ONE GOOD TURN

Meetings: Odd Months Second Tuesday 6:30 pm Dan Hershberger Shop

Even Months Second Saturday 12:30

The Great Falls Woodturners met on June 10at the Hershberger shop.

Tom Bennett gave a most informative demo on stabilizing wood. There are several ways to stabilize a piece of wood. The process is mostly done to 'punky'

wood that is in the beginning stages of rotting or to burls that have grain going in all directions and prone to tear-out.

The best woods to stabilize are wood with large pores and low density such as birch, poplar, and beech.

The types of wood that do not stabilize well include those are oily, resinous, have tiny pores, and are high density wood, such as rosewood, olive, ebony, cocobolo, and most softwoods.

To stabilize a piece of wood the moisture in the wood should be low, usually less than 5%. This can be achieved by putting the wood in an oven at 220 degrees for 24 hours.

The most common types of stabilization are thermally hardened resin and epoxy resin.

Thermally hardened resin such as Cactus Juice, is introduced into the wood by first submerging the wood in the liquid and then putting it all in a vacuum chamber that drives the moisture out and the resin into the pores. After a specified time the piece is taken out of the vacuum and wrapped in foil and placed in an oven to harden the resin.

The resulting piece of wood can then be worked with no fear of tear-out

Stabilizing with epoxy resin is done in a very similar fashion with the wood put into a form and the resin mixed and poured around the piece. It is then placed in either a vacuum

chamber or a pressure pot that reduces the size of any bubbles that are present in the resin.

Dyes can be added to both types to enhance the project. One advantage of the thermally hardened resin is that before the last oven step, the excess can be saved and used again. At $90-$100+ / gal you want to make it last a far as possible. Epoxy resin is a two part system where hardener is added to resin and mixed together to start a chemical reaction that cannot be reversed.

A Different Take on the Bowl Finisher

Paul Snyder sent me this different approach to the slow speed bowl finisher used to get a perfect finish on a bowl.

Lathe Bowl Finish Dryer

This is an alternative way of using the slow turning method of drying the finish on turned bowls using the lathe. Powering a lathe at the slowest speed is not a good idea. It is hard on the electrical system. Using the lathe with an alternate power source, the rotisserie motor works though. Granted, this has drawbacks and advantages as does Sam's stand alone drier. This is not meant to degrade his tried and proven unit, just an alternative.

The requirement for this is that the main lathe motor extends behind the headstock like the Powermatic or Jet lathe does. A second requirement is that you have a chuck with a changeable spindle size adapter.

Parts needed.

1. Rotisserie motor with bracket.
2. 3/8-inch metal rod or all-thread rod.
3. **A **1 ½** inch diameter washer with a 3/8" hole. (Or cut a straight flat metal piece, with rounded ends and drill a 3/8" hole). The object is to wedge the washer between the end of the spindle and the ledge you can see in the photo at the bottom of the threads in the chuck.
4. J B Weld or two 3/8 "nuts.

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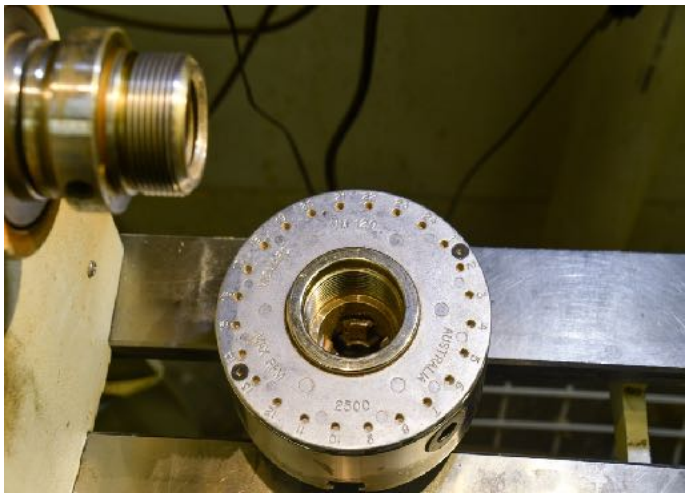

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Using JB Weld or 3/8 nuts, secure the washer to the rod. When using the JB Weld be careful to see the washer is square with the rod.

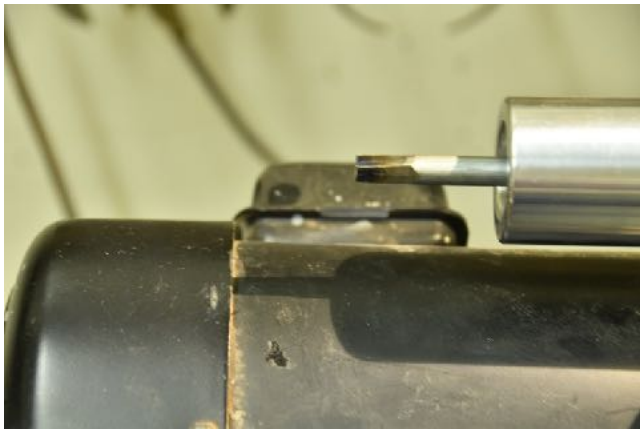
3.

Insert the rod through the spindle to locate the length and position of the motor.

4.

The motor and bracket location will be different with different height of the lathe “throw” and because of the length of the manual turning wheel on the back side of the head stock. The end cover of the main motor provides a stop for the rotisserie motor bracket. It can not push back any further, thus wedging the turning shaft in place. The bracket may have to be adjusted by grinding about ¾ inch from the edges, allowing the motor to slide down lower for it to line up with the shaft. In the case of the Powermatic, the higher shaft location will need to be considered. A wooden spacer could be formed to saddle the main motor and held in place with a recessed rare earth magnet glued in the saddle. Likewise, a magnet could be recessed under the motor bracket. The amount of torque to turn the shaft is small and the stiff steel shaft will not flex enough to move the motor or the riser to shift.

After determining the position of the motor and the length of the shaft, the end of the shaft will need to be ground square to fit the rotisserie motor drive. The drive recess is 1/2” deep by 1/4” wide.



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Election Time

It is summer and that means it is nearly time for nominations and elections for the Board of Directors . New faces are always welcome on the board, so if you want to be involved in helping the club move forward, please consider serving on the board. Contact Wayne Petrini to put your name in consideration.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Tues. July 11 at the Hershberger shop.

Mark your calendar

The 2024 AAW Symposium will be held in Portland, OR on May 23-26. The 39th annual meeting is the largest gathering of world class turner's that you will find. I attended the symposium the last time it was in Portland in 2018 and it is probably the best thing I have done in turning. There are multiple demonstrations going on at any given time over the three days and there is something for everyone no matter what your skill level is. The vender 's area has every toy imaginable.

Wayne and Chuck also attended the Portland gathering along with several of our neighbors to the north from the Chinook Guild. It also has the biggest instant gallery you will find anywhere with thousands of items of every type of turning. It is truly amazing.

Club Picnic

The club picnic will be Sat Aug 19 at the home of Jay and Trish Eklund outside of Geraldine MT . Directions to the house will be sent in a separate mailing.

Instant Gallery

Wayne Petrini

Wayne Petrini

Tom Krajacich

Tom Bennett

Demos Needed

Many meeting dates are in need of demonstrators. Please consider signing up to share your knowledge and technique. Please contact Wayne Petrini if you are willing to do a demo.

Thanks

Thanks to Paul Snyder for the pictures and article and thanks to Tom Bennett for doing the demon this month.

Great Falls Woodturners Directors

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