



Chatter and Catches

the Newsletter of the



President's Gouge

Our September 12th meeting at my shop will focus on different finishing techniques. Wayne Allen did a similar presentation almost a year ago and it was very well received. This time we are asking members to think about how they finish their work ... and be able to discuss the techniques or products used. Wayne's presentation plus our own member's ideas should prove to be very enlightening.

Many thanks to Paul Cote for his demonstration and discussion of spray painting last month. Hopefully, we will be seeing some sprayed work from our members in the future.

Bill, Rich Sheldrew, and I have met to try and hammer out the technical difficulties we had with the additional video equipment at the last meeting. Bill and Rich think they have a fix, but need to buy a small specialized monitor. I will be contacting the Board for approval to spend the money. Also, thanks go to Ron Burdg who designed, built, and adjusted the clamps and mounting mechanism for the overhead detail camera.

Our raffle really helps us. Please bring something: a tool, bottle of wine, wood, can of paint stripper, etc., etc., to add to the raffle. A special thanks to Woodcraft, Craft Supplies USA, and our own Ron Burdg of Sierra Mold for their contributions to raffle prizes.

Looking ahead, the October meeting will feature Steve Dunn who will be turning wooden hats and selling wood. The meeting will be on **TUESDAY EVENING October 6**. It will be a 2 – 2 ½ hour demonstration. The Board will set a price for members and non members. The club will be subsidizing part of the cost. – Dave Rich

Growth of a Woodturner

When I first started turning, I was excited to see a relatively realistic item develop from a plain piece of wood, and received great enjoyment in the turning process. As I have progressed, I have found that I am spending less time turning and more time in the finishing process, i.e. sanding and finishing. I have realized that much of the beauty of the finished product is dependent on the amount of time spent on these last two tasks. As my turning skills have improved, I find that on some projects, the amount of time I spend on finishing is reduced. However, as I take on tougher projects and turn different woods, I find that I have to pay more attention to this phase as different woods react differently to the sanding process. I just finished a project using Orange Agate wood and found that the wood was very hard. In some ways this was good as I could make finer cuts with the chisel, however, when I went to sand it, I found it to be a time consuming process. On most of my projects I try to sand to at least 600 grit. On this piece the sanding took longer than expected and even after 600 grit, I still had some fine sanding lines. I did not see these until I had applied several coats of rub on polyurethane.

Up to now I have limited my finishes to friction polish used on pens and some of my simpler items, i.e. mushrooms, toothpick holders, and rub-on polyurethane used on several bowls I have turned. I like the finish with the rub-on polyurethane. However, at several of the meetings I have heard discussions on the use of wax and oils, with the use of a buffing wheel. This will be my next venture. I have also purchased a bottle of Mahoney's walnut oil and plan to use it on several salad bowls I plan to turn. From what I

have read on-line, users of this oil speak very highly of it and indicated that several of them have used the bowls for over a year without any problems with the finish.

As my skill improves I have begun to turn better wood – purchased wood - not from my wood pile. I am finding that each wood is different and I have to adapt as I start turning. I am sure that as I encounter more and different types of wood my skill level will continue to improve. I am still amazed when I look at the finished product and remember what it was when I started. I now visualize what I think my finished product will look like when I first pickup the piece of wood. This vision sometimes changes as I turn. Some of this is due to the wood itself and the particular size and grain. However, sometimes these changes are due to a turner mistake, i.e., a catch resulting in having to turn more to hide my mistake. At least at this point in my turning such a mistake has not been critical, with one exception, and I have been able to somewhat save the project. Early in my turning I was turning a piece of wood from my wood pile that had several cracks. When I worked the outside I filled several of these cracks with CA and it seemed to work quite well. However, when I started turning the inside, I caught one of these cracks and the piece came off of the lathe nearly taking out my shop window. This may have been the first serious catch, but I am sure it will not be the last.

As my turning has progressed, some of my other hobbies, i.e., wood carving and gourds have found a place on my shelf, as all I want to do now is turn. – John Compston

Cocobolo



Cocobolo is a tropical hardwood from the Pacific seaboard of Mexico and Central America. Only the heartwood is used: this is typically orange or reddish-brown in color, often with a figuring of darker irregular traces weaving through the wood. By contrast, the sapwood (not often used) is a creamy yellow, with a sharp boundary with the heartwood. The heartwood is known to change color after being cut, lending to its appeal.

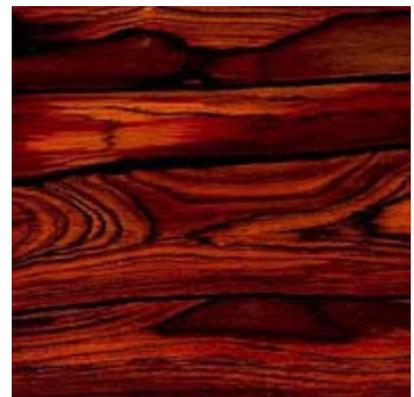
Cocobolo is oily in look and feel, and stands up well to repeated handling and exposure to water: a common use is in gun grips and knife handles. It is very hard, fine textured and dense, but is easily machined, although due to the abundance of natural oils, the wood tends to clog abrasives and fine-toothed saw blades, like other very hard, very dense tropical woods. Due to its density and hardness, even a large block of the cut wood will produce a clear musical tone if struck. Cocobolo can be polished to a lustrous, glassy finish. The high natural oil content of

the wood makes it difficult to achieve a strong glue joint, and can inhibit the curing process of some varnishes, particularly oil-based finishes.

Cocobolo is yielded by two to four closely related species of the genus *Dalbergia*, of which the best known is *Dalbergia retusa*, a fair-sized tree, reported to reach 20-25 m in height: this is probably the species contributing most of the wood in the trade. Because of the wood's great beauty and high value, the trees yielding this wood have been heavily exploited: they are now in danger of extinction outside of national parks, reserves, and plantations. Only relatively small amounts of this prized wood reach the world market and it is expensive.

Working the Wood

Care must be used when cutting Cocobolo, as the wood's oils can induce allergic reactions if inhaled or exposed to unprotected skin and



eyes. A dust collection system, coupled with the use of personal protective equipment such as respirators, is highly recommended when machining this wood. It turns very well. Some cocobolo has a specific gravity of over 1.0, and will sink in water. Cocobolo has radial and tangential shrinkage values of 2.7 and 4.3% respectively.

Uses

Besides its use in gun grips and knife handles, Cocobolo is highly favored for fine inlay work for custom high-end cue sticks, brush backs, and musical instruments (especially guitars, drums and basses.) Alem-bic Inc. considers cocobolo to be their house wood, and many famous players such as Stanley Clarke use such basses. Some woodwind instruments such as clarinets and oboes have been successfully made using cocobolo instead of the more usual grenadilla (African blackwood.) It is also used in making luxury pens, decorative and figured veneers, bowls, jewelry boxes, and other expensive specialty items. – From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

Cutting Speeds for Forstner Bits

While surfing the net I came upon this bit of information and thought it would be a good reference to have handy. If your lathe isn't adjustable to the lower speeds, I suggest you use an alternate, slower method to avoid burning the bit. – John Compston

Diameter of Bit inches	Diameter of Bit mm	Lathe Speed min ⁻¹
1	25	500
1¼	30	450
1 ³ / ₈	35	400
1½	40	350
1¾	45	300
2	50	250
2¼	55	240
2 ³ / ₈	60	230
2½	65	210
2¾	70	190
3	75	175
3¼	80	160
3 ³ / ₈	85	145
3½	90	130
3¾	95	115
4	100	100

Such a Deal They Have for You

This deal is a little too good not to pass on. Perhaps some of you have noticed the full page advertisements that Harbor Freight Tools has been running recently in many woodworking magazines. In October's *Woodworker's Journal* and *Wood Magazine*, they advertized their '2HP Industrial 5 Micron Dust Collector' for just \$139.00, \$110.00 off their regular price. It is rated at 1550 CFM and runs on either 115vac or 220vac. This unit is very similar to other dust collectors on the market with different color paint, and probably will accept some of their accessories. You can check out the unit on their [web site](#). If you have been in the market to buy a dust collector or upgrade an existing system, now may be the time to buy. You must have the coupon from the magazine (no copies) to get the discount price, and it expires on New Year's Day.



Wants and Disposals

FOR SALE: Wayne Porter and Dave Rich have large and small walnut blanks for sale. Contact them at the next meeting or call Dave at 775-265-3099.

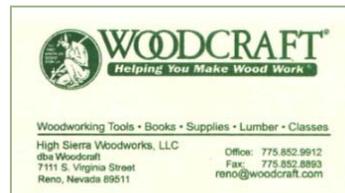
Woodturner's Web Sites

[Allan Batty Interview and Demonstration at LagunaTools.com](#) – Alan Batty talks about his personal history and tells related stories. He is also shown demonstrating several projects. It was interesting to note the video setup that was used to record the demonstrations. Our setup is similar, but we don't use as many people, or put microphones on people. There are also several other videos on the site that demonstrate woodturning projects using Laguna lathes and accessories.

[Glue as a Finish](#) – Have you ever wondered whether CA glue can be used as a finish? This brief web site article describes how to use CA glue to finish a turned pen on a lathe.

Resources

The Carson Valley Woodturners wish to express our appreciation for the support provided by generous vendors. Please visit their stores and web sites for your woodturning and woodworking needs.



Craft Supplies USA

Phone Orders:
1-800-551-8876

Web Orders:
www.woodturnerscatalog.com

Dates to Remember

The 11th Annual Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium will be held in Loveland, Colorado, on September 12th and 13th, 2009. Demonstrators include Cindy Drozda, Curt Theoblad, Trent Bosch, Allen Jensen, Craig Timmerman, Joe Fleming, Thomas Farrell, John Geim, and others to be announced. For more detailed information, visit <http://rmwoodturningsymposium.com> or call Allen Jensen at 970-663-1868

The Nevada Woodchuck's Lathe Special Interest Group meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. Their Beginner's Lathe Group meets monthly on the 4th Tuesday at the same time. Visit <http://www.nevadawoodchucks.org> for more information.

Newsletter Editor's Request

Please send your newsletter contributions and suggestions for improvement to Bill Draper via cvwnews@charter.net no later than Monday of the week before the next meeting. The submission deadline for the October newsletter is September 28th.

CVW Meeting Location and Directions

This month's CVW meeting and demonstration will convene in Dave Rich's shop on September 12th at 9 a.m. The address is 665 Rocking Horse Road in the Ruhensroth area of Carson Valley. We all appreciate Dave's willingness to hold CVW meetings in his shop.

Carson Valley Woodturners' Officers

President: Dave Rich – 775-265-3099

Treasurer: Wayne Porter – 775 265-7887

Vice President: Wayne Allen – 775-841-5561

Secretary: John Compston – 775 782-3542