

Talking Texture Extra

In the last two newsletters we have looked at texturing as an embellishment to turned work. A brief mention was made of using pyrography equipment to add texture. This is a technique that can achieve effective results without needing to be particularly artistic, the excuse I hear quite regularly when looking at pyrography designs. The main necessities are having a pyrography unit capable of reasonably fast high heat recovery and a bit of imagination. To encompass a wide variety of designs and homemade tips, a pen that takes interchangeable wire tips is also a must. We have had discussions on pyrography and the scope of different machines at past meetings. If any beginners would like to know more, a handout is available.

Random texturing can be achieved with various standard off the shelf tips such as the ball ones and skewers, available in a range of sizes. Specialist tips including shapes for making beads on wood and, popular with carvers, raised scale designs such as on fish, are available from companies such as Razertip, who even offer a custom tip service.



Easter egg with lightly textured chocolate effect, using a ball tip.



Skep beehive box with the straw textured using a skew point.



Bead forming tip



Scale forming tip



Ball tip

It is fun however, to experiment with making your own tips or brands. A few simple tools and a suitable gauge of nickel chrome wire is all you need. By using pliers and grips to hold and manipulate the wire, it can be shaped as required. It can also be hammered flat and filed for more shapes. Annealing it in a gas torch flame or even the pyrography pen, makes it more malleable.

A classic own design is a basket weave tip, perfected by American turner, Molly Winton. To make the brand, Molly uses mandrels with different size drill bit shanks as the former. Basket weave and Mustang designs have become Molly's signature pieces. She has various Youtube videos explaining her style and techniques and a website - <http://www.turningmaven.com/>

I have made formers using a small lengths of wood with a suitable size nail with head removed, knocked in the end. Take a piece of annealed wire and with grips, hold the first inch along the flat wood then using pliers, wrap 5 coils around the nail. Keep the coils snug and even. Remove from former and holding carefully, bend the straight leg parallel to the coils, cut the ends to 1" and you have your brand. You could just hold a nail in a vice and wind your wire round that. See below left.



As with many designs, it helps to have a border to work to, so with a high heat, burn a border along the edge. The brand is about twice as wide as deep so working from the border, burn each position twice then change the orientation to produce the woven effect. It takes a little practice to keep it neat but the image right, will give you an idea of the effect. Please remember you will need ppe for this burning.



July Competition Entries



1N, Bowl, probably elm, 5" diameter with mahogany knob.



2N, Bowl in purpleheart, 10" diameter.



3N, Night light in spalted beech with perspex rods to conduct the light.



4N, Bowl turned from burr Ash 235mmx105mm.



6I, Vsse embellished with pewter inlaid with brass and resin.



5N, Bowl in Ash, 14"x2½".



7I, Set of trivets 170mm. diameter by 17mm thick.



8A, Flute in olive wood, 7" high.

June Competition Results

The June competition was judged by Paul Filsell. Thank you Paul. The winner was 1N by Gareth Garner. Congratulations Gareth. Other entries were as follows: 2N, Mike Moon; 3N, Jayne Brown; 4A, Sandra Day; 5A, Richard Hasleden. Well done everyone.



Gareth's winning piece

Competition Updates

Provided the August meeting takes place as planned, this month will be the last online competition. Members are invited to bring an entry to the meeting for a monthly competition. The Richard Hasleden monthly competition will resume in 2022.

As the July Social and summer competition has been cancelled, the subjects for the individual classes will apply to the December Winter Competition. Therefore they are as follows:

Novice, a set of eggcups; Intermediate, a vase with textured embellishment; Advanced, a box within a box.

Richard Hasleden had already made an entry for the cancelled summer open class and would like to share it with members. I know everyone will agree that Richard always produces such fine and creative work and this piece is no exception. It is made from burbinga, ebony and box and measures 20" tall x 14" wide.



The August newsletter is due for publication on August 8th
Please send any pictures of your recent work for inclusion to reach me by Tuesday August 3
Email s.a.day@theforstall.plus.com

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

August Meeting.

10.00am August 15th

Demonstration by Gary Rance.

Gary is a production turner as well as turning artistic pieces and demonstrating.

<http://www.garyrance.co.uk/>