

August 2017 - Mark Hancock

Mark has been involved with wood turning for nearly 30 years and has therefore some firm ideas as to techniques and terminology and spent the first 45 minutes dispelling some of the conventional "turning speak". For example "spindle turning" and "bowl turning" are not helpful phrases and turning should be referred to as "cross grain" or "parallel grain" irrespective of the form that is required.

Other basics covered were ...

- Green wood splits due to uneven drying
- Distortion occurs after turning both cross grain and parallel grain
- There is no problem in including the pith in turnings
- Remember the 10:08 rule (ref clock face) in terms of the brain not liking symmetry, so with reference to bowl blank choice of top follow the "Smiley face" rule

For the demonstration part of the demo Mark aimed to turn a simple bowl from 2/3 month old wet beech.

Top Tip 1 - when inserting a 4-prong drive make sure that no 2 opposite chisel points are in line with the grain to ensure a more secure grip

Mark then did the initial shaping and defined 3 sections to the turning which he said were applicable to any such project ...

Section 1 - the method of holding i.e the spigot

Section 2 - a sort of buffer region which enables more room to shape the main form when held by the spigot

Section 3 - the main form body



He then introduced the term "Interactive Sequential Turning" to refer to the turning of sections 1, 2 and 3 a bit at a time

Top Tip 2 - using the tool at a 30 degree angle (guillotine angle) gives a smoother cut

Top Tip 3 - rough finish the outside of the main form before mounting on the spigot as there is no point in finishing the outside at this stage in case the form doesn't run true when mounted on the spigot

Top Tip 4 - when tightening the work with the spigot in the chuck, tighten all the adjusters to ensure a secure and true hold

Mounting the work on the spigot, define the top rim and finish the outside shape using a shear scraper. Hollow out the inside by cutting in the middle to say 1" and then work bit by bit towards the outside to get a consistent wall thickness. Then starting at the centre move down another 1" in the same way blending the two outer edge cuts.



With the inside complete the work was mounted on a friction drive to complete the shaping of the foot.



Top Tip 5 - Look at the Tormek sharpening method for sharpening a parting tool to get clean side cuts

David Langan