



NEWSLETTER



Mark Strang – Tips, Techniques and Strategies



Mark Strang demonstrated some of his tips and tricks in turning bowls, although many of these could be used on other types of projects. The tips and tricks include strategies for tackling a new, for the first time project, as in how to approach. Many of these include tool handling as well as lathe setup.



On scroll chucks use compression fits vs expansion fits to attach wood to the blanks. It is much stronger to attach blanks to the chuck in the compression mode for most people.

As most of us a straight tool rest, Mark uses a special curved tool rest that wraps around the outside of the bowl and could be used to form the inside.



Use the horsepower that came with the lathe. Don't just nibble away at the wood. The objective in roughing is to get it into the bag for drying.

The shavings bounce off the glove that Mark wears.

Use Vet wrap (self-Adhering Bandage or Self Grip Roll) on finishing tool handles to get a good sense of the tool which allows you to manipulate the tools slightly to get the best cut.



Turn the blank by using a cut that is into the side grain. Don't try to cut the end grain.

Use high speed, slow feed, and a smaller tool (3/8) to make finishing cuts or to get rid of tearout.

Use a drill to establish the depth of the bowl for roughing. The center of the bowl is often the most difficult for many turners to remove.

Keep the tools sharp. Sharpen the tool prior to each "last" pass.

Learn to make a pass using one hand. If that can be done then you are engaging the tool and the wood in the best fashion. This technique will allow a person to get a good feel for the sweet spot where the tool and the wood are in perfect harmony.

An interview with Mark reveals some interesting points in his career.

How long have you been interested in wood turning?

I've been turning for about 43 years in between raising a family and job transfers etc. I've been interested ever since my grandfather showed me some things that he had made on a little lathe out of orange crate wood. Probably about 50 years ago.

Have you received any training in turning? What type? With whom?

I've taken several courses at Craft supplies from Raffan and others over the years as well as classes put on by the club hosting such turners as Ellsworth and Jamieson. Mostly it was learn as you go. With some classes mentioned earlier. Demos at national symposiums have helped a lot over the years also. My favorite items to make on the lathe are bowls and hollow forms such as vases. I've made most everything over the years but keep coming back to bowls and vases.

What do you think is the most important thing you figured out?

I've been mostly making bowls for about 20 years. I think that there is no such thing as bad bowl-just some designs that aren't too visually appealing. Sometimes it is just fun to make shavings and see where the blank takes you. Often times a really nice piece develops without having made a plan for the piece because of a knot or crack or some inclusion that was not seen in the beginning.

What would you tell somebody who is just beginning to explore bowl turning?

Get to know your equipment by doing basic turning of spindles or something similar but try to get some help from the club or another turner that you know. A beginner needs to know how to do basic turning to enable them to feel how various tools cut and function. Once the person is comfortable with the basics, they can move on to bowls. It wouldn't hurt to spend a bit of time with a skew!! Anyone will help to get someone up to speed. An afternoon with someone helping them will literally cut out a year or two of frustration and speed things up dramatically. Several sessions will make the newbie feel more comfortable and turning will be very enjoyable.

Which tools would you suggest a beginner use for turning bowls?

Some people think that the more tools they have the better job they will do. That's not the case. A lot depends upon how large a piece they are trying to make. For basic 8-12 inch bowls they probably only need a 1/2 Irish grind gouge, a conventional 1/2 bowl gouge and some tool to make a tenon if they are using a chuck. Not much more is necessary. Obviously they will have accumulated other tools during their tuning infancy so these can be used when appropriate. All they really need is some tool to get the blank trued up and then a basic bowl gouge to finish it. Many times folks try to make it too complicated. Some of my best pieces were done prior to having all of the tools I have now.

SHOW AND TELL







RICHMOND WOODTURNERS





UPCOMING 2017 DEMONSTRATIONS

February Meeting:

February is finial month. Since this quarter's challenge is finials, Dick Hines, Jim Bumpas, and Chuck Mosser will examine design details and considerations, turning techniques and strategies, using other materials in a finial, and other details necessary to create the perfect finial.

March Meeting:

March is finishing month (and March Madness). Ray Deyo will lead our panel and cover issues involving surface preparation as well as looking at some of the more common finishes and their pros and cons. Bruce Robbins will assist and demonstrate a new finishing technique from – of all places – your dentist's office. Guaranteed painless!!

April Meeting:

This will be the First Richmond WoodTurners Symposium of 2017. We will set up four stations around the shop and allow you 30 minutes to explore some of the interesting topics from our panel of demonstrators. We will have three of these 30-minute sessions so you can see and hear multiple demonstrations during the meeting.

May Meeting:

Join us for the magic of Bob Silkerson as he presents his famous basket illusion.

F r o m O u r P r e s i d e n t

When we bought our house in Richmond about 38 years ago, I had mostly hand tools from apartment living. The workshop was limited to a small corner of the utility room. In the interest of practicality, the first large power tool I bought was a Mark V Shopsmith, still in use today. This worked well for many years with only occasional complaints of sawdust mixed in with the laundry. When I discovered pen making a little over 10 years ago, the early morning whirl of the lathe just below our bedroom and the odor from some of the materials I was using led my wife to tell me I needed an outdoor shop. Gone were the woodchips in our underwear, gone were the pungent smells of cast plastics, and the sounds of silence allowed those late sleepers the peace and tranquility of early mornings. Gone too, however, was the heat and air conditioning that allowed year round comfort. Yes I have space heaters and a portable air conditioner in the shop, but it's just not the same.

Although some winters such as our current one tease us with a few tolerable days, I am not a fan of cold weather turning. I am also not one of those turners who have projects that can be completed in a few hours. I think in longer terms, usually making jigs and prototypes along the way. That being said, I usually like to come up with one or more "winter projects" that can be done indoors. In past years I have learned thread wrapping, done significant coding for my CNC, worked with polymer clay and scoured the internet for inspiration.

This year, my interest turned to a new finishing technique using ultraviolet light curing materials. I knew a little about these from my career in the packaging industry and have seen examples in everything from furniture, guitars, medical applications, and even when I visit the dentist. While there is a whole class of materials in this arena, then end result is a very high gloss, highly durable material resistant to many liquids. I hope to share what I learned with many of you in an upcoming demonstration.

What's your cold weather project?

Happy and Safe Turning

Bruce

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 22 – Richmond Woodturners
Competition and Exhibition – Richmond
Woodcraft – see below

May 27 - Stratford Hall - "Traditional Trades:
18th Century Furniture Making" Richmond
Woodturners Demonstrations

October 7 - Makerfest 2017 – Richmond
Science Museum – Richmond Woodturners will
have a booth with live demonstrations

2017 Challenges

1st Qtr: Finial longer than 6" (one continuous
piece) no thicker than 1" - longest finial gets the
prize.

2nd Qtr: A turning where one piece fits into
another (not permanently glued)

3rd Qtr: Turn something out of a tree branch less
than 3" is diameter.

4th Qtr: Turn a mixed media piece (must be
primarily wood but includes other media (i.e.:
polymer clay, metal, glass, anything)

Richmond Woodturners' 2017 Annual Turning Competition & Exhibition

The date for the competition and exhibition is Saturday, April 22, 2017, which is two days after our April meeting. All entries for the competition must be submitted by the end of our meeting on April 20th. Entries submitted after the 20th will be placed in the Exhibition Only category. The Categories (Bowl, Hollow Form, Lidded Box, Mandrel, Spindle, Free Form, Turned & Embellished, and Exhibition Only) are the same as last year. The Eligible Classes have been reduced from four to three: Novice, Experienced, and Expert/Professional. The Youth class was eliminated (only one entry in 2016) and combined with the previous Adult Novice class into the Novice class. The only Rule change was to state that the entries must have been "finished" within the last 12 months, versus "produced" within the last 12 months. In addition to the First, Second, and Third place ribbons for each Class and Category, there will be an award for the Best of Class for the three classes (Novice, Experienced, Expert/Professional), and one Best of Show awarded from the Best-of-Class winners. Yellow ribbons for Honorable Mentioned will be awarded at the judges' discretion. The Rules and Registration Form are available on the club web site.

SHOW-AND-TELL PROCEDURE CHANGE

To enhance our monthly Show-and-Tell, turners will complete an identifying tag for each turning. Blank tags (example below) will be available on the Show-and-Tell table. The filled-out tag will accompany the turning throughout the evening and accomplish several objectives:

- Help the photographer identify the turner of each piece thereby giving all members the appropriate credit deserved in the newsletter and on the web site,
- Streamline this portion of the meeting leaving more time for demos and discussion,
- Streamline distribution of lottery tickets,
- Make it easier for fellow members to identify the turner of a particular piece for questions and conversation during the evening, and
- Through a new opportunity to exclude Show-and-Tell pieces from the presentation process, help expand the number of items shared each month, control the time allotted for presentation and help our newer members and/or turners share their accomplishments within a personal comfort zone.

Here is the process we ask all members to support:

- 1) Upon arrival with a Show-and-Tell piece, the turner will fill out a tag for each turning. Tags will identify the turner, wood used, finish, and optional comments such as a title, technique, or collaborator's name. If the turning is *not to be included* in the presentation (the "Tell" portion), simply check the "display only" box.
- 2) The turner will then take the piece with its associated tag to the photographer.
- 3) The photographer will take a picture; write the picture number on the tag, then give the turner a lottery ticket.
- 4) The turner will place the turning on the Show-and-Tell table with the tag close by. If the tag can be put inside the turning, this will help keep the process organized.
- 5) When it is time for the Show-and-Tell presentations, designated helpers will bring each turning (not marked as "display only") to the front of the room.
- 6) The turner will stand in place (at their seat) to talk about their piece. To help control this segment of the meeting, if multiple pieces are shared, select one to present to the group.
- 7) At the end of the presentations, a lottery ticket winner will be drawn and announced.
- 8) At the conclusion of the meeting, please return the tags to the photographer.

We are very excited to see a definite growth in Show-and-Tell participation and hope everyone appreciates this minor change to the process, which will provide room for expansion and leave more time at the meeting for technical presentations.

Thanks for your support.

RW Board of Directors

| SHOW-AND-TELL | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Turner's Name: | _____ |
| Wood (specie): | _____ |
| Finish: | _____ |
| Comment: | _____ |
| | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Display piece only |

Financial Report

Balance _____ \$8,923.18

**RICHMOND
WOODTURNERS
QUARTERLY
CHALLENGE**

The Challenge will now be regularly scheduled for the third month of each quarter (March, June, September, and December) with the subject announced at the beginning of each quarter and included in the newsletter. Entries will be placed on a table separate from the Show-n-Tell.

February Snacks & Drinks

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Georgia Wood | Ice/cooler |
| Colin Campbell | Crackers |
| Colin Smith | Chips |
| Dan Fritz | Crackers |
| Dan Luttrell | Cookies |
| Dave Bushman | Cookies |
| Dave Thomas | Sweet snack |
| Dave West | Sweet snack |
| David Gray | Salty snack |
| David Haywood | Salty snack |

You can switch with someone if you are unable to bring those items for the month assigned.

Meeting Schedule

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| January meeting | 1/19/2017 | July meeting | 7/20/2017 |
| February meeting | 2/16/2016 | August meeting | 8/17/2017 |
| March meeting | 3/16/2017 | September meeting | 9/21/2017 |
| April meeting | 4/20/2017 | October meeting | 10/19/2017 |
| May meeting | 5/18/2017 | November meeting | 11/16/2017 |
| June meeting | 6/15/2017 | December meeting | 12/21/2017 |

2017 Elected Board

President: _____ Bruce Robbins
1st Vice President: _____ Bill King
2nd Vice President: _____ Georgia Wood
Treasurer: _____ Cody Walker
Secretary _____ John Anderson
Newsletter _____ Bob Marchese
Resource Manager: _____ Chuck Bajnai
Membership Manager: _____ Dan Luttrell
Information Manager: _____ Stan VanDruff

Past President Board Members:

Ray Deyo
Dick Hines
Lee Scarbrough
Jim Bumpas
Dan Luttrell

Visitors/New Members

New Members:

Charles Knight, Troy, VA
donnyknighthouse@yahoo.com

Colin Campbell, Midlothian, VA
foundryfellow@gmail.com

Jared Parker, Chester, VA
jtparker@vcu.edu

For sale or trade

If you have any items to list in the For Sale or Trade Section,
Please email me at forsale@richmondwoodturners.org.

Please remember that each item needs a description, price, city, seller's name and contact info (phone/email).

You can include pictures if you like. They will run 1 month unless notified to "re-run".

Committee Chairpersons

Barbara Dill Chairperson of the AV committee.
(That committee is responsible for the camera changes in process.)

Jim O'Hanlon Chairperson for the Turning
Competition committee

**RICHMOND
WOODTURNERS INFO**

Dues: \$25 individual, \$35 family & \$15 student. Member applications are available upon request at meetings or via email.

Library: Contact the club librarian to borrow tapes and other publications related to woodturning. The list is on the website. Lose it and you bought it.

Website:

www.richmondwoodturners.org
Updated regularly and contains links to other VA clubs.

AAW Membership:

Experience the remarkable world of woodturning with the American Association of Woodturners (AAW). With the largest portfolio of woodturning-related material in the world, AAW is the go-to source for woodturners of all skill levels. A membership with the AAW can help you learn and thrive in your woodturning experience, as well as connect with others who share your passion.

General: \$60 annually worldwide

Family: \$65 annually worldwide
Includes up to three family members who live in the same household.

<http://www.woodturner.org>

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS
CHILD SPINNING TOPS**

Thanks to all who turned tops.
For 2016 we turned in 1,330
Let's get started for 2017.

Here is a link to a video to show just how easy they are to make if interested....

<http://youtu.be/UWpV9dBpbME>

WANTED

Wanted: Midi Lathe.

Would like a variable speed machine with 1 HP.

Call Jerry Fisher at 540.895.5287