

Vendor Spotlight: Wood Turnings by Cynthia

Since 1978, Cynthia Ellis has been turning colorful wood into tools that are as useful as they are beautiful. Every piece she creates is original—no kits, no patterns—just designs that evolve straight from her imagination.

One of her newest innovations is the redesigned combo stiletto/edge presser tool. With its squared top edge and flat backside, it works not only as a stiletto but also as a “dry iron” right beside your sewing machine—a clever twist that quilters love.



Turning colorful wood into useful, beautiful tools since 1978.



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Cynthia is also known for her unique magnetic pin holders—what she calls *pin thimbles*, *cups*, and *goblets*. Instead of cushions, these feature powerful hidden magnets beneath a soft pad that keep pins secure, even from a tumble. The smaller *pin thimble* even has a second magnet in its base, so it can attach vertically to a metal surface like a filing cabinet, sewing cart, or fridge—or to a steel washer placed anywhere you want it. Don’t be fooled by its size—it easily holds 20+ pins!

And then there are her clever *MagneDots*. Originally designed to keep her potholder handy on the fridge, customers quickly discovered an even more ingenious use—safely separating razor-sharp rotary cutter blades. “Okay, what’s a rotary cutter?” Cynthia recalls asking at her first big quilt show in 2009. A quick lesson later, she realized she’d invented a safer way to handle blades long before refrigerators stopped being magnet-friendly!

Her hand-sewing needle threader tool has also been winning fans everywhere. At the Augusta, Maine Quilt Show this summer, dozens sold in a flash. It’s powerful enough to thread two strands of 50-weight Aurifil—yes, even two different colors—into a John James size 11 quilter’s sharp needle.

From seam rippers to scissors holders, magnetic pin tools to kitchen gadgets, nearly everything pictured on Cynthia’s card is a one-of-a-kind treasure. Each piece is shaped, refined, and polished with care, making them tools that bring both beauty and joy to everyday stitching.

Be sure to stop by and meet Cynthia in person at the Cheshire Quilters’ Guild Quilt Show 2025. She’ll be happy to show you how her tools work, share the stories behind them, and help you find just the right piece to add beauty and ease to your quilting. Who knows—you might walk away with your new favorite tool (and a smile)!