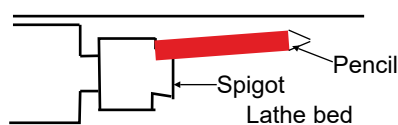


Threads. Chasing the knack

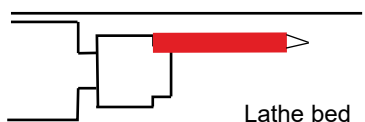
Due to a change in the scheduled programme the October meeting covered thread chasing. Chairman, Maggie Wright led the meeting but described it as 'one of those days' with various hiccoughs affecting the demonstration. There was a problem with the lathe but thanks to Dave Spice and team this was resolved. A missing chuck key suddenly arrived and Maggie was at last able to proceed!

In order to cut successful threads it is necessary to use a dense close grained wood such as box or African blackwood. Resins also take threads well.

Maggie chose a piece of boxwood for her project, a little box. She had brought an assortment of boxes to show members what could be achieved with practice. She mounted the blank between centres and turned a chucking spigot on each end and parted the lid section away from the base. The lid was then mounted in the chuck and a spigot to accept the thread was turned. It is important for this to be parallel and Maggie demonstrated the pencil test. A pencil is laid against the spigot and sighted up with the lathe bed. If it is not parallel the spigot is lightly adjusted.



Above. Pencil against spigot not parallel indicates tapered spigot. Below pencil lines up with lathe bed showing the spigot is parallel



This test can be used internally or externally and is useful for fitting box lids even when not threaded.

The front of the spigot needs to be rounded over and a recess cut at the rear of the area to be threaded. This latter is most important in order to take the thread chaser away cleanly once at the base of the threaded area. If the chaser was to hit the shoulder at the base and stop in the same place, it would simply cut a line of concentric grooves. Before beginning the chasing Maggie checked that the tool rest was smooth and would not hinder the flowing action needed. The lathe speed was reduced to about 400rpm. She cut the first threads using just the middle teeth of the tool and once the thread had begun, continued with the leading teeth bringing them round to parallel. Maggie then finished the inside of the lid

Having removed the lid from the chuck, Maggie mounted the base and hollowed it out leaving a parallel hole for the female thread at the top. This needed to be slightly bigger than the threaded spigot on the lid and was then carefully reduced checking for fit. Once happy Maggie rounded over the front edge and cut a recess at the base of the shoulder as before. She then reduced the lathe speed again and proceeded to cut the threads with the internal chaser using the same technique as with the external chaser. The knack is to hold the tool lightly and move it at an angle across the corner from left to right making contact with the middle teeth and taking several passes to start the thread. Once begun, the first teeth can be engaged in the thread and will be pulled into it with each pass cutting further along the length and coming round to parallel. Having achieved a good fit, Maggie explained how to line up the grain of the lid and base by removing a little off the front of one section with a gouge and then redefining the thread.

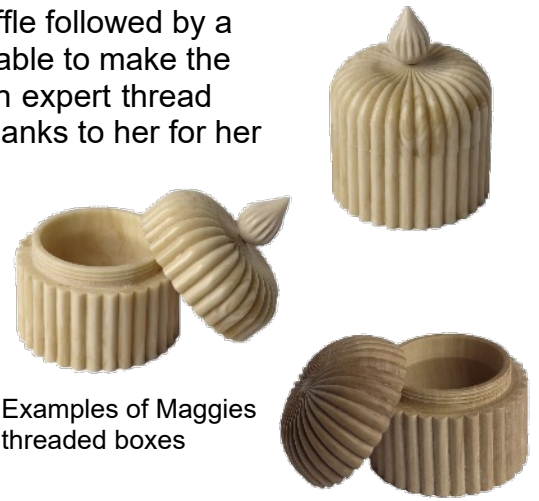


Maggie Wright demonstrating thread chasing

The meeting then continued with a late coffee break and the raffle followed by a viewing of Alan Batty's video on thread chasing. If you were unable to make the meeting you can watch this video on you tube. Alan Batty is an expert thread chaser and the video reinforced Maggie's demonstration. Our thanks to her for her successful session despite the initial problems.

After lunch the afternoon continued with the hands on session. Members seemed reluctant to have a go but several borrowed the club chasers to try the technique at home. Hopefully we will see some successful pieces at the next meeting.

A big thank you to Brian Rowson and team for managing the audio visual and extra video show. Thank you also Marion Brunt for stepping in and doing the raffle and of course Alan Capon for keeping us supplied with beverages.



Examples of Maggie's threaded boxes

Members' Work



A bowl by Gareth Garner



A piece by Paul Filsell



A platter by Jim Moger



A two part chess piece joined with a threaded insert. Made by Mike Knight.



Fishing floats by Fred Mitchell

There were not many entries in the monthly competition. With only three months to go keep those entries coming. There was however, a good selection of work brought in for a display. Photographs were taken by Maggie's daughter for a write up about the club by Maggie for the Woodturning magazine.



Reminder for this Month's Meeting

October 21st 10.00-4.00

Demonstration by **Mick Hanbury**

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

Bandsaw Wanted

Please contact Malcolm Page.

November Meeting

November 18th 10.00-4.00

Demonstration by **Andy Coates**.

Andy is a professional turner and also writes for Woodturning magazine
His website is www.cobwebcrafts.co.uk