

Tutor's Tidings - No.23 Friday 5th December 2014

Greetings to all workers of the finest medium in the world - WOOD !

Right. Straight into the [INFORMATION/KNOWLEDGE section](#) of the TT this week:

SCRAPER TOOLS

At our Avalon Woodturners' Club it would be reasonable to call these tools "special purpose tools" as there are none of these in the set of 5 standard tools in our lathe racks.

So what is a scraper tool? And what uses do they have for turning wood?

Scrapers come in all sorts of weird shapes and sizes. They are particularly useful for making light cuts to 'finish' the bottom of a bowl, to create smooth flowing curves or blending parallel side walls and the curved bottom of vessels.

Some turners have them in their tool kits as *essential* turning tools. Other turners almost never use them while maybe there are turners who have never really been introduced to them so haven't discovered what a scraper can do for them. The "lowly" scraper is a highly useful tool that can get jobs done when gouges and chisels can't. In faceplate work, for example, it takes a lot of practice to form a perfect curve with a bowl gouge. But, even in the hands of a novice, a scraper can smooth both the interior and exterior surfaces of vessels.

Scrapers are not expensive as many of them are easily made using the heavy duty steel of old files fitted into a heavy handle. The cutting or scraping part of the tool can be ground into any shape and then just needs a burr. This feature can be created with either a bit of cunning knack while grinding, or better still, a burr can easily be created using a burnishing tool. (refer Carbatec catalogue p 165 Veritas Scraper Burnisher)

Thus 'sharpening' a scraper means creating a burr on the tool end. The burr does the cutting while the tool handle is held slightly higher than the cutting end. That is.... the scraper is held in a downhill manner.

OK here's some homework for you. Go to the internet and discover further info about:

- [A burring tool](#)
- **Positive and negative rake (what's 'rake' ?)**
- **OK now watch a few video clips to see how easy it is to use a scraper.**

INTERNET: to watch a useful video that's *clear, short and to the point*.

Go to the internet and type in www.finewoodworking.com

Go to search and type in **Bowl scrapers**

Click on: Smooth surface for a bowl and watch a short video of an experienced turner demonstrating the use of a scraper.

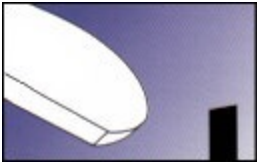
Have a go with a scraper during your next turning project.

Here are just a few of the more common scraper tools.

Round Nose Scraper



Used on bowls and spindle work to create smooth flowing curves e.g goblets, egg cups, and inside boxes.



Curved Scraper The curved end profile makes this excellent for creating, smoothing and blending curved surfaces in bowl and spindle work, e.g. round bottomed boxes. This tool is able to take an aggressive cut, whilst retaining the sensitivity for the refining cuts.

Round\Side Cut Scraper Designed for blending the parallel side wall and the curved bottom of vessels together.



It is excellent for undercutting the rims of small bowls.

Extra Heavy Duty Scrapers

All blades 1.1/2" (38mm) by 3/8" (10mm) section. Massive in section, these were designed to reduce vibration and be stable in use. Because of their sheer bulk (overall length between 21 1/2" - 546 and 572mm) these scrapers can be used with large overhang from the tool rest. Excellent for large bowl work, platters and deep hollowing. Each scraper has an overall length of 21" /525mm with a handle 14" / 350mm long.



(inside the bowl)



(outside the bowl)

Health and Safety

Most current course members have now been accredited to use the small band saw after undergoing a training programme that included a demonstration test.

ACCREDITED USER LIST

JAN
MALCOLM
RON
DAVE
RAEWYN
DAVID
JAMES
BOB
ANDRE`
COLIN
MUHANNAD
PAUL
NIGEL
MAURICE
MURRAY
MIKE
SPENCER

If you are a current course member (Tuesday or Thursday session) and your name does not appear in this list then the omission is due to ONE of two possible reasons.

1. I'm a crummy record keeper and I've forgotten to check off your name. (sorry)

OK the next training programme starts immediately after the last person has been accredited as a user of the small band saw. This new programme will be focused on information, ideas and practical exercises applicable to the **large** band saw.

Queue up and become an accredited user of the big band saw a.s.a.p. Bring a piece of wood from home to use during your training session.

Session held on Tuesday 2nd December.

Eight members supported the day with apologies from **GARTH and PETER**. A demonstration of the scroll saw started off the session with a discussion about how this machine could be very useful for pen makers in particular. As pen blanks are indeed very small it is much safer to minimize risks and trim the pen blank ends using a scroll saw than a drop saw. Fingers are quite precious. **SOPHIA** had her first experience with using a scroll saw. The cutting action is very different to any other sawing machine and takes a bit of practice and confidence building to get it right.

DAVID has added the resin to his bowl and next week will complete the project. Next week the final touches to a masterpiece.

VICKI and **JAN** continued their learning about pen making while **ALICE** progressed her cedar wood bowl with some patient sanding. **RAEWYN** took on the role of Santa's little helper and turned a few dinky wooden Christmas trees. **MALCOLM** did a great job with adding a textured band to his highly figured macro bowl and **KEN** wrestled with a piece of puriri and gained experience using a safety planer.

The session on Thursday 4th December was supported by 11 turners with apologies from **MUHANNAD**. We were pleased to welcome **JUAN**, a new recruit to the woodturning journey and he was launched straightaway into making a handle for a knockout bar. As for the Tuesday group the session started with a discussion about the use of a scroll saw and how it might assist pen makers.

ANDRE`, our very own pen making guru, told us he uses his scroll saw often for trimming the ends of pen blanks. And thanks to Andre` for bringing along a friend and taking his buddy **SHANE** through the pen making process.....smiles and achievement all round.

PAUL completed his garden dibber to a high standard. Well done Paul. Accomplished with care!

MAURICE used the Longworth chuck to put the finishing touches to his highly-prized bowl. Made from the rootstock of a swamp kauri block this is an outstanding piece of craftsmanship. Maurice experimented with Shellawax over EEE as a finish.

MIKE eagerly attacked a snazzy block of kauri and by the end of the session he had progressed it to the outside sanding stage. Confidence is growing and skills are sharpening. In addition, this keen turner was introduced to some scraper tools. Goodonya Mike.

COLIN continues to surprise and impress us all with his creativity. His "homework" showpiece was a bowl made from a most unusual blend of laminated 19-layer plywood with a kauri centre piece. A special touch was an enhancement of a raised and scalloped edge. A man going places I reckon.

MURRAY finally got to the drilling of the long holes in his beautifully crafted desk lamps. Murray's commitment to the club and his efforts in organizing the setting up of the dust extraction system deserves the highest possible commendation. Club members join with me in thanking Murray for his work.

ROBERT brought along his homework which was "chapter two" in the pewter/kauri bowl saga. Fellow turners heard about the ups and downs, pros and cons, do and don'ts when working with heated, melted pewter. Our club is very fortunate to have Robert whose work is often characterized by being splendidly different.

NIGEL had another shot at making a tool handle and this time allowed for the end to be fitted into a 35mm chuck. A confident, quick-to-learn achiever here.

SPENCER began his ambitious and achievable project of a large ply bowl with a brass ship's wheel being centrally mounted. This masterpiece will eventually morph into a nutcracker bowl and will look just great on the Christmas table.

CHRISTMAS FUNCTION Sunday 14th December 11.30 a.m. at Ron Pedder's place

Reminder to everyone: Please bring your own food (incl meat for the BBQ), drinks, glasses, plates, cutlery etc.

Have you readied your two entries for the club's exhibition at our Christmas function?

Ok that's it for this week.

Happy turning

Clive