering problems when drilling holes in the end of a project. To avoid this problem, be sure that you properly seat the Morse taper in your tailstock, then run the quill out far enough that the drill chuck completely seats—no further. Bring the tailstock up into close proximity of the work and lock down the tailstock before drilling.

Other drilling issues may not be related to the alignment but be caused by the drill wandering from hard, winter-growth grain and into softer summer growth. Solve this issue by creating a small pilot hole for the drill point. Brad-point or Forstner bits also reduce this drifting problem. Always be sure that the bit you select is sharp.

Jim Rodgers (www.jlrogers.com) is a member of the Bay Area Woodturners, Silicon Valley Woodturners, and Diablo Woodworkers. He lives in Martinez, California.

(Article courtesy of AAW)