

Our librarian's recommended resources for safely learning to turn:

Books: (all of these can be checked out from the CVW Library)

A Lesson Plan for Woodturning: Step-by-Step Instructions for Mastering Woodturning Fundamentals, by James Rodgers.

Ellsworth on Woodturning: How a Master Creates Bowls, Pots, and Vessels, by David Ellsworth
The CVW has multiple copies, so feel free to check one out to read at home.

Turning Wood with Richard Raffan, 2001, by Richard Raffan

Videos:

When I was learning to turn my absolute favorite videos were in the YouTube series *Woodturning 101* by Jim Rodgers. The link to Lesson 1 of *Woodturning 101* is below:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKHTyk0z-no>

Jim is a professional teacher and woodturner, who has been teaching woodturning for over two decades as Director of the Mt. Diablo Woodturning Center in Pleasant Hill, CA. The videos in his 101 series start at the beginner level and progress from there. He is a very clear and thoughtful teacher and has a strong focus on helping learners. There are videos on more advanced methods in his *Woodturning 201 and Woodturning 301* series. His website is:
www.jlrogers.org

The second spot in my list of favorite videos from when I was just starting to learn would go to recordings of demonstrations given by Fred Williamson during CVW meetings. Fred is a founding member of CVW as well as a very talented professional woodturner and a very clear teacher. I still strive to follow techniques that I learned from the club's recordings of Fred's demonstrations.

The CVW library has many video recordings by other talented woodturners who have demonstrated at the club's meetings. Some of my favorites are by Mike Sorge and Kirk McCauley, who are both highly talented professional woodturners and members of CVW. Fred, Mike, and Kirk have each contributed a lot of time and effort to making CVW such a successful club.

The CVW library also contains commercially produced videos by internationally known woodturners, such as Jimmy Clewes, Mike Mahoney, Lyle Jamieson, and Richard Raffan that would cost hundreds of dollars to purchase. If you no longer have a DVD player, it might be worth picking one up just to make use of the large number of excellent videos available for members to check out. DVD players can now be bought new for around \$25.

The third spot in my favorite videos list goes to the online *Woodturning 101* series by Kirk DeHeer. Kirk is a resident instructor at Craft Supplies USA, a major supply house that sells all manner of woodturning equipment and supplies. These are very good videos, but quite a bit longer than those in Jim Rodgers' series. The videos in DeHeer's series let you watch along and hear Kirk's advice and comments as he turns different types of projects. I learned a lot from both series. The link to the first video in Kirk DeHeer's series is:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0H9OKpfgZt8>

The fourth spot in my favorite videos for learning to turn goes to Kent Weakley's YouTube series, *Turn a Wood Bowl*. The only reason for me to put the videos in this series in fourth place is because they address more advanced projects that were not right for me to try when I was just starting out in learning how to turn safely. The link for the introductory video in the *Turn a Wood Bowl* series is:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDwV2Djnj756vpxL51zd4Uw>

I also enjoyed learning from videos made by Jimmy Clewes, a highly talented and quite humorous professional woodturner.

Online videos by Mike Wald are also very good. Searching the internet for "Jimmy Clewes videos" and "Mike Waldt woodturning videos" will bring up those.

Please note: The above list was made to point new woodturners towards easy to read and watch resources that can help you develop woodturning skills SAFELY! It's important to be aware that the internet is jampacked with videos that experienced woodturners would not recommend, because they show people doing dangerous and sometimes idiotic things in using their lathes.

I hope you'll find this list helpful. – *Jeff Corwin*