

January Meeting Handout

<http://www.detroitareawoodturners.org>

Spindle Turning by Greg Smith

Tools & Rules:

Spindle-gouges, skew-chisels, roughing-gouge, parting tools, Bedan tool, sizing tools, calipers, center marking tools. Lathe accessories include a safe center (dead center for the drive) and live center in the tailstock.

The three rules of spindle turning, these rules can be broken, but only when skill and experience allow the turner to maintain tool control.

Rule 1 – Rub The Bevel to start and keep on rubbing it.

Rule 2 – Start with the largest diameter and work to the smaller over the entire length of the spindle

Rule 3 – Work from the tailstock (smallest diameter) to the headstock largest

Rule 4 – On architectural spindles do the pommels (square to round transitions) first

Rule No 1 is always true, Rule No 2 is true when between centers but may not be when the work is held from one end, then Rule No. 3 takes precedent.

Preparation:

A layout drawing is a must especially for multiple pieces. Changes to the drawing may be required due to tool and process limitations. Always make a prototype to validate the drawing, If doing work for others make sure they understand this. Understand the wood species you will be using and its limitations.

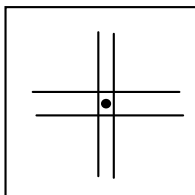
From the layout and prototype create a story stick to mark the critical points and features and large to small diameter transitions. A mechanical scribe type story stick can also be used for detail work.

Start by dimensioning all the blanks plus some extra for margin. Mark the centers on both ends as well as the square to round transitions if the turning has them.

It is helpful to position the story sticks and the final prototype behind the lathe so they are a constant visual reminder. The visual translates through your eyes and hands, which are the best measuring tools you have. Of all the dimensions diameters are the least obtrusive from spindle to spindle. Proportions and end points are much more noticeable.

Remember when you make an unfixable mistake it may be time to take a break. Remember you can't add the wood back on.

Marking the centers - I prefer using a cabinet marking gauge to find the center. This process will place the center equidistant from the sides regardless of the blank squareness and does not require you to estimate where the corners are. The marks as shown in the diagram will leave a small square in the center which can then be marked in the center with a center punch.



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Cutting

- ❖ Start at the square to round transitions (pommels) using the skew long point down. The cut should be made with respect to the squareness of the transition. This is a key point on the spindle as it is a major dimension. The skew is started with the handle down, bevel face parallel to the stock transition. Work the V groove from both sides to maintain the location of the line. If One does not work from both sides, the line will move along the spindle. Keep cutting until you reach a round point. Remove the waste on the side to be turned round.
- ❖ Proceed with the roughing gouge to round the area not to be left square. Round down to the largest feature diameter.
- ❖ Clean up the shoulders on the pommels to their final shape.
- ❖ Using the story stick layout the first level of high points of the turning, typically the coves, beads and shoulders.
- ❖ Working from the right and using a parting tool or Bedan establish the next largest dimension of diameters using calipers or sizing tools such as an open end wrench or other fixed tool.
- ❖ Finish the largest diameter beads and their transitions working you way down to the finished piece.

Meeting Info

Ruby Cler is taking over the Shavings Editor job From Chet. She is not here today, but wanted to let all know that any input to the newsletter is welcome. Also any assistance you mey want to give would be appreciated. Ruby's email is rbycler@sympatico.ca and her phone no. is 519-945-0647

Bill Youngbloods open shop Tuesdays at 6-9 pm, Greg's this Saturday Jan 22 at 9 am to Noonboth are open to all.