

Creating with Colour

In November the club welcomed demonstrator, Jason Smith and his wife, for a return visit. Jason enjoys playing with colour as was apparent from his smock as well as his work.

After the notices, Jason began with a short resume of workshop safe practices. We should all carry out an occasional risk assessment of our workshops and equipment. We should consider the risks, how we can minimise them and and what to do if things do go wrong.

Jason then began turning his first project, a maple platter decorated with acrylic inks. These inks build up texture as well as colour. The blank was mounted on a screw chuck, spun by hand at first to check the balance and for loose bark then the lathe turned on to a safe speed. The work was faced up, a line marked to define the edge of the eventual front and then the chucking point turned. Jason's chucking point consists of a shaped foot with about 1mm of dovetail for the actual chuck jaws. Although this sounds very little, it is perfectly secure provided the sizing is accurate enabling the jaws to grip on a full circle. The beauty of this



technique is that it removes the necessity of reversing the platter after turning the top. Jason then turned the rest of the underneath with a pullcut initially but a pushcut and sharp gouge to finish. This leaves a good finish and reduces the amount of sanding necessary. He then worked on the foot, dishing it slightly to a stable base and adding some decoration in the form of texture using a mini spiralling tool. The texturing was defined with lines made with a point tool. The work was then reversed and Jason stressed that the chuck needs to be tightened securely but not with massive force which would mark the wood. The work was marked out to the golden ratio then Jason turned the rim but left the bowl section at this stage. The rim was wet sanded then sealed and cleaned with a tack cloth to remove any dust. Jason began the colouring process by spraying with an acrylic black matt car paint. He sprayed down across the bottom half, revolving the work to cover it all. This avoids overspray on the finished back. Several thin coats are better than one heavy coat. The drying process was speeded up using a hot air gun. Using acrylic pearlescent inks, Jason began building up colours and textures from dark to light. He used a diffuser to spray the ink onto the work whilst it was turning slowly. If you try this, remember to protect your lathe etc from overspray. Once happy with the effect, Jason would normally leave the piece overnight allowing the grain to move naturally before cutting away some of the colour to add more interest. These areas would be further enhanced by some carving and scorching. As the piece had not been left, the full effect was not apparent but Jason demonstrated the techniques. The middle would then be turned away and the work sealed with acrylic spray and finished with an acrylic gloss spray.

For the next project. Jason prepared a smaller blank in the same way and after spraying it black, he applied tonal stripes of colour. He used the same pearlescent inks but applied them with a bristle paint brush. He gripped the bristles to keep them tight then removed excess ink with the brush and

Offset marbled bowl



merged the edges of each band of colour. The work was then finished as before. It was then time for the raffle and lunch break.

After lunch, Jason began with a decorated offcentre bowl. The blank was prepared as before and the rim turned and sanded. Using professional acrylic aerosols such as those used by graffiti artists, Jason sprayed the rim with a pale cream colour, sealed and finished it. He then masked up around the rim ready to apply a marbling spray. It is best to try this out before applying to your project as it is not so straight forward to use as it looked. Once dry, Jason removed it from the chuck and the chuck from the lathe.

In order to remount the bowl off centre, Jason removed the chuck jaws then replaced only the first and third but engaged the third with the wrong scroll. He then placed it onto the upturned bowl and carefully tightened the jaws then screwed the chuck back onto the lathe. Jason advised care when fixing this way, making sure the work is secure and sound and turning the speed up slowly to avoid vibrations. Jason then turned away the centre of the bowl finishing as before.



Jason mounting the bowl with offcentre jaws.

To complete his demo, Jason showed us two more colouring techniques which he used on a tealight. After turning, sanding and sealing the tealight he sprayed on a white base coat. Once dry, he added colour with Ranger distress spray stains. When spritzed with water these colours mix and blend. Jason flicked water with an artist's speckle brush. The work would be sealed and finished with acrylic gloss aerosol. The second technique used Viva Décor stempel-farber 3D paints which can also be used for grain filling work. Jason applied them using a piece of crunched up thin plastic bag over a black base coat. This medium dries very quickly so any manipulation needs to be carried out as soon as the paint is applied. Jason used three different colours allowing each to dry and finishing with the lightest before coating with acrylic spray.

Our thanks to Jason for an entertaining day and plenty of ideas for members to try at home.

Members' Work



Above, tazza by Robert Hollands.

Above right, pepper and salt mill by Mike Moon and right, German style Father Christmas by Lynn Chambers



Tealight holder turned on an ornamental lathe by Maggie Wright



January Meeting

January 19th 10.00-4.00

AGM and Critique.

Please bring some of your projects for the critique. It is good to see what everyone is making and to learn from other members. The appraisal is helpful to all members to appreciate good design and to see where work could be improved.

Christmas Competition and Social

December 8th 10.00

We look forward to seeing you and your partners and friends with your entries and contributions for lunch



Chairman	Maggie Wright
Vice Chairman and Competition Secretary	Peter Castle
Secretary	Anne Smith
Treasurer	John Turner
Events organiser	Greg Collett
Librarian	David Spice
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Wishing all our Readers

A Merry Christmas,
a Peaceful New Year
and Happy Turning!

