IWG News

The Newsletter of the Island Woodturners Guild February 2024

About the IWG:

The Island Woodturners Guild meets from 1:00 - 4:00 PM on the 4th Saturday of each month (except for July/Aug) at the Central Saanich Senior Citizens' Centre, 1229 Clarke Road, Brentwood Bay, BC.

Visitors are welcome.

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Richelieu Hardware
William Wood-Write

THE PRESIDENT'S TURN

Good day, all!

Well, an exciting month for sure! I have been quite busy in my workshop spinning wood and doing my best to create nice looking and useful items.

Last meeting we tried a new format by recording Steve Werner doing a demo on pen turning in his shop and then playing this at the meeting with Steve providing explanations and answering questions. I want to thank Steve once again for being the first to participate in this format. I would also like to assure all that this format is only intended to present topics that we are unable to offer at the hall. I'd also like to thank those who offered suggestions on how to improve the quality of future episodes of "As the Wood Turns"! I would also like to ask for volunteers who are willing to host me in their shop for a recording. We are particularly interested in those who do segmented work, turn very large pieces, or use epoxy techniques.

For those of you who are planning to attend the AAW Symposium this May in Portland, there is now a discount available. Go to https://www.aawsymposium.org/register, follow the registration instructions, and when prompted use **2024IWG** as your discount code.

This coming meeting February 24th, we will have Andre' doing a demo on multi-axis turning, this will be an interesting live and in-person demo so please do your best to attend. I am always impressed by the items Andre' brings for show and tell at our meetings and am looking forward to his demo.

Please don't forget that our March23rd, meeting will feature a live demonstration by Elizabeth Weber. There is a cost of $10 to attend either remotely or in person. (See inside for more details.)

Some very interesting demonstrations coming up and I hope to see you at the hall.

Don Costello

NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24TH: 1:00 P.M.

This meeting will feature a demonstration by André Robin on "multi-axis/off-centre/eccentric" turning. A master of this technique, he will show how he creates his amazing turnings.

If time permits, this will be followed by a Q&A session on a selected topic and then our Show and Tell.

PLEASE NOTE: MARCH 23, 2024 MEETING

Our meeting on Saturday March 23rd, 2024 (1:00 – 3:00 p.m.) will feature an in-person demonstration by Elizabeth Weber. Her demonstration will focus on creating wave/leaf motifs on turned pieces.

The subject of a featured article in the most recent edition of *American Woodturner*, Elizabeth is renowned for her use of texture and colour.

The session is **only open to Guild members and there is a fee of $10 to attend or view remotely**.

The fee can be paid:

a. at the February meeting (cash or cheque payable to *IWG*);
b. by e-transfer to treasurer@islandwoodturners.ca; or
c. by cheque payable to "Island Woodturners Guild" and mailed to our Treasurer at: Bonnie Hallas, Treasurer, 5101 Wildview Crescent, Victoria, B.C. V9E 1J5.

JANUARY RECAP: PEN TURNING

Steve Werner volunteered (sort of) to participate in our first recorded turning demonstration. The result was an excellent presentation on turning a pen. The following are the highlights from his demo as well as subsequent conversations.

(Some of the photos are taken from other sources in order to illustrate his techniques.)

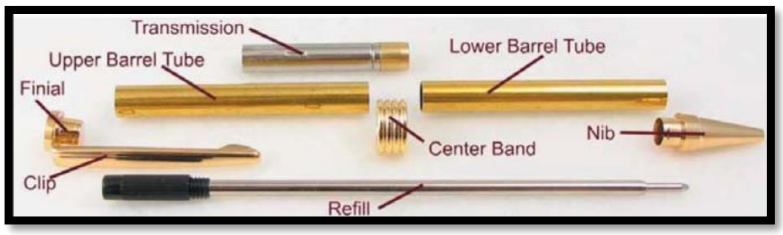
While Steve's demonstration involved turning a ball point pen, the same procedures will generally apply to other writing instruments including fountain pens, pencils, and styluses.

A. PRELIMINARY STEPS

1. Kit

The first step is to purchase a pen turning kit which will contain the necessary metal components. Your options range from an Oriental Dragon Kit at US$510 to a $4 kit from KMS. Tough choice! You might also want to check out the impressive selection offered by *William Wood-Write* (WWW) at https://www.penblanks.ca/Pen-and-pencil-kits/

While there are a variety of styles and thus kit contents, the following diagram shows what you will usually find.



2. Blank

While your kit will indicate the size, most require a blank that is 3/4" square by 5" long.

You can use any hardwood you have or purchase exotic wood blanks from KMS or LV ($3 - $19). Both stores also offer acrylic blanks in a wide variety of colours.

B. PROCESS

Steve uses a variety of tools in pen making. While the following includes prices for these if purchased separately, most sources (KMS, WWW, LV) offer various packages at significantly lower costs.

While the kit will include instructions, Steve noted that the following are the usual steps.

1. Blank Preparation

Assuming that your kit has a two-part barrel, you will need to cut the blank in half. Before doing so, Steve indicated that you should make a lengthwise mark at the centre of the blank so you can maintain grain alignment.

As a general rule, the two pieces should be approximately 1/8"+ longer than the tubes.

2. Drilling the Blanks

You then need to drill a through hole in the blanks for the tubes. The most common size is 7 mm and Steve recommends using a brad point drill bit. (LV: $15)

He mounts the blank in a chuck fitted with 2 long-nosed jaws and uses a Jacob's chuck in the tailstock to drill the holes.

He noted that if you have a drill press, you could secure the blank to a fence or hold it in a clamp.

3. Gluing Tubes

The next step is to glue the brass tubes in the blanks.

Spare Tubes: Steve indicated that you might want to have extra tubes on hand in case of misfortune. (LV: 10 tubes/$4 - $9)

To improve adhesion, use 180 - 220x sandpaper to gently roughen the surface of the tubes and wipe clean.

As is the case with most pen turners, Steve uses CA glue to secure the tube. While medium CA works fine, he noted that thick CA will give you more time to insert the tube before it "kicks off". He applies a coat to the outside of the tube being careful to avoid glue at the ends lest it ends up inside the tube.

He uses a tapered insert tool (Penn State Industries (PSI): US$11) which will work with tubes from 7mm to 37/64". (You could also use a 7mm bolt or a turned wooden tool). A twisting motion ensures that the glue is spread evenly, and the tube should be seated just below the surface of the blank.

Note: If any glue gets inside the tube, it must be removed! If the CA glue has not set, you can use a Q-tip and some acetone. Otherwise, you can use a pen mill pilot shaft which acts as a reamer to remove any glue. (See next)

4. Squaring the Blanks

To ensure that the kit components fit, the blanks need to be reduced in length to match the brass tube and the ends must be square.

Steve uses a pen mill pilot shaft with a cutter head (aka barrel trimmer) mounted in a Jacobs chuck on his lathe. Alternatively, you could use the trimmer in a drill press or even a drill and a vise. He stated that you should drill slowly and stop when you reach the tube becomes shiny as indicated in the blank on the right in the photo.

KMS offers a set of 4 pen mill shafts (7 mm, 8 mm, 3/8", 10 mm) plus a 3/4" squaring cutter. ($30)

Alternative methods for squaring up blanks, though not as precise, include using a disc sander or mounting the blank in a 4-jaw chuck. In the latter case, use a cone centre in the tailstock to align the blank and then a Forstner bit in a Jacobs chuck in the tailstock to trim the blank.

3. Mounting on Mandrel

The two blanks (and a set of bushings in the kit) are then mounted on a mandrel, one end of which has a morse taper for insertion in the headstock.

The bushings determine the finished diameter of the blanks so that they match those of the pen components. They may vary in size, so check the instructions.

Mandrel Saver: If the tailstock is over tightened, it may bend the mandrel. This can be avoided by using a mandrel saver in the tailstock which will support the bitter end of the mandrel without excessive pressure. (Wm Wood-Write: $20)

4. Sanding

After turning, the blanks are ready for sanding. You should stop the lathe after each grit and sand horizontally to remove any radial scratches.

5. Finish

While there are many options for a finish, Steve prefers to use CA glue (thin or medium).

With the lathe turning, he applies a small amount of glue to a shop cloth and applies it to the length of the blanks. He will frequently apply more than 20 coats and uses two light shots of accelerator from approximately 6" on every second application.

Health and Safety

To protect his hands from the CA glue/accelerator, Steve uses PR88 hand barrier cream which can subsequently be washed off with water. While the best price appears to be from KMS ($30/1 L), you may want to consider smaller amounts from other sources.

Steve also emphasized that you should not use safety equipment which will increase your exposure to the fumes. This includes powered respirators, such as the Trend Airshield Pro, as well as a simple face shield which will trap the fumes between the visor and your face.

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6. CA Sanding

While some turners, sand between each coat, Steve finds that unless he feels a "bump" in the finish, this is not necessary. He only sands after all coats of CA have been applied.

He begins with 800/1000 wet/dry sandpaper before moving on to micromesh sanding pads (1500 – 12,000 grit) (LV: $21)

As a final step, he applies a coat of Shell-a-Wax Cream. (LV: $55) to provide a nice sheen and texture.

After removing the blanks from the mandrel, you may need to use fine sandpaper to remove any CA glue from the ends of the blanks.

7. Assembly

The components of most pen kits are assembled by compressing them into the blanks. While you can use a vise or your lathe, it is crucial that the kit components are precisely in line with the blank or it could crack the blank.

Steve uses a commercial pen press , but an internet search will reveal a variety of homemade presses. One of the better ones can be found at: https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&q=woodturning+pens+pen+press#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:67757182,vid:RB6jzfqKpBY,st:0

8. International Penturners Organization

For more information on pen turning, check out this site: https://www.penturners.org/

FIRST AID KIT

Long-time member Al Lundgren recently gave a talk to the Comox Valley Woodturners Guild on First Aid Kits. As a member of the IWA Local 1-80, Al was a major player in developing safety guidelines and training in the forest industry.

Al began his talk by quoting a family member's account of a workshop accident:

"I once ran my finger into a big grinder at the WFI Gordon River Shop at 10:00 PM on a Saturday evening, in the dark of winter. No one else was there. I unlatched the metal first aid kit that was mounted on a post then stared hopelessly at all the sealed little boxes ... with no identity! By the process of elimination, I handled many packages until I found, what was likely, a box of 'super-size' band-aids. I tried with my good hand and fingers to rupture the plastic that encased the box. I held the box with three fingers while I tried to find a weak point with my other two fingers. This meant I had to discontinue the 'applied pressure of survival' with which my good hand had been tasked. While I fumbled and probed this sealed unit with my perfectly fine hand, the blood from my wound gushed and dripped upon the shop floor adding to the 'blood spatter trail' from the grinder, 20 feet away, creating an even larger pool at my feet.

The next attempt was with my teeth since I had chosen, once again, to apply pressure with my shirt and good hand. My teeth were not the tools I required. Momentarily I thought about using the very same grinder that had harmed me as it was still whirring and shaking on the shop floor but no, I had a better plan. Frustration, anger, and some fear propelled me to the blacksmith shop, 50 feet away, in the opposite direction. I dropped the little tightly wrapped box on the anvil, after I picked it up from where it had bounced onto the dirt floor. With a bit more patience and focus, the little box was now where I wanted it. From the rack, next to the forge, I seized the biggest hammer I believed I could heft with one arm. My plan was to carefully smack the very end of this damn box which might, using physics and perhaps a bit of chemistry from the heat generated on impact, rupture the tough plastic prophylactic that kept me from administering my first aid. The 'full on blow' was poorly aimed and although the box finally released its contents of 'Q-Tips' I was not making progress. Two more cycles to and from the metal first aid box resulted in various emergency product packages and contents strewn upon the floor around the anvil before I 'hit' the jackpot; a glancing blow that sheared the end of a box that contained undamaged band-aids."

This tale prompted me to consider how little attention I pay to first aid supplies – a failing which I suspect is shared by many members. Accordingly, the following offers some suggestions from Al as well as other sources.

I. COMMERCIAL FIRST AID KITS

There are many commercial kits you can purchase which range in price from $40 to well over $200 dollars. Thankfully, unlike the experience noted above, the contents of most of these kits are packaged in clear plastic with easily read labels.

However, Al noted that since they are intended to respond to a range of injuries, many of the items will rarely, if ever be required by turners (e.g. bio-hazard bag, faceshield, accident record book). Accordingly, his recommendation, and that of others, is to assemble a homemade kit.

II. HOMEMADE KIT: RECOMMENDATIONS

A. CONTAINER

1. Location

You **shop** first aid ki**t** should be located **in your shop!** Sounds obvious but from talking with members, there are many whose **only** kit is in their house or, worse yet, in their car.

> **Note:** If you are going to be using your chainsaw away from your shop, ensure that you take along a kit **AND** that it contains items to deal with the more serious injuries that may occur!

2. Options

While fabric containers with a HD zipper or a simple plastic container are popular, they may be difficult to open with only one hand.

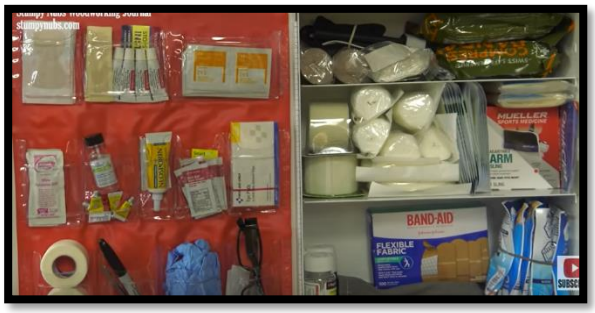
Some sources suggest using a food storage container that is more robust, has clip/snap locks which are easily disengaged with one hand, and come with an airtight silicone seal which will extend the shelf life of some contents.

However, many professional safety sites contend that a wall mounting is the best option. (You could purchase a metal unit ($60 – 70) or build a simple “box” unit with a gasket on the door to seal out dust and moisture.)

A wall-mounted kit offers quick identification and access. While hardly relevant in the case of a minor cut, as Al noted, in the case of a serious injury you will almost certainly experience shock and panic which will affect your judgment. And madly searching through drawers or under piles of wood or tools to locate the kit will simply exacerbate the situation.

Secondly, a wall-mounted unit can be built to easily open with one-hand – which may be all that is working.

Thirdly, if properly organized, the contents will all be immediately visible. It will not be necessary to dump out the contents of a bag or container to find the desired item.



B. CONTENTS

Most of you will already be familiar with many of the items you should use to deal with minor cuts, scrapes and bruises. However, most sources emphasize that you should also consider what you will need in the event of a serious injury – in the hope that you never need to use them.

This means that you should consider what risks are posed by tools other than the lathe: notably the chainsaw and, the tool that excels at finger amputation, the bandsaw.

The following is a link to a note on bandsaw safety from the January 2016 newsletter: https://www.islandwoodturners.ca/woodword/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/January-2016-Newsletter.pdf

1. FOR MINOR CUTS

a. Water/Saline Solution

To clean a cut, the best solution is to simply use soap and water. However, if a sink is not nearby, you should have a container of distilled water in a squeeze bottle or a saline wound wash solution. (**Saline Shelf Life**: 3 years)

Ensure that you clearly label the contents of a squeeze bottle or other container that you use.

HYDROGEN PEROXIDE/IODINE

Despite their popularity in years past, the unanimous view on every medical site I searched is that you should not use either of these compounds to clean or disinfect a wound.

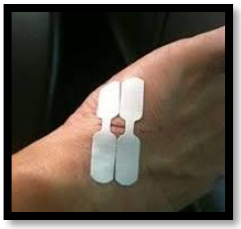
"For example, hydrogen peroxide is actually detrimental to wound healing," says Dr. Yaakovian. "It prevents healing rather than promoting it. That's because its reactive power isn't specific to germs. Hydrogen peroxide also kills normal cells within the wound — including healthy skin cells and immune cells — and slows blood vessel formation, all of which are important for wound healing."

b. Antibiotic Ointment

While it will not be required for minor cuts, you should include a tube of antibiotic ointment for use on moderate cuts or burns. House brands are generally much cheaper and just as effective as *Polysporin.* (**Shelf Life**: 2 years)

c. Adhesive Bandages

Predictably, you should have plenty of the standard sizes (7/8" x 3") as well as a selection of larger sizes for more serious cuts. Al recommends that you include a few 4-prong or knuckle bandages (right) which will handle most cuts in hard to cover areas including fingertips.



You may also want to include some butterfly bandages (aka closures) for moderate cuts.

While plastic bandages are generally cheaper, fabric bandages are sturdier and more flexible which means they will fit your body better.

Many sources note that all bandages will eventually deteriorate resulting in loss of sterility and adhesion. And while some suggest that the shelf life may be as short as 3 years, I was unable to find any information on how this was determined. In contrast, most popular manufacturers (*Band-Aid, Elastoplast, 3M Nexcare*) claim an indefinite shelf life depending upon storage conditions. Accordingly, you should consider purchasing bandages from one of these suppliers.

d. Sterile Gauze (Roll and Pads), Adhesive Tape, Scissors

You should include a small roll of gauze as well as a few pads (3x3" or 4x4") for bandaging. Also add a small roll of adhesive tape and **sharp** scissors or a small retractable razor knife.

Note: As an alternative to conventional adhesive tape, you might want to consider medical/surgical tape which will easily tear by hand.

e. Instant Cold Compress

An instant cold compress will help to relieve pain, slow blood loss, and minimize swelling from mild or moderate cuts.

2. FOR MINOR BURNS

a. Water/Instant Cold Compress

The first step is to cool the burn. If running water is not available, use a squeeze container of distilled water or an instant cold compress (per above). Burned areas will swell quickly, so you many want to remove rings or watches.

b. Aloe Vera Gel

A light coat of this gel will prevent drying, speed healing, and provide some pain relief.
Shelf Life: 2 – 3 years.

> **Note**: Blisters help protect against infection. If a blister does break, gently clean the area with water and apply an antibiotic ointment and bandage.

c. Bandage

While you should cover the area with a bandage, avoid putting pressure on the burned skin.

3. FOR SPLINTERS

a. Needles, Alcohol

For removing splinters, you should include a few needles and a small container of alcohol for sterilizing.

b. Splinter Tweezers

You should also include tweezers –- the best ones are those with pointed tips.

These can also be used to dig out debris from a cut if flushing does not work.

Depending upon the size and depth of the splinter, you may want to apply an antibiotic ointment followed by a bandage.

3. FOR EYES

Water/Eye Wash

A gentle stream of fresh warm water is the best method for flushing dust or debris in the eyes. If running water is not available, you could use a commercial eye wash. Most brands come with an eye cup which will make it much easier to irrigate the eye. (**Shelf Life**: 2 – 3 years.)

Resist the often-overwhelming temptation to rub the eye as it will increase the chances of scratching the eye.

Note: If you wear contact lenses, the dust/debris may get stuck to the underside of the lens. Accordingly, you should remove the lens before or while irrigating the surface of the eye.

4. FOR DEEP CUTS/AMPUTATIONS

a. Pressure/Elastic/Tensor Bandage

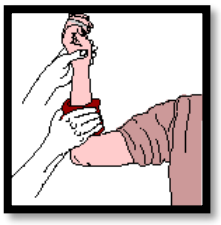
In the event of a deep cut or amputation, the crucial step – **after dialing 911** - is to minimize blood loss. And as Al observed:

The first survival first aid training I received in 1974 was to plug the hole and nothing works better than a pressure bandage.

Most of us are familiar with an elastic Tensor Bandage which can be applied on top of a dressing to stem blood flow. And the good news is that there are now many brands which come with elastic ties or Velcro snaps which means you do not have to hunt for the *b*#k&* metal clips!

Al recommends that you store this type in a clear plastic bag which can be held in your teeth to pull open.

Alternatively, you can purchase pressure bandages which have a sterile dressing secured to the elastic fabric.



While waiting for emergency help to arrive, keep pressure on the wound and, if possible, elevate the limb above your heart to reduce the flow of blood to the affected area.

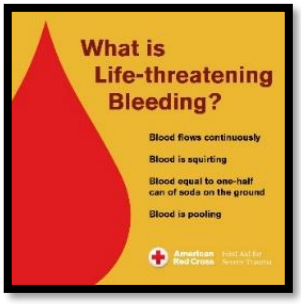
In the stress of the moment, you will be tempted to wrap the bandage too tightly. If you do, it may become a tourniquet (stopping all blood flow) which can cause other problems. (See next).

b. Tourniquet?

It seems obvious that you should include a tourniquet for deep wounds or amputations, especially in a “chainsaw” kit. However, Al notes these can cause significant damage if they are not applied correctly.

Applied too loosely, it can cause the bleeding to worsen as the return/venous blood is blocked but the arterial blood continues to pass by. Releasing it too soon, can not only cause increased bleeding but may also damage the compressed blood vessels. Leaving it on too long can cause irreversible neurovascular damage and tissue death.

Accordingly, Al and virtually all medical sites recommend that in these cases, use a pressure bandage and get medical help as soon as possible.



Despite these concerns, there are some sites that suggest a tourniquet may be warranted, for obvious reasons, in cases of life-threatening bleeding.

c. Ziplock Bag

To be considered only after taking the preceding steps to stem blood flow.

If you can recover an amputated part such as a finger the prospect of reattachment will be considerably higher if it arrives with you at the hospital. Wrap the part in a dressing and place it in a ziplock bag. Do not apply ice or an instant cold compress to the part.

5. FOR SUSPECTED HEART ATTACK

You may want to include ASA tablets – uncoated regular strength or coated 81 mg - in your kit. In the event of a suspected heart attack, **call 911** and then swallow 1 regular strength tablet (325 mg) or chew two 81 mg tablets to reduce the chance of further blood clots developing.

Note: Uncoated ASA is absorbed in the stomach which can cause stomach upset. The enteric cover on coated ASA tablets protects the tablet from stomach acid so it is absorbed in the small intestine. Accordingly, some medical sites recommend uncoated ASA in the event of a heart attack as it will be more quickly absorbed. However, other sites state that so long as you chew coated tablets, there will be no difference.

325 mg vs 162 mg (2 x 81)? In response to a question from a member, while 162 mg is a sufficient dose, uncoated regular strength tablets are only available in 325 mg. The last thing you want to be doing is searching for a pill cutter to cut the latter in half! The higher dose will do no harm.

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6. CALLING 911

If you dial 911 from a landline, the operator will be able to immediately identify your address and dispatch paramedics. However, if you use a cellphone, Saanich Fire Department advised that the "pinged" location may be as far as 1000 metres from your actual location. For that reason, you will need to inform the operator of your precise location.

Accordingly, if you are in a remote location harvesting wood, ensure that you are able to precisely indicate your location in the event of a severe accident. Better yet, as Al indicated in his earlier note on chainsaw safety, never chainsaw in a remote location alone!

GO-TO FINISH?

A number of new members have expressed interest in learning what finishes they should use. While the choice will obviously vary depending upon the nature of the turning and intended use, most of us have a "go-to" finish that we use most frequently. At the January meeting members were asked to identify their personal favourites. The following is a summary of the responses.

PROVISO

There are some clear "dos and don't" when selecting a finish. You should never use a film finish on kitchenware. A water-based finish should never be applied over a water-based dye (unless there is an intermediate coat of shellac). Nor should a film finish be applied over a product with wax. And so on.

However, when it comes to visual and tactile considerations as well as ease of application, the choice may be far less important. This was vividly illustrated during Tim Soutar's 2022 demonstration when he passed around 4 small turnings each of which had a different finish: Wipe On Poly (WOP), Danish Oil, Tung Oil and Osmo Hardwax. By eye and touch, we all agreed that it was difficult if not impossible to determine which was which. And adopting a "go-to" finish means that you will become familiar with any idiosyncrasies and proficient in its application.

A. POLYMERIZED TUNG OIL (PTO)

1. General

This is perhaps the most popular finish with members. It is easy to apply, penetrates well and builds a matte finish that emphasizes the grain and colour. And it forms an elastic film which is resistant to abrasion and moisture. While it does impart a slight honey-colour to most woods, (which many find attractive), there is no yellowing or darkening thereafter. And it is suitable for food-contact items once it is fully cured.

While you can purchase pure tung oil, it can take some weeks for even a partial cure. For this reason, most members prefer to use polymerized tung oil.

Tung oil cures or polymerizes naturally through a chemical process in which the components crosslink by oxidation rather than evaporation of a solvent. PTO involves a specialised heat-treating process coupled with the addition of chemical driers which "jump starts" the process leading to overnight curing.

This process does thicken the product which means that most PTOs are mixed with a thinner (typically mineral spirits) to facilitate application and penetration.

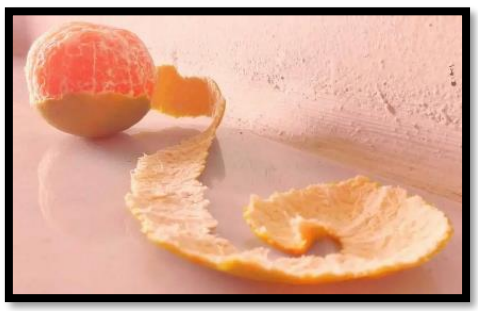
Lee Valley offers two house-branded products both of which are made by Sutherland Welles: PTO High Lustre ($75/litre) and PTO Sealer ($65/litre).

The High Lustre is 50% PTO and 50% mineral spirits while the Sealer, according to one source, is 10 - 20% PTO with the balance being mineral spirits and other solvents. As the name implies, the Sealer is used as a first coat to seal the wood. Thereafter, you use different mixes of the Sealer and High Lustre products depending upon your desired sheen.

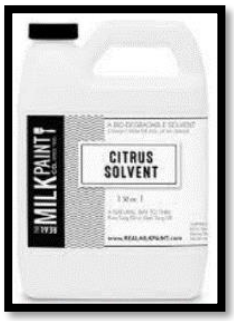
Note: Given the high cost of the Sealer ($65/litre) and the low cost of mineral spirits ($10/litre) – you may wish to consider purchasing only the High Lustre and thin it yourself. If the fumes bother you, you could consider purchasing low-odour mineral spirits ($20/gallon).

2. Citrus Solvent (aka D-Limonene)

Citrus Solvent (CS) consists of citrus peel oil extracted from the peel of an orange (98%) mixed with a small amount of water (2%). While it has long been used in cleaners/degreasers, this solvent is an increasingly popular alternative to petroleum-based mineral spirits due to environmental and health (fumes) concerns.



The nearest source I am aware of is Craftsman Supply on Pender Island which offers Real Milk Paint Citrus Solvent. ($53/1 Litre).
https://craftsmansupply.co/products/citrus-solvent-d-limonene?variant=40602483491003



While I was unable to find reliable information, some sources suggest that you can use CS to thin PTO that already has mineral spirits in it. (Tim Soutar is trying this out and will report on his experience.)

It is likely that PTO with only CS will become more popular in the near future. While I could not find a current Canadian source, Sutherland and Welles now offer a PTO with 50% CS rather than mineral spirits under the catchy name of Botanical PTO: Low Lustre. (US$64)

Real Milk Paint also offers a product called Half & Half using 50% CS. (Craftsman Supply: $53/1 L). **However**, it contains pure tung oil rather than polymerized oil, and the manufacturer advises that it will take 7 – 15 days for a partial cure (at which point you can handle the turning) and up to 30 days for full cure.

3. Tung Oil/Varnish Blend: Mohawk Modified Tung Oil

This product, which is also used by many members, is an oil/varnish blend which is often referred to by the generic title “Danish Oil” albeit one that is of a much higher quality than most other Danish oils. (Richileu: $50/qt)

It contains 10% tung oil, 25% resin, 50% mineral spirits and chemical driers. The high varnish content means that a little goes a long way, it dries very quickly and produces a harder finish than pure or polymerized tung oil. Successive coats provide increased sheen.

4. Caveat Emptor

There are very few legal regulations governing the labelling of finishing products which means that manufacturers can use any label regardless of the contents. Hence, for example, *Minwax Tung Oil Protective Finish* contains no tung oil! It is simply a mixture of linseed oil and varnish. A more accurate label would read "*Minwax Protective Finish provides a finish that looks something like a Tung Oil finish*".

Similarly, there are products called *Teak Oil* which contain no teak oil but are simply regular varnish thinned with mineral spirits or mineral oil.

While it is tempting to suggest that you read the contents, the problem is that there is no legal requirement for manufacturers to stipulate benign contents and most refuse to do so on the basis that it is proprietary information.

These points do give rise to one possible concern with the use of tung oil. If the owner of a turning wants to reapply this finish, they face a dilemma. On the one hand, they may inadvertently purchase one of these mislabelled products. On the other hand, if they purchase the (expensive) genuine product, it is highly likely that its shelf life will expire long before most of the contents are used.

B. OTHER GO-TO FINISHES

1. Wiping Varnish (WOP)

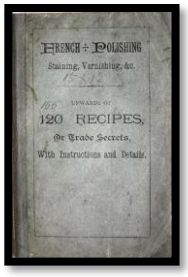
Oil-based varnishes provide a very durable finish and are highly resistant to water and water vapour. The most common form used by turners is wiping varnish which is simply a mix of oil-based varnish and mineral spirits. As they can be used to produce a range of sheens (mild to gloss), they are a popular choice for decorative turnings.

One of the most popular brands is Minwax Wipe-On Poly (WOP) which has a solvent content of 50 – 75%.

2. OB Shine Juice

Some Guild members like to use this homemade finish which consists of equal parts BLO, dewaxed shellac and denatured alcohol. A friction finish which is typically applied to the piece on the lathe at high speeds, it cures quickly and is less darkening than BLO alone.

While the name was coined by a Captain Eddie Castelin in honour of O.B. Lacoste who popularized the finish, the original recipe dates back to the 1800's when it was used in French polishing. In that process, the friction is caused by the rubber (pad applicator) being applied by hand. (Shellac has a very low melting point – it will start to soften around 120 – 140 degrees Fahrenheit.)



3. The Chef's Concoction

Don Costello's go-to homemade finish reflects his previous life as a chef. It is a mix of mineral oil, bees wax and diatomaceous earth. To provide a nice smell, he adds other oils such as lemon or bay berry or anything else (tabasco sauce????) he has kicking around.

If the finish needs freshening, readily available and inexpensive mineral oil can be used.

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4. Lacquer

While certainly not a "go-to" finish, this product is used by many members when they want to preserve the natural colour of the wood as it will not yellow over time.

Available in an aerosol form, it comes in various sheens, dries very quickly (< 10 minutes) and provides an extremely durable finish.

Popular brands with members are Krylon Matte Finish (Michaels: $14) and Mohawk's Finishers Choice. (Richilieu: $20)

Safety: Lacquer contains a variety of toxic chemicals, and the danger is exacerbated when used in an aerosol form. While some of these have a low "smell" threshold, there are others which do not, which means even if you cannot smell them, they are in the air. For example, one of the common components is methylene chloride (carcinogenic). It has a smell threshold of 250 ppm but toxicity starts in the under 1 ppm range. Ideally you should spray outside and at a minimum should use a chemical/cartridge respirator.

ROB DUNLOP: SPOON SHOVEL 2.0

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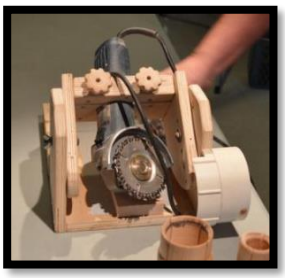
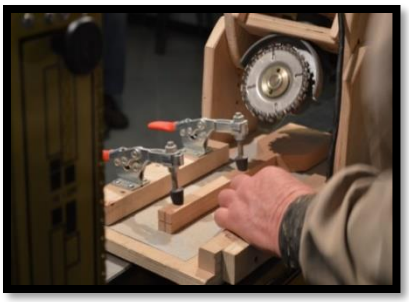


Some years ago, Rob built a very slick “Spoon Shovel” jig which he used to hollow the bowls on spoons after band sawing the rough shape out of flat stock.



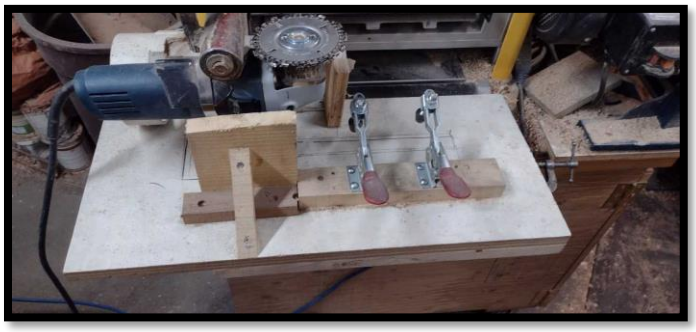
The jig consisted of a 4” angle grinder mounted to a “swing” arm inside a plywood frame. The blank was secured on the platform with two toggle clamps and the angle grinder was rotated in a swinging motion to carve out the bowl portion. While he normally used a chainsaw blade in the grinder, he also has an Arbortech cutter which he uses to make smaller spoons.

While it worked well, one nagging problem was the difficulty in establishing a consistent depth using a screw adjustment.

Inspiration came one day when he was using his thickness planer and noted how precise the mechanism was for raising and lowering the cutter head.

Using spare parts from various sources, he fashioned a metal frame that has a v-channel for securing the grinder, a bearing shaft, a handle and a flange for mounting on his planer. (He drilled and tapped two holes in the upper carriage.) He reports that it works “like a charm”.

Rob has generously fashioned a second jig and added 2 toggle clamps which will be available for the raffle on Saturday.



Even if you do not have a thickness planer there are a variety of other ways to mount this jig – a drill press being one option (Tx V) - and Rob has indicated that he would be willing to help out.

PARTING OFF

Many thanks to Al Lundgren and Rob Dunlop for their help with this edition. And a special thanks to Steve (*Guinea Pig*) Werner for his demonstration and Don Costello for his camera and editing work. And a shout-out to John Gayfer for helping long-time member Doug McBeath dispose of his tools. Finally, thanks to the members of the Executive for keeping us turning!

CONCLUDING THOT