

BAY AREA



WOODTURNERS
ASSOCIATION
A CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT CORPORATION
LOCAL CHAPTER AAW

November 2023

Volume 27 Issue 11

The BAWA Turnathon will be held on Saturday, Nov 11 from 8:30 to 12pm at the Mount Diablo Adult Ed Woodturning Center, Rm 108, 1 Santa Barbara Rd, Pleasant Hill. Our goal will be to turn and decorate objects to be sold at the upcoming Craft Fair on Dec 2nd (9:30 - 3:30 pm) to help raise funds for the Mt. Diablo Woodturning Center.

We will have all of the materials and instructions for a number of projects ready and waiting:

Seam Ripper — Turn a handle and a protective top (similar to a small box).

Gnome Ornaments — Turn and decorate a gnome

Acorn Ornaments — Turn and embellish an acorn ornament

Screwdrivers — Turn and handle a screwdriver.

Pin Cushion — This will be a cross grained project with a center hole that will hold a custom-sewn pin cushion.

Tea Lights (electric) — Also a cross grained project but the center hole will be sized to hold the tea lights.

Snowmen/Christmas Trees — Turn and decorate snowmen, trees of various sizes, and decorate them.

Small Plates (6-7" diameter) — Turned from some of our existing stock of blanks.

This is a great opportunity to have some fun, turn, decorate and help fund the turning school. Feel free to invite a spouse or friend who is crafty to help out with the decorations.

See you there!

Thanks,
Joel (Turnathon Coordinator)





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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.

2023 Event Schedule

November 11th	Turnathon 8:30-2:00
December 2nd	Craft Sale 9:30AM-3:30PM Mount Diablo Adult Ed Woodturning Center, Rm 108
December 9th	Vern Stovall Stitching Cracks 8:30AM-12:00PM
January 13th	BAWA Holiday Party 10:00AM Walnut Creek Elks Lodge

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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John Cobb October Demonstrator Hollowforms

Show and tell filled up the display table. Seventeen members showed their terrific turned works of art. It is always amazing to see the variety and creativity of the show and tell turnings, coming from beginner through professional BAWA members.

After a break to refill with coffee and donuts, John Cobb's hollowform demo began.

John opened his demo with a discussion of optimizing grain and figure when preparing blanks. He took one of his blanks, a 6"x6" piece of freshly cut black acacia (aka Tasmanian blackwood), and mounted it between centers on the demo lathe. After turning it to a cylinder he cut a tenon, dressing it with his special Cobb Tenon Tool.

John discussed various options for form, finally settling on having the maximum diameter about 2/3 from the bottom. He shaped the bottom and top, leaving some extra thickness at the top and mounted the tenon in a chuck. He drilled a depth hole and proceeded to hollow to a uniformly thin wall. He showed his various tools and described each step which was helpful because one can't see a thing inside a spinning hollow form. Before finishing, he cut away the excess thickness around the neck and shaped an attractive opening. The extra thickness had reinforced the edge of the neck during hollowing and was no longer needed. Finally, he flipped the piece into a jam chuck and turned the tenon down to a tiny 1" tenon for later use for sanding.

John is a great demonstrator and teacher. He's always happy to share with the group his years of experience. He also generously donated many blanks to the wood raffle and for use in making bowls for this year's holiday craft sale. Thank you, John! John's demo was recorded and the video will be available on the BAWA Website.



Where the wood comes from



Chips fly



Cutting a tenon



Shaping the top



Shaping the bottom



Shear scraping



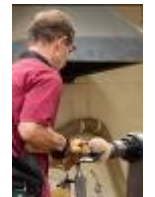
Drilling depth hole



Cobb tenon tool



Set tool rest height



Hollowing



More hollowing



Checking wall thickness



Blowing out chips



Shaping the top



Mounted in jam chuck



Removing excess tenon



Finished hollow form

President's Letter

October 2023



The Annual BAWA Turnathon!

I think everyone will agree that our recent tradition of an annual BAWA turnathon has been a great success: by making lots of woodturned items for the annual holiday craft sale, BAWA has been able to make a continuing significant financial contribution to the Mt. Diablo Woodturning Center where almost all of us have taken classes and many of us have taught or TA'd. I believe it's no overstatement to say that the woodturning center in combination with BAWA constitutes perhaps the best woodturning resource in the country. On top of all that, the turnathon is also great fun - getting together with woodturning buddies and making shavings fly!

Now I'm very grateful and happy to announce that Joel Albert has agreed to coordinate our turnathon. Joel has initiated a more structured approach where attendees will have the option to work on a number of projects, for which all of the materials and instruction will be ready and waiting (and of course you are also welcome to turn any other items you would like to contribute). I think this approach will make the event even more fun and productive!

Keep an eye out for the email notices from Joel about this year's turnathon, which will take place at our usual meeting time and location on Saturday, November 11, 2023, then go and have a great time!

Stay safe and keep on turning,
Steve

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.



off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



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BAWA NEWS & NOTES



October Meeting Photos



Wood Raffle



The Group



Steve's Pre-meeting Meditation

October, 2023 BAWA meeting

October's meeting was busy but very efficiently run.

First order of business was the annual Election of next year's board of directors.

The slate of nominees was approved by acclamation, including extension of the terms of the starred officers.

The 2023 BAWA Board of Directors will be:

President – Steve Griswold*

VP - Bob Ackley

Secretary – Rick Dietrich*

Treasurer – Rick Nelson*

At Large – Larry Batti*

November 2023 Membership News By Anna Duncan

Another great year of meetings and social events is coming to its end. We have all enjoyed in-person meetings with the benefits of seeing our fellow woodturners face to face, shopping at the store, browsing the library, and participating in the wood raffle. Our membership has grown to about 160 members strong! And now it's time to start the process of paying our dues for next year.

Dues will continue at \$60 for 2024. Still a great price for all the value we get from membership, including:

- Demonstrations, member show & tell, wood raffle, woodturning supply store and library at meetings,
- Two social events per year,
- Website and newsletter full of woodturning information, and
- Meet ups with friends who share your passion for woodturning.

Now is the time to pay your dues for next year. There are a couple of ways to renew:

- You can use the BAWA website and follow the instructions for renewal using a credit card...same process as previous years,
- You can send a check to our treasurer, Rick Nelson, 1584 Webb Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94595, or
- You can pay in person with cash or check at upcoming BAWA meetings

We'd really like to be finished with renewals by the end of the year, so I encourage you all to renew ASAP.

If you have any issues with renewal, please contact me at membership@bayareawoodturners.org.

Best,

Anna Duncan



Show & Tell October

Bob Horn-Bowls



Michael Hackett-Bowls



David Fleisig-Platter



Continued on following page

Show & Tell October

Tim Kennedy-Bowl



John Jay-Segmented Bowl



Bob Ackley-Basket Illusion Bowl



Continued on following page

Show & Tell October

Joe Dahl-Inlayed Bowl



Bob Nolan-Bowl



Jim Rodgers-Hollow Forms



Continued on following page

Show & Tell October

Charlie Saul-Hollow Forms



Cindy Navarro-Bowl



Don Gouveia-Segmented Pieces



Continued on following page

Show & Tell October

Vern Stovall-Bowl



Todd Thompson-Covered Bowl



Larry Batti-Lattice



Continued on following page

Show & Tell October

Bill Walzer-Bowl



Roberta Zorzyunski-Gnomes



ROUGHING BETWEEN CENTERS David Ellsworth

Jim Duxbury's journal article, "Spur Drive Seating Tool" (AW vol 30, no 5), offered an effective way to seat a spur drive in a bowl blank without damaging the Morse taper. His article also prompted questions about the safety of using a spur drive for roughing bowls. Is it better to opt for a screw chuck, faceplate, or glueblock rather than a spur drive? Is a bowl blank more likely to fly off the lathe if a catch occurs when a spur drive is in use? I have used spur drives exclusively for forty years because they offer an important advantage: the ability to fine-tune the position of your workpiece during roughing. They are safe to use if you know and follow the safety precautions.

Adjustability

When roughing a bowl blank, every cut exposes more information about the material, specifically grain layout in relation to the orientation of the object as it will appear once completed. When working between centers, you can adjust and re-adjust the object's axis points relative to what you have learned while roughing. Whether it's adjusting the height of the tips of a natural edge bowl or making subtle changes in the position of newly exposed grain lines, these adjustments affect the design and can help you make a great bowl instead of just a pretty bowl. Once you are happy with the position of your blank between centers, you can cut the base of the form to accommodate a chuck, faceplate, or glueblock.

The same benefit holds true for off-center spindle work using dry wood. You are in constant control of the early stages of the design process. Working between centers allows you to make changes as you develop the form, which is not possible with other holding methods.

Safety considerations

There are three main safety concerns when using a spur drive:

1) **Tailstock pressure.** Drive centers work by trapping the wood between the blades of the headstock-mounted drive center and the tailstock live center. But what happens if the operator doesn't keep enough pressure on the wood to engage the blades? Or what happens when you get a catch? With a four-prong spur or safety center, the object will likely stop spinning but remain on the lathe while the spur continues to spin. The teeth of a shallow-fluted spur drive will almost always spin in the wood even without a catch. Pressure from the tailstock must be constantly monitored and maintained after every pass of the gouge. I do not even lock down the tailstock quill because I know I will continue to add pressure throughout the process. Tighten the tailstock wheel between every cut until you are absolutely sure the blades of the drive are seated securely in the wood.

2) **Slow speed, light cuts.** Begin with slow rotational speed and take light cuts,

Spur drive options



From left: Stebcenter (spindles, dry wood); shallow-fluted, four-prong center (spindles, bowls, dry wood); deep-fluted, four-prong spur drive (spindles, bowls, vessels, green or dry wood); circle drive (spindles, bowls, dry wood); 2", four-prong spur drive w/ removable blades and point (large bowls, vessels, green or dry wood).



You can rough out a moderately large form (either green or dry wood) with just a 1" (25mm) deep-fluted, four-prong spur drive without fear of losing the piece.

"nibbling" with the tip of the gouge or scraper. If you get a catch, the shock to the object will cause the spur to spin and begin drilling a hole in the wood. Also, the flutes of the drive will clog and the blades will no longer engage the wood.

3) **The right spur for the job.** A four-prong spur is safer than a two-prong drive. Having only two prongs increases the likelihood of the blades slipping sideways with inadequate tailstock pressure and the wood being thrown off the lathe.

When working with extremely large chunks of wood, use a larger, 2"- (5cm-) diameter, four-blade spur drive.

It is likely spur drives have been in use for millennia. Imagine someone spinning a stick in wood to make fire and the stick grabbing and spinning the wood. Add a reliable bite in the wood, and you have a modern spur drive. Bottom line, don't miss out on this useful, time-honored process of roughing between centers, but always know and follow the safety considerations.

David Ellsworth is a full-time studio woodturner and teacher living in Buck's County, Pennsylvania. He can be reached at david.ellsworth3@gmail.com.

TIPS

Tips

Jig for mounting small finials

I liked Ted Rasmussen's AW article, "Turning a Five-Sided Box" (vol 30, no 6) and decided to use his method for turning the finial. I found a couple of scrap pieces of wenge that would be perfect, except they were too small to be held in the jaws of my chuck. I solved this problem by making a sacrificial mounting jig.

I cut off a 3" (8cm) length of scrap dowel large enough in diameter to be held in my chuck. Then I drilled a 1/2" (13mm) diameter hole in one end. After roughing the wenge finial stock to a cylinder between centers, I turned a 1/2" tenon on one end and glued it into the scrap dowel. I could then easily utilize the entire length of wenge for the finial and cut it free from the scrap dowel when complete.

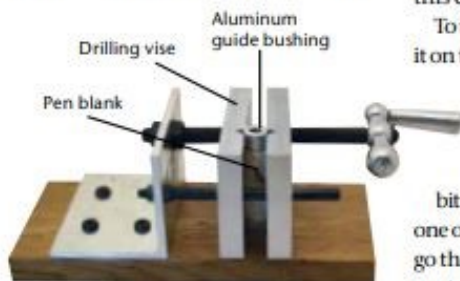
—Bill Wells, Washington



Drill-bit guide bushing

Drilling the center of a pen blank for a brass tube can be challenging when the drill bit wanders off center. I have ruined pen blanks this way. To facilitate drilling centered holes in pen blanks, I use a drill-bit guide bushing in conjunction with my pen vise. This setup makes centering the hole easy and prevents bit wandering when starting the hole.

To make one, start with round aluminum stock about three inches long, with a diameter that matches the size of the



A shopmade aluminum guide bushing keeps pen blank drilling on center.

pen blanks you intend to drill. Secure this aluminum blank in your lathe in a scroll chuck (preferably pin jaws) and center-drill about 1" (25mm) deep using a drill chuck in your tailstock. The drill bit should be of the same diameter as the hole you wish to drill in your pen blanks, but use a metal-cutting bit (not the self-centering bradpoint variety). Drill the aluminum at a low speed. Chamfer the hole with a larger bit about 1/16" (1.5mm) deep, then saw off about 3/8" (16mm) of this drilled stock for the bushing.

To use the aluminum bushing, position it on top of the pen blank while holding both it and the blank in a drilling vise. This will automatically center the bushing's hole on the pen blank and keep the drill bit from wandering. If you would like one of these bushings but don't want to go through the trouble of making one, contact me at jandep@centurytel.net.

—James Pruitt, Arkansas

Shopmade drying stand

Instead of using store-bought "finishing pyramids" to hold a piece while the finish is drying, I decided to make my own version of a drying stand. Mine is made from a 6" x 6" square of 1/4" (6mm-) thick MDF. On this piece, I marked out thirty-six 3/4" (19mm) squares. Then, using a 23-gauge pneumatic pin nailer, I fired 3/8" (10mm) pins into the squares. I like the thinness of the pins from a 23-gauge nailer, but you could probably use thicker pins.

The drying stand allows me to finish all sides of a workpiece at once. The thin pins have almost no visible effect on the finish. I now have six of these stands, which can be slid together to hold almost any project during finishing. For storage, I drilled a hole in a corner and hang the stands from a hook.

—Angelo Denofrio, Illinois



Share your turning ideas!

If we publish your tip, we'll pay you \$35. Email your tips along with relevant photos or illustrations to editor@woodturner.org.

—Joshua Friend, Editor

SHOPMADE DOVETAIL RECESS TOOL

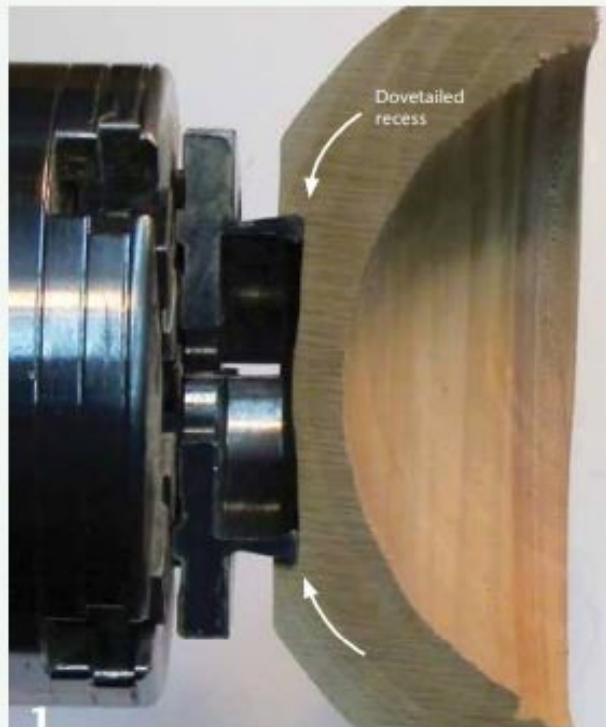
Mike Peace

If you use a four-jaw chuck in expansion mode to hold a bowl or platter, and your chuck has jaws that are angled like a dovetail, you need to create a recess with an angled outer wall to accommodate the jaws (*Photo 1*).

You can use a variety of tools to cut this recess, such as a bedan or skew or even a commercial dovetail scraper, though most of these tools are difficult to use with the tailstock in place. It can also be a challenge to consistently form the correct angle on the outside wall of your recess to match the dovetail jaws of your chuck. One solution is to make a customized scraper, ground so that the handle clears the tailstock's live center and the recess walls are automatically formed at the correct angle (*Photo 2*).

The dovetail angle on my chuck jaws is 10.5°, so I have ground the cutting surfaces on my recess tool to approximate that angle. Your chuck's dovetail angles may be different. Ideally, you would cut your dovetail recess to match the jaws exactly, but it doesn't have to be perfect. My tool cuts about an 8° recess. Too steep a dovetail, like 15°, is worse than one that is angled a bit less than ideal.

If you don't have a surplus tool to repurpose, you can buy a high-speed steel (HSS) tool blank and make your own.



Chucking in expansion mode. This cutaway shows an accurately formed recess whose outer wall is angled to match the splay of the chuck jaws. A simple shopmade tool will produce the correct angle every time. Two jaws removed for cutaway illustration only.



The author's shopmade dovetail recess tool, made from an old skew 1/2" (13mm) wide and a bit less than 1/4" (6mm) thick. Edge 1 forms the bottom of the recess, and edge 2 forms the angled wall. The angle between these two edges should match the angle on the outside of your dovetail jaws (in my case, about 80°). Since edges 1 and 2 are being used as scrapers, their bevels should be ground at a 70° to 80° angle.

Using the tool

Holding the tool flat on the toolrest, guide the recess-bottom cutting edge (*surface 1 in Photo 2*) in first, then move the tool to the left to form the angled wall. With a little practice, you will be able to form flat-bottomed recesses with your desired wall angle every time (*Photo 3*).

Mike Peace enjoys a wide variety of turning, from ornaments to hollow forms. He is active in several AAW chapters and enjoys teaching and demonstrating in the Atlanta area. You can see pictures of Mike's work and his previously published woodturning articles at MikePeacewoodturning.blogspot.com.



This picture shows the tool can be used even with a live center in the way.

Cutting a round workpiece on the bandsaw without proper support is a dangerous proposition. Woodturners often want to cut apart or trim a tenon off of turned spindles, cylinders, cones, and pod-shaped forms. Using a handsaw is always safe, but that can be slow and sometimes not even possible. It's tempting, therefore, to use a bandsaw. But without the aid of a jig or other holding method, fingers can be lost.

I often turn pods using green wood, cut them apart, and then carve out the wood inside or use the two sections to make art objects. Years ago, Chris Weiland, a furniture maker from Pennsylvania, showed me an easy-to-make jig that safely holds a round, cone-shaped, or oval object in order to cut it apart using the bandsaw. Unlike multi-use V-jigs or wooden clamps, this jig is a customized, one-use affair, made from inexpensive materials.

Physics and fingers

The reason it is dangerous to cut round forms on the bandsaw is that the blade will enter the wood at a point above the surface of the bandsaw table—it is always safest to have the wood resting flat on the table, right where the blade starts to cut. If not, the blade will pull the wood down, round objects will spin forward, and a finger could be dragged into the blade.

A dowel as small as 1/4" (6mm) diameter could even break a bandsaw blade. I experienced this firsthand years ago,



Round forms should be held securely in a jig during bandsawing to prevent the workpiece from rolling into the blade. Position your hands at the outer edges of the jig, away from the intended cutline.

A JIG for Bandsawing ROUND OBJECTS

Betty J. Scarpino

when I was all-too-casually cutting a length off a dowel. It happened instantly, but fortunately my fingers were well to the side of the blade as it pulled the dowel forward, jammed the wood, then broke the blade. The dowel snapped in two and was not cut cleanly.

For cutting straightforward, small objects such as dowels, clamping them into a wooden hand clamp would work just fine, as would a V-jig, both of which should be kept handy near your

bandsaw to help you avoid the temptation of making "just a quick cut." For other, more challenging-to-cut objects, the jig described in this article makes the process safer with customized support.

Materials

You will need a hot-melt glue gun, glue, scrap wood such as thin plywood, wedges, and masking tape (Photo 1). The size of the plywood and

Bandsaw jig materials



1 Materials needed: scrap wood, wedges, hot-melt glue gun, glue, and masking tape.

Secure mounting



2 Workpiece is glued and taped to the wedges and carrier, ready to be cut apart on the bandsaw. Note the intended cut line for this pod form (along the sidegrain). The jig can also be used to cut across the grain to remove a tenon.

Round form safely cut



The author's pod cut in half on a curved line. The tenons at each end can be cut off after the pod is split.

wedges will depend on the size of the object you are cutting.

For your bandsaw, make sure the blade is sharp and is the correct width. For tight curves and small objects, a ¼"-wide blade will generally work. My bandsaw is usually fitted with a ⅜"- (10mm-) wide blade, which works well with most small and large pieces of wood.

Make the jig

Cut the scrap-wood base to just about the length of and slightly wider than the workpiece (in this case, a pod form). The base should be made large enough to accommodate support wedges for your workpiece and allow room for your fingers to safely guide and push the assembly through the cut. The base also should be able to rest flat on the bandsaw table at the start of the cut.

Cut at least six wedges, more for larger, rounder, or odd-shaped objects. At least one wedge will be placed at the front, back, and sides of the pod. The front and back wedges support the pod as the wood enters and exits the bandsaw blade. Support in these areas is essential.

Place the workpiece onto the plywood and determine where you will make the cut, adjusting the position as needed. Hot-melt glue the first wedge into place. I usually start with a wedge on one of the ends. Using plenty of glue, secure the rest of the wedges into place. You will be gluing the wedges to the scrap-wood base and to the object itself. Note that if the workpiece is exceptionally wet, hot-melt glue might not adhere to its surface well enough to hold.

For added safety, especially with larger objects, wrap the assembly with masking tape. But be aware the tape alone will not prevent a round workpiece from rolling during a bandsaw cut, so do not rely on it as the only hold-down method (Photos 2, 3).

The last step is to mark the cutline onto the workpiece.

Cut the pod

Always keep your hands and fingers well to the side of the bandsaw blade and do not push the jig

with your fingers aimed toward the blade (see opening image). Let the blade cut at its own speed—there is no need to push the assembly aggressively. Depending on the size of the wood and jig, you might want to use push sticks. I start the cut at the center of the end of the workpiece, which will mean lining up the jig to the correct angle for the curve of the cutline.

With a sharp blade, the cut will be made easily and safely in any direction—whether you are cutting off a tenon or stub or splitting the workpiece in half (Photos 4–6). After the object is cut, break the jig away from the workpiece. If the glue stubbornly remains, it can be heated with a hairdryer to ease its removal.

I use these pods in a variety of creative ways. If they are turned from green wood, I carve out the interiors right away to avoid cracking as the wood dries. ■

Betty J. Scarpino lives, works, turns, carves, and writes in Indianapolis. For more, visit bettyscarpino.com.

Betty J. Scarpino, *Journey*, 2007, Maple, paint, 5" x 14" x 3" (13cm x 36cm x 8cm)

Photo: Shawn Spence
Private Collection



Betty J. Scarpino, *River Rocks*, 2007, Maple, rocks, particle board, paint, 4" x 11" x 14" (10cm x 28cm x 36cm)