



Chatter and Catches

the Newsletter of the



October 2020

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President's Gouge

I sat down to write this gouge with no idea of what to say. I hope you are all safe and healthy and getting some turning time. The craft show for this year has been canceled. The club board decided to roll over our space fee to 2021. Doing this will keep us in the same location we've had for the past few years. We're having a Zoom meeting on October the 10th, with Irish turner Pat Carroll joining us for a demonstration. Be on the lookout for more details and a meeting invitation soon. In the meantime, Check Pat out at: <https://www.patcarrollwoodturning.com/>. If you haven't tried a Zoom style meeting, give it a go. It's fun.

The two 8X12 sheds have been installed in the CVAC building and we will start moving the club wood soon. Dave Rich moved the club's covered trailer to its new home in the CVAC building med-September. Looks good there.

The state's meeting and gathering guidelines keep changing. Mostly to the positive. With good behavior by our fellow Nevadans we may be having in person meetings with some restrictions in the near future. Keep your fingers crossed.

Thanks again to everyone who has taken time to share photos of their projects, keep them coming. Check for emails with updated club information and more project photos from the members. See you soon.

John "Nik" Nikakis, POTCVW

Turn Here for Safety

After adjusting the chuck, remove the chuck wrench immediately. Make sure all the guards are in place around the rotating heads of the lathe before operations begin.



A Few Tips

Avoiding Stuck Fingers

When working with CA glue, to avoid having your fingers sticking together or to the project, try applying paste wax, beeswax or other waxes to your fingers or gloves. Work the filler/glue into the work and re-apply the wax as needed. When finished, wipe the wax off. Not all waxes are safe for your skin, so read the container before trying this. As an added precaution keep some CA glue remover, fingernail polish remover or acetone handy for cleanup.

Hand Stains

Some fresh woods like oak, walnut, and mesquite, can stain your hands. To remove the stain rub lemon juice on your hands. The lemon also helps remove the unwanted odor that can result from contact with some woods.

Spray Your Green Wood While Turning

Keeping the wood wet while turning is indispensable to stop green wood from drying and changing shape while you're turning. Use a simple spray bottle filled with water and make sure your lathe surfaces are protected with wax or WD-40.

Marking Dark Wood

A pencil line on many dark woods is difficult to see. The bark of most woods is also difficult to mark before cutting. Here are a few options you might try: a light-colored grease pencil or china marking pencil; black board chalk; or try tailor's chalk or pencils.

Better Drying Without Cracks

Try for even wall thickness, to obtain even drying. This reduces cracks in your wood.

Round Templates

It's difficult to mark circles in irregular shapes, especially if they are burls or crotches. Take a round piece of cardboard or plywood of the desired size, place it on top of the irregular surface, then sprinkle line string chalk marking the blank where it falls vertically.

Pool Noodles!

Pool noodles and other types of Styrofoam tubes can be used as customizable contour sander!

CA Glue Stain

If you need to use CA glue to fix a crack, you can stop the glue staining the wood by applying sanding sealer to the wood before using the glue.

Avoiding "Run Back"

To avoid getting a "run back" with a gouge when first entering a cut, start with the flute at 90 degrees until there is enough of an edge for the bevel to ride on. Then turn the flute open for a normal cut.

Irregular Wood Clamp

If you're gluing up irregular pieces of wood, use cellophane shipping wrap. It sticks back onto itself and makes a good clamp. Along this same line rubber bands and rubber straps work well, and you can also use bungee cord.

Tool Cutting Edge Alignment

When aligning your tool and tool rest - line up the cutting edge (not the tip of the tool) to the sweet spot (that imaginary line drawn horizontally through the center of the work piece).

Get a Better Grip When Using a 4-Prong Drive Center

Use your band saw or hand saw to cut a shallow cross into the end of the wood blank that will be driven by your drive center.

Filling Large Cracks

When filling large cracks, instead of CA glue try using epoxy which can also be colored. Or use car auto body putty, it turns and sands well.

Fogging Glasses and Shields

Use automotive anti-fog treatments to prevent fogging on the inside of your face shield masks, passive respirators and safety goggles.

Burning Lines into Your Turnings

To add a decorative line on a spindle or a bowl a common technique is to hold a wire to the piece while it is spinning. For lines on the inside or bottom of a piece, use a piece of shaped dense hard wood or Formica held to the piece while it spins.

Take Care of Your Tool Rest

Tools should glide smoothly on the tool rest. If the surface is not smooth, it can be difficult to create a smooth surface on the wood. Take care of your tool rest surface with a flat file or a block sander.

Brown Paper Bag Sanding

A brown paper bag can be used to sand between coats of finish or as a final burnish. It's about the same as 2000 grit paper.

What's That?

Pay attention, vibrations, odd smells, or sounds may be an indicator that something is wrong or that the lathe is not working correctly. Turn off the lathe, and make a thorough inspection before continuing.

Chuck Sizing

Make a gauge for maximum & minimum opening of each chuck size. Use the gauge to make sure the size of the tenon will fit the chuck. (Make your gauge for both inside and outside chuck sizes.)

WD 40

WD 40 (Water Displacement #40). They tried 39 different formulas before they got it right. It is an amazing product for turners. It is not designed to be a lubricant. It is ideal to use on lathes because it retards rust by displacing the water. It also acts as a slight lubricant but it is not oily, it does not collect dust film and it is not slippery. It's good for the bed and allows the banjo and tailstock to move easily without sliding out of your hand.

Wrenches Make Quick, Accurate Calipers

Rather than constantly readjusting calipers for small spindle turnings use a set of open-end wrenches. The jaws of the wrenches will fit into most spots and save the time of resetting calipers.

White Backdrop Helps Turnings Stand Out

On projects with intricate shapes, like the profile of a turning, a clear view of the workpiece can make the difference between success and failure. Place a piece of white paper or flexible art board behind the workpiece. I use a portable music stand to hold the paper, but any method that keeps the paper in place will work. The contrast between the white paper and the wood gives a crisp silhouette for clearly judging the progress of your work. This works great for multi-axis and off-center turnings.

John "Nik" Nikakis

Newsletter Editor's Request

Please send your newsletter contributions and suggestions for improvement to the Club Newsletter Editor via cvwnews@charter.net no later than Monday of the week before the next regularly scheduled meeting. The submission deadline for the November 2020 newsletter is November 2nd.

CVW Meeting

We will be having a Zoom demonstration by Pat Carrol on October 10th at 10:00 am.

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.



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