This week's TT

(TUTOR'S TIDINGS)

Hamilton Woodturners Club

www.hwoodturners.org

Week 25

Friday 22nd July,

TUTOR's comment and CLUB NEWS

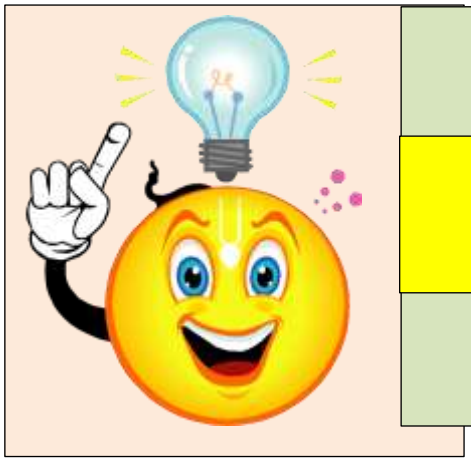
1. *The **lighting** at the back of the workshop has been improved considerably thanks to two members carrying out some expert activity. May their light shine upon us. Thanks fellas!*

2. ***HELP!** The club's 7mm brad-point drill bit has gone walkabout to a place unknown. 7mm is a common size for pen makers so that could be a clue as to its possible whereabouts. Please help us relocate this item. It's now the only bit missing from the much-loved, much-used drill bit set.*

3. ***Turning wood:** Our stock of ready-to-turn wood has improved recently and following the next working bee the situation could get even better thanks to generous donors. From our stack of goodies do feel free to select a block of wood that takes your fancy. (A donation for the club's equipment improvement/replacement programme would be most welcome).*

4. *Members of the Thursday session team produced some fine turnings this week. Our newest member, **ROSS SMITH**, made a particularly good job of his first project - a knockout bar.*

5. *GO the **CHIEFS.** Kick up a **STORM** in South Africa.*



Information series

THIS WEEK's PRODUCT

(available from Timberly Turning - Terry Scott)

Steb Centres

Three sizes of the Sorby Drive Steb Centre - MT2 (for the headstock end)

What's a Steb Centre?

These revolutionary wood lathe drives are an essential addition to every turner's toolkit.

Their design incorporates not just a spring loaded point in stainless steel but also a set of razor sharp teeth which bite into the workpiece.

For the novice turner this offers added security.

By winding in the tail stock the degree of bite can be varied and the centre point firmly located.

In the unfortunate case of a dig-in arising the workpiece simply stops revolving rather than kick back the turning chisel.

This allows the beginner to use his skew chisel with a degree of confidence.

The degree of bite which the Steb centre creates allows for much more demanding than would normally be expected from a conventional drive.

Views about steb centres expressed by turners

"As a professional I wouldn't be without matched stebs they are worth their cost in my production workshop every time."

"The spring loaded centre also saves over stressing the bearings if you listen to what the lathe is telling you!"

"As far as I'm concerned the Steb centre is the very best thing since sliced bread!"

"I recommend them to every inexperienced turner I have through my workshop. "

" a Steb centre will give new turners a degree of additional protection that is worth the cost many times over."

Three sizes of the Sorby Revolving Steb Centre MT2 (for the tailstock end)

CLIVE's comment: I have two sets of these excellent devices for turning between two centres (spindle turning). My old spur drive centre needs a visit to the dentist as it has either chipped or lost its teeth. The bearing in my old revolving centre graunches a bit.

My Sorby models are simply superb, being secure, effective and safe to use.

REPEAT READING

This article appeared in last week's edition of the TT. However, **the matter of using razor-sharp tools is so important that I have taken the liberty of repeating the information.** Almost all members have had some training for sharpening tools and are now able to take care of the 10, 13 and 19mm gouges.

The training programme will now focus on sharpening and correct use of the parting tool.

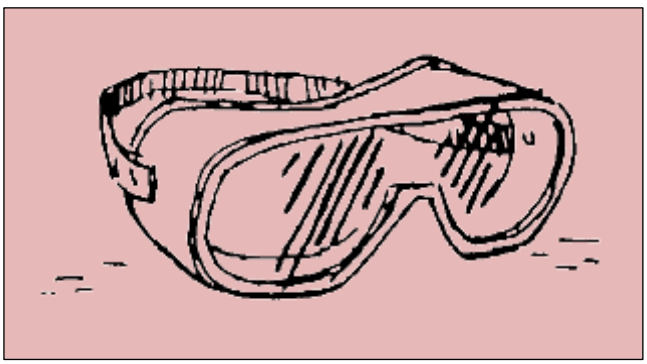
What follows is ***the process*** the **Hamilton Woodturners' Club** has adopted for sharpening tools. No doubt there **are other ways** of maintaining this crucial aspect of woodturning. There could be up to a dozen **different approaches** and all may well be **a correct way** to do the job. However, the process outlined in this article **is our way** with using the equipment currently available in our workshop.

Sharp tools promote early success with projects, so knowing how to **keep a keen edge** of your tools is one of the **most important skills to learn** soon after beginning your foray into the world of turning wood.

Clockwise and starting with arc-shaped, red-coloured thingy these are the tools we use to help us sharpen to a consistent bevel angle- 35 degrees.

1. **Woodcut Tru-Grind angle set template**
2. **Woodcut Tru-Grind tool jig**
3. **Woodcut Tri-Gauge**
4. **Small diamond grit round file**
5. **And an 8" grinder fitted with a fine-grit, white aluminium oxide stone wheel (but not shown in picture left)**

Hey, don't forget to wear these



A pictorial sequence of our tool sharpening process. (refer to key)

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KEY to picture sequence:

Sharpness leads to success

1. The **tip** of this gouge is as **blunt** as… needs an urgent sharpening job.
2. These are the **tools we will use** to sharpen our 19mm, 13mm and 10mm gouges.
3. This is the **slide arm** that accommodates the tool-holding jig.
4. Picture shows the tool being fitted correctly to the **Tru-Grind jig.** The tool protrudes **50mm** in front of the jig. We cut out a 50mm corner section to facilitate consistency of extension length.
5. The tool is **loaded into the jig** ready to go.
6. Next step is to **set the slide arm** in the right place for accommodating the jig. The **red thingy template** is used to ascertain the **correct distance** from the grinding wheel. Note that the two points are NOT touching the wheel so an adjustment is needed.
7. OK got it. Now the **two points are touching** the wheel. Push the black lever **forward to lock** in place.
8. **Set the jig in the slide arm cradle** and rest the tool tip against the wheel. (35-degree angle will be set)
9. Position **both hands high up on the jig** for maximum control during sharpening.
10. Rotate the tool tip from **centre to one side,** with ***almost no pressure against the grinding wheel.*** Too much pressure will cause the tip to overheat, and turn the metal blue. OK, now change hands and sharpen the other side of the gouge. Continue until a keen edge is achieved.
11. Use a small, **round diamond file** to remove any burr that might have occurred in the flute.
12. Use a **Woodcut Tri-gauge** to check your 35-degree angle set. **Yaaayyyyy! All done!**

What's been happening in our workshop?

CASSANDRA's *kauri wood paper-pots maker works just fine as the examples above show. This gadget could be the catalyst for a highly productive vege garden this season.*

As soon as the paper-pots maker was off the lathe ***CASSANDRA*** *started another project. This time it was a French-style rolling pin. (Anyone know a French recipe for making scones?)*

COLIN Stephens *(we have two COLINs) had another go at making a pepper mill and made several improvements. Good alignment and a firm swiveling head. Great work COLIN.*

Our ***JAN*** *scores highly in the persistence category. This bowl made from magnolia wood stubbornly displayed a myriad of scratches for a long while. JAN's adopted NEAGE philosophy finally rid the project of imperfections. Goodonya Jan! Great pen too!*

DAVID *Garrity (we have three Davids) turned out a young, kauri-wood rolling pin. The replication of the handle shape was well achieved, and the sanding skillfully done. Scones coming up!*

DAVID *Rose added an impressive "dot" embellishment to his kauri wood bowl that has been darkened with an oil finish. David always takes pride in applying a quality finish to his turning projects.*

Bam-Bam Flintstone's Club

GRANT *fashioned this fish-stunning device (well he catches big fish eh) from an old post that appeared to have more cracks and holes than the Crusaders backline. But hidden deep inside was a solid length of heavy dense wood.*

BRIAN's *Asian-look vessel is quite special – made with care and skill with the gouge. His project features a great design and clever use of natural grain markings.*

ROBERT *used some Red beech burr to create his magnificent turning. A special feature is the addition of copper dust into all the cracks and indentations over the surface. When AC glue is added to the dust a magical event occurs and the dust fuses into an apparent "solid" form.*

Quite a special turning outcome here.

Two of ***JOHN MARSHALL'S*** *projects completed projects this week. John is highly skilled at adding calligraphy etched into his work. Such mastery is rare indeed.*

STEPHEN'S *first foray into winged bowls. A man on a rise!*

COLIN *always strives for perfection. A true adherent to the NEAGE philosophy.*