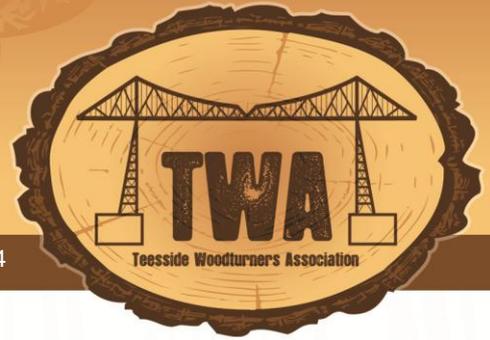


Turning Point

February 2015

Newsletter



Chairman Stan Lax Tel. 01642 652328 : Secretary Brian Haggath Tel. 01642 454064

After a pleasant break it is great to see that everyone is getting back to the business of making things round.

January 7th Table-Top Turn-out



January 14th Table-Top Turn-out



A turn-up for the book!

Note the age of our youngest turner above:- is it time to start a junior section?

Also Robin's box is a little piece of history:- made from part of the Transporter Bridge.

Nigel Coates made a remarkable recovery from last week's spin-off. And it's just like Ernie's wig. Nice detail too.

Editor: peter.ryles@ntlworld.com

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Turning Outside the Box : January's Demo by Randal Marr RPT

When last we saw Randal in May's Backroom Demo he amazed us with some radical thinking around assembling plywood for turning. Anticipation was high then for something special on the big stage and he did not disappoint. Randal opened the show by demonstrating a beautifully simplified method for long boring through lamp bases and survived Robin's helpful heckling over electrical safety with a wonderful labelling-testing riposte.



Having managed the warm-up with only minor hiccups over boring the base, Randal went on to enchant the audience with a description of the history of ring-turned shapes. The anticipation was greatly enhanced by knowledge that this was only his third attempt. Brave man!



Throughout a series of clever reverse-chuckings and constant calliper checks, the watchers were held in constant suspense about the outcome as nothing could be discerned for sure until the ring was separated and cut through. Would it be a hedgehog or a bodge up?



After a cameo appearance by Band-saw Alan, the result was revealed as a stunning success.



Randal also brought a small selection of his work for the gallery, with some delightful lamp bases on show and he showed us his first experiment with the 'wave pendulum'. A great night's entertainment and I am sure that everyone present is waiting to see what comes next . Make a regular booking David (and thank you for the photographs).

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ABRASIVES FOR WOODTURNERS

There has been oceans written about abrasives and as a woodturner you should be aware of the different types available to you. Most of you when first starting out may probably use joiners cabinet paper to sand your projects, and you may find that it does not last and will leave many scratches. Briefly, abrasive material is called Coated Abrasive (the technical term for sandpaper) and follows one of two common grading systems used in North America:- CAMI (Coated Abrasive Manufacturers Institute) or FEPA (Federation of European Producers of Abrasive).

FEPA products are sometimes called P Grade because that letter prefixes the grit number on the back of each sheet. If there is no prefix you can assume that it is a CAMI graded product. Particle sizes in the two systems closely parallel each other up to around 220 grit. Then the FEPA numbers increase rapidly. If there is a letter after the number it will refer to the weight of the paper or fabric. Manufacturers can use one or both systems for various lines of abrasive. A second key difference is that CAMI standards permit greater variation in particle sizes used within each grade. So if you notice a difference in texture between different manufacturers papers of the same grade, it is due to the system of production. Better abrasive material has now started to find its way onto the woodturning market and should be used whenever possible. Any cloth backed abrasive is deemed better for us as you can fold or shape it to the project in hand. This type of medium is good for hand sanding small projects.

A newer abrasive is the Velcro backed sheets. This type can be cut and both used for hand sanding, or affixed to a hook and loop sanding block or arbor such as is used in bowl sanding. This abrasive has been developed especially for woodturners and used properly provides a good standard of finish on your projects.

Also available now is a product called Abralon, also a Velcro backed perforated product, which, used properly also gives an excellent finish and is used a great deal by pen turners who seem to find it a lot better than the standard velcro backed abrasive for this type of work. Personally speaking, both products will give the same finish so why duplicate. Both products can be used either by hand or power with the Velcro backed lasting much longer in service than the perforated Abralon.

Compared with hand sanding, power sanding is quicker and leaves a really excellent surface ready for your chosen finish. Grades normally used by woodturners are: 60, 80, 100, 120, 180, 240, 320, 400. If you are regularly producing work for sale either at craft fairs or through a gallery then you may use the following grades too:- 600, 800, 1200, 1500. In some instances up to 12000 grade. You will also use this grade and greater, probably up to 25000 if you work with acrylic substrates.

I know that abrasive is expensive, but, if you use the red Velcro backed type you can actually wash it out, dry it and reuse it, saving a small amount of cash. The red Velcro type also comes with a foam back and is a match for Abralon when pen turning, again, it can be washed and re used.

Always remember, that you are not limited to hand sanding when spindle turning. Certain types of spindle work allow you to use the circular power sanding tools used in bowl turning and can speed up the finishing process. Power sanding can also in certain cases allow you to jump a grit size due to the superior surface finish it leaves.

Next month, the start of a short series on the turning gouges and their uses.

David Muckle RPT.

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January 14th Table-Top Turn-out



Events Diary

February

- 11th Training Day
- 18th Andy Rounthwaite RPT

March

- 18th Margaret Garrard RPT

April

- 1st AGM then Demo: Stan Lax or Dave Muckle RPT.
- 15th Andy Hall RPT

May

- 20th Peter Osborne RPT

June

- 17th 'Robert Sorby'

July

- 15th David Lowe RPT

August

- 19th Tony Wilson RPT

September

- 16th Gerry Marlowe RPT

October

- 21st Sue Harker RPT

November

- 18th Mick Hanbury RPT

Annual Subs.

The annual subs are due on 1st April and will remain unchanged at £30.

Brian will start to collect them from Wednesday 3rd March.

We have quite a large waiting list so if anyone is **not** intending to re-enrol on 1st April will you please inform Brian so that he can offer the place to someone on the list.

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