

TURNOUT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF NORTHERN TURNERS INC.

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Presidents View March 26

It is with much regret we inform all members of the passing of John Girdler. Thanks to Tony Davies who informed the club of the events & liaised with John's family. Tony's email was distributed to all members.

'In the early hours of Monday 7th March while returning from the Wagga Wagga Turnabout with five other club members, John Girdler suffered a stroke. He was transferred by air ambulance from Hay hospital to St Vincent's hospital in Sydney.

Despite the best efforts of all the doctors and nursing staff at Hay and St Vincent's John passed away peacefully in the afternoon of Wednesday 9th March. His sons Jason from Adelaide and Paul from New York were with him.'

John, a member since 2001, was a committed and passionate wood turner. His presence and contributions will be greatly missed. (Tim Skilton has included a personal reflection of John in this newsletter.) A group of 35 Northern Turners attended John's funeral and I received apologies from many more. This representation showed the respect and friendships John had achieved in Northern Turners in his 15 year membership. We thank the family in requesting that instead of flowers donations be passed onto Northern Turners to reflect the influence woodturning had provided in John's life. We will inform all of the amount raised and its use in the near future.

The new induction process is working smoothly with feedback from new members of the value of the orientation and introduction. After a demonstration on turning a mallet for all members, Ron Allen guided 4 new members through setting up and basic turning techniques. The setting aside of 2 lathes reserved for beginners worked exceptionally well on week 3. Thanks especially to Ron for his demonstration, tuition and to all other buddies that have guided our new members into our club.

Attendance to all sessions has been excellent and a special vote of thanks to Anne Kerr (in the middle of a very personally demanding and traumatic time) for revisiting and renewing methods of holding pieces in the lathe. Other members displayed and reflected different techniques of mounting difficult pieces (thanks to Roger Humphris). This sharing demonstrated the accumulated knowledge held by club members and I feel is an excellent way to provide awareness of the diversity of problem solving skills.

A point to consider would be to have a focus on Week 4 where different ways of undertaking techniques could be shared such as sanding techniques, off centre turning, jigs for deep hollowing etc. Perhaps this would encourage members to take some responsibility in presenting and providing demonstrations to small groups to build on our demonstrator base. Please provide some feedback through any of our Committee members. I would like to thank Jake Jacobs & Dave Brown for their contributions this month with procedures & reflections.

Lindsay Winen President Northern Turners (& temporary editor Newsletter)

Library Matters

I would like to bring to your notice two recently purchased DVDs Binh Pho, Thin Wall Turning and Binh Pho, Surface Design on Thin Wall Turning. They showcase the work of this amazing wood artist. Definitely worth borrowing! His work may also be viewed on YouTube. I have recently added a lot of new material to the existing folders due to a generous donation of old woodwork magazines. Many thanks to Ansley Rowe, a long standing and respected member of Woodgroup.

Anne Kerr

Northern Turners Committee

President	Lindsay Winen
Secretary / Correspondence	Dale Starr
Treasurer	Robert Edge
Vice President	Jan Beare
Member	Bill Elliot
Member	Glenn Kutchen
Member	Fred McCann
Member	Jake Jacobs

Send all articles to

turnout@woodgroupsa.org.au

Your Northern Turners

- *Seeking Excellence*
- *Encouraging Individualism*
- *Fostering Creativity*
- *Teaching Skills*
- *Providing Support*

John Girdler 1942 – 2016



As you may be aware John passed away recently. He was a long-time member of Northern Turners and a strong supporter of SATurn for many years.

John was returning from a trip to the Wagga Turnabout in NSW with myself and 4 other NT members when he was taken ill and evacuated from Hay to Sydney. Unfortunately he passed away in Sydney's Saint Vincent's Hospital.

I would like to share with you a lasting memory of John.

At the Wagga Turnabout, we South Aussies had 5 lathes set up in a row with John in the centre. At one point John had a piece of wood fly off the lathe (I'm sure we have all done that more than once). He then decided that perhaps a face shield would be a good idea. (Nothing like hindsight). Shortly after this I looked up and he was turning away, wearing the face shield, only problem was he forgot to pull it down. With my usual sarcasm, I said to him "Hey John it's really good to see you taking precautions and wearing a face shield".

He looked at me with that huge grin that he had, and said "thanks Tim", pulled the face shield down and continued turning. I shall always remember that huge, ear to ear grin.

Tim Skilton March 2016



Meeting March 26th:



Jake Jacobs delivered an entertaining, jokes included, demonstration on turning magic wands (procedure sheet in this newsletter) through a 3 stage off centre turning process. Jake not only highlighted safe practices in turning, but gave some guidance on how to reduce the likelihood of the wand being turned into a sword or prodding stick by children. Thanks Jake for a well organized demonstration.

Show and Tell (March 26th) provided great variety from spindle, bowl,

deep hollowing, to sculpture & fine woodworking. Jim Fawcett was awarded the Halo for his well finished burl bowls. Thanks to all of those willing to put their pieces on display and share with the rest of the group their successes, learning & tribulations (design opportunities). The display clearly reveals the diversity and quality of our members. Keep on bringing it in!!!





Off Centre Turning: Magic Wand

Equipment required

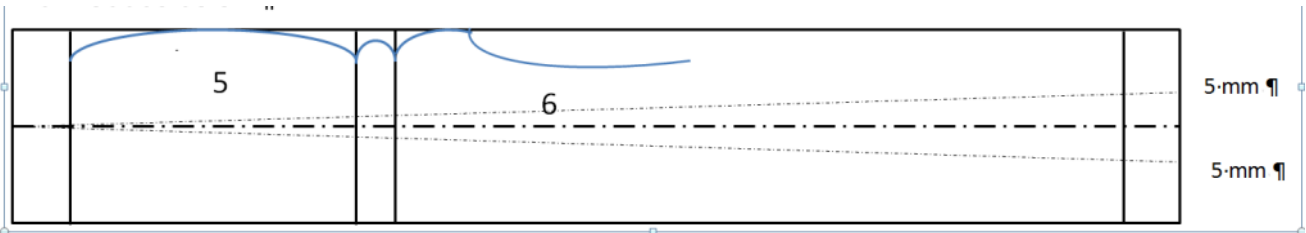
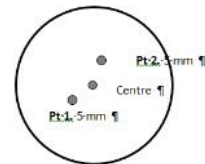
- Roughing Gouge
- Spindle Gouge
- Skew Chisel
- Parting Tool
- Abrasives (assorted grades)
- Fixed Steb or Spur centre (headstock end)
- Live or Steb centre (Tailsock)

Material

- 42 mm square x 330mm long (suggested depends size of child)
- straight grained with no inclusions
- burl or figurative grain ok if no cracks or very short grain sections)

Procedure

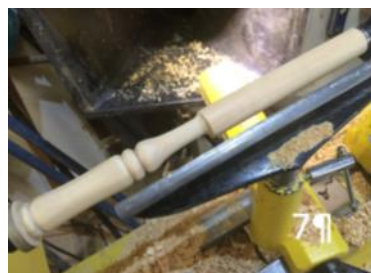
1. Locate centre of 42 square & punch
2. In tailstock end draw 2 points (**Pt 1 & 2**) randomly, but not too close to each other, at 5mm of centre
3. Place between original centres and rough to approximately 30mm dia.
4. Mark out as below
5. Mark out as below



6. Using Spindle gouge create handle between 10 & 100, 100 to 110 for bead. 10mm
NOTE leave 10 mm at headstock & tailstock end at 30 mm diameter to allow for off centre Sand section



7. At Tailstock end move to new (**Pt 1.**)centre and approximately 1/3 of length turn to around 20mm (when rotating on lathe)
Sand Section



8. Move to **original centre** and turn next 1/3
Sand Section



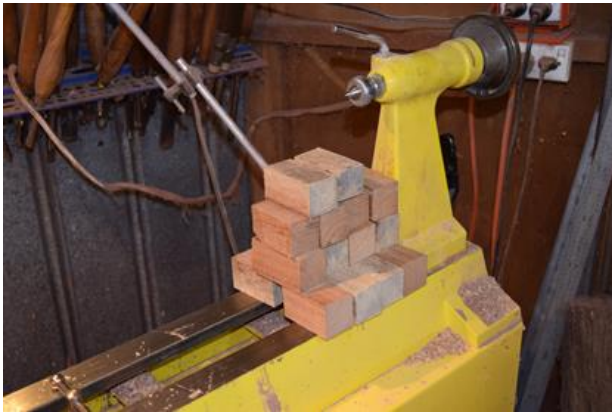
9. Move to centre **Pt 2** and turn last 1/3 leaving last 10mm with centre marks attached
DO NOT PART OFF
Sand Section

Move back to original centre and turn final shape of point
Sand Section



The Process of Turning Spinning Tops

Dave Brown



Spinning tops as far as I am aware have been around for thousands of years in all sorts of shapes and sizes. Whip styles where a handle with a length of cord is attached, the cord then wrapped around the top several times and is then thrown to set the top spinning and is then kept spinning by using the wooden handle and cord as a whip and whipping the top. I remember the whip style from my childhood and another with a handle with a hole in the handle to suit the shaft on the spinning top. A piece of cord would be wrapped around the shaft of the spinning top, then the shaft would be inserted into the handle and the cord would then be pulled hard and fast thereby setting the top spinning. In fact there is so much history attached to the top and so many variations somebody has probably written a book about them.

Finger spinners are easy to make, good tool practice and sell quite readily. Over the years I guess I would have made thousands, I batch turn them from around twenty or so to over a hundred or more at a time. I have turned them from pine native hardwood's to exotic timbers, the exotic timbers were usually turned as corporate gifts complete with a contrasting timber base and I believe my clients would usually have an engraved brass plate attached. The timber shown in the photograph above are hardwood rescued from pallets which were to be sent to the dump, judging from the stencils printed on the pallet they would have come from Indonesia.



Process

Start by cutting blanks for however many tops you are going to turn. The blank size I use is 80mm long by 45-50mm square and the timber used if you are going to sell them should be hardwood, otherwise anything goes. Don't forget, as with anything you turn aim for a quality finish and make sure your tools are sharp.

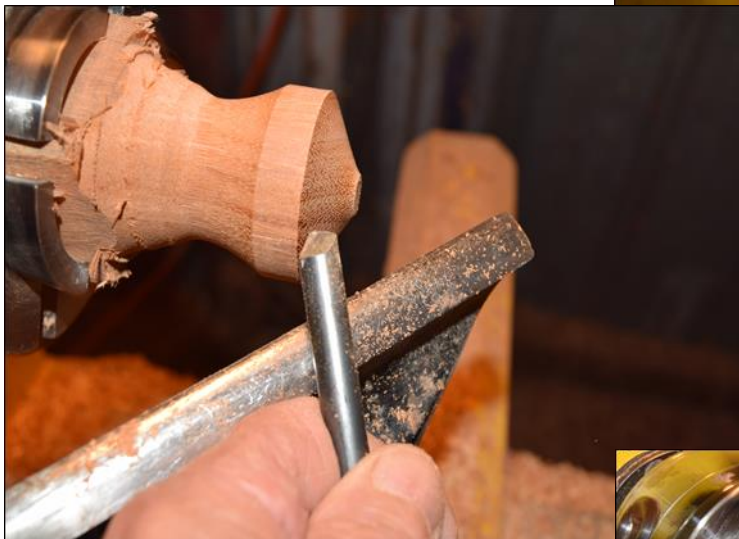
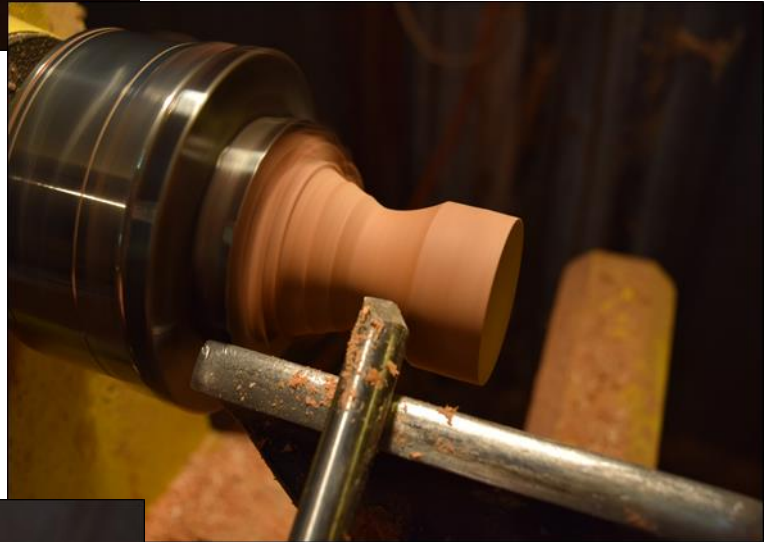
These are the tools I use to turn the tops with, the 16mm bowl gouge is used as a roughing gouge to bring the blank down to size and to remove the majority of waste. The 6mm bowl gouge is used to turn the top itself and the 10mm detail gouge is used to turn the stem and part off.





Commencing to rough down the blank with the 16mm bowl gouge, the speed of the lathe used to turn these tops is almost as fast as the lathe will run

I have roughed out the blank and you will notice I have removed most of the waste from behind the main body which makes life a little easier when you come to do the final shaping.



Commencing to shape the bottom of the top using the 6mm bowl gouge and still running the lathe at a very high speed, about 3000rpm.

Finished shaping the bottom and ready to start the top.

Don't forget the sharper the point on the bottom the better the top will spin.





The top of the main body finish turned and just the start of the stem. At this point I recommend that you sand the body because if you turn the stem before sanding chances are you will break it off. I usually only need to use 240 grit and then finish with 320 grit. Depending on the timber used I occasionally need to use 150 grit, but very rarely.

Ready to start the stem using the 6mm bowl gouge to rip out most of the waste.



The majority of the waste has been removed ready to use the 10mm spindle gouge to finish the stem.

The stem completed and just needs a light touch with some 320 grit paper and then parting off.



The finished top, always go for a quality job and if you do decide to batch turn speed will surely come as you progress. Always keep your tools razor sharp, the sharper your tools the easier the job will progress and the faster you will get. Don't forget, quality always sells.



A word on finishing the tops. I finish these as if they were an item that would be used to handle food, because in the majority of cases they will be handled by children and will no doubt be put in their mouths and chewed on etc. I finish them on the lathe in the same manner as I would any item to be used for food you just need to take a little care with the tops because they will be spinning by the stem before you part them off. When I am doing a batch of tops I will have a soft cloth soaked in a vegetable oil (usually corn oil) stop the lathe after sanding the top and wipe the top with the cloth soaked in oil then start the lathe and burnish with another soft cloth or paper towel, apply some carnauba wax whilst still spinning and burnish again and finally part off. The only time they do not get finished in this manner is if they are being bought as corporate gifts complete with timber base and for this type of item they become one of the very rare items that I would spray with lacquer.

NORTHERN TURNERS

THIRD SATURDAY PROGRAMME - 2016

Date	Activity	Special theme S&T "Made at Home"
FEBRUARY 20 th	GOBLETS Material – dry close grained wood approx. 180x70x70 or any Branch material of similar size. Shark type jaws desirable for added grip	
MARCH 19 th	MALLETS One piece like a carver's mallet. Size can vary. Tough timber desirable	
APRIL 16 th	NEEDLECASE / TOOTH PICK CONTAINER 150 x 28 x 28 or larger	BRACELET or BANGLE Your imagination at the forefront.
MAY 23 rd	PLATTERS Dry wood no more than 300 sq. by up to 35 mm thick. We will try some textured rims	
JUNE 18 th	LACE BOBBINS Dry straight grained wood about 150 x 10 x 10	SCOOPS
JULY 16 th	NO MEETING Building and Home Improvement Show – July 15th to 17th, 2016 - Wayville	
AUGUST 20 th	THIN STEMMED GOBLETS Recently cut branch material – fairly straight – about 30 to 35 mm dia and 200 mm long	MIRRORS
SEPTEMBER 17 th	EARRING STAND – HOLDER Up to 150 x70x70 wood – can be branch material	
OCTOBER 15 th	DECORATING LIDDED BOXES WITH RESIN INSERTS You will need to have prepared a lidded box with a recess in the lid for the inlay and resin – about 10 mm deep or more depending on your insert	
NOVEMBER 19 th	PICTURE FRAMES Many years ago, Dick Pillar entertained us with a problem – "Getting a Round Tuit" Time to revisit it! Details later	FINAL CHALLENGE A turned insect or similar. Blow the dust from your brain.

Ron Allen