

Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 183 dated March/April 2016

Observations Swan WEWS January 2016

Joe Clark introduced **Brian Kirkby** who demonstrated how to use his multi centre chuck. It could be argued that it was a jig, fitted to the chuck, but no matter, Brian went about explaining how he made the chuck using some pieces of aluminium.

Brian passed around a number of pieces of his work which included numerous platters which all had off centre shapes cut into them.

Brian explained the importance of using counter balancing weights to the chuck so as to assist in properly balancing the work.

He then mounted a piece of timber to the chuck. He then went onto explain the need to check everything before starting up.

He said you must make certain all screws are tight, the counterbalance weights are secure and that the variable lathe speed is set to low.

Brian explained how he used a profile gauge to ensure all the holes in the platter were cut to the same depth.

Once he had cut the first hole in platter, he used a power tool to sand it, then he simply changed the centre by loosening the locking nuts and moving the work to the next position.

He then explained how he had two pencil marks on his tools rest which he used to ensure all his platter cuts were the same width as well as the same depth.

After completing three holes in the face of the platter, Brian demonstrated how he used cole jaws to reverse the work and remove the spigot from the base of the platter. Brian ran out of time in which to complete his demonstration.

However, albeit a very short demonstration, it was a very good one to finish of a great day.



Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 216 dated May/June 2021

Observations Swan WEWS April 2021

Next up was **Brian Kirby** who used a homemade offset chuck to show how to make a bowl within which were 5 smaller bowls – using a profile gauge to ensure that the 5 were of the same dimensions.

He emphasized the importance of adjusting the counterweight component of the system to ensure that the blank was well balanced and the need for using a safety collar to ensure that the chuck would stay in place when the lathe was turned off.

Having completed the bowl, he used homemade bowl jaws to reverse chuck the bowl and remove the screw holes and recess from the base.

Swan Snippets

Brian Kirkby gave a quick explanation of how he'd produced his inside out.



Christmas tree decoration. Using four pieces of wood, paper glued together, he turned the first profile according to the template. He stressed not to turn the centre any smaller than 55% of the total width as you'd run out of timber when you turned the wood inside out. The 4 pieces were then taken apart and reglued at 180 deg. With the final turning done, Brian showed us what unique decorations we could all make for our Christmas trees this year.

Brian went on to demonstrate turning a baby's rattle with 3 captive rings, using his spindle gouge and the Sorby left and right hand tools and also one he made from an old chisel. As the rattle was for a baby he didn't use any finish.



Swan

Special project

Swan member Brian Kirkby was asked last year to turn a steering wheel for a 1955 Series 1 Land Rover. Brian claims it was a challenge he could not resist.

He first produced a prototype in pine to fine tune the process. Then a great slab of She oak 50 mm thick was purchased and cut into 6 blanks with 30-degree mitres on each end. Then clamped together so the shape of the wheel could be scribed on to them, inside 360 mm outside 450 mm. The blanks were then cut into 6 curved blanks and split in half before gluing each set of halves together on a nice flat surface.



Each half was then mounted on the extended bowl jaws and the finished inside diameter was turned with a groove in the joining faces to accommodate the steel ring of the steering wheel, before reversing them to shape the outside, then fitted to the steering wheel, glued and clamped between two packing rings of custom wood.

It was then mounted on a timber Spigot in a chuck and held there with a plate and screw, to complete the turning and then finished with Wipe-on Poly.

The three gear shift knobs were turned from the same lump of She oak.

Well done, Brian.



Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 228 dated May/June 2023

WEWS Swan Report April 2023

It would be fair to say that we were bowled over by the Swan Woodturners Group Weekend Workshop. An innovation was the introduction of the "demo duos", in which an experienced turner was complemented by a newer turner, 4 of whom were demonstrating at weekend workshop level for the first time - not that they were intimidated by the 96 people that turned out to watch. Ian Moss kicked off "Bowl Magic" with his flying saucer bowl design. *See more information under Ian Moss.*

He was followed by Robert Drinkwater who showed how to make a square edged bowl. *See more information under Robert Drinkwater.*

Bruce Shephard then followed with "Bowl me Over" showing how to make a bowl from a 10 mm thick board. *See more information under Bruce Shephard.*

Tracy Redwood followed with a demo of a small bowl. *See more information under Tracy Redwood.*

After lunch Brian Kirkby commenced the “Bowl Beautification” session showing options for routing on the lathe.

Firstly, a homemade jig to hold the trimmer was used to rout grooves above centre around the surface of a bowl blank – the depth of cut being adjusted by using a 3 mm shim against the router table that was then removed, prior to cutting the 24 grooves.

Next, he showed the Vermec Engineering system to hold the trimmer, plus a routing table and steel plate and stem to fit the lathe’s tool rest banjo (at a cost of 3 times that of the homemade jig!).

This jig has a moulded aluminium nose through which the cutter protrudes, with hex bolts on the sides to adjust the depth of cut. This allows for a freehand approach to cutting grooves e.g., on the curved surface of a vase. Different cutters such as round over, coving, straight shanked, vee grooving etc. can be used in the router to get different effects, The spacing of grooves can be varied with indexing plates having anything from 3 positions through to 360.



He stressed the need to unplug the lathe before starting to route, to avoid the inadvertent turning on the lathe with the indexing lock in place.