

Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 180 dated September/October 2015

Observations Swan WEWS 2015

The last demonstration of the day was by Doug **McDiarmid**, and it was on the use of 'Embellishments' to enhance wood turned items.

Doug explained how his visit to the Collaboration 2014 Workshop in October that was held in Bunbury and in particular the demonstrations put on by two of the overseas artists namely, Jacques Vesery and Bihn Pho who both came from the United States of America, had inspired him to pursue new areas of using embellishments to enhance wood turned items.

He called it 'Burning Your Turning'. Doug was using some cherry wood from America, and he explained how this wood was very good for both end grain and side grain work. Doug said how he had played around with a number of other types of wood, namely pine, she oak and jacaranda.

He also explained how he had been inspired by a person named Peter Lane who had created a lot of texturing type embellishment using rotary grinders and a number of carving tools. The use of wood burning tools was another method he had used after watching a person named Graham Criddle from New Zealand.

This was also enhanced by the use of pyrography burning tools which gave the wood either a shading or a drawn embellishment. Doug then explained that after much tinkering with different things that he much preferred the method of carving and burning the wood to create a lot of different embellishment techniques.

He used a tool which had a dial attached to it that allowed him to regulate the temperature.

Doug explained how he has made his own burning tips using Nichrome Resistance Wire. This wire is also used for wiring heating elements and consists of 80% nickel, 20% chromium. -

Resistance 13.77 ohm per metre. Using a burner that had wire shaped like a very small mosquito coil, Doug demonstrated the technique of burning shapes into the wood using a piece of pine. He used this coil tip to demonstrate both a circular effect and a basket weave effect.

Another form of branding using wire coiled into a spring like shape gave a leather look and a lacing look. The small loose and charred pieces were brushed away using a wire brush.

Doug pointed out that 'Miama Gems sell a gem working brush and this is also good for cleaning away the charred bits.

Doug then went on to explain a technique he had picked up from Jaques Veserey where after burning the effect into the wood, Jaques used acrylic paints to add colour to the shapes he had created. Doug explained how he uses a deerforth brush which is available for Jacksons Art Supplies and Indian ink to create several visual effects. He said a toothbrush can also be used to apply the acrylic paint to very good effect.

Doug also explained how he uses raps or riffler files as they are better known to also create very good effects on the timber pieces.

Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 163 November/December 2012

Observations Swan WEWS October 2012

Doug McDiarmid's demonstration is of cutlery handles.

He passed around examples of his work mounted on a display card and explained that blanks are cut to match the end product, in this case a cheese knife.

Doug uses a chuck to determine the exact centre marked with a tailstock live centre, then mounts between centres with a cone live centre, and roughs down to round, using spanners to size the blank.

As the tang is 6mm, he drills a 5mm hole in the end of the blank, which is then threaded with a tap bit, and finished with a bolt fastened in a Jacobs chuck mounted in the lathes drive.

Doug then shaped the handle including the position for the ferrule.

After sanding, the handle receives 3 coats of oil finish, rubbed back with steel wool.

Doug explained that you can use this system for production of items such as wine bottle stoppers, etc.

Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 161 dated July 2012

Observations Joondalup/Wanneroo WEWS June 2012

The next demonstration was planned to be Gordon Ratcliffe and **Doug McDiarmid** to show Gordon's thread cutting machine.

Unfortunately, Gordon was unable to attend so Doug went ahead alone.

Doug explained that the machine could cut both internal and external threads, and passed around examples of Gordon's work, which included a toothpick holder, pill box and a jar with a screw top. The lathe was homemade with a thread adjuster and fitted with a small router and a homemade cutter.

Doug showed the machine in operation, then conducted a discussion on commercial machines available for purchase.

Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 155 dated July 2011

Observations from Joondalup/Wanneroo WEWS June 2011

Doug McDiarmid was next to demonstrate the skew chisel and some alternatives.

He first passed around samples of his work made at shopping centres where no sanding is allowed, therefore he had used a skew to obtain the fine finish on his work.

Doug then spoke on the metals used to make skew chisels and demonstrated the use of a wedge tool and passed the tool and the result around.

Then came the skewchigouge with Doug demonstrating its use and passing around the result and the chisel, he repeated the actions with a Spindle Master by Robert Sorby.

Doug then explained and demonstrated: square skews, oval skews, rolled edge skews, round skews, Crow rounded cutting edge, Beading and parting tool. Doug explained how you can vary the skew angle and the angle of the bevel, then he showed the hand grips that can be used with skews.

Doug concluded by demonstrating planing with long point up, then he then made V cuts, rolled a bead, cut a hollow and turned a cove.

All you ever wanted to know about skews except how to sharpen pencils.

Doug advises keep practising; the results will make the effort worthwhile.