Christchurch Society of Woodturners

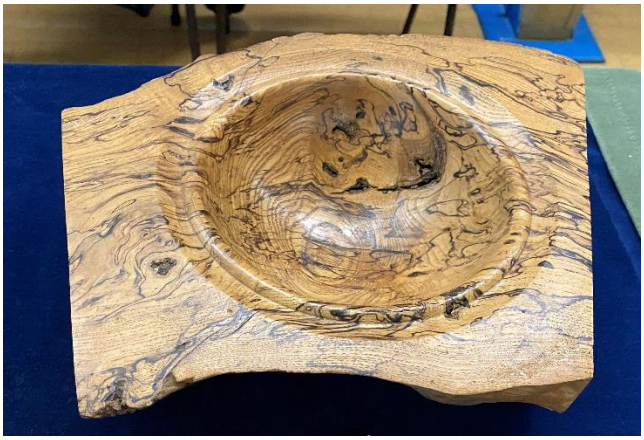
e - newsletter January 2025

December Meeting Report

Thanks to Paul for his Christmas whistle demo. Wonderful turning, knurling, cutting and colouring – and then he blew it!

Appraisal / Display Table

Thanks to all who contributed to a very full and varied display table.



Clive Potter

Rhob Williams

John Williams

Merls De Pearle

Paul Reeves

Vic Russell

Trevor Elliott

Phil Scoltock

Julian Hellebrand

Phil Walker

Finn Trotman

Andy Ogilvie

Christmas Quiz Controversy + Admission from the Chairman

One of the Christmas quiz questions was to identify a bowl gouge – easy enough you might think except that it appears what I, your Chairman and quizmaster, have used as a bowl gouge for all my 6 years of turning is actually a spindle gouge! Which in turn means that the gouge I thought was a spindle gouge ….. I just got a box of tools with a loaned lathe and I have never challenged my identification of the bowl gouge in those first days. Now, looking at chisels I have bought subsequently, I can see that the mis-identification should have become obvious earlier. Ironically, they are two of my favourite chisels!

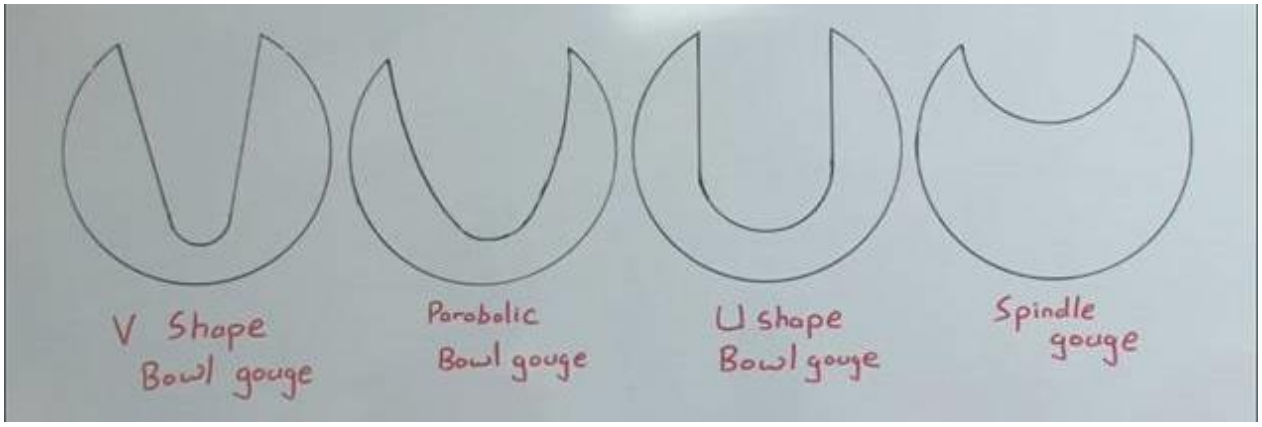
Phil Scoltock took up the challenge of confirming what he suspected on the night and offers the following explanation so that no-one else mis-identifies a chisel.

Bowl Gouges: depth of the flute is deeper, greater than radius of the shaft, so the bottom of flute is below the centre line of the shaft. This creates a larger space so that it can clear a greater volume of shavings. The higher flute walls (less open) make the gouge stronger and less prone to flex when used with a greater tool rest overhang.

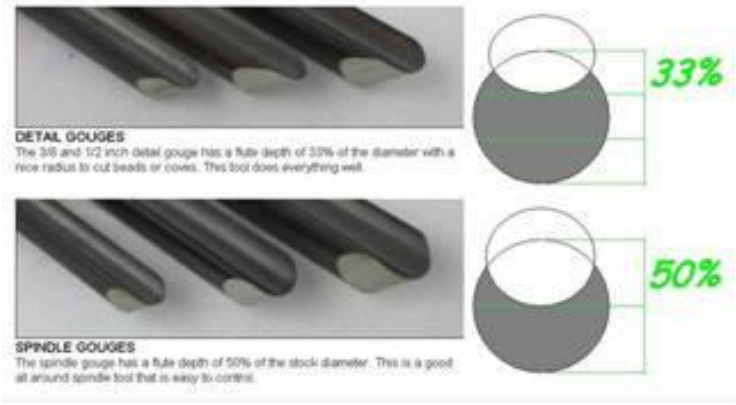
Spindle gouges: depth of the flute is typically less than the radius (ie the bottom of the flute is above the centre line of the shaft) and the flute is typically wide open.

Detail Spindle Gouge :– Flute is even shallower and bevel angle far more aggressive / pointy / catchy.

Below is a screenshot from a Glenn Lucas “Tools and Techniques” tutorial video that shows the 3 bowl gouge flute profiles and a spindle gouge flute profile side by side (of course every brand varies and there are variations on the theme).



Thomson Lathe Tools (a top USA brand) differentiate between the Spindle Gouge and Detail Spindle Gouge based on ratio of flute depth to shaft diameter.



Phil thinks you also need to consider bevel angles on spindle and detail gouges - a spindle gouge is typically around 45 degrees making it versatile, easy to use and user friendly whereas a detail spindle gouge is closer to 33 degrees making it very pointy and therefore very catchy, not very versatile but extremely good at refining fine detail. With such an acute bevel angle, the detail spindle gouge flute is shallower to ensure that the tip is strong / durable.

At the end of the day you can use spindle gouges on bowls (but not spindle roughing gouge) and bowl gouges on spindle work. If you consider it from the point of view of what is happening at the point of contact with the wood – you will experience having the bevel “rubbing” against it, the cutting edge engaging and the shavings peeling off against the rake face (flute) – but it makes sense, surely, to use any tool for its intended purpose.

So, you now know which gouge is which – just got to sort out how to grind it….. perhaps another day?

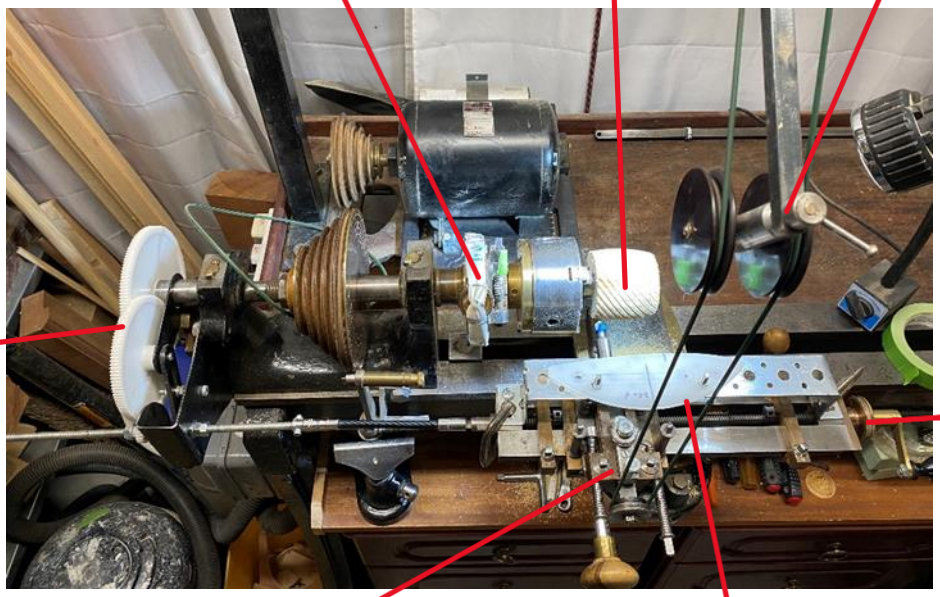
From a Workshop Near You

Andy's spiral bodied box, also pictured above, was done on an 'Ornamental Lathe' built in the early 1900s. This has been adapted to allow 'curvilinear work' and has a spiral mechanism which links movement of the compound slide to rotation of the headstock. Also needed for this job was a separate indexing plate to allow the work to be rotated independently of the headstock. All sound a bit complicated? It took ages to build the extras and also to set it up for this particular job. It all has to be set up correctly before making the first cut, but after that there is a certain amount of repetition albeit with careful adjustments between cuts – concentration required! The wood (Box) is carefully shaped before the finer cutters are used add the detail. The box is then hollowed, and the top and bottom in Purple Heart turned separately before assembly. No sanding is possible as it would spoil the detail and the piece is finished with only a coat of sanding sealer.

Indexing plate allows the piece to rotate independently of the headstock so it can be stepped round for each spiral cut

Workpiece with most of the spiral cuts made

Overhead drive for the cutter via polyprop band and pulleys



These cogs set the rate of rotation of the headstock – linked to the linear slide handle

Handle for linear movement of the slide linked to cogs at far end. 1 turn of the handle here = 1/10" linear movement and about 4 deg rotation of headstock

Lateral movement of the slide / cutter is achieved by pushing in so the rubber is against the template which dictates the depth of cut

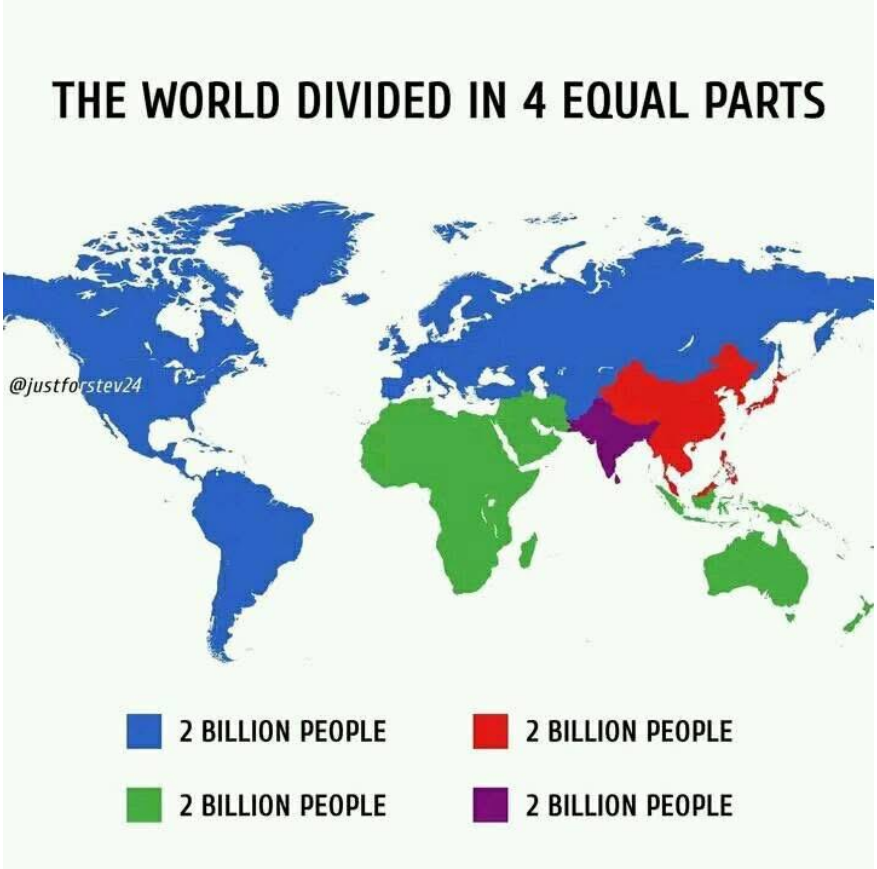
Curvilinear apparatus
The cutter will follow the form of the aluminium template to create curved sides to the box

Website Marketplace

CSW often hears of gear for sale and this invariably goes on the club website. Just before Christmas Rick added a Perform lathe + chisels + extractor – all for just £240. (Wimborne). Full details on the website. For someone starting up, it could be a

Happy New Year!

Food for Thought



Pick of the Pics

A new year resolution for you is NOT to store your tools like this

Contributions to this e-newsletter are very welcome as are suggestions and comment. I am particularly interested in the story of projects which members have taken on. Please take a couple of photos, scribble down some background notes and I'll put it all together for the newsletter.

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