Minnesota Woodturners
ASSOCIATION

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

Happy Holidays

Everyone!!!

President's Message

Well, this is my last article as your president. I want to truly thank all of you for all the help and support that you've given me over the last two years. Every meeting I was greeted by friendly open members who appeared to be having a lot of fun at our events.

I consider our meetings successful, with nearly 100 members showing up every month to see, for the most part, our individual members demonstrate their talents for all of us to learn from. It's amazing to me how very clever our members are deep inside their shops.

Nothing is accomplished without the work of many. We're privileged to have a membership that is committed to success. I've been amazed at how people take on responsibility at meetings to be sure the chairs are set up, equipment is moved, takedown and cleanup are handled and all spontaneously.

We've had great wood raffles and "show and tells" each meeting. One of the purposes of the meetings is to let folks see what we do. We all learn from each other in that process. .

My special thanks to Mike Hunter who took on the responsibility for arranging our professional demonstrators. He got us great talent. He also put a tremendous amount of time into creating a wonderful relationship with the University of Minnesota Fine Arts Department, which allowed us the use of that tremendous shop facility and the fine Powermatic lathe.

We will be moving forward with a new board in January. We have a very busy year ahead of us with the AAW Symposium in June of 2011. We will be working with other MN, WI and IA groups to provide the volunteer support necessary for the activities of the symposium. Committees are already defined and very soon people will be hearing about the volunteer need.

We will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the AAW in June. It will be an opportunity to see the best of the best demonstrating for us with multiple rotations so that, hopefully, we can see it all! Also, can you imagine having all the vendors available under one roof? I can hardly wait.

As we go forward into 2011, will you all please consider taking a bit of your time to give back to the club? We need to ask that of you. It doesn't have to be a big commitment. It's the little things that count like showing up a bit early to help set up chairs, or staying to push the broom after a meeting, or supporting a challenge (and winning gift certificates).

If you have an idea for a meeting we'd like to hear it, and we'd like you to help in the planning of that meeting. If you have a suggestion to solve a problem, please let us know, but help us with that solution.

We're here to have fun. We do a good job of it. Thanks again.

From the Editor

A new year is close upon us. A new slate of officers was elected at the annual Christmas party as well as some new board members. Bob Meyer is our new President and Reed Jacobs is Vice-president. Linda Ferber was appointed to the board in October to fill a vacency and has assumed to the Program Director's responsibilities. She already has the first few months programs set.

Then, as we all know, the 25th Anniversery Symposium will be here in St. Paul at the St. Paul RiverCentre. Set Friday June24th through Sunday June 26th aside because we need you. Being the host club we will be expected to provide many many volunteers. Plus if you are like me it will be about the only time I will be able to attend woodturning's premier event. For more details go to the AAW website.

Bob Jensen has agreed to be the Symposium Planning Liaison a big job. Ignoring my Naval training I volunterred to coordinate volunteers, locally and nationally. Richard Tendick has agreed to handle the spouse craft room. I will be looking for people to help in many areas. More will be coming in email blasts...the next newsletter...and on our web page.

And sorry but volunteers don't get a reduction in registration costs. We get to volunteer and pay. Cost of pre-registration? $250 for members and $310 for non-members... through May 15. After May 15, 2011 it's $300 for members and $360 for non-members. Even more after june 13. It will pay to join the AAW and pre-register if you are going to the symposium.

On another topic the proposed calendar for 2011 is on page 14. I emphasise proposed as there are sure to be changes. In fact it could be that we will add a June meeting where Wade Wendorf will explore finials. I am publishing it because it shows that there are some folks who are working hard to make this coming year an exciting one for our membership. Note that in January and February we are preparing for the AAW chapter challange. Join us. In March we will meet with the Woodworkers Guild and watch Vergil Leigh. Virgil Leigh turns whole tree trunks rescued from power company burners and wood chipper into large scale naturally finished wood art creations. You can see some of his work at http://www.virgiltree-art.com.

Earlier this year I also volunteered to assume the duties of Hands-on-coordinator for the club. We had a couple of early events several folk volunterred to host additional sessions but for various reasons they never occurred. So I am hoping to start another push. I am looking for individuals who are willing to host hands-on events. Of course there are some needs to be met. First, we have 7 traveling lathes but they don't have stands so there would need to be bench space for these lathes. Second, the space would need to be heated this time of year. Of course a sharpening station of some type would be necessary and perhaps a band saw. Whatever would be needed to support 7 or 8 turners for about 6 hours.

Finally I have to apologize to those who submitted copy for this issue. I have done run out of time and room. You will see your work next issue. Happy Holicays

Briefs

Chain Saw Blades Sharpened

Many of us own chain saws in order to process logs for bowls. If you have a chain-saw blade that needs sharpening or have one in the future give club member Doug Lindquist a call at 763-434-3920.
You can bring them to a meeting or make other arrangements.

The AAW Gallery of Wood Art will be holding its current exhibit, Maple Medley, over through the first of the year. Maple Medley was the 2010 member juried exhibit, and includes some really great examples of traditional turnings, along with pieces with more off-lathe work. Hours, directions and the exhibit catalog are on the gallery's website: www.galleryofwoodart.org.

Christmas Tree Ornament Challange Winners

Wayne Johnson

1st Place

Greg Just

2nd Place

Dennis Dahlberg

3rd Place

An Addition

A couple of month's ago Charlie Prokop gave a great demonstration (as usual) on making Native American Flutes. He had this final note for you.....

For those members turning a flute, I forgot 1 important piece during my demo. You need to seal the inside bore of the flute to keep condensation from your breath being absorbed by the wood. 2 ways to do this.

One, before you glue up the blank, coat the bore with sanding sealer or water based poly. Go Light, allow to dry and then sand down the raised grain. The second method is to create the flute, make the sound holes (not the tuned holes) and bring to a nice sound. This is what I do. Then I dunk the whole flute in a PVC pipe filled with tung oil for about 2 to 3 hours. Remove, wipe down and hang to dry for a day. My final finish, after tuning is 3 to 4 coats of a semi gloss spray poly with a steel wool sanding between coats.

As promised Charlie also sent along a pic of his first bowl. My guess...one of his most prized possessions. I know if I had mine it would be.

Christmas Party 2010

Good food--Good Time

AAW Symposium

2011 will be a big year for woodturners in Minnesota. The American Association of Woodturners (AAW) will bring its national symposium to St. Paul, June 24-26, 2011. (See www.woodturner.org for more details.) This is regarded by many to be the preeminent woodturning event in the world. Since MWA will serve as the local host chapter, we will have a significant role in the symposium. Although detailed planning for the symposium is just getting underway, there are several things to think about now.

AAW Symposium Chapter Collaborative Challenge

The AAW invites each chapter to submit a project produced collaboratively by chapter members, which will be displayed at the St. Paul symposium. The October issue of *American Woodturner* has an interesting article on this challenge as well as the guidelines. The MWA plans to submit a project. An ad hoc committee of MWA members recently met to begin planning a project. The initial discussions centered on a project that showcases a unique feature of Minnesota… you guessed it, fishing, winter and roadwork were discussed. Everyone agreed that the project should have many pieces that can be turned independently. It should be possible to have all our members participate. The group will continue to develop a plan and will keep you informed. If you have questions, comments or wish to be more involved, then please email Linda Ferber (linda@garber.org).

AAW Symposium Turning 25 Exhibit

The AAW will have a special exhibit at the 2011 symposium to showcase the variety and quality of American turners. Each chapter is invited to submit a piece. The guidelines are as follows:

- Maximum dimensions: 8” x 8” x 8”
- Maximum weight: 3 lbs
- No assembly allowed
- Must be for sale (70% to chapter/turner, 30% to AAW if it sells)
- Can be done by a single person or a group
- One entry per chapter
- $40 entry fee (MWA will pay the fee)
- February 28 entry deadline (photos required by this date)

MWA will contribute a piece for this exhibit. We will hold an event February 17th to view pieces made by our members and to select one for the national meeting. We will have the meeting at the AAW Gallery of Wood Art starting at 6:00pm. We have invited Cindy Bowden, Linda Tacke and Tib Shaw to judge the entries. More important than the individual piece we send to the national meeting, is the opportunity for us to see the best work of our local turning community. Our local event will be most fun if everyone submits a piece. We hope to see work from our top professional turners right up to our newest beginner. Please plan to participate.

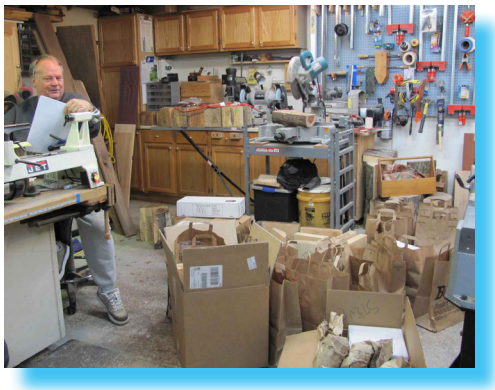
…turners, start your lathes.

Murial Gavin sent in the three photos above of Jim Jacob’s November 20th demo on turning tiny bird houses.
The top photo is of an array of bird houses Jim had already made. The center photo is Jim finishing the top for a house. The bottom photo is Jim demonstrating the very long handle he made for one of his tools. It was a tongue-in-cheek exageration, but beautifully done.

Thanks for sending the photos Murial.

Craft Supply Order

This fall's Craft Supply order was one of the largest to date. Lots of fun toys and Christmas gifts. Thanks to Linda Farber for the great pictures. Thanks to Bob Jenson for managing it and to Bob Meyer for doing all the work.



Maintaining your chuck

Glenn Roberts discusses the various woodturning chucks on the market and how to keep them maintained and running smoothly, as well as how to use them effectively

It would be fair to say that the majority of woodturners own a four-jaw self-centring scroll chuck. Some turners own numerous chucks – to suit different sizes of work – and often so they don't have to bother changing jaws. They find it quicker to change chucks. While not essential for turning, chucks are certainly very handy. But how often do we think of maintaining them?

If you were accustomed to metal lathes instead of wood lathes you would no doubt be more familiar with your chucks and how their internals work. The small sized engineer's self-centring chucks usually have two sets of jaws: one for conventional holding and a reverse set, where the jaw profile has the opposite shape. The user soon becomes familiar with changing from one set to the other, but how does this relate to the maintainance of woodturning chucks?

For the purpose of this article we will concentrate on the two common types of wood chuck: the simple lever action chuck – that is tightened using tommy bars etc. – and the slightly more complex geared chuck. The two designs share similar components, so the photos here will show how to work on both types. Some turners use engineer's chucks, or their 'look-a-likes,' so photos of these have also been included.

A popular topic is 'what is the best chuck to buy'. Understandably, each person has their own view on this topic. While this article does not try to answer this question; various brands and types of chucks, both old and new, are deliberately depicted in the photos.

GLENN ROBERTS

About the author: Glenn is an Australian turner/demonstrator who has developed a number of innovative tools, including carving jigs and collet handles, to name a few.

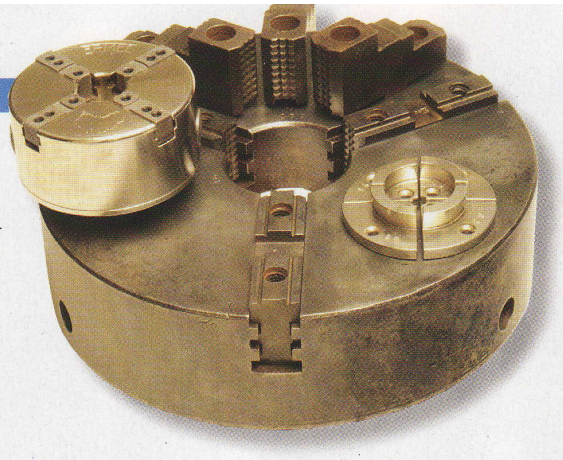
DIFFERENT CHUCKS

Woodturning chucks and engineer's chucks – in their most basic form – are mostly the same. Woodturners think of them as a relatively recent innovation, however, our engineering cousins have been using typical 3, 4 and 6 etc. jaw self-centring chucks for decades. It is just that they are generally much bigger in size and more precise. Opposite you will see Vermec's 110mm (4¼in) dia. chuck and its 'cousin,' a 300mm (11½in) diameter metal lathe chuck. Apart from the chuck shown only having three jaws, the metal lathe chuck is basically the same. For example, different jaws can be bolted to the chuck to suit the work.

Unlike most woodturning chucks, engineer's chucks do not have a stopper to prevent the jaws from being removed – as the smaller chuck's jaws need to be removed to swap over to the reverse jaws. This forces the user to become familiar with cleaning particles from the internal scroll, aligning the correct jaws in the appropriate positions and ensuring that the jaws run true.

So, as woodturners, while we change our auxiliary chuck jaws – by undoing a few screws – we often give the rest of the chuck very little attention, other than perhaps the odd blow out with compressed air. Until the chuck slowly builds up with debris and then we probably complain that it has a tight spot in its movement. Whether it's a precision made engineer's chuck or a more basic woodturning chuck, most can be disassembled within minutes, using only a selection of simple tools. Even the sophisticated design of the engineer's small 'Grip-True' chuck with its internal adjustments (see main photo,) is really no more difficult to pull apart, providing you take some care and mark the corresponding components at the start.

As woodturning chucks generally have a spindle thread adapter, there are less issues with disassembling them and the possible loss of concentricity. Engineer's chucks are typically mounted to a backing plate and – once they are removed – need to be assembled and ideally checked.



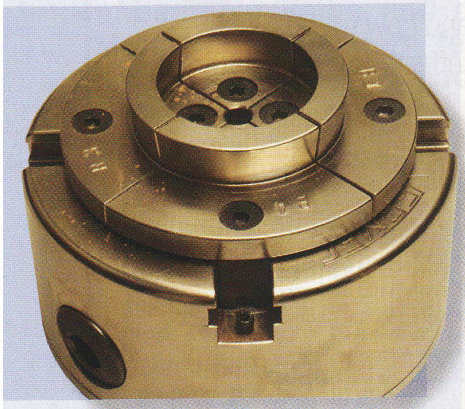
ABOVE: Vermec 110mm (4¼in) dia. chuck and its 'cousin,' a 300mm (11½in) dia. metal lathe chuck. Apart from the chuck shown only having three jaws, the metal lathe chuck is basically the same. For example, different jaws can be bolted to the chuck to suit the work. The older metal lathe chucks also screwed on to the lathe spindle

THE VICMARC VM120 CHUCK

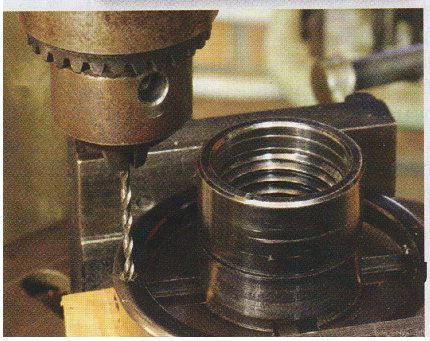
MAIN: Removing the stopper pin on a VM120 chuck

BELOW: The Vicmarc VM120 chuck, with the rear backing plate removed

DISASSEMBLY



TOP LEFT: A typical roll pin stopper, in the jaw slide cavity



BELOW LEFT: My older Nova had a screw stopper that required drilling out, as the head of the screw was damaged

Before disassembling any chuck it is prudent to mark the position of each component relative to each other – similar to the jaw and jaw slides being numbered. While possibly not always essential, it does let you put them back in their exact position. You may want to use a small centre punch mark/s or a permanent marker – whichever is suitable, and accessible, to you. If your chuck is old and well worn, it may be worth checking first to see if spare parts are available, prior to disassembly. Most wood chucks have a stopper to prevent the jaws from being expanded too far and falling out of the body. So to disassemble our chuck we need to locate and remove this stopper. It may take the form of a small screw or a drive pin/roll pin etc. that is often located in one of the chuck jaw slide cavities.

ABOVE: The VM120 with one of the gears and its retaining screw removed

BELOW: A circlip often holds the chuck together

On a chuck such as the Vicmarc VM120, that uses a roll pin, it is easier to first remove the backing plate – by undoing a couple of small screws – although this may vary for other manufacturers. Then, using a long pin punch – a suitable size nail could also work – punch the pin out from the rear of the chuck. With the stopper removed, the jaw bases or slides can be wound out of the chuck body, by turning the chuck key.

The geared chucks often use two pinion gears – generally three on an engineer's chuck – that turn the scroll, which tightens the jaws. These gears are held in place with a small pin or screw. With the pinion gears removed from the back of the chuck, it now looks essentially the same as the simpler lever action chuck.

At this stage we are looking to remove the large circlip that holds the scroll in place. On the chucks shown – Vicmarc, Nova and Vermec – a circlip is used, but other chuck manufacturers may use alternate arrangements.

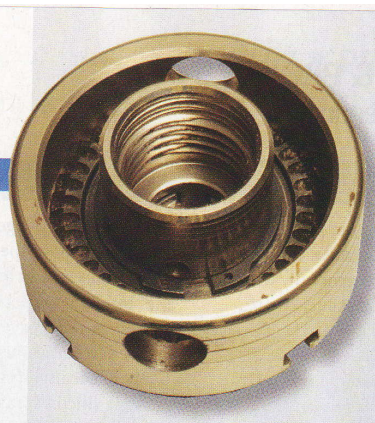
Before removing the circlip it 'may' be necessary to remove the spindle adapter, but on the chucks shown, this was not necessary.

To remove the circlip you will require a reasonably strong pair of external circlip pliers – straight versions may be suitable.

With the circlip removed, the scroll can be removed for cleaning. The lever action scroll does not have any gear teeth on its rear. Regardless of their size or shape they all perform the same function. However, the direction of the scroll 'thread' determines if the chuck tightens by clockwise or anticlockwise movement.

It's worth noting that on good quality chucks the scroll is a very neat fit on the centre boss of the chuck. This ensures that there is little to no movement in the scroll and jaw assembly, relative to the chuck body. On my older model Nova chucks the scrolls fell out, while on the Vicmarc, I had to evenly press the scroll out.

To achieve this it is easier to flip the chuck over and with a soft metal – brass, copper etc. – punch, so as not to damage the scroll, evenly tap the scroll out of the chuck body. Now you should have the chuck taken apart and all ready for the cleaning process.



ABOVE LEFT: Different style chucks also use a circlip

BELOW LEFT: Different size scrolls from various chucks

LEFT: Remove the circlip with pliers

CLEANING

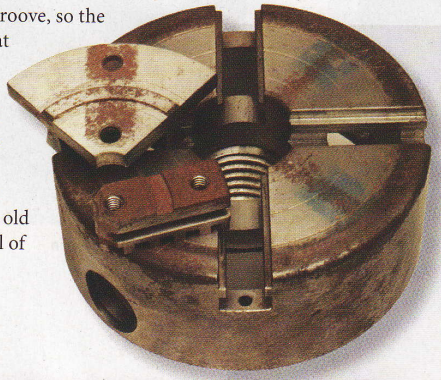
It is often said that the better – compared to mild steel – the quality of steel, the faster it will rust. Something that my older unplated Vicmarc chucks do ever so easily. My newest Vermec chuck, however, is fully plated so should not suffer the same problem. So with the chuck fully disassembled it's an opportune time to wire brush any components and remove all signs of rust and debris. Take particular care to remove all debris from the main circlip groove, so the circlip will seat properly.

With old and well-used geared chucks it's probably worthwhile to remove all the old grease from all of the components, using a small brush and a suitable solvent.

With all of the components clean it's worth inspecting them for any adverse wear and damage. Small burrs, left over from manufacture or from component wear, can be carefully removed with a light file. Any obvious badly worn or damaged components should be replaced, if and where possible. If everything looks in good order then there is not much to do other than just a good clean, in all the hard to get to spots.

While cleaning, you will see why blasting an assembled gear chuck with compressed air could force dust into the greased components, and therefore this practice should probably be avoided.

BELOW: A Nova lever action chuck cleaned and ready for reassembly



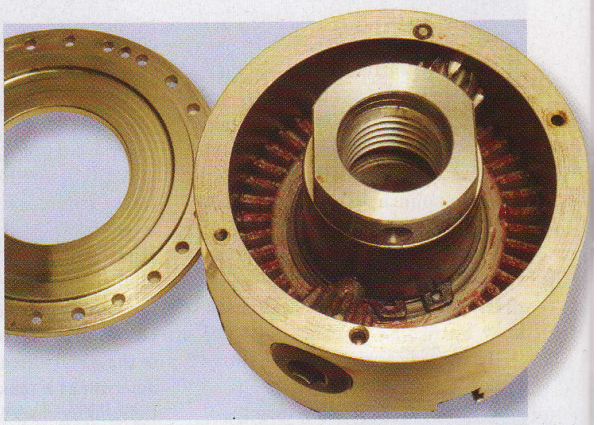
LEFT: Rust can be a real problem on un-plated components

REASSEMBLY

This is where your previously applied markings come into their own. Reassembly is generally the reverse of taking the chuck apart: putting each part back in the correctly marked position. The scroll should be pushed in fully and it is essential that the circlip be fitted correctly in its groove, as it can be the only component that keeps the chuck 'together.' If it were damaged at all, for example, bent or loose fitting, it would be wise to replace it with an exact replacement.

With geared chucks – with backing plates – you will need to re-grease the gear components, using bearing grease. Typically, the type you would use on your vehicle wheel bearings etc. should suffice. The gears do not mesh at any amount of speed, so only a light application should be sufficient. On the simpler lever action chuck there are less moving parts and any grease on the scroll will inevitably catch dust. If any lubrication is thought necessary, perhaps silicon spray, or similar, might be a suitable application here.

When fitting the jaw slides of your chuck, ensure they are fitted in the correct sequence for your make and model of chuck. If a stopper pin is fitted, ensure that the correct corresponding jaw slide is fitted in the position where the stopper is located. Also ensure the jaws are attached to their matching jaw slide – they are all numbered for a reason.



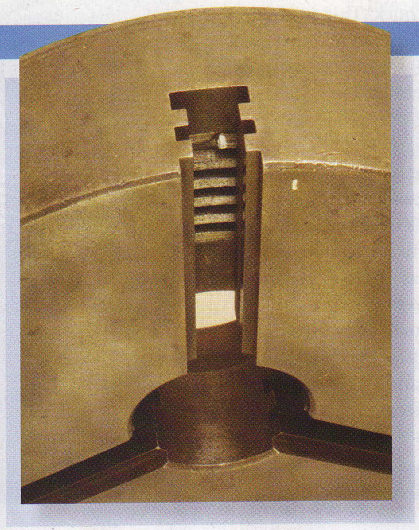
ABOVE: Inside a new Vermec chuck; there is no need to over-grease a geared chuck

FITTING THE JAW SLIDES

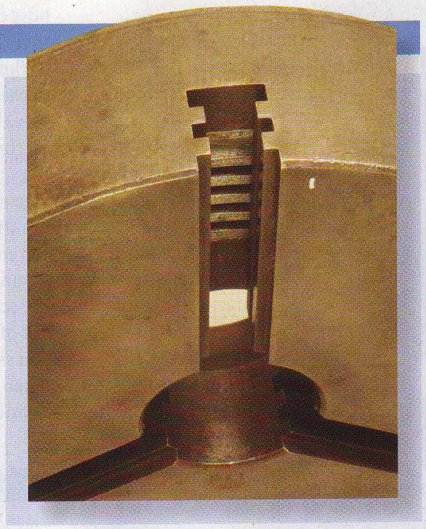
Metal lathe owners soon get very good at knowing how to fit jaws in their self-centring chucks. It is not particularly difficult but does rely on following a specific sequence. I have deliberately taken the photos using a large chuck, so the sequence can be seen more clearly – the chuck happens to have three jaws. The same sequence applies for smaller chucks and ones with more jaws. The following sequence has worked for me over the years. Also, the Oneway Manufacturing website (www.oneway.ca) has good information on the topic of fitting jaw slides.

Start by looking at the Number 1 jaw cavity and observe the outermost part of the scroll, as you turn the chuck key. Turn the key/scroll until the very start of the scroll thread appears in the jaw cavity, and then turn the key/scroll back until the scroll thread disappears, within the body of the chuck. This will allow the jaw slide to drop fully and engage into the thread of the scroll. Turn the chuck key/scroll forward slightly – wind the jaw inward – while applying inward pressure to the jaw. Turn the key slightly more and try and pull out the jaw with your fingers. It should remain in the chuck body.

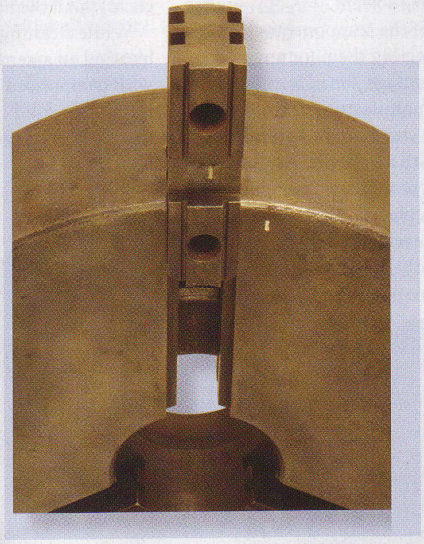
Turn the chuck around until you see the Number 2 cavity. Slowly keep turning the chuck key until you observe the start of the thread of the scroll, and then slowly reverse the key until the start of the thread just disappears into the chuck body.



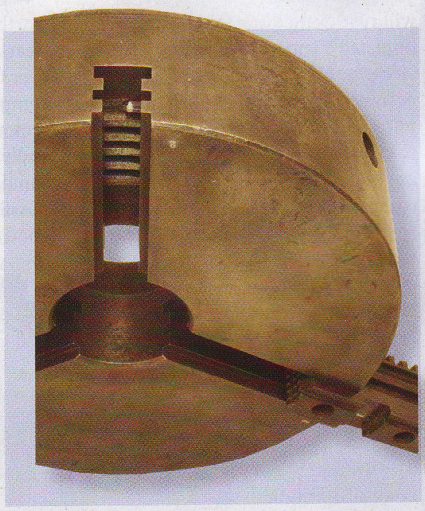
ABOVE: Look for the start of the scroll 'thread'



ABOVE: The start should disappear



ABOVE: The jaw should drop in completely



ABOVE: Look for the start again

FITTING THE JAW SLIDES (CONT.)

But not too far back or the No.1 jaw may fall out. Push the Number 2 jaw into place – repeat the process on the opposite page – as for the Number 1 jaw. Continue repeating this process for the remaining jaws.

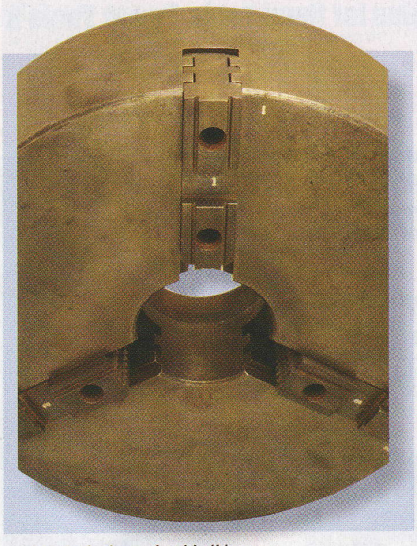
With all jaws fitted, slowly wind the jaws inwards until the end of the jaw slides all line up with the outer body of the chuck. If you have followed the sequence correctly they should all form a circle and can be wound into the centre of the chuck to test if they all move freely with no tight spots.

With the jaws slides closed together, the stopper – if fitted – can be reinstalled. If it is a small screw, it is only a case of fitting it in place. However, I would probably add a very small drop of thread locking liquid to it, to prevent the stopper from coming out accidentally.

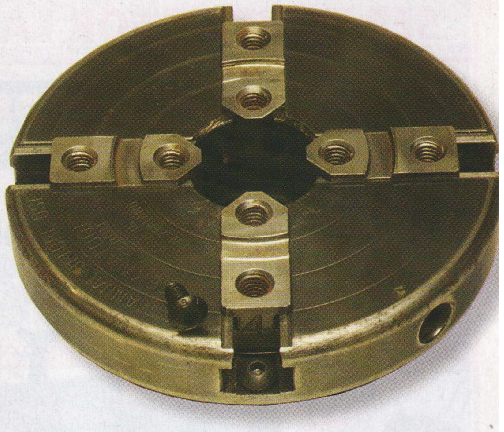
If the stopper is a drive pin/roll pin, then it may be preferable to replace it with a new one. While not essential, it may give peace of mind to know it's all 'like new' – the photo shows the pin being tapped into position – so that the corresponding 'slotted' jaw slide – used on some chucks – can be partially wound out, over the pin, without fouling. The height of the pin should prevent the jaw slide from being fully wound out past the pin, but not bind on the underside of the jaw slide.

Contact your local chuck supplier for spare parts, such as roll/drive pins. If these are unavailable, generally these items can be sourced from engineer's suppliers. However, ensure they are exact replacements.

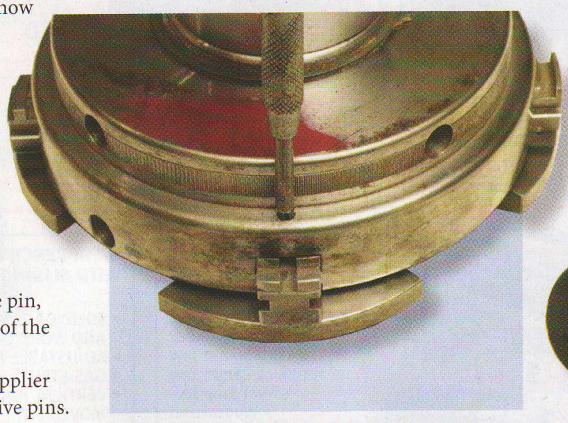
With the chuck now fully assembled it is only a matter of fitting the accessory jaws. As these are generally held in place with small countersunk 'Allen' key screws, the hexagonal recess in the screw often wears with use. It may also be an opportune time to replace these with some genuine replacement parts. Leaving these screws until they are badly damaged is just asking for trouble. I have noticed that, on one brand, the genuine screws are slightly different than those sourced at the local engineering supplier, so go for the genuine item. It is essential that the screws fit and hold the jaws correctly.



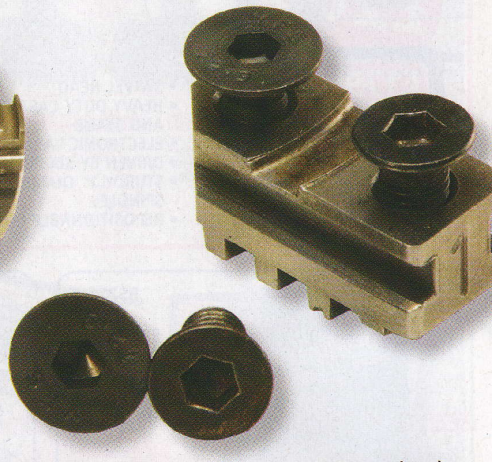
ABOVE: The jaws should all be even



ABOVE: A stopper screw and how it fits in the jaw slide cavity of a Nova chuck



ABOVE: The pin being tapped into position, using a pin punch



ABOVE: The genuine screw is nearest the jaw numbered end. Note how it differs from the non genuine screw

CONCLUSION

In the course of writing this article I took the time to disassemble my various metal and wood chucks – something that I had not done for many years – and in some cases, not done previously. I was pleasantly surprised how little dust, swarf and debris had accumulated in the rear of the geared chucks, as they all have back cover plates. However, all of the scrolls and associated jaw slides where in need of a clean. While it's not an essential maintenance task, it does, if nothing else, provide insight into how your chuck works. It also demystifies how they are manufactured and should give you the confidence to know you can maintain it in the future, if required. After reading this, if it's a task you feel you can undertake, just observe each component and how they fit together.

Note: The information contained in this article is intended as general in nature and users should refer to appropriate manufacturer's manuals and guidelines for more specific details. If in doubt, contact your local chuck supplier or manufacturer. ●

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Wisconsin Woodturners Expo2010

November 13th and 14th were the days for the Second Annual Wisconsin Woodturners Expo presented by the Chppewa Valley Woodturners Guild www.dvwg.org. The first day of the expo was also the first snow storm of the season, but this did not keep the crowds at home, plus the Packards had a buy week. Their focus was to bring together a fine group of turners and carvers from around the Midwest to show some the many different directions woodturng is going. The event had excellent attendance and activities keeping the woodturners happy. There were demos both days, the featured demonstrator was Lyle Jamieson with his hollow form system. Rounding out the demonstrations were woodturners, carvers and a chain saw artitst: Rick Bauer, Fran Passe, Bruce Sherlin, Linda Ferber, Duane Hill, Bob Eberhardt, Mike Hunter, Ben Manor, David Merers and Wade Wendorf.

The Expo induced a vendor section where you could view lathes, tools and wood supplies. The vendors included: Robust Lathes, Thompson lathe Tools, Jomieson Hollowing System, Wooden Gear Clocks, Tiger Tech, Steve Shcwartz (wood supplier and logger), Good Wood, Etc, Up North Burls, American Association of Woodturners, A-Line Machine Tools and Wade Wendorf's Rose Engine lathe. There was something to tempt and inspire you for your woodturning projects.

Rounding out the expo were booths where members had items for sale. The silent auction was a fund raiser for thier club outreach to young people and some of the proceeds going to Feed My People. This club has in this short time outgrown their space, it was a great weekend and we look forward to what is next. The dates are already set November 5th and 6th 2011

Thank-you Linda Farber for all of the pics.

2011 Proposed Calendar

2011 will be a big year for woodturners in Minnesota. To keep everyone informed and to start the planning process, this email details many of our activities for 2011. The American Association of Woodturners (AAW) will bring its national symposium to St. Paul, June 24-26, 2011. (See www.woodturner.org for more details.) This is regarded by many to be the preeminent woodturning event in the world. Since MWA will serve as the local host chapter, we will have a significant role in the symposium.
One activity being quarterbacked by ?????????? is the chapter collaborative. The AAW invites each chapter to submit a project produced collaboratively by chapter members, which will be displayed at the St. Paul symposium. The October issue of American Woodturner has an interesting article on this challenge as well as the guidelines.
The MWA plans to submit a project. An ad hoc committee of MWA members recently met to begin planning a project. The initial discussions centered on a project that showcases a unique feature of Minnesota… you guessed it, fishing, winter and roadwork were discussed. Everyone agreed that the project should have many pieces that can be turned independently. It should be possible to have all our members participate. Fishing and duck calls will be the MWA Chapter Challenge. Our January and February meetings revolve around this project. Tim Heil will work on the final display.

January 11th
Demonstrators: Jeff Luedloff and John Haug
Topic: Fishing lures design and decoration
Where: Industrial Electric
Time: 6:30 meeting start
MWA will provide hardware for members interested in turning a fishing lure for the AAW Chapter Challenge

February 1st
Demonstrator: Reed Jacobs
Topic: Duck calls
Where: Industrial Electric
Time: 7:00 meeting start
MWA will provide hardware for members interested in turning a duck call for the AAW Chapter Challenge

February 17th
Turning 25, AAW call for entry
Where: AAW, Gallery of Wood Art
Time: 6:00 meeting start
Cindy Bowden, Linda Tacke and Tib Shaw have been invited to judge the MWA entries for selection of piece to represent our club at the AAW Exhibit
MWA will provide light snacks.

March 15th
Minnesota Woodturners Association and Minnesota Woodworkers Guild joint meeting
Demonstrator: Vergil Leigh
Topic: Vergil will give a talk on his giant turnings
Where: Richfield Community Center
Time: ??????????????

March 25 – 27
Demonstrator: Mark St. Leger www.markstleger.com
Topic: Turning Education
Where: Small groups at Jensen's, Saturday demo at the University of Minnesota
Time: Small groups and Saturday demo at 9:00 AM start

May
Demonstrators: Bruce Arones
Topic: Bowl turning and bowls to be donated to Return to the Community Project "Empty Bowls" please bring your turned bowls to donate.
Where: TBD
Time: TBD

June AAW 25th Annual Symposium
Demonstrators: See AAW website for list of 50 demonstrators
Where: RiverCentre
When: June 24-26
Registration with AAW required, early registration for three days $250

The MWA Chapter Challenge will be a display of fishing lures, duck calls and MN themed turnings. We will combine the items from the earlier meetings into a display. Tim Heil has taken on the task of design for the display.

August
MWA picnic
Where: TBD
Time:

September meeting
Demonstrator: Tib Shaw
Topic: Photographing your work
Where: TBD
Time:

October meeting
Demonstroators: Bruce Arones, Tim Heil, Jim Jacobs
Topics: Ask the experts. We will ask members to email their questions and at the meeting we will address problems and solutions. From design, jigs to repairs.

October 7 - 9
Demonstrator: Molly Winton www.turningmaven.com
Topic: Turning Education
Where: Small groups at Jensen's, Saturday demo at the University of Minnesota
Time: Small groups and Saturday demo at 9:00 AM start

November meeting

December meeting

Trees for the Holidays

Making a Tree out of aTree

Fred Kogler

On the day of this writing the early Sunday morning weather immobilized me and most others in the Twin Cities. I had risen from a deep sleep to find a coating

Needles of the North forest

of ice on everything. MnDot said it was the worst ice storm ever, as it took us all by surprise. Hundreds of folks ended up in accidents and there was no travel advised for the first half of the day. My expletive was "Shoot a pickle!"

You see, I'm a pastor, and our early service is regularly scheduled for 9 AM. This is the one that is usually attended by seniors, it didn't look good. I called the congregation chairman and asked if he had peeked out at the weather… he responded, "Oh my! " Thinking quickly, he went on: "I'll call the city police and hi-way patrol for a road conditions report, talk to few other folks, and get right back to you" Long story short, it wasn't more than 15 minutes and he got back to me and said: "No Church today…see you Thanksgiving Eve, pastor, stay safe."

Idle hands and the pastor's workshop

Now what? A pastor with unexpected time on his hands on Sunday morning is not a good thing. You know the old saying: "Idle hands are the devil's tools?" Well, lest I get myself into some kind of foolishness, I announced to my bride, "I'll be down in my shop helping Santa." Her response was a somewhat relieved "Good, I'll call you for lunch."

What to do? I had been making a few "North Coast trees" after the style and article suggestions made by Bob Rosand in his article by the same name. Appearing in The Journal of The American Association of Woodturners (Winter 2007) I had clipped and saved the article. So down to my shop, with camera in hand, I descended. I would journal my own attempt at "Northwoods Trees." Here's the result. I hope you're prompted to give it a try.

Working with my mini JET, I picked a scrap piece of bi-colored wood about 1.75 x 5" long, using a freshly sharpened Craftsman spindle gouge I rounded out the blank. The gouge is a light weight relic that I've used for over 40 years. It's an old friend that I've carefully maintained and it has served me well.

I usually wear a face mask, glasses, and have my Oneida dust collector hooked up. For this demonstration they are off to the side for picture taking reasons.

The next step was to take my Sorby ¼" parting tool and create a tenon on the live end of the rounded piece. Sharpened as it is, I need to be careful that I don't become too aggressive. As I take pictures with my Nikon D40 it is mounted on a tripod. Between shots I move it back and cover it with an old T-shirt to minimize the dust impact.

Here you can see the blank and the four pronged T2 spur mount I start out with. To find the center of each end of the blank I use a centering tool and gently tap each end using an awl. This not only provides a center point for mounting purposes, but a point for drilling the hole for the hanging loop I'll introduce later. (See below) At the tail end I have a ball bearing center that turns with the piece. It is smooth and quiet.

Before creating the tenon, I measure the size that I'll need to fit into my four jaw Nova chuck. The process includes using a caliper to make an accurate measurement. It may seem a little putsie; however, I find that if I take the time on these steps the end product turns out every time. Some turners have a practiced eye and speed things up with "a

Firgure 2: roughed to round

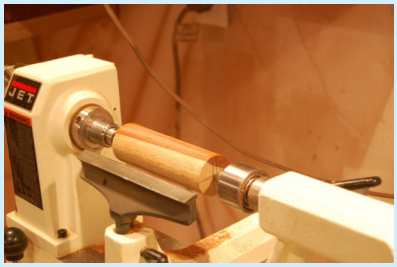

Figure 3: T2 spur mount: ball bearing center on tail

Figure 4: ball bearing center on tail; marking lines to find center

Figure 5: The tenon

Figure 6: Chucked up and ready

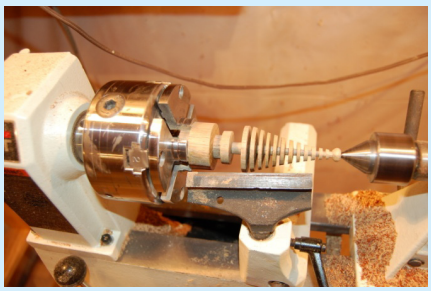

Figure 7: Almost done

best estimate approach." I think that's fine, but I like to be sure, so I measure things.

After the tenon is turned to fit I remove the peace, mount the chuck on the lathe; clean things up a bit and take advantage of the center point hole on the "top" end to guide the drilling of the hole for the tree topper. I use my dermal tool with a 1/16" bit.

I put this picture in to show how long the spindle is before I start doing anything to it. The ruler indicates it to be about 4.5" The size can vary a lot depending on the scraps of wood you have. I take them as they come and end up with a forest of different sizes, and colors, just like in the north woods. The circumference is a little over 1.5" here and will be reduced very little from this point on.

One more thing about the wood selection, I have used pieces of construction grade 2x4's and had good success. It's cheap and you may want to get your skew chisels out to practice. If you choose to do so, it opens up another whole aspect of the finishing process as you may want to dye the wood or paint it to give different colors.

Here's that tenon I've been yapping about. If you look carefully you can see the unevenness of the blank at this point. I will take care of that later as I shape the tree. One of the advantages of using a skew chisel to rough your blank is that it may be easier for you to get an even surface already at this point. (It is important to repeat the whole matter of how important it is to keep you chisels sharp. I have two grinders, a delta 8" slow speed bench grinder the other is the Jet 708015 JSSG-10 Slow speed Wet sharpener, a Tormek knock-off as I like to call it, and a diamond honing tool to keep mine ready for turning. (I will commonly take a day out and just go through my chisels to make sure they're sharpened properly) I also take refuge to my DVD player and view Alan Lacer's instructions. It gives me an excuse for a cup of coffee. ('The Skew Chisel' and 'The Son of Skew' – www.alanlacer.com)

Into the chuck and let the ribbons fly

Once I've remounted the piece using the chuck it's time to become the artist. Notice that once in the chuck the piece can turn independently of the tail stock. I don't work that way as I like to have the steady influence, as well as the centering characteristic of the tail.

Since I was doing this project solo, I couldn't shoot a picture of the how the ribbons came of the blank as I began to shape the tree.

When I first started guided turning under the watchful eye of Bruce Thompson, it was then that I saw how important it was to use sharp tools. That was the first time I saw ribbons of wood come off the bowl he was letting me turn. Now I strive for that each time since it usually means I have found the sweet spot with a properly sharpened tool.

Here you can see the tree as it nears completion. The rings are cut into the piece after I shaped the tree and the top. Starting at the top and working toward the bottom, the live end, I use my 2cm parting tool. It accomplishes two things;1. to measure the distance between cuts, and 2. Make the cuts themselves. As I move to the trunk and base and prepare to part off, I use my wider "Sorby" mentioned above. Notice, too, that I've switched to my shortest tool rest for these last steps as this allows the tools to be supported closer to the actual piece itself. At this point I will remove the tool rest and do whatever light sanding is necessary. (with sharp tools this is minimal) I use 400 grit and 1200 grit for these and it works fine. (No pun intended).

Satisfied with the size, shape and texture I part it off and get ready to work on the eye insertion process.

The first thing I do is remove the parting off nubbin on the bottom, An exato knife, razor blade and carving knife will do the job. Then I hand sand the top to move all marks and blemishes. With the tree complete it's time to make an eye and to attach it. This is done using 22 gauge green wire that is wrapped around the tip of my awl then twisted for about .5 -.75 in, cut off and crimped with the visegrip and ready to glue into the hole at the top of the tree. I use a very small dab of CA medium adhesive. The final finish is up to you. I chose to use spray varnish on this one. Don't forget to sign and date your tree.

INPUT TO MWA Dec 2010 NEWSLETTER

[1] TREASURER'S REPORT Oct 1, 2010

2009	2010	2010
Actual	**Budget**	**YTD Actuals 11/17/2010**
Members 277	Members 260	Members 278
Income $6,661	Income $13,658	Income $16,021
Expenses [$8,735]	Expenses [$13,658]	Expenses [$11,844]
Gain [loss] [$2,074]	Gain[loss] 0	Gain $4,177

Cash balance 11/17/10 $6,724

Our membership continues to be strong at 278 members, exceeding the membership forecast by 18. $45 was donated to the club in memory of Ron Meilahn. $130 was spent on our web site domain name. $75 is spent bi-annually for our web site.

Pam Johnson, Treasurer

Not reflected in the "actual" income & expenses of the submitted report:-

$2950 - 118 members prepaid in 2009
$3808 - Carry over funds from 2009 to 2010
$65 - Non budgeted income: tools sales, memorial income

[-$98] - Non budgeted expenses: purchase of club DVDs via Craft Supply order

Net $6823

We would like to acknowledge and thank the author Glenn Roberts, and Mark Baker the editor of Woodturning Magazine for allowing us to reprint the article "Maintaining Your Chuck."

If you would be interested in more information go to http://www.woodworkersinstitute.com.