



# Woodbits Newsletter

## Issue 149

### October 2018

## Welcome

### Next Club Chairman

Tony Taylor has made it very clear that this will be his last year as Chairman. His main tasks are to chair 3 committee meetings each year and host most monthly meetings. Everything else the Chairman may do is at his or her personal initiative. The last 2 chairmen have had to migrate to Devon and Kent to escape. Let's not leave it till the 2019 AGM to hope a chairman miraculously emerges from the floor!



### 2018 Competition Subjects

Sept	Round bottomed bowl
Oct	Ball
Nov	Candle holder
Dec	Christmas Decoration

### Volunteers Required

We all know that feeling when we go somewhere for the first time. Sometimes we might be with an existing member, which is great, because they can show us where everything is. However, sometimes we just decide to go along and see what it's like. In these instances, we need a few members who can be available to guide such visitors through the evening. Volunteers to Peter Hoare please.

### October Meeting

Due to illness Mark Baker will not be conducting the Demo in October. Instead, Tic Challis who is Chairman of the West Suffolk woodturning club will be demonstrating the art of pyrography.

### Events the Club will be attending

- Box Moor Autumn Festival on the 13th - 14th October.
- Frogmore Mill on Dec. 2nd.

### Also in this Issue

- Pictures from the September club night.
- Article: Making a bowl from a plywood board.
- Turner of the month.
- 2018 /19 Programme
- For Sale

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# Pictures from the September Club Night

Club nights have sometimes been rather unstructured occasions and with this in mind, we started this time with Grahame Tomkins giving a brief explanation of what we try to do to make them as interesting and useful as possible for members. The essential aims are to get people to participate freely, to exchange ideas and to interact more than is possible on the demonstration evenings. Grahame appealed to all members to take part and to bring forward new ideas for the future.

The theme of this occasion was the use of plywood in turning. Three lathes were set up and various plywood glue-ups provided. On the large lathe we had mounted the beginnings of a bowl made of five layers cut from a 12 inch diameter board of 1 inch birch ply. The method of cutting these and gluing them together is explained in the article in this issue. The task before us was to turn the inside and outside surfaces to achieve a smooth finish. A number of people took turns at this and tried the relative merits of a traditionally ground bowl gouge, a swept back grind and a tungsten carbide cutter. The latter worked quite well, but was slow and did not easily give a good smooth finish. The best result was with a half inch diameter gouge with swept back grind. The final smoothing was done by shear cutting with 5/8ths gouge with a long grind. The problems with plywood were obvious, namely troublesome dust and rapid blunting of the tools.

On a smaller lathe, Peter Hoare worked on a smaller block made of a stack of plywood squares glued up and cut obliquely. A good number of members took part in this also and gained some useful experience. A third lathe was also in use on another project.

In Addition to the lathe work, Harvey Alison had set up a demonstration of pyrography and of 3D printing, both of which attracted a lot of interest. Finally, Don Guy had set out a number of his very attractive pieces turned from plywood, showing just how versatile a material it is.

All this, together with the ever-popular raffle, the coffee break and the critique of the competition entries made for an action-packed evening. Many thanks to all who took part and especially with the clearing up.



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# Turner of the Month

## Beginners

## Advanced



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### Masters

### Open



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# Making a Bowl from a Plywood Board

by A. Taylor

If we want to glue up plywood to make a bowl blank, the obvious way is to cut enough squares to make up the desired depth of the bowl and glue them to form a block. However, this is very wasteful and would involve laboriously turning away a large amount of plywood. The alternative is to go for the "bowl from a board" technique, which is well-known as a way of economically making a large bowl from valuable wood, when a single square piece of one inch board can make a six inch deep bowl. It follows that what I set out here is not new, but a few bits of practical information may encourage you to have a go.

The first step is to make a drawing, preferably full size, of a vertical section through the bowl. Concentric rings are to be cut from the board. If the cuts are made at an angle to the surface (say about 45 degrees) then it will be possible to reassemble the rings one on top of another to make the rough shape of a bowl. If all the angles are 45 degrees then the bowl will turn out to be essentially conical. To introduce a curve into the sides it is necessary to vary the angles. However, in practice one cannot usually go further than plus or minus 15 degrees and still have enough overlap to ensure an adequate wall thickness. It is best to use board one inch thick – less than that makes it difficult to achieve sufficient overlap. This all becomes clear when you make the drawing (see Figure 1.).

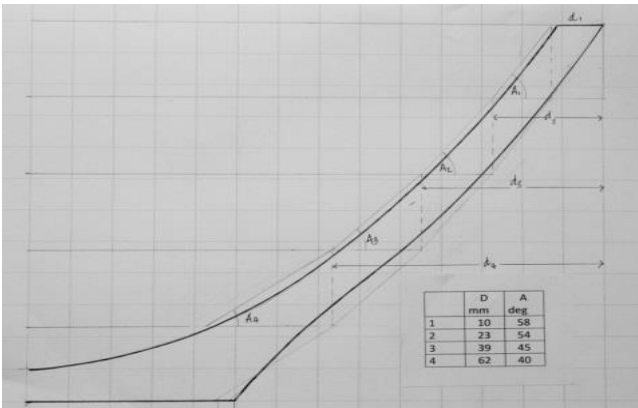


Figure 1: Vertical Section through the bowl.

Next, mark out the discs by drawing concentric circles with diameters as indicated from the drawing, then cut round the outermost circle on the bandsaw. There are two methods of making the other cuts – with the bandsaw or on the lathe. To use the bandsaw it is necessary to first cut the circle in half along a diameter then to set the saw at each required angle and carefully cut along each line. The two halves of each ring will then have to be glued together before they can be stacked. I prefer to cut on the lathe because that saves having to glue the ring halves together and it is quite easy to set the cutting angle on the lathe.

You will need to make a plywood disc a little larger than largest diameter and mount it on a face plate on the lathe. The work disc is then centered on this and held in place with the tailstock whilst it is secured in place with four beads of hot melt glue spaced evenly round the circumference. The innermost ring is cut first, then the others in turn. The cutting is done with a thin parting tool. I first used the small fluted one shown at the top of Figure 2, but found this rather scary so bought one with a long handle and modified it as shown, by reducing the width of the first two inches of the blade. This is to reduce the tendency to bind in the curved cut.

To hold the parting tool at the correct angle I took piece of 25 mm diameter aluminum rod (to fit my tool post) and cut a vertical slot in one end with a hacksaw to accommodate the parting tool. Recently I mislaid this and had to replace it with one turned from hardwood and this has worked equally well. Figure 3 shows how the correct angle is set.



Figure 2: Thin and modified parting tools.

Once all the cuts have been made, remove the outermost one by melting the glue with a hot air gun and scraping with a chisel. Next, sand off any rough edges and try stacking the rings to see if they overlap properly. In gluing them up I prefer to start by gluing the smallest on to a glue block mounted in a chuck. (This block can be of a contrasting wood and be turned at the end to form a foot). Titebond works well and the discs are added in succession, applying pressure with a disc and the tailstock.

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Figure3: Setting the parting tool angle.



Figure 4: Stacking and gluing.

Finally, after leaving for 24 hours for the glue to harden, the glue-up is ready and mounted for turning.



Figure 5: Mounting and turning.

In turning, start with the outside to define a nice soothe profile, being sure to leave enough wall thickness. I find a bowl gouge with traditional grind works well, but it will need to be kept sharp. Complete the hollowing of the inside in the usual way. Of course, with plywood there is no consideration of grain direction. Finish with power sanding, apply several coats of sanding sealer with light sanding in between and finally complete with lacquer.

With all stages of cutting plywood a lot of nasty dust is produced so be sure to use proper protection.

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# 2018/19 Programme

Sep	Club Night
Oct	Mark Baker
Oct 28	Richard Findley (All Day demo)
Nov	Stuart King
Dec	Xmas Social
2019	
Jan	Gary Rance
Feb	Paul Howard
Mar	Emma Cook
Apr	AGM
May	Steve Giles
Jun	Club Night
Jul	*
Aug	Les Thorne
Sep	Club Night
Oct	Carlyn Lindsay
Nov	Andy Coates
Dec	Xmas meeting

## For Sale

No items this month. Please contact the secretary if you wish to advertise here.

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