

Beginners Woodturning

Thanks for your interest in learning the fundamentals of woodturning. This method of woodworking can be exciting and rewarding. It is very suited to small shops and the tooling required is minimal compared to other types of woodworking.

This class will touch on the different methods, tools and technologies needed to begin woodturning. It is my hope that you will leave here with enough knowledge to get started on an enjoyable hobby that is both challenging and relaxing.

Here is the outline of what will be covered:

SAFETY!

1. Read and follow all instructions that are supplied with your tools.
2. Make sure all guards are in place and functioning.
3. Loose clothing, hair and jewelry can get caught in the revolving wood/machine. Please remove it.
4. ALWAYS turn the lathe off when making adjustments.
5. Start turning at the slowest speed, especially if turning rough blanks or unbalanced chunks of wood.
6. Stand to the side when starting the lathe.
7. Keep your mind on what you are doing... If you get tired STOP!
8. ALWAYS WEAR SAFETY GLASSES!!
9. When turning larger pieces supplement your safety glasses with a face shield. This protects your face and neck from the peppering effect of flying wood chips.
10. Wear a good dust mask, especially when sanding

Just use common sense... If you don't feel comfortable doing something don't do it.

Remember: The lathe is the only tool where the wood moves and the tool is at rest... but this can be a good thing.

Anatomy of the Lathe

The motor operates the spindle. The spindle speed is usually controlled by belt and pulleys. Some lathes have DC motors that control the speed with a dial or knob.

The headstock holds the spindle with the spindle threaded to accept accessory tools. The headstock is normally at a fixed position on the bed. The headstock supports one end of the work.

The toolrest is the part that the tool contacts when turning. It comes in various lengths and shapes. It is positioned in the saddle and “locked down”.

The tailstock supports the other end of the work and also can slide the length of the bed to accommodate the different lengths of work.

The tailstock barrel can be moved in or out with the use of a handwheel on the tailstock. It is hollowed to a taper inside to hold different tools.

Lathes come in different shapes and sizes but most have these essential features.

Lathe Accessories

The work can be held in the lathe by many different methods. The most popular method is “turning between centers”. This method is used for spindle work such as table legs and candlesticks. A drive center is inserted in the headstock and a rotating center is used in the tail stock. The work is placed between the two centers.

Plate and bowl making require holding the work on the headstock only. This enables the bowl to be hollowed out without the tailstock interfering. A few ways to accomplish this are the use of face plates, screw chucks and jaw chucks. These tools screw on the threads of the spindle.

These different accessories will be discussed during class.

Turning Tools

There are only a few basic tools required for successful turning. These tools are as follows:

GOUGE... the most used tool in your arsenal

SKEW... great tool to use, hard to learn

SCRAPER... different profiles for use on all types of turnings.

PARTING TOOL... used to separate the finished work from the lathe

SANDPAPER... yes, it is a cutting tool

These few pages should get us started and give you something to look over between classes

I am looking forward to sharing my love of wood and woodturning with you!

(Originally written by Bert Smith)

Wood Holding Methods

There are many different ways to hold a block of wood in a lathe. When spindle turning, it is necessary to hold both ends of the wood. The most common way to do this is with a spur drive in the headstock and a fixed or live center in the tailstock.

SPUR DRIVE LIVE CENTER FIXED CENTER

Another method of holding work is the use of a screw chuck held in the headstock, bringing up the live or fixed center for support. A tenon can be cut in the base of the bowl to turn the piece for further work.

SCREW CHUCK

The best method for holding work to be hollowed such as a plate or bowl is the four jaw chuck. It can grip the wood by the use of a tenon and is very versatile.

FOUR JAW CHUCK

REFERENCE AREAS

There are many places to get more information about woodturning. Your local library has many books on this subject; however most are dated and not current with changes of the past few years.

Some woodworking magazines have a section or two on turning, the best being the American Woodturner. This is the magazine of the American association of Woodturners. I would recommend joining this association if woodturning is something you will be pursuing.

The website is www.woodturner.org

A neat place to ask questions and chat with fellow woodturners is WoodCentral

The website is www.woodcentral.com

Other sites include:

www.woodturningcentral.org

www.packardwoodworks.com

www.antiquesbuiltdaily.com

www.woodworkingshop.com

www.woodturnerscatalog.com

If you have any questions after class contact you mentor:

_____ Phone: _____ - _____ - _____ or

Internet _____