

July 2021 Volume 25 Issue 7

LOCAL CHAPTER AAW



Harvey Meyer Basket Illusion July 10th 8:30-12:30



Harvey Meyer will be giving a longer than usual demonstration of basket illusion. He has been turning for over two decades and has been perfecting basket illusion for almost a decade. Be sure to attend so you can interact with a master of this technique.

About the artist:

Originally from Brooklyn, NY, and now residing in the Atlanta, GA area, I'm retired from a 43+ year career as a telecommunications engineer. I've been a woodworker for most of my life. After building furniture for many years, I started woodturning in 2000. Most of the wood I turn is from the Atlanta area. This wood generally comes from trees downed in storms or from tree removals and would otherwise be headed to landfills or chippers. I also like to turn exotic woods and burls. No two pieces of wood are alike and it's not until I start turning a piece when the wood reveals its hidden beauty. I've turned many types of forms and objects including bowls, platters, hollow vessels, goblets, and boxes, etc., but my main focus is on hollow vessels. I also like to embellish my turnings by piercing, burning, coloring, carving, and texturing. Since 2012, I've been focused almost exclusively on the "basket illusion", where a turned piece attempts to resemble woven basketry. I enjoy demonstrating at woodturning clubs and symposia, as well as teaching. I work in my studio located in the basement of my home in Dunwoody, GA. I'm an active member of the Georgia Association of Woodturners, Atlanta Woodturners Guild, and the American Association of Woodturners.









A CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT CORPORATION LOCAL CHAPTER AAW

Club Meetings

Club Meetings-

Meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday on each month by Zoom conferencing. Invitations are posted to all members: guests are welcome by request to: membership@bayareawoodturners.org who will forward an invitation to the next meeting.

Zoom sessons open at 8:30am. The meeting start time is 9:00am.

See bayareawoodturners.org/ for club information.

BAWA Officers Meeting -

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

2021 Event Schedule	
July 10th	Harvey Meyer Basket Illusion 8:30-12:30
Aug 14th	BAWA Picnic Pleasant Hill Community Park 11:00am-2:00pm

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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Staff Photographer Rick Dietrich

Social Coordinator



One unexpected benefit of the COVID pandemic has been the ability to get demonstrators from all over the continent to visit us remotely. Phil Rose demonstrated split turning to BAWA from his shop in upstate New York in June. He had perfected his setup to the point where it felt like we were in his shop.

After an intro showing different variations of his split turning, he set to creating one. His project began as a 9" disc of 1 ¼" maple. He mounted this between centers using a homemade faceplate with four adjustable screws. First, he flattened the tailstock side and marked out the tenon. He then rounded the corner to shape the outer part of the bowl, flattening the rim to make sure he got the correct profile. Then he smoothed the surface with negative rake scraping. For a production piece, he would sand to 400 (if embellishing) or 1000 (if not embellishing). Finally, he cut the tenon, using a specially ground scraper to assure the correct dovetail angle.

After flipping and chucking, Phil started hollowing. He removed much of the central mass before fine-tuning the edge of the bowl, checking for flatness with a straight edge. After getting a uniform side wall thickness, he flattened out the central disc and recessed it inside a rim to allow for any type of embellishment.

He removed the tenon by mounting the bowl in Cole jaws and using a gouge followed by negative rake scraping. He cut some decorative grooves before unchucking. Since his Cole jaws were so large, he had cut down the arms of the T handle of his Allen wrench to allow it to be used.

He showed a video of the cutting process. He marks out the cuts with consideration to grain direction, then cuts them with a scroll saw, being careful to keep the part being cut perpendicular to the blade. The halves would be embellished, if desired, before being glued together.

He used flat discs to demonstrate several embellishment techniques. Initially he usually coats the wood with gesso, which comes in different colors. His first technique was to place tissue paper impregnated with modeling paste diluted with GAC 100, carefully pressing to remove air bubbles. While that was drying, he demonstrated another technique - oil paints, dripping three colors onto a red base. The paints will interact to make various patterns. He then used an airbrush to paint the gesso-coated rumpled tissue paper. Spraying contrasting colors at different angles, he created a dramatic 3-D appearance. He also showed how he treats the edges with a woodburning pen. Finally, he showed how he uses tape to line up the two bowl halves for gluing.

Phil aimed his presentation at turners of all experience levels. He explained various methods of mounting the piece, his 45-45 stance when using the bowl gouge, how the touch while scraping should be 'like petting a jumpy cat,' how sharpening needn't remove much metal – only enough to restore the edge (finer grit wheels remove less metal), how to aim the gouge bevel when starting to hollow a bowl, and using the tool rest to guide your cut. He expertly switched from camera to camera always striving for the best view of his process. This demo was as inspirational as it was instructive.



Drive plate



Tenon marked out, cutting curve



NE scraper smooths curve



Sharpening by hand



Checking the edge flatness



Aiming the gouge bevel



Establishing wall thickness



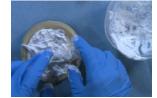
NE scraping bottom



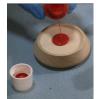
Marking out saw cuts



Cutting with scroll saw



Tissue paper surface



Pouring base coat



Making pattern



Finishing base coat



Gold dry brushed onto peaks



Burning treatment of edges

Summer Picnic & Tool Swap

Join us on Saturday, August 14, 2021 for our annual picnic and barbecue. We will gather at Pleasant Hill Community Park, 147 Gregory Ln, Pleasant Hill, Picnic Area #2 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Regarding Covid 19 protocols: After consulting county officials and CDC guidelines, we have been reassured that "fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing", so there will be no such requirements for our picnic. However, if you are not fully-vaccinated, you should adhere to guidelines set out for you by the CDC, and if in doubt, consult your physician as to the precautions you should take. Whether vaccinated or not, we are each responsible for our own health and safety.

The Club will provide burgers, brats and buns along with all necessary serving utensils, plates, cups and condiments.

The event is potluck: we are breaking up what to bring alphabetically by last name:

A- G: Cold drinks (Soda, Iced Tea, etc.)

H– P: Sides (Baked beans, Salads, Deviled Eggs, etc.)

Q - Z: Desserts

We need volunteers to staff the grills, so if you can help out, please contact, Larry Batti at: larrybattiwoodturning@gmail.com.

We really do need your help!!!

Don't forget to turn a flying disc, e.g. Frisbee and join in the competition! We will have an event to see who can toss their Frisbee the farthest and a second event to see who can land their Frisbee closes to the target. Prizes will be awarded at the event.

The rules are few and simple:

- Your flying discs must be lathe turned wood and consist of a solid disc with a recurved rim, similar to the original Frisbee flying disc
- Your flying disc must be solid, no holes in the middle and no rings similar to the Aerobie are permitted
- You get one toss per event and can enter up to three discs in each event

Get turning and see you all in August!









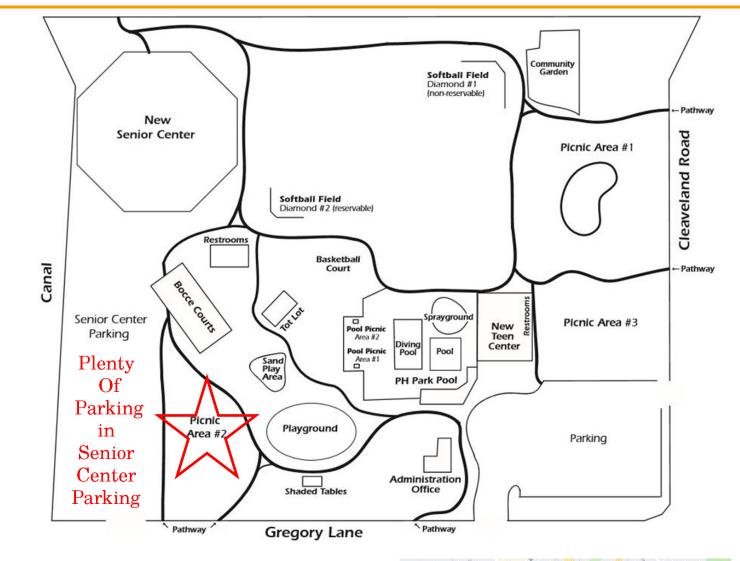




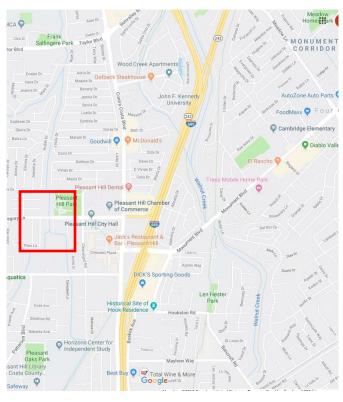




Map on following page



BAWA Summer Picnic & Tool Swap Saturday, August 14th Pleasant Hill Community Park 147 Gregory Ln, Pleasant Hill Picnic Area #2





President's Letter July 2021

We are proceeding with the summer picnic. As the conditions improve in California, the Covid-19 restrictions lessen. However, there are newer strains developing and showing up in California, How strong our inoculations are in affecting those variants is not as yet clear. We ask everyone to continue to maintain safe and conservative actions, personally.

The picnic will be our first time to see each other in one location and I am excited to be there. Here is our chance to share our work with others, swap/sell some tools we have accumulated, and participate on our annual Frisby contest. (Start building and testing your flyers!)

As school, we have reworked the classroom to create more personal space, upgraded our video, and generally cleaned up and rearranged. We will restart in earnest in the fall with a full slate of classes and our return of the Friday morning open studio.

Meanwhile David and I continue producing educational woodturning videos, completing a series on segmentation and starting a new series!

JimR

July President's Challenge



Rick Nelson's segmentd urn



Vern Stovall's segmented carafe



Gary Bingham's urns and trivet





Mike Bulat's trembleur



July President's Challenge, cont.



Charlie Saul's rattlesnake HF



Carl Mercer's distressed urn and segmented bowl



Rick Dietrich's segmented clock

A Thank You to Artists From Beads of Courage:



"To our Artist Community...THANK YOU!"

"Beads of Courage brings artists and members together. Courageous children in treatment are encouraged as we distribute the generous in-kind donations of Handmade Glass Beads, Wood Turned Boxes and Bead Bags from our artist community."

"A special thank you to all of our bead artists, wood turners, quilters and sewing groups who support the mission of Beads of Courage. Your handmade works of art provide a tremendous boost of enCOURAGEment to children and families!"

If you'd like to participate in BAWA's support program by turning a Beads of Courage Box or have any questions regarding the program, please contact member Larry Batti at:

<u>larrybattiwoodturning@gmail.com</u> or: (925) 997-9548

Thanks to all of you for your continued support!

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.



Virtual Show & Tell June

Rick Nelson



Hugh Bevan-Thomas



David Fleisig



Peter Travis



Virtual Show & Tell June

Claudia Foster



Charlie Saul



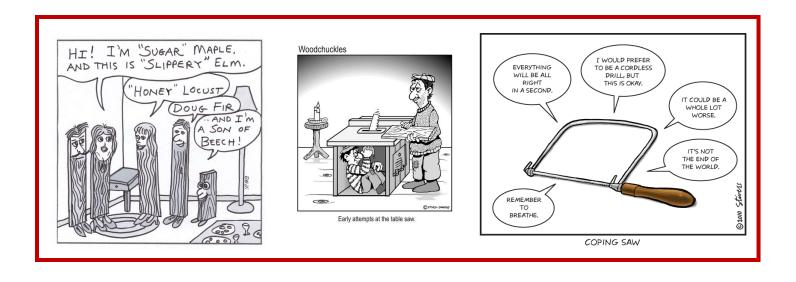
Larry Batti



Virtual Show & Tell June

Michael Hackett







TURNING OFFSET HANDLES



John I. Giem

eplacing the plastic handle of a 6-in-1 screwdriver (Photo 1) with a turned wooden one looks good, but its usefulness is limited because the slick round handle is difficult to grip tight enough to drive screws. Offset turning a handle changes its shape to provide a comfortable, powerful grip for attacking stubborn screws. You will be able to extend these offset-turning techniques to projects of your own design.

To transform a handle from ordinary to elegant, use highly figured, well-seasoned wood, and then follow these steps:

 Disassemble a 6-in-1 screwdriver to retrieve the insert.

- 2. Prepare the blank.
- Bore out the blank and install a ferrule and the insert.
- 4. Turn the basic round-handle shape.
- Mark the handle with two circumference lines and three horizontal lines, 120 degrees apart.
- Offset and turn the handle on three axes.
- Remount at true center, trim up, sand, part off, clean up, and apply a finish.

Disassemble the screwdriver

To retrieve the metal insert that locks the bits into the handle, mount the screwdriver onto the lathe: The round butt end of the handle will fit snugly into the open end of the lathe's spindle. Use a cone center in the tailstock to hold the other end. Tighten the tailstock to provide a friction drive. Wearing a faceshield and dust protection, carefully turn away the plastic surrounding the insert. Typically, the plastic will start to break away before your gouge makes contact with the metal insert, so be careful (Photo 2). Use a pair of pliers for the final extraction from the plastic.

Measure the insert to determine the diameter of hole needed for drilling into the wood handle. This turned out to be %° (14mm) for the screwdriver in the photos, which might need to be enlarged slightly for harder

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woods. When the insert is driven into the wooden handle, it should have an interference fit to prevent turning in the hole. No glue should be needed.

To determine the length of the hole to be drilled into the handle blank, slip the insert over a screwdriver bit and snap it into place. Measure the length from the outside end of the insert to the tip of the inside bit, in this case, 3%" (95mm) (Photo 3). If your insert is longer, increase the length of your handle accordingly.

Prepare the blank

Select a blank of wood 2" × 2" × 5½" (50mm × 50mm × 140mm). Sand one end smooth so it can be marked more easily. This will become the butt end of the handle. Find and mark the center points on each end. On the smooth-sanded end, use a compass and draw a 1" (25mm) circle using the marked center. This circle will be used later when doing the offset turning (Photo 4).

Place the butt end of the blank into the jaws of a scroll chuck and loosely close the jaws. Bring up the tailstock and align the center of the blank with the live center (Photo 5). Tighten the tailstock to help center and align the blank in the chuck. Tighten the chuck jaws.

Move the tailstock out of the way, turn on the lathe at a low speed, and verify the proper centering of the blank. Make any adjustments necessary. Using a pointed scraper or a skew chisel, turn a depression into the end of the blank to aid in starting a drill bit. Using a properly sized drill bit, drill a hole for the screwdriver insert (Photo 6). For the screwdriver in this article: %6" × 3%" (14mm × 95mm) deep.

Ferrule and insert

Prepare a ferrule for mounting onto a tenon turned on the end of the handle. The ferrule should fit tightly. The ferrule will minimize splitting of the blank when the insert is driven into the handle. Using ¾"- (19mm-) ID copper tubing, or equivalent, cut off a ring about ¾" (10mm) long. Remove any burrs with abrasives or a file. Nominally, the inside diameter will be ¾" (19mm), but measure it to verify. If desired, polish the ferrule.

Support the free end of the blank with a cone center mounted into the tailstock. Turn a tenon on the tailstock end of the blank. Make it slightly longer than the ferrule and slightly larger in diameter (Photo 7).

Carefully trim down the tenon to the point where the ferrule will just start to slide over the tenon. The tenon should have a slight taper from the end to the shoulder to achieve a tight fit. Test-fit the ferrule (Photo 8).

Remove the blank from the lathe. Using a wooden mallet, drive the ferrule onto the tenon using a short piece of steel pipe or copper tubing positioned over the end of the tenon. Make sure the ferrule is tight against the shoulder. Sand the tenon flush with the end of the ferrule. If you turned the tenon too small for a snug fit, a small amount of thick CA glue may sufficiently adhere the ferrule.

Using a wooden mallet, drive the screwdriver insert into the hole. Verify that the screwdriver shaft and bits fit properly (*Photo 9*).

Turn a round handle

Mount the blank between centers using a Stebcenter and a cone center. (A spur center can be used, but the spring-loaded Stebcenter pin causes less damage to the wood, which allows for easily remounting the blank later when doing offset turning.) The butt end will be at the headstock.



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Turn a tenon for the ferrule.



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With the ferrule fitted onto the tenon, install the insert. Test-fit the screwdriver shaft.

Turn the handle round, leaving sufficient wood at the butt end.

Leaving as much of the blank at the butt end as possible, turn the handle to a shape and size you like. The 1* (25mm) circle on the butt end and surrounding wood must remain (Photo 10). Grasp the handle and test for comfort. Reshape as needed, but leave it a bit large at this point to allow for the offset turning.

Finish-sand the handle from the ferrule to its narrowest part. If not done previously, the ferrule can be polished, but be careful not to stain the wood next to it.

Offset turning

First, draw circumference and guidelines onto the handle.

Circumference lines establish the boundaries of the guidelines. Guidelines (1) help locate the different mounting points for offset turning and (2) provide depth guidance when offset turning (Photo 11). The guidelines are drawn in between two circumference lines.

With the handle still mounted on the lathe, use a soft-lead pencil to draw two lines around the handle. One circumference line will be about 1" (25mm) from the ferrule and the other about %" (10mm) from the butt end. (A pencil with hard lead will score the wood, which increases sanding time.)

Using the indexing feature of your lathe and the toolrest as a guide, draw three horizontal guidelines, 120 degrees apart, extending between the two circumference lines just drawn (see sidebar). Make sure the guidelines are reasonably dark and can be easily seen.

Lightly extend each line around the butt end of the blank to intersect the circle. Label the intersecting points A, B, and C. Use an awl to poke a hole into each point to help



offset turning.







The offset cuts have been limited to the areas between the guidelines. The handle now has a triangular cross-section and is ready for sanding.

The handle is finished and ready for use.

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locate the center pin correctly. These points are mounting locations for offset turning.

Keeping the handle on the cone center, loosen the tailstock and move the handle so that point A is at the center pin (Photo 12). This provides a ½" (13mm) offset at the butt (no offset on the other end). Retighten the tailstock and rotate the blank to check for clearance.

Turn on the lathe. You will see a shadow at the horizon of the blank. A piece of cardboard placed behind the lathe can help provide contrast to make it easier to observe the profile of the handle.

Start turning away the waste between the two circumference lines. When the shadow at the horizon is gone, you will have cut away the side of the handle down to two of the guidelines. Use light cuts and check your progress frequently. A roughing gouge with its large bevel seems to work better for this than a spindle gouge. Stop the lathe and examine the handle—the objective is to turn the wood down to two guidelines and no farther.

If cuts are not symmetrical between the two guidelines, then the most probable cause was an accuracy error when laying out the lines and the corresponding drive points A, B, and C. Discrepancies usually disappear during the sanding process.

The offset turning requires you to ride the bevel of the gouge. Using higher speeds helps, but do not run the lathe too fast or the out-of-balance blank could fly off. Ensure that the tailstock remains tight.

Repeat the previous step using point B, and then point C as the drive centers (Photo 13). Hand-sand the handle to smooth out any irregularities.

Return the drive center to true center and clean up the shape of the handle at the butt end, removing as much waste as possible. Part off the handle. Erase any remaining pencil marks. Clean up the butt end using a rasp and abrasives.

Finish

An unfinished handle develops a patina through normal use and handling, but if you prefer to finish yours, an oil finish works well (Photo 14).

Now that you have learned how to do basic offset turning to create a beautiful, utilitarian handle for a screwdriver, with a few simple alternative steps you can create other handles with a distinctive look and feel. Try different numbers or sizes of offsets.

Or, offset both ends. Use your new skills to enhance other projects.

After retiring from his engineering career, John Giem expanded his interest in woodturning into a second career. He is an active member of the Rocky Mountain Woodturners in northern Colorado. He can be contacted at jgiem@comcast.net.

Drawing guidelines

When drawing guidelines on the handle, accuracy is important—guidelines influence the final shape, especially where they define the offset drive points A, B and C. When drawing a guideline, it must be lined up horizontally with the axis of rotation (i.e., it must be at the same height as the point of the drive center). Here are three methods:

Method one

- Draw two circumference lines on the handle, in between which guidelines will be drawn.
- Remove the handle from the lathe and position the toolrest near the center pin of the drive center. With a pencil placed horizontally level on the toolrest, adjust the height of the toolrest so the pencil point is aligned with the drive center's pin.
- Move the toolrest, remount the handle, and lock the spindle using the indexing feature of the lathe.
- Without changing the height of the toolrest, position it (by moving the banjo) to draw a dark guideline along the length of the handle between the two circumference lines.
- Relocate the toolrest and lightly extend the guideline onto the butt end, intersecting the circle to form point A.
- Rotate the handle 120 degrees. Repeat steps 4 and 5 to draw a second guideline and establish point B. Repeat for point C.

Method two:

Guidelines can be drawn using a stiff piece of cardboard shaped to fit the handle profile, including around the butt end. Keep the template horizontally aligned with the axis of rotation. Use the pencil to trace along the edge to draw dark guidelines and lightly establish points A, B, and C (Photo A).

Method three:

Perhaps the easiest method is to use a profile copy gauge (Photo B). Push the gauge against the handle and allow the pins to adjust to the curves, including the butt end. Keeping the gauge horizontal, use a pencil to trace along the edge while drawing the guidelines and establishing the points.

Whichever method you use, one frequent source of error is not keeping the pencil, template, or gauge horizontal. An easy way to maintain horizontal is to use a small spirit level (Photo C).



A cardboard template can be used to draw guidelines.



A profile copy gauge is an easy way to draw guidelines.



A small spirit level keeps the cardboard template or copy gauge horizontal and aligned with the center pin.

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