

OCTOBER 2014 DEMONSTRATION

TOOL GIMMICKS, TRICKS & GIZMOS WITH MEL TABER

Mel Taber put on a tool demonstration at the October meeting that included more than 50 tools and more than 60 points on how to work with woodturning and woodworking tools. The demonstration was a fascinating and fast paced tour through some of Mel's many tools and his thinking on tool and jig use.

Mel very clearly noted that woodworking can be dangerous and that safety was important in every woodworking activity and all tool use. Further, he stated that while he was demonstrating some unusual tools and techniques, each person had to decide if they were confident and comfortable in using each tool or technique – if not, they should not attempt using the tool or the technique.

The following is a sample of what he described and shared over the course of an hour.

- When working with a chuck on the lathe, consider: using a bungee cord to hold the chuck from rotating while doing handwork or carving on the wood piece; and covering your chuck with Velcro, sweat band or rubber or plastic bands to prevent damage to hands and fingers.
- Hold small objects in your lathe using a collet chuck, Morse taper drill chucks, pen mandrels, or create your own collet by cutting a metal or PVC pipe in half and using it as a collar to hold round material and not leave a mark on the wood.
- Hold turned objects off the lathe to do carving or handwork using your chuck and a bolt the same size and thread pattern as your chuck. Drill into a large block of wood and then epoxy the bolt in place with threads up enough to be able to screw the chuck onto it and have the chuck hold the piece upright for handwork.
- Make your own live centers to hold pieces against the chuck using pieces of leather, wood cones, faucet washers, soft wood blocks, or other material that keeps the live center point from digging into your turned wood piece.
- Use sharpening jigs from retailers to sharpen carbide cutters, drill bits and turning tools such as Hannes sharpening jig (www.hannestool.com), Wolverine grinding jig (available from many retailers) and or make your own jig.



- To make your own sharpening jigs: use square aluminum stock drilled out to hold drill bits for sharpening (thread a second side hole to add set screw to hold bit in place); use six-sided long aluminum nut with wooden dowel insert drilled to hold a metal rod to make a three sided turning tool; and drill out and thread the end of a brass rod so that a carbide turning bit can be mounted into it with a set screw, then put into a drill press (bit down) so the carbide bit is held securely to be

sharpened on a diamond card.

- When sanding make your own sanding stick using a dowel partially inside a heater hose and then wrap sandpaper around dowel to get into small detail areas on a wood turning or carving. Make different size dowels for different size detail work. Or use foam blocks, leather, chalkboard erasers and other objects to create different sanding sizes and surfaces to sand detail and irregularly-shaped objects.
- Making a sled for the band saw can help when cutting burls and other irregular shaped pieces of wood to manageable sizes for woodworking. A sled that holds the wood piece and slides on the table slots can have metal shelf brackets or wood braces added to the wood sled and then screwed to the wood piece for secure and safe handling – make sure all metal brackets, clamps, and screws are clear of the cut line.
- Carving, grinding, shaping, and sanding wood with power tools requires safe equipment such as made by Arbor Tech (www.arbortechusa.com). Make jigs and use bench clamps to hold wood objects safely and securely.
- Turning hollow vessels requires good quality hollowing tools and tool rests that capture or partially capture the tool to work safely and produce thin walled vessels. Some of the hollowing tool manufacturers mentioned were: Derry Tools (www.derrytool.com), Shape and Hollow Tool (www.woodcentral.com), Lyle Jamieson tools (www.lylejamieson.com), and many other brands. Holding vessels for hollowing requires special long mandrels like the Kelton Woodchuckers Mandrel (www.woodturnerscatalog.com) or using a Morse taper extension on the tailstock (www.woodturnerscatalog.com).

My favorite tip involved making uniform size wood chips for mixing with glue to fill cracks in turned projects – use your wife’s electric coffee grinder. Coffee anyone?

Submitted by *Chad Dawson*

Photos by *Barbara Raymond-LaPrease*



VIDEO RENTAL DEAL FOR NOVEMBER

In November, rent any video and keep for 2 months at the 1 month price. Return at January 13, 2015 meeting. No video rentals in December.

3M SANDING SHEETS

Available from Texas Knife Supply

www.texasknife.com

\$1.45 each

Blue 1200 grit, Pink 4000 grit,
Sea Green 6000 grit, Pale Green/Yellow 8000 grit
Washable, Reusable, Wet or Dry

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 1st. Don't feel you can't write. Your editor will adjust things as needed!