

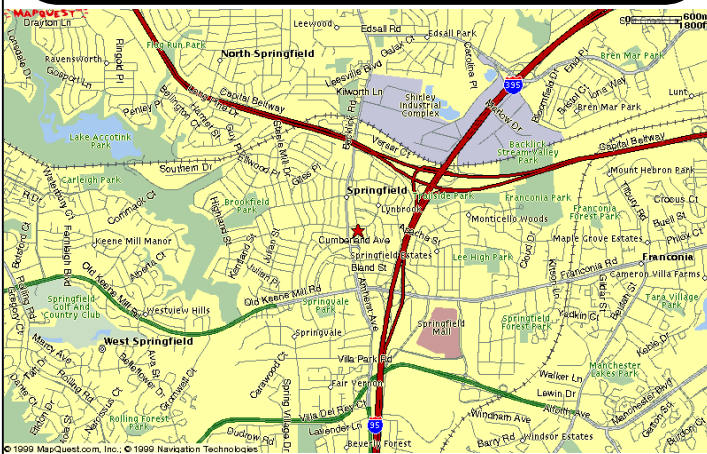
The CAW Newsletter

The CAW Newsletter is the official publication of the Capital Area Woodturners Chapter of the AAW, and is published for the information of its members. Membership in the CAW Chapter is open to anyone interested in the art and craft of woodturning.

Meeting Announcement:

Date: May 11, 2000
Time: 6:30 — 9:30 PM
Place: Woodcraft Supply
 6123 Backlick Rd..
 Springfield, VA 22150

DIRECTIONS TO THE MEETING: Take I-395 or the I-495 Capital Beltway south toward Richmond. Get onto I-95 going south. Get off at the **very first exit**, Route 644, Old Keene Mill Rd. going west. One short block later (just past the Carpet store) turn right onto Backlick Rd.. Go through two stop lights. Turn right into the Concord Shopping Center parking lot. Woodcraft is fifth shop in the row.



Program For The Month

6:30 pm The normal hour of skill enhancement/practice on the lathes or talking over problems and techniques with your fellow woodturners.

7:30 pm A short business meeting, (plenty of opportunities to save money), another rousing Show & Tell session (so bring in your best work), and announcements of coming activities. After a short break, Tim & Sheryl Kochman will conduct a discussion with all the members about what kind of a program we want them to pursue for the coming year. Please come prepared to give your advice and ideas about:

- ◆ **What specific demonstrators should we try to get**
- ◆ **What techniques do you want to see demonstrated**
- ◆ **What tools do you want to see put to use**
- ◆ **What materials do you want to have explained**
 - wood, finishes, sandpapers, sealers, etc.
- ◆ **What equipment do you want discussed**
 - lathes, jigs, bandsaws, vacuums, lighting, protective gear, powere carvesr/sanders, etc.

You'll Get What You Ask for !!!



Photograph taken by Bob Marshall

Don Johnson's Informative Demonstration

We all react to demonstrations differently. Some we walk away from thinking, "Well that was interesting, but I'll probably never try that." Others we go home thinking, "I've got to try that sometime." And after others, we begin thinking immediately, "When can I get on the lathe and try to make one of those!"

As pictured above, during the April meeting, Don Johnson gave an interesting demo on making small, tightly fitted; lidded boxes, with a contrasting wood insert and finial on the top. It was one of those demos that I believe most walked away from saying to themselves, "I have just GOT TO try that."

Don's demo was very straight forward, and showed that anyone can make his gorgeous boxes. He shared his tips about how to proceed with the setup, wood selection, router attachment tools, vice use, making an insert template, and many other helpful hints. We were late getting started on Don's demo because there were so many interesting pieces to be discussed on the Show&Tell table, but Don took all that in stride, made sure that we saw him turn a beautiful box from start to finish, and still finished up in time to get us all out of there before the lights were turned off.

Well done Don and thanks a lot.

P.S. I hope Don gets a call from other local chapters to demo for them. I think everyone would benefit from seeing Don's techniques and products.

A Message From the President

Hello everyone, I hope you have been able to "turn" to your hearts content. Some turners make the time no matter how much work they have done during the day....., right Don? And of course some of the members are fortunate to be retired and have plenty of time to spend time in the shop/studio....(don't we wish we were in that situation?). And we can't forget those that turn for a living (that sure sounds like a good situation too).

No matter what your circumstances, I sure hope your were able to spend some quality time on a lathe. Time on a lathe pays off big dividends in developing and improving your skill level, not to mention producing really neat things to give away, display in your home or sell to someone that really would like to have what you made. Don't forget to ask around if there is someone you would like to get together with, and check into the mentor program for some one on one training sessions. For those that can make it to the skill enhancement workshop with CA Savoy and Dick Krehling once a month, that is a great day of turning with some valuable training.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank-you to Kim McClaran, and John Shapard for volunteering to help Merryll Saylan set up during the Smithsonian Craft Show. She expressed much gratitude for the volunteer help. It is members like you that make our organization a great one and recognized around the country. Again, thanks.

Well, the National Symposium scheduled for the end of June in Charlotte, North Carolina is just around the corner. For those that are attending, be sure to get your reservations in. If you have not been to one, I assure you it is an event to behold and be a part of. You won't regret it, you may be overwhelmed and suffer from sensory overload but I think I can safely say that you will enjoy every minute of it.

I'm not sure what Tim and Sheryl has scheduled this month but I'm sure it will be another great program. Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting, don't forget to bring your new projects for show and tell. Till then, do a good turn.

Ray Inaba

Craft Supplies Order.

Anyone wishing to place an order with Craft Supplies through Dick Krehling, please bring your order, along with money or a check, to the May meeting. Dick also hopes to have the Anchor Seal bulk supplies at the meeting. So, if you placed an order with Dick, please bring your money for that. Dick still believes the going rate is about \$35 for 5 gallons.

CAW Skill Enhancement Workshop

The CAW Skill Enhancement Workshop will be held on Tuesday, May 30th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Woodcraft Store, 6123 Backlick Road, Springfield, VA. If you have a particular type of turning, finishing, texturing problem, etc. that you would like to learn more about, call C.A. Savoy (703-765-7268) in advance so he can make arrangements to honor your request, if possible.

Tape Library news

The generosity of the AAW has expanded our tape library with 5 tapes from the 1994-96 AAW symposia, as well as Rus Hurt's tape on bowl turning. Thanks AAW! (This donation brings our collection to 70!)

I would like to offer our sincere gratitude to Steve Nesmiller who has been a valuable member of the Tape Library Management Team (TLMT) for almost two years. After a recent promotion, the Air Force is transferring Steve to California. He and his wife, Laura, will be moving this summer. Thanks Steve, and we wish you good turning out West!

We welcome another Air Force officer to the TLMT...Gerald Headley. He has actually been on duty for several months already, and will soon take over as the leader of the TLMT.

If anybody else is interested in joining our dynamic TLMT, please let me know...we sure could use some more help.

**PLEASE REMEMBER:
RETURN YOUR TAPES ON TIME!**

Jayne Hart (9018 Hamilton Dr., Fairfax, Va 22031)

CAW Officer Roster

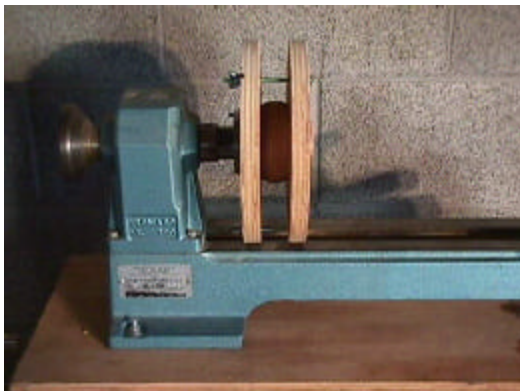
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Compression Chuck



This is a jig I have made in the past for other lathes I have owned, and have been meaning to make for my current machines. I finally got a round tuit. I hope this is helpful for all you bowl turners out there. The nice thing about this jig is that it can be made for pennies, assuming you have a faceplate, and most lathes come with at least one faceplate that is usually WAY too big for the lathe it came with, it makes good use of a piece of equipment that usually gets stuffed in a drawer and forgotten.

The proper name for this thing is a compression chuck. It compresses a bowl, plate, or other turning between two plywood disks, the outer disk having an access hole cut in the center. This is version 1.0. There are any number of improvements or modifications one can make to suit his or her own purposes. The one pictured here is on a Vicmarc mini. There is no good way to reverse chuck a bowl on a mini lathe that is commercially available, so homemade chucks fill the void. An added benefit to this chuck is that it is safe, in that if it is used properly, there is virtually no chance of the bowl coming loose and flying against the wall into a million pieces (or more than one piece anyway). This is a long shot of the business end of the chuck. You can see the bottom of the bowl sticking out through the hole in the chuck. I used a piece of 3/4" plywood, but on smaller bowls, a piece of 1/2" ply would work fine. I don't know that I'd want to try with 1/4".



Here is a side view.

PLEASE NOTE THE ORIENTATION OF THE CARRIAGE BOLTS.

I do not want a letter from you, or more importantly, from your lawyer, bemoaning the loss of your hand if you made this thing backwards. The carriage bolts have the part sticking out towards the headstock, minimizing the protrusion on the side your hand goes on. You will have enough to do making sure your fingers do not get splinters from the ply without having to worry about spinning wing nuts.

Building the chuck is fairly straightforward. First, find a faceplate. If you can dedicate one to this, it is good because then you won't have centering issues later on. Even if you can't, there is enough slop in the system that if the chuck is a little out of round it won't hurt the finished product. Next, determine the maximum diameter your lathe will handle, and cut a series of plywood disks to roughly round on a bandsaw, jigsaw, or whatever. NOTE: some idiots will make the plywood disk as big as the swing, and when they go to put it on the lathe, it won't turn because it is too big. Leave yourself some room. Doggonit

Center the faceplate on one disk, and fasten it with screws. Sheet metal or good quality woodworking screws are the best. Avoid drywall screws. They are brittle and will snap if there is a catch of sufficient force. Mount the assembly on the lathe and true up the edge. If your faceplate is not true, you may want to make this base plate from solid wood so that you can true the face as well. A little out of round is not going to hurt, as most bowls are out of round by the time they get this far anyway

After the first disk is running true, drill and bolt a second disk onto it. Again, PAY ATTENTION to where the bolts are sticking out. I usually buy the shortest bolts I can find for this part. I got 2 1/2" by 1/4" carriage bolts from Home Depot for \$0.07 each. True up the edge of the second disk to match the first. Now you are ready to cut your doughnut hole.

Different sizes and shapes of bowls will require different sized holes, which is why you should make up three or four outer disks. Then you will have them for that application that doesn't fit the current tool. Cut the hole using a parting tool. If you start out small, you can always make the hole a little bigger. Smaller is a lot harder to do. I undercut the hole somewhat, forming a round dovetail. This holds better with less trauma to your newly sanded bowl side. Make sure the dovetail is sloping IN and not out. In other words, you want the larger diameter inside the chuck and not outside. Don't worry if your parting tool scores the face of the inner disk.

Now you are ready to mount the bowl. With this style chuck, a little trial and error is in order. Center the bowl as best you can by eye and run the lathe. Unless you are very, very good, or very lucky, it probably is not running true. Stop the machine and adjust the bowl. Once you have it running to your satisfaction, you are ready to start cutting. Tighten the carriage bolts down to make the bowl snug. You do not want to squash the thing to the point of breaking, but you do want the force to be as even as possible across the disk. This will help prevent the thing from slipping while cutting. Cut away with the tool of your choice. Just remember, you need to get your big fat fingers in there to sand, and a skinny little gouge goes a lot further in that your fingers will. Gouges also do not feel pain when they come in contact with spinning plywood. (My apologies to anyone offended by "big fat fingers". I have big fat fingers, and personally I don't know anyone who has a finger the size of a 1/4" gouge that is big enough to turn on a lathe.) Sand to the finish you desire, and "Walla" as my daughter says - you are done.

There are a few additional comments to be made. The jig can be padded on either or both disks with rubber. The thin router pads work well for this. If you use a thick piece of solid wood for your base disk, you can taper it to aid in centering the bowl. If you keep several lengths of bolts on hand, you can do different thicknesses of bowls without having to wait for the hardware store to open the next morning. Three bolts is sufficient for this application. Make an index mark on the disks so that you get them in the same place every time.



A close up view of the bowl to be turned. This particular bowl was chucked internally, making it very difficult to finish off between centers with a jam chuck. The compression chuck makes it relatively easy.



At left is the finished product. Depending on the resolution of your screen, you can see that something did happen, and the bottom is now smooth and round instead of rough. The drill hole in the center is now gone as well.

Author unknown

Best Finish for a Cutting Board

Answer: MINERAL OIL!

The second best choice, for what it's worth, is to use nothing at all. No matter what you put on the board, it's going to eventually end up in your food. There just isn't any way around that.

I was going to just leave things at that, but I'll add a few comments for those who require justification:

- **Mineral oil is non-toxic, yet will prevent water from being absorbed into the board.**
- **Studies have shown that wood contains natural qualities that reduce bacteria on cutting boards.**
- **Surface film finishes will eventually lift and end up in your food.**
- **Mineral oil costs almost nothing, and it only takes a second to recoat the board with oil.**
- **Mineral oil won't become rancid, as some vegetable oils can.**
- **No taste or odor.**
- **You can pick some up at your local pharmacy, even in the middle of the night.**
- **It doesn't make the board slippery.**

Okay, this is such a hot topic for some reason, that I'll go even further.

If you find yourself with a cutting board or butcher block that is extremely dry or porous, and you want to safely protect it from absorbing liquids, here's a good way to accomplish that:

Warm the board in the oven to around 150 degrees F. While it's still warm, paint it liberally with melted paraffin wax, until the board stops absorbing the wax. Let it cool, and then rub it well with a soft cotton cloth to remove any excess wax. Then, in the future, to touch up the board, just use the mineral oil.

Author unknown from a posting on the Internet

What To do With Shavings

A suggestion from the Internet

Whenever I turn a piece of wood of a strong color, such as ebony, pink ivory, pernumbuco, bloodwood, etc., I clean off the lathe and surrounding environs, then save the shavings in jars, like dry paint pigments. I have an old high-speed coffee grinder (like a small blender), and turn the shavings into a consistency of flour. For decoration, try turning a shallow ring recess in the piece on the lathe, then mix up a batch of epoxy and your favorite colored wood flour. Over-fill the ring with the colored epoxy, and when hardened, turn back the excess and finish as desired. Success comes from sharp, clean edges of the recess.

It might be nice to try letting the shavings dry out for a few days and then crush them or chop them up. That would keep the long fibers intact. Pack them tightly into the recess, then flood them with slow set superglue. Wait 3 minutes, then hit them with the accelerator - turn away the excess. The longer fibers would lend a visual texture to the inlay, in addition to the color.



Don Johnson, 10"W X 3"H Maple bowl with ants stenciled across



Bob Grudberg, 10"W X 5"H Red Cedar bowl



Don Johnson, 14"W X 5"H Maple bowl



C.A. Savoy, 2 Cherry Burl bowls of about 6"W X 2"H and 1 spalted Oak bowl with 7 spinning tops - one of C.A.'s signature items



Tim Kochman, results of trying out Mark Sfiri's techniques. A square edged Paduak bowl and a multi-axis Mahogany bat (center); and A 10"W X 4"H Spalted Maple bowl and another Poplar multi-axis baseball bat (right, above)



Sheryl Kochman, a sampling of birdhouses, clocks, pictures frames, barometer sets, etc. from Kingwood, Zebrawood, Walnut, Spalted Maple, and Olivewood



John Overman, a 3" X 3" Applewood lidded box



Paul Burke, a wall clock made of Purpleheart planks and a Poplar strip, for his Granddaughter, Courtney Marie



Don Riggs, 3 Dogwood bowls



Chris Light, a sampling of Chris' Table-Full-of-Goodies, feeding/washing birds, fantastical woodpecker, antique reproduction footstool (above, center) and a nesting seabird (above, right)



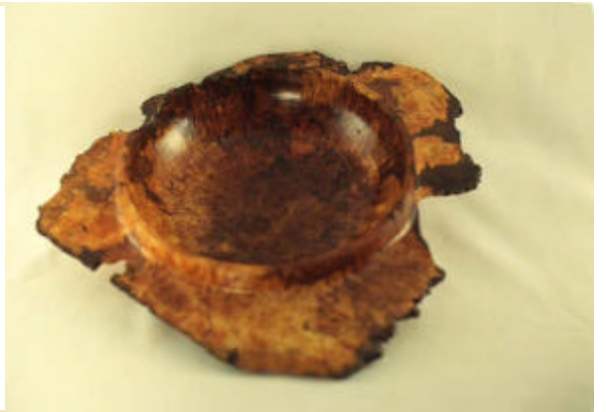


Chris Light,
(left) ebony dyed 10"
Maple bowl

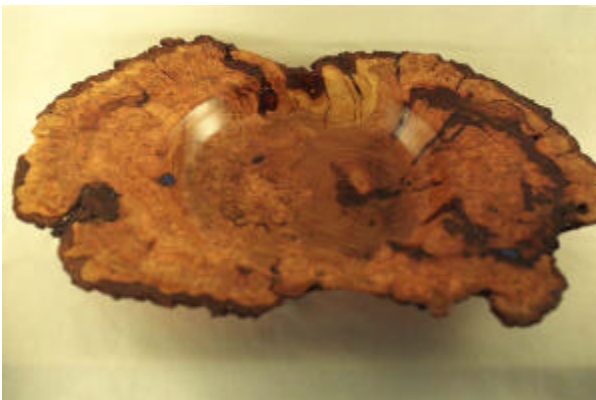
(right) , dyed pine and
Norfolk Pine bowls



(Left) Chris Light,
bathing birds and
a resting duck



(Right) Richard
Allen, 9" Bigleaf
Maple Burl



(Left) Richard
Allen, 16"W X 3"H
Cherry Burl



(Right) I'm sorry I
didn't note down
who turned this
lovely large bowl

(Below, left) Ed Hochhard, President of Chesapeake Bay Woodturners, 3 multi-axis turned bats.

(Below, center) Richard Allen, a wholly enclosed, wobbly, hollow conversation piece of Walnut, Maple, and Cherry

(Below, right) John Overman, 2 Zebrawood goblets of 8" and 6" high. One lidded Mahogany box



Jim Marstall, Secretary
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Quick, open this newsletter and see what award-winning ideas are in there for this month

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