



www.kcwoodturners.org

AUGUST 2011

The Basics of Boxes

For July's demonstration Howard Russel shared some of his techniques in turning boxes. Howard, a self-professed novice demonstrator, did an great job explaining and demonstrating the steps in turning a basic lidded box. He described what makes a good looking, balanced piece using the "golden rule" which gives a good starting point on proportions height and width and division of top to bottom portions. Then he turned his way through the steps to make a friction fit lidded box.



September 10 Joint Open House

The Kansas City Woodturners and Kansas City Wood workers Guild will have a Open House at their new facilities on September 10 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.. We need people to turn during the open house, to show interested people our facilities and explain the benefits of the club and answer their questions. We also need examples of turned wood craft to have on display during the open house.

August's Demonstration

Rick Bywater will be demonstration how to make a wooden spoon or ladle. The demonstration will include turning and power carving.

September's Demonstration

Ben Hayes will present our September demonstration. As fall approached and hunting season, be prepared with you own turned duck call. Ben will show us the steps to turn and assemble a call.



WOODCHIPS

Page 2

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Club Events Calendar

All events are held at 3189 Mercier, Kansas City, MO

August

08/01 - Board Meeting 7:00 pm

08/08 - Club Meeting 7:00 pm

08/13 - 2nd Saturday Workshop 8:30am to Noon

08/25 - 4th Thursday 6:00 - 9:00 pm

08/27 - 4th Saturday Workshop 8:30 am to Noon

September

09/05 - Board Meeting 7:00 pm

09/10 - Open House 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

09/12 - Club Meeting 7:00pm

09/22 - 4th Thursday 6:00 - 9:00 pm

09/24- 4th Saturday Workshop 8:30 am to Noon

WOODTURNING CHALLENGES

August Challenge ... Lidded Box

September Challenge ... Container for KCWT Flyers

Auction

For the auction, there are letters that need to be sent to vendors to solicit donations. People to help set-up for the auction and help with staging, selling, and clerking on the day of the auction. To help people load their auction goods and clean-up. To send thank-you letters to supporters and contributors. And to contribute the items in our shops that gather dust and could go to a person who could use them. To continue with our success of our auctions we need everyone to help in some way. No job is too little and every bit is important. Any and all help is appreciated, please remember that the success of the auction helps pay for a large majority of the wood turner's expenses through the year.



Skewed

Shaun Q. McMahon

Seeing that we had an excellent demonstration of turning boxes on 7/11/11, I thought I'd try turning out a couple reviews of box turning videos. These reviews are coming from the perspective of a person very new to turning, a neophyte, a novice, a newbie, but certainly someone who is interested in the subject matter and wants to learn.

The first one is "Turning Boxes" by Richard Raffan. It is available from Craft Supplies for \$19.99 and is 55 minutes long. The video begins with Richard cutting the tree pieces he will use for the box, then cutting the wood into blanks, rough turning round (rapid peeling) and preparing for drying.

The Tools he uses in the video are: the roughing gouge, skew, parting tool, square end scraper, and round nose scraper. He uses them to turn a suction lid box and a screw top box (threads made with machine not chasing) with a finial.

What he can do with a skew is pretty amazing!

He also demonstrates sanding, finishing, and fixing cracks. It is demonstration not necessarily instruction.

I did feel a bit overwhelmed. Being new to turning I am looking for explanations of tools, how they are used, types of finishes, and a lot of answers to "why.". He is a very aggressive and fast turner. It probably comes from his production turning background. There is lots of information coming out rather fast: "Bring the tool to the wood," "Move with the tool," "Make solid form designs to keep," and more.

I think that for a first view, it is beneficial to already have some experience with turning boxes. For someone with that experience, it is probably a wonderful video to mine over and over for the wealth of information it seems to contain, but one viewing doesn't seem to be enough.

The 2nd video is "The Basic Box" with Ray Key. This is also available from Craft Supplies for \$19.99 and is 49 minutes long.



The video is almost conversational. He starts talking about the important elements of box turning: proportions, lid fit, design, and he shows lots of examples. He then goes into the different types of woods which he believes make the best boxes and he again shows examples and explains rather fully.

Ray then gets to the very practical things like securing the wood for turning and discusses three methods. He then discusses lathe speeds and uses drawings to explain exactly how he will turn the box.

The tools he uses are the 3/4 roughing gouge, parting tools, 3/8 spindle gouge, and some modified scrapers and gouges. Tools were modified because that's what turners do I think. Those tools which were modified are clearly explained and the results of the modifications are demonstrated.

As he is demonstrating the turning of the box, he explains the entire process and his process for box making was different from any other I have seen and it seemed to make a lot of sense. He also finishes as he turns and that seemed so logical.

This is my idea of a "how to" video. The pace is slow which I appreciated. The tools are explained as well as the process. This video is clearly meant to instruct and it achieves its goal. An advanced turner may find the video a bit basic but may appreciate the modified tools.

Woodturning definition:

ABRASIVE; materials that can be used to shape, smooth, or sculpt your fingers, hands, and arms when they flail around after you loose your grip on them.



