

## BOTTLE OPENER RESEARCH BY GREG POTTER

Woodturners wishing to create bottle openers can purchase kits from a variety of vendors. As a service to us all, **Greg Potter** conducted an indepth research study to evaluate and determine the best bottle opener components. He shared that research at the September 2014 meeting. In order to test the effectiveness of each opener, he invited a few friends over for a variety of bottled beverages! Thanks Greg for your willingness to undertake this strenuous research!

Now for the results of his research ...

**Penn State Kit** – This kit is \$7.95 in chrome and \$8.95 in 24k gold. It turns using a pen mandrel and brass tube with bushings. The tube creates a short handle but you can cut the tube and glue to either end of a longer blank or purchase a longer tube and cut to your desired length.

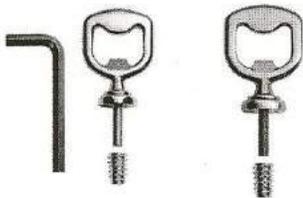


Greg found that the opener head would loosen up in the screw holding so he added some glue to prevent further movement. The chrome finish looks good but the design of the opener itself is too small as it does not get a good grip on bottle tops and slips when used.

**Woodcraft** – This kit is \$7.99 in chrome only. Greg and his team of researchers felt that this was by far the most effective opener that they used. It really grabs the bottle top in the underneath or top down method. On the downside, the chrome finish will mar with use. Woodcraft previously offered a pewter finish.



**Rockler** – This kit is \$9.99 in chrome or \$8.99 in pewter. You can purchase a mandrel at \$10.49 which is nice for mounting and turning the blanks although Greg still needed to bring up the tail stock to hold the wood. The opener has a very robust head and the pewter finish seems to hold up well.



Three other kits are available that Greg did not test. One is from **Craft Supplies** at \$9.50 per kit. The opener's finish is brass but with 10k gold plating. Greg noted that he felt the shape of the opener was bland. **Peachtree USA** has a chrome kit \$7.99 and gold at \$8.99. Greg noted that this opener appears similar to the one sold by Woodcraft but with a square head. **Chefwarekits** has 2 different kits. Their cheapes is stainless steel at \$3.95. Their premium kit is chrome at \$8.95 and looks the same as the one available from Penn State.



**SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

Articles talking about your travels to various woodworking events, galleries, mentoring experiences, woodturning experiences, about an article you believe others should read, or about most anything are VERY welcome. Generally, the deadline is 1½ weeks before the next meeting since the publication date for the newsletter is the Tuesday before the meeting. So for November, the date is November 1<sup>st</sup>. Don't feel you can't write. Your editor will adjust things as needed!