

December 2015 - Nick Agar

We were pleased to welcome back Nick for his second all-day demonstration at our club this year and, as ever, the day was packed with hints and tips, new ideas and skills, and of course entertaining anecdotes and banter with the audience.

The first two projects were of a seasonal nature - **Project 1** was a Christmas tree "onion" shaped bauble (or ornament as they say in the states!), quickly turned and decorated from a piece of spalted hornbeam, and **Project 2**, the same ornament but hollowed out from sycamore to create a typical lighter bauble. The latter effect was achieved using a forstner bit to drill out from the "pointy" end which was then plugged and shaped before airbrushing over the join.



Top Tip 1 - initial rounding using a bowl gouge at 2000rpm holding underhand with thumb on the tip to keep the tool steady

Top Tip 2 - listen to the sound when turning in order to detect splits and knots etc

Top Tip 3 - spraying sealer can be better than painting sealer - gives a more even finish

Top Tip 4 - have a can of acetone handy to remove paint from lathe bed/chuck etc - also useful for cleaning the the nozzles when airbrushing

Project 3 was a simple bowl turned using standard techniques but then embellished with numerous designs and finishes.

Top Tip 5 - use a bowl gouge as a shear cut scraper to get an excellent finish on the outside of the bowl, also allowing access right up to the spigot.

An ingenious use of stencils and airbrushing was demonstrated by progressively lightly airbrushing the butterfly stencil in order to create the effect of the butterfly in motion.



Top Tip 6 - having completed the outside design work, finish with a "fog" of lacquer rather than oil as the latter will go yellowy over time

An alternative outside of bowl decoration was then demonstrated using thin adhesive strips over a randomly sprayed pattern of colours and then oversprayed in black so that an interesting design was revealed when the adhesive strips were removed.



The inside edge of the bowl was decorated using a variety of tools including a grinder and the boundary detail between the design was achieved using skew, making sure that the skew is held vertical with the flat edge firmly held on the toolrest.

Project 4 was a simple loose fit lidded box out of a 4" sycamore spindle blank. The base of the box was drilled out using a forstner bit.

Top Tip 8 - rub wax on the forstner bit for a smoother entry and also hold the chuck, withdrawing the forstner bit frequently to remove shavings

Having put grooves into both the lid and base, the grooves were sanded using a torn off strip of cloth abrasive twizzled into a round. The grooves were then sprayed and the overspray sanded off.



The final **Project 5** was again a box, using a piece of branchwood with the intention of removing the loose bark whilst retaining the natural surface underneath for a more rustic effect. The lid was turned using left over wood from project 4 so that it was fully inserted flush into the base with a leather strap handle.

All in all a very full day from which I am sure everybody learnt some new skills and took away ideas to incorporate into their own turning projects. Thanks again to Nick Agar.

Thanks also to Sue Meads and Sue Foweraker for the excellent lunch, and to Mark Sanger for operating the camera to such good effect.

Finally, thanks to Julian Cleak from Crow Valley Woodturners for permission to use some of the photographs that he took on the day.