



# WOODBITS

## NEWSLETTER

### Issue 177

### February 2021

### Welcome

## SHAVINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

### SHAVINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hello!

I expect that many of you like me have now had a first Covid jab and are looking forward to regaining a normal life. Thanks to our fantastic NHS for achieving the herculean vaccination targets they have been set! We have a club committee meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March and will be discussing the possibility of resuming meetings at Adeyfield, perhaps by 8th June. If such a return remains a viable possibility we will be asking all you if you would be prepared to resume at Adeyfield.

#### Woodturning Zoom Meetings

There seems to be a profusion of these at the moment with a number of free meetings advertised in this edition of Woodbits (See Woodturning sessions –on-line near the end of this document). We had a well attended club Zoom meeting on the 9th February with 48 participants (combined from both the H&B and the Middlesex Clubs). This was our first meeting to feature a professional demonstrator, Martin Saban-Smith who gave a very polished and informative presentation on the topic of Beginners Bowl turning. For those who missed it. Tony Taylor has written an excellent summary on page 5 of this issue of Woodbits.

#### Future Zoom Meetings

The next Club Zoom meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 9th March. This will be a return to home-grown content and will feature Peter Hoare demonstrating Turning a Flat Vase.

Also, after the success of the last Show and Tell session, we hope to have another following on from Peter's presentation. Please, if you have any suitable items, do participate and show us what you have been making.

#### The Club AGM, Tuesday 13th April

This will be a Zoom meeting. An agenda and associated documents will be circulated to all members nearer the date. An important action point will be the appointment of new post-holders for the following committee posts:

Secretary So far we have had one nomination, Allen Kaye, for this post.

Treasurer There have been no nominations for this key post. Peter Hoare has generously offered to stay in office (from May 2021) on a temporary basis whilst mentoring a successor until they are confident to take over the post completely (within the 2021-22 financial year). It's worth emphasising that this is a core post

and it is vitally important that a successor to Peter is found. Without a treasurer, the continuing existence of the club is put at risk!

Our final scheduled Zoom meeting will take place on Tuesday 11th May. Emma Cook (The Tiny Turner) was booked to give the club a demonstration at Adeyfield. As this is clearly impossible, Emma has agreed to make it a Zoom demonstration. More details on this nearer the time.

### **Middlesex Woodturning Club and Coffee Evening Zoom Meetings**

Herts and Beds members are always made very welcome in these excellent meetings and joining details are circulated as and when received. Please support our Middlesex friends by participating if you can.

### **And finally..**

Yet again this edition of Woodbits has got some excellent content from members. I particularly enjoyed the articles which were a consequence of the February Zoom discussion on work-holding. I relish the challenge of making home made jigs and am looking forward to trying to make the doughnut chuck.

That's more than enough from me! Please keep the contributions coming so we can continue to have an interesting and entertaining monthly woodturning related read.

Tim

Tim Pettigrew

Chairman

Tim's contact details:

[chairman@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk](mailto:chairman@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk)

# Other Club News

## Annual Subscriptions 2021

Firstly, thank you to those who have paid their 2021 (AWGB) Subs.

We have decided not to charge any 2020 members an annual Club fee for 2021. However, if we do have any meetings, where there is a paid demonstrator, there will still be the usual £2 fee.

Depending on what happens in 2021, there may be the need for an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) to discuss the Club's finances. we will, as usual, review subscriptions for 2022 at the end of 2021.

However, as we are an Affiliated Club. Under our Club Rules (6 and 11), to be a member of the Club you **have to be a member of the AWGB.**

Your annual AWGB fees was due on 01 January 2021, which is £18.00 (or £28.00 for a family of two).

Note: If you pay for your AWGB membership via another club, or direct to the AWGB, you don't need to pay anything to the Club and can ignore this notice.

**If you would like to continue as a member, will you please contact me via email to obtain payment methods at [treasurer@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk)**

If you renew your AWGB membership via the Club, I will be able to supply your 2021 AWGB card. Note: As the AWGB is a Registered charity, if you are a Tax payer you can, if you wish, complete a Gift Aid Declaration. You can register any time. This enables the AWGB to claim 25p in the pound from the Inland Revenue. You can register by going to the AWGB web site ([www.woodturners.co.uk](http://www.woodturners.co.uk)), go to "Resources" and under "Individuals" click on "Gift Aid Declaration", under the "Web Form" heading (centre column), complete the form and "Submit". You can also print a form and post it.

Thank you,  
Peter Hoare - Honorary Treasurer, H&BW

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# Beginners Bowl turning – Review by Tony Taylor

This is a summary and review of the Zoom session by Mark Saban-Smith on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February.

This was the first Zoom based demonstration which we have commissioned from a professional turner. Martin dedicated the whole session to the basics of bowl turning. It was a technically sophisticated presentation making use of several cameras and superimposed images.

Martin started with pre-prepared short videos on how to use Zoom and on Health and Safety considerations. The bowl blank was a 9 x 3 inch disc of seasoned Sycamore, mounted with a face plate. After an explanation of the characteristics of a bowl gouge with a moderately swept back grind he started by rounding the blank and explained push and pull cuts. These were illustrated by means of well-prepared graphics shown adjacent to the work. Next, the bottom was flattened using a pull cut from the centre outwards, showing that a cleaner cut is obtained by keeping the handle down. There was a detailed explanation of the relative merits of tenon or a recess (mortice) as a means of mounting on a chuck. Martin chose a recess and cut this with a parting tool, followed by a skew chisel used as a scraper to form a dovetail and to flatten the bottom. He emphasised the need to make the recess the correct diameter so that the chuck jaws formed a circle when expanded into it and so made contact all round. The size of the foot was then chosen to be about one third of the whole diameter.

In response to a question, there was some information about the relative merits of a grinder or the Sorby ProEdge finisher as a means of sharpening. Martin prefers the latter for its speed and repeatability, though it is rather expensive, especially with the diamond band.

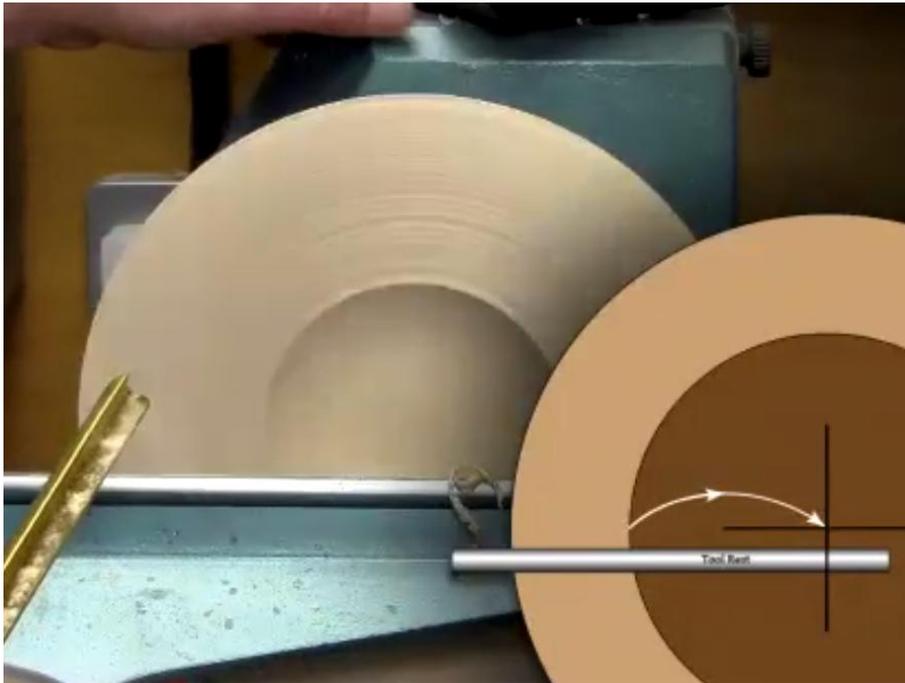
The next stage was to shape the outside.



There was some discussion about the relative merits of push and pull cuts, but the significance of grain direction was not made clear. It was shown that a cleaner cut is obtained by keeping the gouge handle low, so making a slicing action see image to left.

After removing the faceplate the work was reversed onto the chuck to prepare for hollowing, which Martin regarded as the most difficult part. He started by trueing the face then commenced hollowing from the

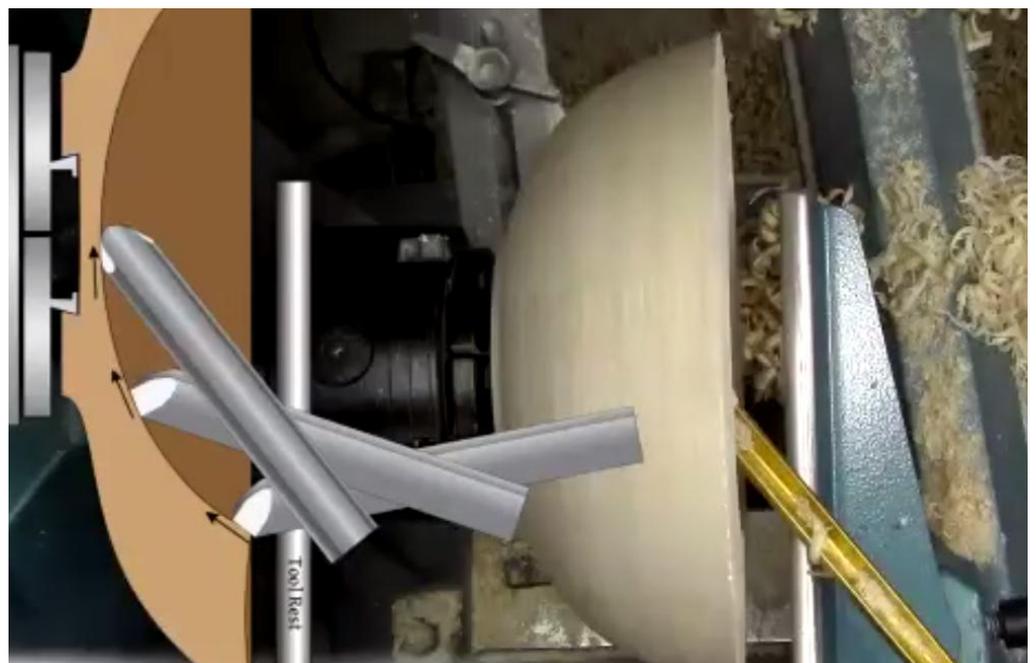
centre outwards. He explained the presentation of the gouge and how to make an arcing cut rising to the middle of the cut then coming down to end at the centre. See image below.



Generally, the aim is to end with an even wall thickness and to avoid torn grain. Again, a very nice graphic (see image below right) showed the presentation of the gouge bevel as it travels from edge to centre.

There was some discussion regarding the possibility of cutting outwards, but this is not advised because of the possibility of catching the left lip of the gouge.

There followed a number of questions from the viewers, which Martin answered in detail. He concluded by a brief tour of his elaborate camera setup and his nicely fitted workshop.



The presentation was evidently appreciated especially by beginning turners, though for the more experienced there was less of interest.

# Doughnut Chuck – David Wilks

This is a follow up to the Zoom presentation on 12<sup>th</sup> January by **David Wilks**. There was much interest shown in these chucks as they provided further security when returning bowls.

Originally I made doughnut chucks to allow me to turn the tenon off on small bowls (could be used on longer objects with longer screws, or to take mortices off as well). I later modified one of them to hold spheres so I could drill into them (Photo 1 right).

I saw these on YouTube whilst researching Longworth and Cole chucks, there are many examples.

The one I used, because I like his video style, was this one by Gord Rock

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-10dXclT\\_4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-10dXclT_4) .

I scaled it down from the big one he is making in the video as I not have a bobbin sander - however this part can be done on the lathe once assembled.



Photo 1

One difference was that I used T nuts (Photo 3) instead of the wing nuts that Gord used on the back of the chuck- much safer as won't fly off whilst turning and won't catch your fingers. I later refined this to use D-Nuts see photo 2 below.



Photo 2



Photo 3

I made mine out of whatever I had in the workshop, starting with a very small one that will hold a piece max 45mm dia. (photo 4). I then scaled up to make two more, one that would take 80mm dia. (photo 6 below) and one for 115mm dia. pieces (photo 5 below) - note I have not yet finished off the centre of the yew bowl shown in the picture. The design is easy to scale up to the max size of the swing over your bed as Gord has done.

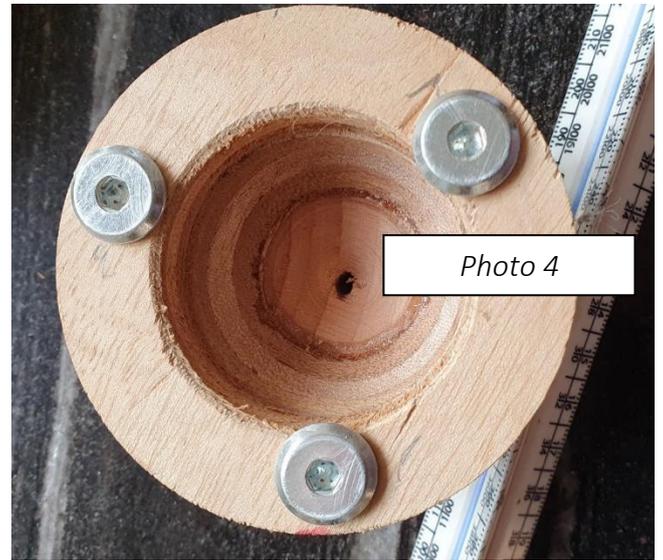


Photo 4

I did not have a spare face plate to use to mount it as Good has so turned a hardwood spigot with a dovetail on one end to allow me to mount it in my scroll chuck.

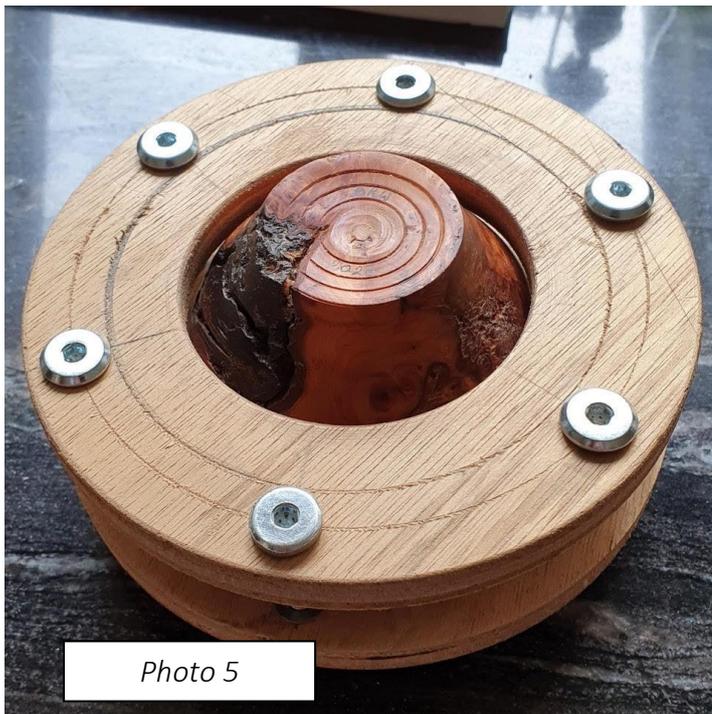


Photo 5

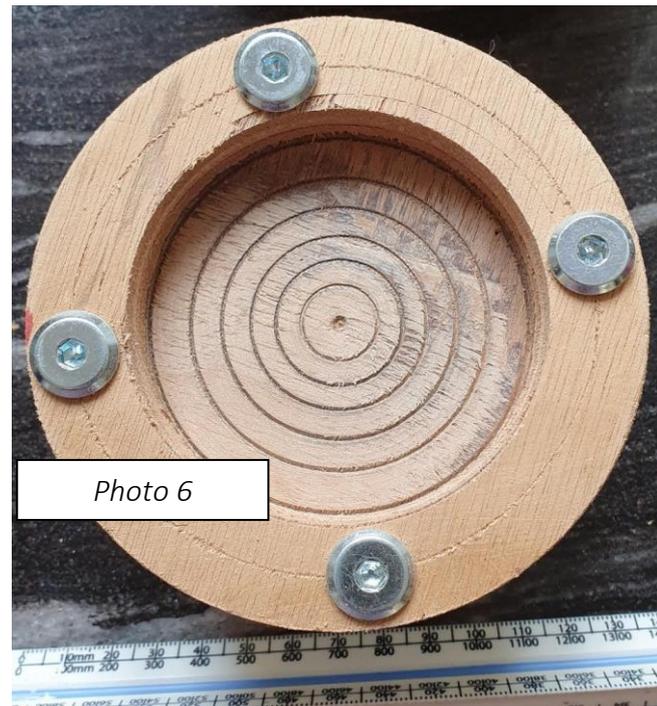


Photo 6

## Materials

Key limiting factors here were the diameter of the head on connector screws and T-nuts used to hold it together and the length of the screws I had in the workshop – see photo 2 above.

- a) Some left over 12mm ply - cut on band saw to make 2 or more discs (80mm dia. for the 45mm capacity chuck).
- b) A hard wood spindle to make a spigot to fit in my scroll chuck jaws; in this case I used 35mm cherry scrap wood and made a 32mm spigot with a dovetail on one end see (Photo 3). I used this size so it fitted inside the T-nuts. (I used 52mm oak on the larger two as this fits a bigger set of dovetails I have) - Need to make sure the spigot fits square in the scroll chuck and runs parallel to the bed so that the doughnut chuck runs true when glued to it - Also, best to leaver an alignment point in middle of the chuck back plate once made so you can be sure to get the doughnut chuck back on square another time (see Photo 6 and 7).



Photo 7

- c) 3 off M6 T-nuts (head diameter 19mm) -

[https://www.screwfix.com/c/screws-nails-fixings/pronged-tee-nuts/cat7280112?cm\\_sp=managedredirect-\\_screwsfixings-\\_teenuts](https://www.screwfix.com/c/screws-nails-fixings/pronged-tee-nuts/cat7280112?cm_sp=managedredirect-_screwsfixings-_teenuts)

On later ones I switched to using D nuts as more precise fit and easier to install.

[https://www.screwfix.com/p/insert-nuts-type-d-m6-x-13mm-50-pack/59937?tc=FT5&ds\\_kid=92700048793290424&ds\\_rl=1249413&gclid=CjwKCAiAl4WABhAJEiwATUnEF9ANDQAAe2E2B1vPA6gixq81FchjRY5vERGD0ha61iFtP1IEJ7NwEBoCO8lQAvD\\_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds](https://www.screwfix.com/p/insert-nuts-type-d-m6-x-13mm-50-pack/59937?tc=FT5&ds_kid=92700048793290424&ds_rl=1249413&gclid=CjwKCAiAl4WABhAJEiwATUnEF9ANDQAAe2E2B1vPA6gixq81FchjRY5vERGD0ha61iFtP1IEJ7NwEBoCO8lQAvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds)

- d) 3 off 50mm M6 connector screws. (on larger ones I used 4 and 6 screws - would use longer screws next time to accommodate thicker items)

[https://www.screwfix.com/p/bright-zinc-plated-steel-joint-connector-bolts-bzp-m6-x-45mm-50-pack/64094?tc=FT5&ds\\_kid=92700048793290424&ds\\_rl=1249413&gclid=CjwKCAiAl4WABhAJEiwATUnEF0k5KxbgWl1aa1oIvLkVfRj6JWVJo4osRq14kSuFUT9DOAWOyPrntxoCS5wQAvD\\_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds](https://www.screwfix.com/p/bright-zinc-plated-steel-joint-connector-bolts-bzp-m6-x-45mm-50-pack/64094?tc=FT5&ds_kid=92700048793290424&ds_rl=1249413&gclid=CjwKCAiAl4WABhAJEiwATUnEF0k5KxbgWl1aa1oIvLkVfRj6JWVJo4osRq14kSuFUT9DOAWOyPrntxoCS5wQAvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds)

- e) Some 120-150mm wood screws to facilitate assembly
- f) Some suitable glue to attach the spigot to the back plate - think I may have used a 2 part epoxy on these ones.
- g) A 5mm diameter drill bit approx 50mm long for alignment

## Tools

- a) Band saw to cut out 2 off plywood discs
- b) Lathe and chuck with dovetail jaws
- c) Pilar drill
- d) Allen keys
- e) Brad point drill bits - 2mm, 6.5mm, 7mm for T-nuts, (or 8 mm for D-nuts, a countersink)

- f) A spindle gouge for trueing up the outside
- g) A parting tool for hollowing out the front plate & a skew to tidy up the opening
- h) For the sphere holding adaptation I used a 3/8 bowl gouge to hollow out the back plate and the back of the front plate.

## Safety

- a) Need to be careful not to hit the connector screws or the T-nuts when tidying up the outside and cutting the bolts in the front plate; not such a problem with D-Nuts as they are slimmer.
- b) Don't run the lathe too fast,
- c) Make sure the connector screws don't protrude too far past the back of the back plate (see photo 6) and keep tools/finger etc., well away.

## Other tips

- Whilst on the lathe, mark up concentric circles on the back plate as this will assist in getting your piece central in the doughnut chuck.
- Use something soft between the piece and the rim of the doughnut to avoid marking it. On small chucks Gord's solution of tubing is too stiff, I would use masking tape or similar.
- Using the 50mm assembly screws limits the height of item that can be held (see photo 8 below). At Some point I intend to buy some longer screws to increase the range of items I can use this on.
- It can be useful to make several of the front plates with different size openings in them to accommodate a range of differing size/shape pieces rather than making multiple complete chucks.



*Photo 8*

# Longworth Chuck

One type of work holding that interested many 'Zoomers' last month was the Longworth Chuck and in particular the possibility of a DIY version. **Colin Gibson** remembered that there had been an article in woodturning and contacted their editorial team to gain agreement for reproducing it here. He has since been given that agreement from the publishers as long as we give appropriate credits.

So, very many thanks to both Colin and Jonathan Grogan from 'Woodturning' – this article came from their Issue 212. The article was written by **Walter Hall**.

Walter creates an improvement on the original design of the Longworth Chuck and discusses tips and techniques for using your own design easily and effectively

I first became aware of the Longworth chuck designed by the late Mr. Longworth of the Hunter Valley

Woodturning Club, New. South Wales, Australia, when I was looking for an inexpensive way of reversing bowls on the lathe without the inconvenience of removing the dovetail jaws from my chuck and replacing them with Cole Jaws. You then had to adjust the buttons on the Cole jaws to fit the bowl, an operation that involved a minimum of 16 fastening or unfastening operations using an allen key if you need to move the buttons.

Of course. I could just make up jam chucks in the time honoured way, but having to make a jam chuck for every individual bowl soon becomes a bit of a chore especially if like me you never make the same size bowl twice

Internet research threw up a couple of articles describing the making of Longworth chucks. Whilst these articles provided instructions that would enable the manufacture of a chuck, I felt that the chucks produced fell short of what I wanted in a number of areas.

## Design Considerations

Options for the rubber buttons included walking stick rubbers, wine corks and doorstops, all intended to reduce cost, but none gripped as well as commercially made buttons. The buttons were held in place by bolts and wing nuts, exposing revolving metal parts which I felt could cause injury. The axle of the chucks used a woodscrew which was not an ideal solution, as later adjustment could slacken the grip of the woodscrew.

It is important to give thought when setting out to the pivot points for the router. When I came to cut the last slot I found I had a slot where the pivot point should be and found myself having to improvise with a wedge in the slot.

Apart from hand tools you will need a protractor, a large pair of compasses and a router fitted with a 6mm (1/4in) cutter as well as a circle cutting jig.

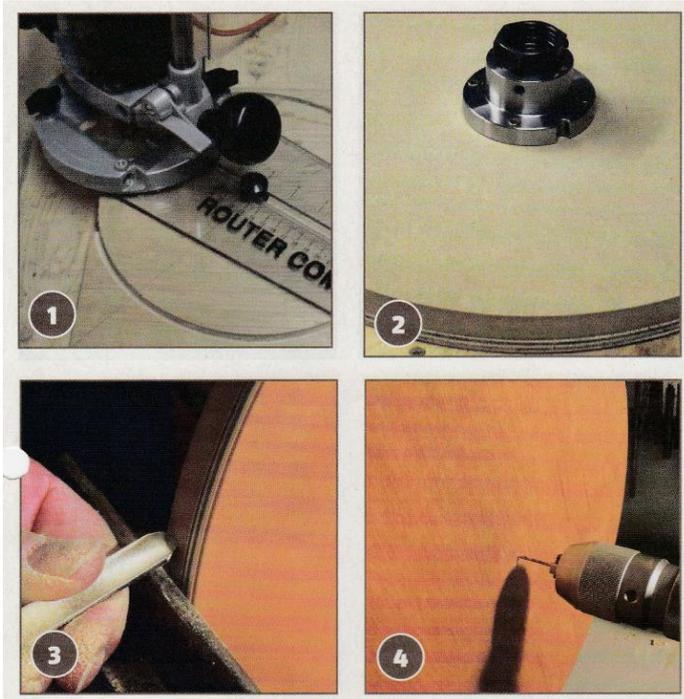
Components required are 9mm plywood and 15mm MDF large enough to cut the discs - sized to suit your lathe - a backplate to attach to the lathe spindle (an old faceplate is probably the best), a set of buttons from Vicmarc, Axminster or similar, cap head bolts, washers, a Nyloc locking nut, plus knobs and woodscrews to attach the faceplate to the chuck body.

I made a prototype of the original design to ascertain whether the improvements I planned would be feasible, from materials I had available in the workshop or was able to obtain very cheaply. It became clear that building a chuck with eight full length slots would result in a structure that was weakened near the hub of the chuck, so I decided to incorporate four full-length slots and four shorter ones, so that four buttons could be used for small bowls and a further four added when a larger item was to be held.

*The concept is quite simple – a pair of disks rotate against each other drawing in, or out, eight rubber 'jaws' on a series of opposing arcs. Yep, it's that simple.*

Using the prototype I tested buttons from Axminster and Vicmarc along with some of the cheaper options and decided that the Vicmarc buttons, which are square with a concave curve on two faces and a convex curve on the other two, afforded the best grip on the bowl.

I planned to resolve the safety issue of spinning wing nuts by providing guarding, but any structure to restrict access would add considerable inconvenience when tightening the buttons and would restrict maximum bowl size that could be held in the chuck. I decided instead to use small 22mm diameter thumbscrew knobs to replace the wing nuts. These might still give your knuckles a rap if you get in the way of them but they are less likely to take a chunk out of your finger. The bolt heads on the face of the chuck were not a problem with the Vicmarc or Axminster buttons as they were recessed into the face.

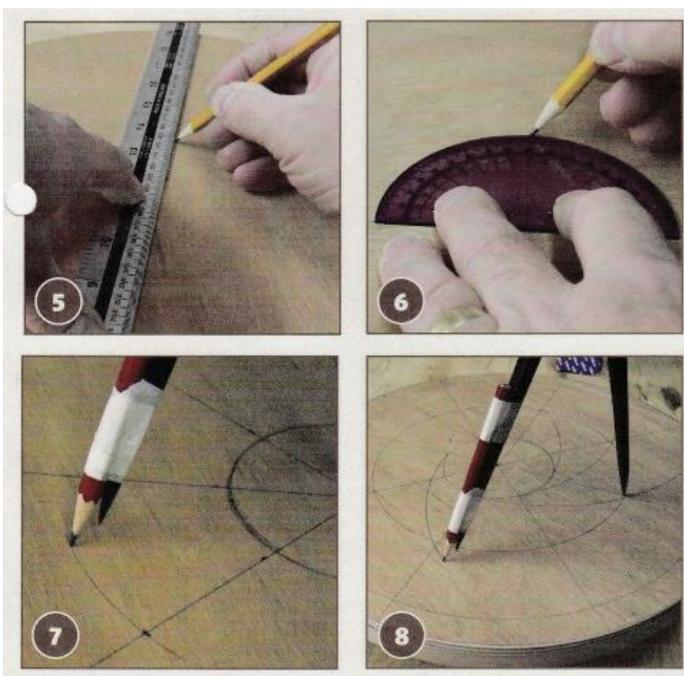


1 Firstly, using a router fitted with a 6mm (1/4in) straight bit and a suitable circle cutting jig, cut discs from the plywood and MDF to a size appropriate to the swing of your lathe. This can also be done using a bandsaw, if you prefer this method

2 The next step is to pin the two discs together using panel pins - within 20mm (3/4in) of the edges to avoid getting in the way when cutting the slots - find the centre and mount the faceplate that will be used to attach the chuck to the lathe

3 Mount the assembly on the lathe and true up the edge of the discs

4 With a chuck mounted in the tailstock drill a small 1.5mm-2mm (1/16-5/16in) pilot hole to mark the centre



5. With a pencil and ruler mark a line across the diameter of the discs

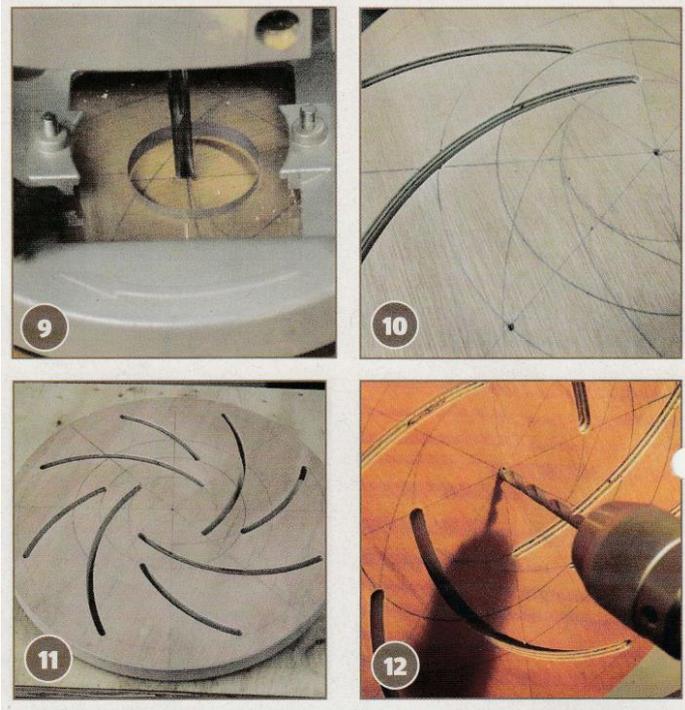
6 And mark diameters at 45 degrees and 90 degree to first using a protractor

7 Draw three circles, the first slightly greater than the size of the faceplate, the second 20mm (3/4 in) from the edge of the disc, and the third halfway between.

8 With the point of the compasses centered at the points where the middle circle and the diameters intersect, draw arcs at a tangent to the inner circle to a point where they reach the outer circle.

## Handy Hints

- *The backing is MDF but suitable alternatives could be good quality birch ply or corian.*
- *Metal workers may want to try making a steel or aluminium version of the chuck*
- *It is a good idea to use a faceplate with interchangeable inserts so you can swap the chuck between different lathes*
- *Experiment with other items for the rubbers. Different rubbers provide different types of grip*
- *A flat washer under each rubber helps adjust the chuck more easily.*

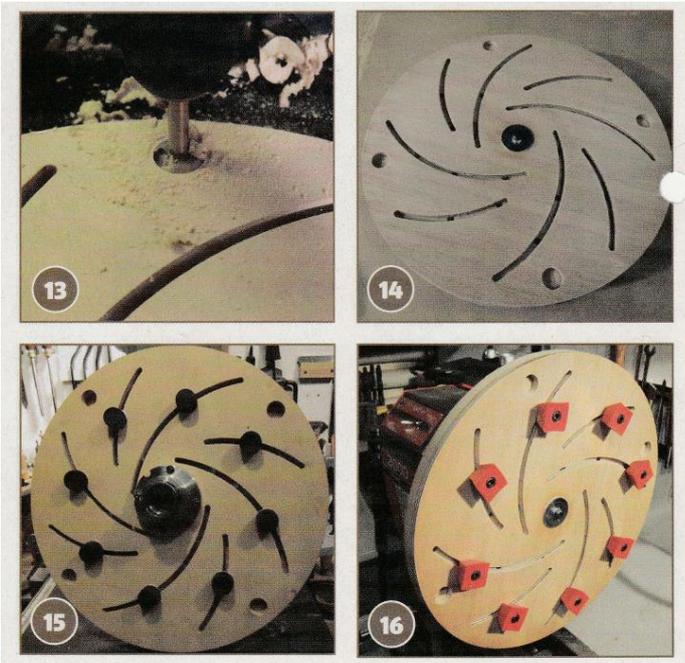


9. With the pivot point of the router centered # on the same points as used to mark out, cut a slot the full length of the drawn arc. Take shallow cuts to avoid putting excessive stress on the 6mm (1/4 in) bit.

10. The next slot should stop halfway between the middle and center circles. Marking a fourth circle will make this point easier to judge

11 Continue in this way until all the slots have been cut

12 Remount the assembly on the lathe and drill a 6mm (1/4in) hole right through for the axle bolt



13 With a pillar drill and Forstner bit drill finger holes through both discs 20mm (3/4 in) from the edge at four points around the perimeter

14 S Separate the two discs and remove the panel pins. Reverse the front disc and place it against the back disc so that the routed arcs cross each other. Fit the axle bolt and adjust so the discs move easily

15 Fit the rubber buttons using the 6 50mm (1/4in x 2in) cap head bolts. thumb screws and washers. Placing a washer between each rubber and the face of the chuck will enable them to slide more easily

16 The improved Longworth chuck is now complete

## Alternative designs:

Using 4 buttons to hold smaller items. If required an Allen key can be used to hold the cap head bolts whilst the thumb screws are tightened. The cheaper prototype version, which has been made in a smaller size to fit my Axminster M300 lathe, is made using a spare Axminster chuck insert instead of a faceplate as a mounting, and uses wing nuts instead of the safer thumbscrew knobs. The buttons are made from cut down demijohn bungs recessed to house the cap head screws.

## Top Tips

1. As with any chuck, keep your fingers out of the way of projecting parts, especially the fastenings on the back of the chuck. Even with thumbscrew knobs, getting hit with them hurts. If you have used wing nuts they can cause serious injury.
2. Always let the chuck come to a stop naturally, do not use your hand to slow it down.
3. When sanding or refinishing the bottom of the workpiece it is very important that you ensure to keep your fingers and any polishing cloths, etc. well clear of the rubbers.
4. The Longworth chuck is intended for reverse mounting bowls so that chucking mounts, etc. can be removed. Do not be tempted to use it for purposes for which it was not intended, such as hollowing the inside of bowls.
5. Do not use excessive lathe speed, Remember the chuck is large and its peripheral velocity will be high. Also, high speeds will increase the likelihood of damage or injury in the event of the work detaching itself from the chuck.
6. The more fixing rubbers there are in place the better the chuck will grip. Always use all eight fixing rubbers whenever possible, only removing the outer four when the bowl is too small to be gripped with them in place.
7. Make sure that the rubbers are butted tight up against the workpiece before tightening the thumbscrews or wing nuts in place
8. Do not over-tighten the rubbers against the workpiece as you may cause it to crack or split.
9. Make sure your gouges and chisels are sharp and,
10. ...take only light cuts. A Longworth chuck does not hold the workpiece with as firm a grip as the dovetail jaws or a scroll chuck, so overenthusiastic cuts may cause the work to detach itself from the chuck.

Here are a few more websites that offer instructions on how to make the Longworth that you might find helpful: Thanks to Mark Aizicowitz

<https://www.carbatec.com.au/article/266/how-to-make-a-longworth-chuck>

<http://www.woodworkersinstitute.com/page.asp?p=1417>

<http://www.morewoodturning.net/articles/longworth.php> <http://woodcentral.com/cgi->

## Members Projects

### Three legged milking stool – Chris Squires

An exercise in copy turning



I chose a piece of cherry to create the seat, using a band saw and sanding machine. A range of sand papers 120 up to 400 grit then bees wax polish to seal and finish.

A pillar drill with a tilting table was used to achieve the angles for the legs to stand.

I am not quite sure the sort of the timber I used for the legs but it has the appearance of teak. I used a pattern stick to mark up the legs in order to create the legs as even and similar to each. To form each leg I used, parting tool, skew chisel, roughing gouge and spindle gouge.

Inside callipers were also used when creating even diameters of the legs throughout.

The three leg stool becomes a very stable item to sit on, distributing the body weight evenly through the legs.

You are most welcome to get in touch regarding my wooden stool.

Chris Squires

## Segmented Piece – Tony Taylor

I made this piece a while ago, but thought it might arouse some interest in segmented work.

It is intended to be purely decorative, though it could be used as a bowl. It is 11 inches in diameter and is made up of 5 rings each with 12 segments of alternating Iroko and Cherry.



Segmented pieces like this require a proper drawing to be made and some quite simple trigonometry to calculate the dimensions of the pieces.

In construction the chief difficulty is to cut the segments at precisely the correct angles – the slightest error is multiplied by the number of segments and so results in unacceptable gaps in the joints. No amount of forcing will conceal such errors.

The segments are best cut on the table saw with the use of a sledge jig. Trial half rings are made to get the angles exact.

Segmented work is popular in the USA and there are plenty of YouTube videos and books available describing the methods in detail.

## "Merlin's Flask" - Teraina Hird

A hollow form in two halves with a 12mm entry hole.

Originally turned from green horse chestnut, coloured with Hampshire Sheen Intrinsic Forest Green & Midnight Blue overlaid with Chestnut Products Rainbows Colours Blue & Green.

Finished with Chestnut Products acrylic sanding sealer & acrylic high gloss lacquer.

Polished with Yorkshire Grit Microfine and waxed.



## Some Chairman's Lockdown Activities!

So what has your chairman been up to during lockdown? Most recently I have been kept busy with turning a replacement for a broken drawer knob on an antique chest of drawers belonging to a friend. Making a copy knob to match the original is always a challenge but I was fairly pleased with the result.



The original drawer knob (left) and the replacement turned from Walnut (right)  
A relative gave me some lengths of Laburnum trunk from a tree that had died in 2020 but was only felled in January this year, At first sight this looked only fit for the wood-burning stove with the bark and outer white secondary wood very soft and decomposed. However work with a wire brush and a rasp plus some roughing down on the lathe revealed some beautifully figured heart-wood. I have soaked the pieces in Borax solution (to keep fungi and insects at bay) and coated the ends with End Seal and am hoping that eventually, after air drying, the resulting wood will be good for boxes, light-pulls and pens.



The Laburnum as given (above left), and after preparation (above right)

# Notes from Chestnut Products

*On the subject of tips and hints, many times I have found difficulty in removing the lids from tins of oils, varnishes etc. One technique that does not involve using a mole wrench is to put two pieces cut from a plastic bag between the tin and the lid – this still gives a good seal to exclude air but makes it a lot easier to undo the lid later..*

*This month again I chose a couple of things from the Chestnut Newsletter. I have edited them slightly to reduce space but all info comes from Chestnut. Allen*

## Finish for an outdoor sign?

Acrylic Lacquer is probably not a good choice but it does depend on how exposed it was however the finish could deteriorate very quickly. The better choice would be Acrylic Gloss Lacquer, the aerosol one, as the resins used in that are very hard wearing and able to stand up to much harsher treatment. A clean up and recoat would probably still be required in the medium term, but it will stay looking good a lot longer.

## Cross contamination of segmented work when sanding

Certainly, the harder the woods the less this will be a problem as there would be not too many open pores to get contaminated.

A good suggestion was that, assuming the blank has been constructed before turning, have a practice run first on the un-turned surfaces to see if there is a problem. Generally sharp tools are a must, as they will reduce the need for sanding, and the abrasive should be new and sharp. The use of Tack Cloth, and good extraction, will help to avoid mechanically rubbing debris into the wood.

## Decorative finish for Ash?

Applying Ebonising Lacquer to an open grained timber such as ash, and then putting Gilt Cream on top, is a popular and highly effective way to decorate an item. So much so that Chestnut have made a short YouTube video about it. If a different background colour is wanted? It's pretty simple really, the same process can be used but substituting the Ebonising Lacquer for Spirit Stain. This works very well, but the best results are achieved by using a sealer or lacquer after the stain, before applying the Gilt Cream.

The reason this works so well is that the sealer/lacquer fills the tiny pores of the timber, so that the Gilt Cream doesn't fill these as well; it only goes into the open grain areas, and gives a more dramatic effect. Think of it like this; the Ebonising Lacquer colours and seals in one product, but the stains need to be used in conjunction with a sealer or lacquer to do the same thing.

<https://chestnutproducts.co.uk/chestnut-products-videos/>

The link above is to Chestnuts main video page – they do I think produce some excellent videos and is worth a check.

## Which sanding sealer under a varnish?

it's always hard to say, but Chestnut always suggest the go-to product for this is the Cellulose Sanding Sealer. It's easy to use, and pretty much universal – there aren't many products that it won't stick to, or that won't stick to it. Always recommend a test piece first, of course, but would be very surprised if there was a reaction.

# Woodturning sessions on-line

Apart from our own Zoom sessions there are others that members might want to participate in. If you do come across any others one that look useful please let me know and I will include the details in next month's Woodbits. As Tim noted at the beginning of this newsletter, there are many turners and also clubs offering Zoom and YouTube sessions now. I will try to keep track of recommended ones here in the newsletter and by email but you may want to register with some of these directly to ensure you get reminders and details delivered straight into your inbox.

## Chestnut Products CONKERS sessions

Dates already published for these free sessions

24 February 2021  
19 March 2021  
12 April 2021  
12 May 2021  
2 June 2021

Check out their website and sign up if you want reminders and updates

<https://chestnutproducts.co.uk/conkers-live/>

-----ooOOOoo-----

## Meet the Woodturner – Pat Carroll

Meet the woodturner; interviews with Q&A sessions by Pat Carroll. Pat interviews a well-known woodturner about their journey and career in woodturning. Very enjoyable and interesting sessions, where you get to know the person behind the woodturning. These sessions are free to view but you need to sign up for them and this can be done by email to [meetthewoodturner@gmail.com](mailto:meetthewoodturner@gmail.com)

Pat Carrol also does interactive wood turning demos these are **pay to view**, details and sign up can be done through Pats website at <https://www.patcarrollwoodturning.com/> under the events section.

-----ooOOOoo-----

## AWGB Talking Turning Online Sessions

The sessions have changed focus and AWGB will be talking about various turning subjects and having Q&A during the sessions. These are all free of charge to anyone wanting to participate and you can connect from almost any internet enabled device. Check out the link below.

<https://www.awgb.co.uk/talking-turning-zoom-sessions/>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Please register in advance to ensure you receive the email with meeting details.

The meetings are at 7:30pm GMT every Tuesday and Friday evening. We will open the meeting at 7:15pm to allow everyone time to get connected before the meeting.

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## Record Power free interactive demonstrations

It is difficult to keep up with their new demos here when this newsletter is published only once per month.

Record Power are arranging many demonstrations and the best way to keep up is to register yourself directly with them to receive your invites and up to date lists of what is happening. Don't forget to check the time in our own time zone as some of these are international,

**Simply send an email with RSVP in the subject line to [miked@recordpower.co.uk](mailto:miked@recordpower.co.uk) – and they will reserve a spot for you. Your log in details will be sent in return.**

-----ooOOoo-----

Other on-line sessions are running including our own Zoom sessions together with Middlesex and North London Woodturning clubs. Details of these are sent to each member.

-----ooOOoo-----

# For sale and wanted

This is left in from last months as most items may well still be unsold.

This is a selection (below) of woodworking tools by a keen DIY enthusiast and some items are hardly used

If you want more details, please feel free to give me a ring

I am working on behalf of the family helping to clear personal effects

Steve Beadle

Steve Beadle1960@Hotmail.co.uk



Work zone Wet and dry bench grinder £30



Clarke 190 mm bandsaw model CBS 190 £70 (nearly new)





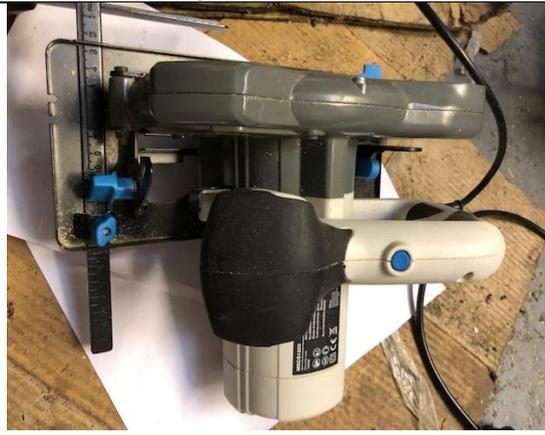
Various turning chisels £8 each or 3 for £20



Various turning chisels £8 each or 3 for £20



Various turning chisels £8 each or 3 for £20



Circular saw MSCS 1200watt £10



Clarks dust extractor model CWVE1 £70 (nearly new)



Record hand plane £8



Work zone 1250 W router-6 mm £25 (nearly new)



Hand sander £8



Black & Decker hand sander £8



Clarke woodworker over and under planer (nearly new) £100



Hand electrical player £8



Work Zone 6 mm router bit set £10 (unused)



Black & Decker light duty 6 mm router £10



Work zone table router £25 (nearly new)



Nearly new unused chisels £10



Record DML300 24inch between centres in working condition but no tool rest but they are available from record free to first timers wanting to try woodturning or open to offers

# Poetry Corner

THE WEEKEND OF 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY OF TELEVISED CRICKET INDIA / ENGLAND TEST MATCH AND RUGBY SIX NATIONS - THE END OF THE SPORTS FAMINE

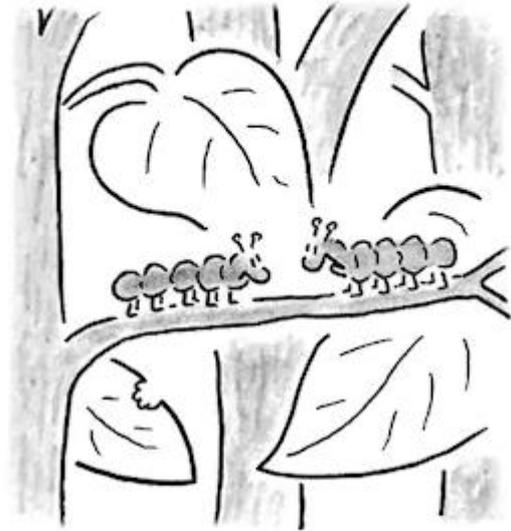
This weekend's sport ended the famine  
For all to watch and close examine  
First was cricket in India's heat haze  
Not indoor cueing on soft green baize  
But outdoor batting, no dominant ball  
A better spectacle one can't recall  
Switch to rugby's twinned tall posts  
Saw both England and Wales acting hosts  
Calcutta's Cup was not at Chennai  
Instead at Twickenham's chill, no scottish sky  
The celtic challenge came at Cardiff's dream  
But with silent empty arena, crowd unseen  
Despite no welsh hymns to be heard  
In the land of rugby's sweet sung song bird  
And the Gallic / Eu oval ball fix  
In med sea sunshine to complete the six  
Such a weekend of player's endeavour  
Applauded by viewer's pleasure to savour  
Breaking the tedium of lockdown pressure  
With memories to keep in the mind for ever

Martin Sexton 7th February 2021

To break our tedium from lockdown

And finally..

I hope the Daily Telegraph will forgive me reproducing a cartoon from last week. It does seem very pertinent to the times.



*'And then, after months, they  
emerge from lockdown  
looking fatter, hairier and  
much worse than before'*