



WEST SUSSEX WOODTURNERS

FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

Our first Professional demonstration of the year was about to get under way. Our demonstrator for the day was Colwin Way. Colwin has been turning for a number of years and is currently employed by Axminster Tools as one of their tutors.



Colwin was going to show us some spindle turning and some faceplate turning. Along the way he was going to show us how to use a Skew. He said we should not be afraid of the Skew. In fact he uses the Skew most of the time as that was the first tool he was taught to use.



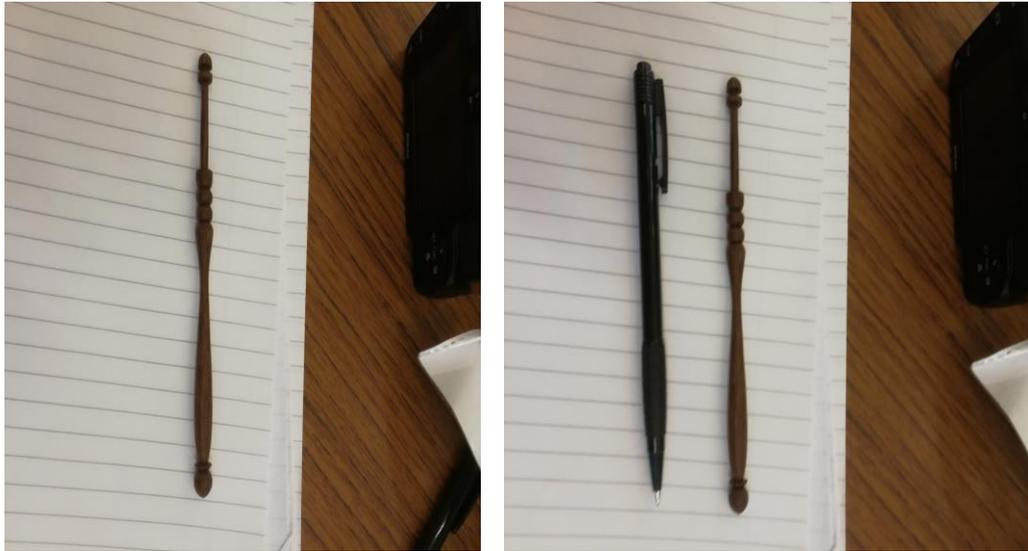
Colwin has a number of Skews including some German ones, which are used for Nutcrackers. Some of his Skews have a double bevel.

The one with the blade narrowing down is the German gouge and is found more or less only in Germany.

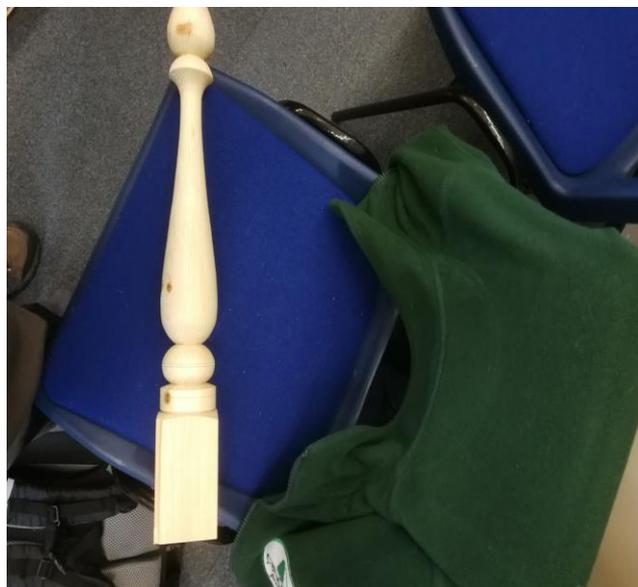
He was going to make a table leg and the some fruit using jam chucks.

He started off with a lace bobbin. When he was first apprenticed he made these by the hundreds. But almost overnight the lace bobbin market died.

The bobbin was made using $\frac{1}{4}$ inch stock and mainly a Skew chisel although part would be made with a small round nosed Scraper. He rounded the timber down using the Skew. He turned the end fairly thin then switched to the round nosed scraper he made a small bead, he then rounded down the end using the Skew. He then made 3 small beads before moving to the tail stock end, where he turned another small bead. This particular bobbin is a Midland bobbin. (other styles of Bobbin are available).



The next project was the pommel on a table leg. (The spelling is correct as I looked it up). The pommel is going from square to round. He used a Steb centre in the head stock and a ring centre in the tail stock. Turn the speed right down on the lathe before starting. He marked a pencil line on the timber. Using his skew with the long point down he cut a small groove about a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the pencil line and then cut back towards the pencil line. He then switched to a spindle roughing gouge to take off the bulk of the timber. He raised the tool rest to make some planning cuts. Always cut using from the centre to the heel. You need to keep the cut going or you will almost certainly get a catch. Roll down to the smaller diameter, roll the Skew over until it is upright. He made a bun foot by starting with a V cut and rolling the Skew over as he had done when making the bead. Don't leave too many sharp edges as get damaged much more easily.



If you want to get a better description of the Skew chisel check out the Youtube video by Allan Batty.

The link is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfeLAHQsbqk>

Technical note from Colwin:

A spindle gouge is measured by bar width but a bowl gouge is measured by flute width.

The next project was a candlestick. Colwin pointed out that a metal or glass cup is now a requirement if you are intending to sell your output. It's quite a good idea from the safety point of view as well.

Colwin was intending to use C Jaws. Having rounded the piece to go in the jaws he was going to sink the cup right into the wood so he needed to drill a hole.

Technical tip from Colwin:

Use a Forstner bit for side grain but you should use a saw tooth bit for end grain.

Having drilled the hole he rounded off the edges of the hole and applied some friction polish. He then took off the chuck and replaced the timber on the lathe using his step centre in the headstock and a revolving centre in the tail stock. He rounded the timber down to a complete cylinder. Colwin used his bowl gouge to put in some of the detail as he really likes the bowl gouge. He rounded down the top using his parting tool. He sanded down going from 100 to 600 grit. He applied some sanding sealer with a brush and wiped off the excess with tissue. He rubbed it down again very gently with 600 grit. He is not keen on wire wool as it can discolour the timber. He applied wax without the lathe running. He burnished that with a handful of shavings and the buffed it up.

If doing this at home it's probably best to do the base first.

He was then going to turn the base using a screw chuck. In general he prefers to use a faceplate on bowl blanks.

He trued up the blank using a bowl gouge ensuring that the handle of the gouge was well down. He then trued up the face using the bottom edge of his bowl gouge. Using his dividers he marked out the foot. He cut a groove using his 1/8th inch parting tool. He cut into the base using his bowl gouge going from outer to centre. He cut a dovetail using his skew to take the jaws. He then followed the same finishing procedure as above but starting with 150 grit. If there is any moisture in the wood it might be worth protecting it by putting some tissue in the jaws. He turned the piece around and cut away a poor piece of wood with his bowl gouge. He drilled a hole using a Forstner bit to take the tenon on the stick part. He trued up the top and using his skew he slightly dished the top. He put a V cut in using the toe of his skew. He switched to the bowl gouge to shape it. He made two beads using the toe of the skew. He then finished using the same procedure as above starting with 150 grit. You should ensure that none of the sealer goes into the hole.

Technical tips from Colwin:

If you have slightly soft timber you can sand back the sealer and apply a second coat.

If you find you are getting rings from the wax it may pay to speed the lathe up.

He replaced the spindle on the lathe ensuring that he was using the same points as he started with. He turned down the base with his parting tool to fit the hole in the base. Having ensured the fit he then turned the rest. He chamfered the base of the spindle to ensure a good flat fit to the base.



The next project was a faceplate item. It was a bowl from spalted Beech. You can use either a faceplate ring to fit the chuck or an ordinary faceplate. Colwin prefers to use Torx screws. These are the ones with a six pointed star. They are less prone to getting damaged.

Colwin trued up the edge first remembering to keep the handle of the gouge well down. Use gentle cuts initially and remember it's not important to get it perfect. He then trued up the face. Using his dividers he marked up the foot to go in the C jaws. As it's a foot he made the cut on the outside of the line. Colwin puts his hand on the top of the gouge to save himself from the shavings. Do not worry about finishing cuts at this stage. The flute is about 10 o'clock and now start shaping. Colwin switched to a push cut. Start with the handle away from you and gradually bring it towards you. The push cut gives a better finish than a pull cut. He started hand sanding with 100 grit and then 150 grit. He switched to a rotary sander starting with 180. Next he went to 240 grit for both hand and rotary sanding and then 400 with both. If using Sycamore you might want to use 320. Lastly he hand sanded only with 600 grit. He applied sealer and wax as above.

Technical tip from Colwin:

Don't use oil on spalted timber as the black will tend to smudge into the lighter colours.

He turned the piece around leaving the face plate on until he was satisfied it was running true. The advantage is that it gives a nice handle. Now remove the faceplate. Using a push cut clean up the face. He recommends finishing the rim before starting to hollow. The first cut for the bowl is close to the centre. Start with the handle away from you. As you start the cut take a slight pause to give you a small shoulder, then swing the handle back towards you. He made a series of cuts giving a stepped finish. He then cut straight across to test the depth. He sanded the inside of the bowl as above using hand and rotary sanding. He then applied sealer and wax as before.

Technical tips from Colwin:

If you want to make your own "Cole jaws" use plywood, preferably Birch ply. Or you could use a push plate which is basically a piece of wood on a face plate covered with non-slip matting.

Having turned the bowl round he brought up the tail stock to hold the piece in place. Be very careful about how much pressure you put on as you might split the wood. Using a ¼ inch bowl gouge he turned away the foot. The tiny knob that was left he sanded of using a sanding disc in the chuck.



The next project was an apple and a pear. He used Paduak for the pear and Purpleheart wood for the apple. Purpleheart does not like heat so always store in a cool place. (That would be my workshop not so much cool as b****y freezing at this time of year. So if you have any Purpleheart let me know.)

Colwin had cut off the corners so he did not have to change the tool rest. Using his step and ring centres he rounded down using his bowl gouge.

(Quick question: is it me or are more people using a bowl gouge to round down timber. A while ago it would always have been a spindle roughing gouge. Answers on a postcard please to The Chairman).

He shaped the bottom of the pear moving to the top and side scraped with the parting tool.

Technical tip from Colwin:

Use a separate sealer for Paduak as it will discolour any other timber.

He then finished in the same way as the previous projects starting at 100 grit and then applied sanding sealer.

He put the pear in the jam chuck having used a dowel through the head stock to guide it. The jam chuck could be made from Beech, Sycamore or Lime. It's approximately 5.5 inches high and 3.5 inches wide.



Tap the fruit light into the jam chuck but only once. Turn a dimple in what will be the bottom to take a clove. Put another dimple in the top to take the stalk.

The Apple will be turned in exactly the same way.

Colwin put a drill bit in the chuck and brought the fruit up to the drill. Just after starting the hole he twisted the fruit slightly so the stalk went in at a bit of an angle.

He made the stem from a piece of timber rather like he had done with the Lace Bobbin. The stem should be slightly tapered. Give it a brief sand and then apply either some wax or friction polish to darken the wood.

He put a stitched mop buffing wheel on the lathe and using a Brown Tripoli stick (do not confuse with jewellers rouge). Use the buff compound for paler woods. Finish off with Carnauba or Woodturner stick on a loose leaf wheel.

The final project was a vase made from Monkey Puzzle. Colwin rounded down the blank again using his bowl gouge. He made a tenon to go in the chuck. He trued up the top using a ¼ inch bowl gouge and put a small hole in the top with his skew. This was to try and ensure the drill did not go awry because of the pith.

Technical tip from Colwin:

Clear the swarf away regularly as it only takes seconds for it to get red hot and possibly be a fire hazard.

Get the bevel rubbing and work into the centre. He gradually turned it down to give a funnel shape and rounded off the corner. He went back to the funnel and cut both ways with the flute at 2 o'clock and 10 o'clock. He cut at the base with his parting tool. He made two cuts to avoid the parting tool binding. He went back to his bowl gouge to finish off the shaping. To give some extra definition he used his parting tool to make a shoulder. (No pictures of the vase came out).

FOR SALE

Rexon band saw floor standing max cut 6" max width 12"
Very clean. Contact Dave Unsted 01403 211077

I have been contacted by Dave Scott (one of our members) on behalf of an old friend who has an unused set of Hamlet chisels with 10" handles for sale.

The set comprises 1 parting tool, 1 half round scraper, 1 roughing gouge, 1 spindle gouge and a skew.

He is looking for reasonable offers. If anyone is interested please contact Dave directly on (hyacinthscott@yahoo.ca), home telephone number(01903 260414) or on 07964358918.

Next month:

Demonstrations of laser engraving by Barrie Fitch and pen making by Steve Savage and Doug Wase.

AND

Competition time:

A Wide rimmed bowl/platter Bowl must be 1/3rd of total diameter (measured).

WOODTURNING SALE

**DRAYCOTT MEMORIAL VILLAGE HALL, DRAYCOTT,
Nr CHEDDAR, BS27 3UE**

4th MARCH 2018 / 10.30-4pm

OVER 100 BURRS FOR SALE

6"-24" FROM £5

OVER 500 BOWL BLANKS ALL BEAUTIFULLY FIGURED

MULBERRY - LABURNUM - ELM - YEW - OLIVE

ASH - SPALTED ASH - SPALTED ALDER

SPALTED BEECH - NORTHAFAGUS - CHERRY

PEAR - APPLE - HAWTHORN - WALNUT

BLANKS 5"-20"

ALL MUST GO!

Tea / Coffee / Cakes Available

**TEL: STEVE 07737132214
cleverdonsteve@yahoo.co.uk**