



The Joys in Discovering the Use of Tools

by Julian Nicholas
with Permission

In this article I would like to share with you some of the joys we learning woodturners experience as we begin the long road to turning proficiency. As we all know we employ, and pay considerable amounts of money for certain tools in order to create a living article from the mental vision we see in the "rough diamond". But in order to create this article of beauty, (as so many of you do if the exhibits shown in various wood shows and magazine articles are any indication) we must first understand the uses of the various tools. So I listed four tools that I was shown how to use in a basic woodturning course I took and decided to look into their meaning as defined by Webster's Dictionary. This is what I discovered.

The Gouge: Now we don't have to be Einstein to conjure up a picture of what this tool does, do we? How do you think Webster Dictionary defines it? "A chisel with a convex cross section for cutting grooves." Yes, some of my work looks like this.

The Parting tool: A modification of Mr. Webster's definitions for this is: "A tool for separating into two or more parts." Yes this also had happened to me on occasion.

The Scraper: This tool, according to Webster, causes us to "bring it into contact with something hard or rough in such a way as to injure or graze it". On this basis, Mr. Webster has informed me that as soon as I introduce my scraper to my turning I am going to injure it, to say nothing of my ego. And what of my poor instructor's feelings who went to great lengths to show me how to sharpen a scraper. It must come as quite a shock him, to find out that all I had to do was use a "rough, hard" tool. Then there is my favorite tool, the one that strikes fear in my heart.

The Skew: I can hardly wait to see what Mr. Webster has to say about this. Oh nothing I haven't already experienced! "To lack symmetry or to deviate from a straight line." Isn't that the truth. I wonder how many times beginner such as myself have deviated from a straight line with this tool, and I wonder how many unusual terms we have invented to rename it.

So to summarize my findings, the art of turning seems to involve using:

a gouge to cut grooves,

a scraper to injure the wood,

a skew chisel to deviate from a straight line and,

a parting tool to separate the turning into several parts when I see how much damage the other tools have done to it.

Well as a learning turner, my feelings are somewhat comforted as, based on the results of some of my projects, I appear to be using my tools in the manner prescribed by Webster.

Julian Nicholas

http://www.woodturns.com/articles/stories/discovering_tools.htm

Green Wood - It's Free

Richard Raffin extolls the goodness of woodturning for a number of reason – not the least of which is utilizing wood that would otherwise be wasted. This wood is available from two primary sources – scrap bins and felled trees. This article addresses green wood from felled trees.

If you haven't turned green wood, you're losing both money and unusual turning pleasure. I have about 25 rough-turned bowls aging in my shop. They will be suitable for finishing over the next two years. And I'm always preparing more.

Acquiring the wood is simple – when you see it cut, just ask for it. I've never been refused when it's use was explained; though I've requests for a bowl as a memory of a favorite tree. If you keep your eyes open you will see neighborhood trees removed. Friends who know of my interest tell me when they see a tree coming down. Green wood also comes available when storms break large limbs.

If you're not going to rough turn the wood immediately, cut it in half vertically to release strain, seal it and date it with a felt pen. Seal logs quickly to maintain the integrity. You can use Seal Tight, or I've painted end grain with latex exterior paint and had good success. In fact, I've noted the latex has allowed fungus past the barrier into the heart of the Box Elder stored in my garage that resulted in a more interesting appearance. I'm going to do a comparison between Seal Tight and latex as a green wood sealant to see which enables a better effect. Store them in a cool place with circulation. I've noted the fungus grows best between the stacked log sections.

More next month

AAW Summer-Symposium in CA

We had a great time at the symposium...always a lot of fun and filled with education. There were a more segmented pieces in the instant gallery than ever before and many more classes. I attended seven rotations on segment turning. It is always interesting to see other people's ideas, opinions and techniques. More about this at our Sep. meeting.

A highlight was learning the latest on Titebond glue. Literally, 100% of the segment turners to whom I talked are using the original glue with the red cap. It seems that the chemical makeup of the waterproof type II causes small ridges to form on completed pieces after sanding and finishing. I recently made a few pieces and used the original blend – it's fine after about curing 24 hours.

One Wyoming turner said "overnight" for him means an hour and a half. In Michigan I recommend we stick with 24 hours to preserve our efforts.

Bill Youngblood

Internet Woodturning Sites of the Month

Links to more than 40 interesting woodturning articles at:

<http://www.sydneywoodturners.com.au/site/articles/articles.html>

Interested in Dust Hazards?? U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety & Health Administration - <http://www.osha-slc.gov/SLTC/wooddust/>

'Found any great sites? Let us know and we'll highlight em here

Let There be Light

If you're in and out of your shop a lot, there may be times you've returned to find the lights were left on for days. To prevent this, install an outdoor security light with motion and light sensors. The motion sensor activates the light when you approach and lights the way into the shop. When you depart, it will extinguish itself in whatever time is set on the unit. The two bulbs provide plenty of light to grab a tool. Additionally, the photocell (connected through a sensitivity control) turns off the light when overhead lights are turned on.

Bulk Purchases Save \$\$\$\$ - A Club Benefit

There are basic items that every member requires for woodturning. These include a lathe, wood, turning tools, sandpaper, and finishes. These minimums, and more, need not be expensive. One way to keep prices down is participation in DAW's bulk purchase program.

The club now procures sandpaper, CA glue, wood sealer, inexpensive, homemade faceplates, and homemade scraping tools. If you think the club should supply more variety, let the president know so we can explore them. **The next bulk purchase order is planned for October** through "The Woodturners Catalog." You can order a catalog at www.woodturnerscatalog.com or call 1-800-551-8876.

To receive a club discount of 15% or more we must order supplies worth at least \$1000. We were fortunate with our last order in that a member, **Frank Goettel**, had a 15% discount coupon, since our order was less than \$1000. If you have discount coupons for supplies please share them for bulk purchases. As a club, our goal to provide the best woodturning products, at the best price.

If you know of a good source, bring it to the next meeting; give it to either Len Kraska, or Frank Goettel and they will investigate bulk purchases. LK

Michigan "Wood"

Michigan Association of Woodturners will host Cliff Lonsburry for a 2 day demo on Oct 4th and 5th. Cliff will demonstrate hollow turning, texturing and carving. Call Tom Mogford 810-629-6176 to register 2 days \$70, one day \$40.

Occam's Razor

Of two competing theories or explanations - the simpler one is to be preferred.... William of Occam.

So, when having difficulty turning, first try sharpening your tools.

Next Meeting:

Date: September 28, 2003
ShadBush Nature Center, Shelby Twp.
Highlights:

- Don Russell, a demonstrator at the AAW Symposium this summer, will demo at this meeting.
- Symposium Report
- New Membership Badges
- Logo Apparel Orders

2003-04 Scheduled Meetings

2003	2004
October 19	January 18
November 16	February 15

President's Corner

Welcome to our first newsletter, I hope this is the start of a great communications tool to inform you of turning techniques and news. By the time you receive this, I will have been to Arrowmont attending a turning workshop focusing on color application.

My first art fair will also be history where I will be using the club's booth for the first time. I hope more members will take advantage of this opportunity. After this shake out, future use should go fairly easy.

I encourage all members to let the editor know when and where you will be showing/selling your work so we can support your effort.

Don't forget we will be doing an all day demo at the Shelby Twp Park Heritage day on Saturday Sept 20th. Bring a piece of wood and a tool or two and come and do some turning.

Greg



3232 Essex
Troy, MI 48084

Stamp

DAW Logo Apparel

The next order will offer a larger selection of colors. Payment must accompany orders, so if you want to order at the September 28th meeting, you'll need cash or bring your checkbook.

Items	Prices
Hats & T-Shirts*	\$13.00
Sweat Shirts*	\$19.00
Golf Shirts*	\$26.00
Jackets	\$53.00

*Add \$2.00 for 2XL and \$3.00 for 3XL

Bill Youngblood

DAW Officers - Here to Help!!

President -	Greg Smith	(248) 649-3565	gregsmith@aol.com
1 st Vice President -	Dennis Monville	(586) 446-0977	turnmiestr@aol.com
2 nd Vice President -	Bill Yourngblood	(586) 727-9655	Billandbon@aais.net
Secretary -	Bill Schrod	(586) 446-9539	bschrod@ancorinfo.com
Treasurer -	Gary Hoover	(586) 727-9020	myturn@massnet1.net
Librarian -	Steve Sharp	(586) 713-2612	
Editor -	Chet Bisno	(586) 254-7605	chet.bisno@comcast.net

"Shavings" Needs Your Help - Share Your Knowledge

Risk, time and thought. That's what went into the material in this first issue. While it's not up to objective quality yet; it'll evolve into that. The critical path to get there is through your contributions. Please take the risk, contribute the time and give thought to what you know that will expand the horizons for others. If you're concerned about limited experience, remember we need to support all levels - novice through experienced members are joining each month. With the limited space available we're seeking articles of two to three paragraphs, or longer articles suitable for segmentation between issues. Thanks!!