



Demonstration by Andy Coates

Last month the club welcomed Andy Coates to demonstrate for the day. Andy prepares projects for Woodturning magazine so had plenty of ideas for members to follow.

He began by turning a round bottomed bowl to be decorated in some way. The example he showed was textured with a pyrography branding design and then a verdigris finish added. Rather than the verdigris wax available of the shelf, Andy described using a copper sub base of atomised copper powder mixed with acrylic paint which is then cured for three weeks and treated with acid. This gives a real verdigree effect but the disadvantage is that it will rub off.

Andy's blank was a piece of oak. He had prepared it by cutting the corners off rather than cutting it round as this preserves the set on the bandsaw blade. It was mounted between centres using a ring centre and step type ring centre as the ring will always remain true and makes remounting accurately easier. Andy shaped the outside with a classic round shape and a slight return curve to the rim. He cut a tenon for the chuck and finished the outside allowing enough timber in the spigot to complete the outside curve after hollowing. Andy's bowl gouge was unusual in that it had a very short fluted section on a long bar. Although this may seem uneconomical it makes it very strong. Andy pointed out that he was also cutting in the 'wrong' direction. He did not see this as an issue as in the conventional direction the cut is only with the grain in two places. His method allows a much better position for the tool and for seeing the shape. The work was then mounted in the chuck. He cleaned about one centimetre from the rim on the top surface. At this stage he would normally core out the centre portion to use for another project or maybe a lid. For the demo he set up the wall thickness and hollowed out conventionally following the shape round to the bottom but slowing the speed of his tool movement to match the slower speed at the centre. This gives a better finish. The piece was then reversed onto a jam chuck made from a plywood disc covered with neoprene. Andy removed the tenon following the original curve but leaving a small stub which he then removed by abrading. As it was not practical to demonstrate his verdigree finish, Andy showed us an alternative inexpensive way to colour the work. He had put some vinegar into a jar and added wirewool. Anything iron based such as old nails can be used. The vinegar reacts with the acid producing a dark liquid. Andy brushed this onto the wood and it reacted with the tannin in the oak. After several coats the oak became a warm black colour. Andy explained that the resulting colour will vary according to the wood used.



Andy's round bottom bowl textured and completed with a verdigree finish.

For the next project Andy mounted a piece of black poplar between centres turned a chucking spigot and mounted it in the chuck. He planned to turn a natural edge earring stand. The choice of timber will effect the stability of the bark edge but this can be improved by running superglue around it. Sealing with cellulose sealer prior to using superglue prevents staining from the glue.

Andy turned the top with a small finial and added some circular detail to make the natural shape look balanced. This was then abraded taking care not to catch the bark. The underside of the top was turned flat and the stem shaped from a wide top to a pleasing curve.

Andy drilled holes for the earrings spacing them by eye. The stem was then turned down to the base. To add value to the project, Andy made the base section into a box. He turned a flat on the base of the stem and parted it off. He then turned a recess in the base and proceeded as for a lid on a box. Once the fit was correct Andy blended the curve of the stem into the base and finally turned three v cuts centering over the join. These were then burnt using a piece of formica. The base section was then hollowed to accept a ring, reversed and the underneath finished.

Andy, like most of us, dislikes waste and saves all his offcuts. The next project showed a way of using them. The blank was constructed of strips of different of wood joined with Gorilla brown glue, making sure the piece in the middle was suitable for centering, then clamped securely until cured. It was then cut square and used to turn a square edge bowl. Initial turning must be cautious to avoid tearout on the different timbers. Andy marked a line for the square he wanted to keep then turned away to it. He also marked a reference for the edge of the outer wing on the toolrest when facing up the front. After turning the rear, the bowl was reversed making sure it was well seated and secure. Andy made a bead around the bowl section to add some contrast between the round and the square and hollowed the bowl section. He refined the work using the wing of the gouge to shear cut rather than a scraper. The piece was then finished as before.

To complete the afternoon, Andy quickly ran through the process of turning a drinking vessel. His piece was a cup. Suitable timbers would be sycamore, beech and alder and sapele for the handle. The flat base needs to be 1½ times the wall thickness. The handles are cut on a scrollsaw and curved on a bobbin sander then fitted with dowels. They are glued to the cup with brown gorilla glue and clamped with elastic bands. The cup can be finished with three coats of oil and left for three weeks or treated with a proprietry finish such as Rustins Plasticote. An enjoyable and constructive demonstration, thank you Andy.



Andy mounting his segmented blank

Thank you Brian Rowson and team for managing the audio visual, Alan Capon for the providing milk etc. Robert and Margaret Hollands for running the raffle and all the members who helped make the day a success.

Take a few moments to unwind during the Christmas rush by watching this gentle film:

<http://www.falconproductions.co.uk/portfolio/the-chair-maker/>



Pierced bowl by Gareth Garner.



Members' Work

Left, German nutcracker style soldiers by Lynn Chambers.



Right, Candlestick with square ends by Gary Woodhouse.



December Meeting

Christmas Competition and Social

December 9th 10.00am

Please bring your entries, a plate of food and partners/friends

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| Chairman | Maggie Wright |
| Vice Chairman and | |
| Competition Secretary | Peter Castle |
| Secretary | Anne Smith |
| Treasurer | John Turner |
| Events organiser | Greg Collett |
| Librarian | David Spice |
| Newsletter editor | Sandra Day |
| A-V co-ordinator | Brian Rowson |

www.wealdenwoodturners.org.uk

January Meeting

AGM followed by a Critique

January 20th 10.00am - 4.00pm

Please bring some of your work for helpful evaluation

Wishing our readers
*A Joyful Christmas and
 A Happy New Year*

