

Christchurch Society of Woodturners

E- Newsletter

May 2021

Bowl in a Bowl Challenge – Please send in photos of your efforts. Details on what to do and how to send in your photo are on the club website.

Challenge Catch-Up – Acorns, napkin rings and coasters



Nigel Batten



David Hamilton



Ian Wright



Bill Gibson



Paul Reeves



Ian McClure

Woods to Try – Paul Reeves suggests Monkey Puzzle (*Auracaria auracana* or Chilean Pine, though not a member of the pine family at all). It is a close relative of Parana Pine used in joinery and native to the Andes. A horrible spiny, sticky tree, but we like it because of the naturally even rings of knots around the stem that are very decorative. Once past its defences (see website for a top tip), the sections of trunk should be turned like a giant endgrain box ie: the outside from a large to small diameter, and the inside from the bottom of the centre upwards and outwards. In reality, most people turn the inside like a normal bowl, which is against the grain direction and sand away the inevitable torn grain. If you have plenty of time on your hands you can always chuck some in a bog and squash it a lot for a million years or so when it will be turned into Whitby Jet. Jet is really a poor form of lignite or coal but highly prized by jewellery makers for its relatively light weight and black colour. 180 million years later it will probably come to the surface, be picked up and made into something nice. Bog oak goes through a similar process of fossilisation without the squashing.

I still have some rings available if you want to try a bit up to 12" diameter. The last tree

produced some beautiful pieces, although at 20" diameter and 12" deep they were a bit of a handful to get on the lathe in the first place. This one is a bit more manageable to say the least.

Alan Brooks is first to record progress with his Monkey Puzzle



Internet – Vic Russell has a few more suggestions for you:

There is a “woodturning UK” group on Facebook that always has lots of interesting pictures etc.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/925510620841665/?ref=share>

This is a link to making turned “baskets”, it contains further links to videos and supplies etc.

<http://azwoodturners.org/pages/tips/HowToDoBasketWeavePlatter.pdf>

Make your own Abrasive Wax.

<https://youtu.be/6iA9enSpa98>

Carbide tools: Most people think all carbide tools are scrapers; this site may change your mind. The inserts used in these tools are far from the flat type used in many tools and cut rather than scrape.

<https://www.huntertoolseurope.com>

If you're interested in trying the more common carbide tools, these look nice.

<https://davidlloydtools.com>

Iridescent Paints - Mick Boxall was browsing the internet / youtube and found Jo Sonja's iridescent paint. (Chestnut / Axminster have a similar product).



Mick turned these eye-catching plates in Ash and sealed the wood to give a good base for the paint. He started with an ebonising lacquer before using small amounts of his iridescent colours which he mixed with a flow medium to get the desired consistency (a slow blob

from the brush). He then ran the lathe at slow speed for 10 ish seconds to check the effect. He found it best to build the pattern up slowly in layers, allowing each to dry before applying the next. Trial and error until you get a pleasing effect (worst case scenario = sand down or skim to start again). And yes, he did construct a cowl from a cardboard box to prevent spraying the workshop and its contents! Finally, he used a spray lacquer with the work horizontal (2-3 thin coats).

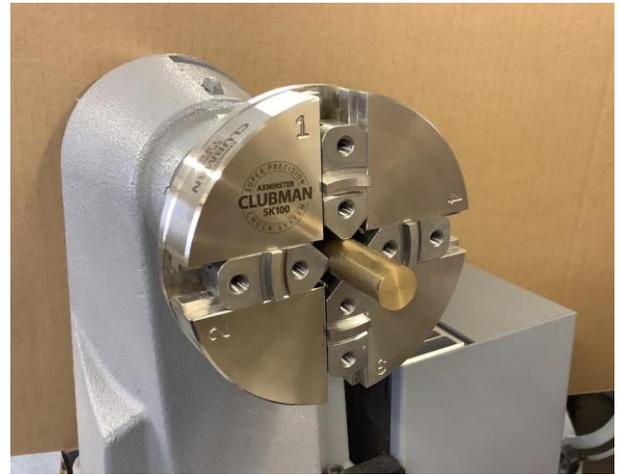


Eye up chuck! – Vic Russell: I've recently been working out what tools and materials I need for a particular turning project. I'm not averse to using things like jam chucks but having suitable accessory jaws for my regular chuck seemed a better solution. I'm a great fan of Axminster chucks but it appears they don't make any jaws ideally suited to my project. On the basis that you can't have too many chucks I decided now might be the time to buy another make of chuck to increase the accessory jaw options available to me. I spent some time looking at all the available jaw options and was surprised to find only Record Power manufactured what I considered to be an ideal solution. This was in the form of their 40mm pin jaws to fit their mini chucks.

I decided on the SC2 chuck as it has a bigger opening range than the smaller SC1. The chuck itself is a nicely made 2.5" diameter direct fitting chuck that comes supplied with standard 40mm dovetail jaws. I ordered the pin jaws at the same time. The chuck package itself was a modest £79.99 and the extra pin jaws were an additional £33.99. The chuck fits nicely on my Axminster AT1416VS and is supplied with a locking screw to enable running the lathe in reverse if required. Several different lathe thread fittings are available for the SC2, I chose the M33 x 3.5 for my lathe. Pictures show the chuck fitted with the pin jaws and the standard jaws by the side. Also shown compared to the Axminster SK100.



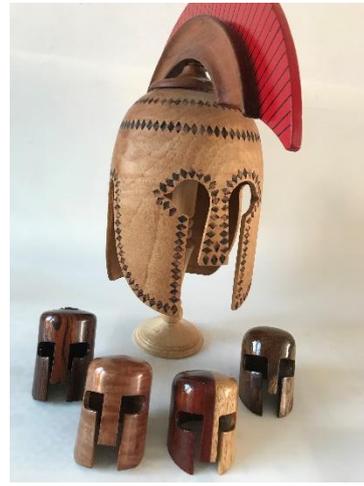
The only downside I can see for this chuck is that at present Record Power don't make very many different accessory jaws to fit it, but hopefully that will change. Full details of the chuck here: <https://www.recordpower.co.uk/product/sc2-mini-chuck-65mm-body-m33-x-35#.YHBOKcp4WhA>



Vic also asks if you knew that you could grip items without accessory jaws?

Introducing the Chairman – JB, John Bolt has been turning for 15 years and has spent 12 of those as Chairman of the Society. For two decades he owned a small fabrication and welding business in Milford on Sea and then spent nearly as long in a local school as a Physics technician. He has a Nova DVR auto-speed lathe (Nova 3000 pulley belt for sale!) and likes to create unusual / fun things which make people smile and ask, 'How on earth did you make that?'. He sees each new project as an engineering challenge (eg how to hold it etc). Go to chisel - all of them, plus any jigs he's made. First car - Morris 1000 Traveller (still drives estates). Favourite food - meat. Away from the lathe has got as far as Spain in his 26' sailboat 'Chablis' and plays a mean game of volleyball to keep fit. And those braces? - practicality over fashion every time! An array of John's skilful, inventive turning shown below:





Sometimes – you just have to accept it's time to stop!

If you recognise the workshop, I will name and shame in the next issue!



If only – we could climb into a dryer to come out wrinkle free and two sizes smaller!

Contributions to this e-newsletter are very welcome as are suggestions and comment. Perhaps a review on a new tool, a finishing product, a technique you have been trying or the story of a particular project.

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