



Contains January 2009 Minutes

February 2009



Larry McCardel provided the demonstration at our January Meeting. The article that Larry prepared along with photos by Gordon Seto is reprinted here with permission. An addendum of additional information gathered at the demonstration follows this article.

1) Starting Out

Check out your lathe to make sure your tail stock and tool rest banjo slide along the bed ways easily. If not clean and oil the bed ways so that they move easily. Check the tool rest for any nicks. If there are this will transfer from your tool to the wood you are turning and possibly cause a catch. You can smooth the tool rest with a mill file. I sometimes take the rest to the belt sander to take out any imperfections on the tool rest. Also if you rub some paraffin wax over the tool rest and your turning tools will move over the rest a little easier. Also check your tools

and make sure they are sharp. A few minutes at the grinder makes life a lot easier at the lathe.

2) Choosing your stock for platters

Almost any wood will do as long as it is dry and stable, free of splits and imperfections that can't be corrected or detract from the end result. As a lot of platters are displayed more than they are used as a utility piece, the nicer the wood the nicer the platter looks on display. The wood should be at least 4/4 thick and of a diameter that usually exceeds plate size, but anything over 18 inches is usually too large to be useful. If the thickness is more than 4/4 you have a little more leeway as to the design of the rim or flange of the platter.

3) Preparing the blank

I usually find the center of the blank and put a small indentation with a center punch. Sometimes you can work around a defect by moving this center point up, down or sideways. Also if there are certain grain features such as crotch you might want this to be centered in the platter. If one side of the wood is more interesting than the other side, then make sure that it is not turned away, but shows up in the finished piece. Now that you have a center take your compass and draw a circle, then it's off to the band saw to saw out that circle. If the wood is really nice you can save the comers for smaller items such as bottle stoppers, bird house ornaments, knobs, finials etc. Waste not, want not.

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Use compass to lay out the platter



Cut the blank round on band saw

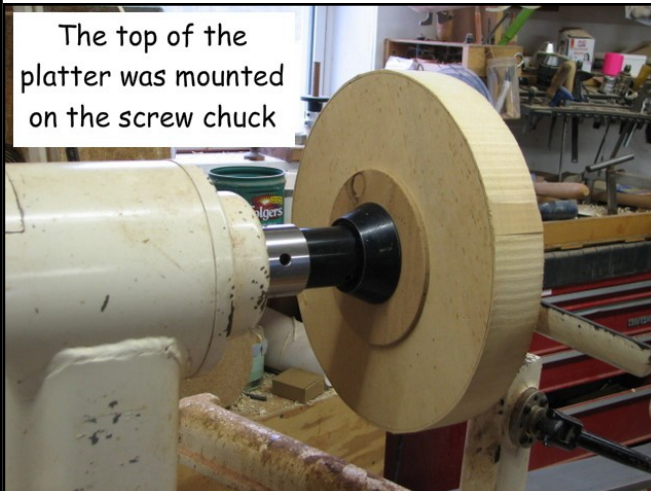
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4) Mounting the stock of the lathe.

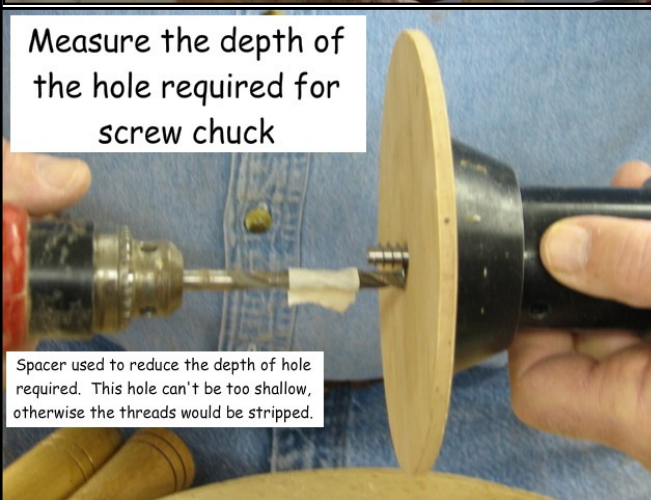
There are several ways that this can be accomplished. You can use a faceplate, glue a waste block to the stock, even double faced tape would possibly work but not recommended. The way I like is to use a screw chuck, which usually comes with your four jaw chuck. Take the diameter of the shank and drill a hole where the center point was to the depth of the screw. If the screw protrudes too far, you can cut out different thicknesses of wood with a hole in the center to go over the screw. This will prevent the screw from penetrating too deep into the platter material. Usually 4 threads into the stock provide sufficient holding power. If you use less than 4 threads be a little careful and not too aggressive with the tools. Remember that the screw goes into the top of the platter and that you will be turning the bottom

of the platter to start.

5) Starting to turn



The top of the platter was mounted on the screw chuck

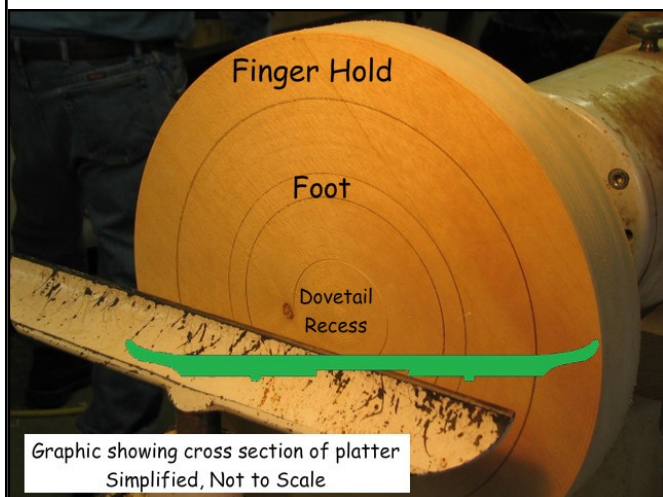
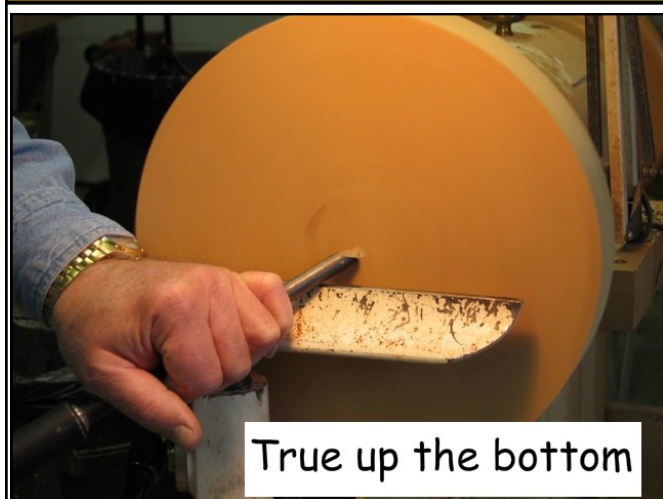


Measure the depth of the hole required for screw chuck

Spacer used to reduce the depth of hole required. This hole can't be too shallow, otherwise the threads would be stripped.

Before turning you should have a very good idea of what you want this platter to look like. I would possibly recommend that you draw out a cross section on paper before starting. On the bottom there are some things to consider. You will need a recess for the 4 jaw chuck to expand into when you reverse the platter. You will need to turn a finger hold in order to left the platter off a flat surface. You will need to turn a finger hold in order to left the platter off a flat surface. The bottom could be flat or a little concave in order not to rock and roll on the table. Before

I like to turn a little foot about 1/2 to 2/3 out from the center point or to the point that the platter will not be tippy. Try to make the foot in proportion to the size of the platter. A per-



son 5 foot 2 looks rather odd wearing a size 16 shoe. The height of the foot is just enough to get the platter off the flat surface of the table usually less than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, $\frac{3}{16}$ is pretty good. This gives a little detail to the bottom of the platter and a little lift to the piece. I also like



to put a few lines in the recess where the chuck goes as this gives you a place to sign your name after the piece is completed. Also adding a few beads lends some interest and also shows that you have taken some extra time and pride in what you are doing. Don't make it too busy as this could de-

tract from what you want to accomplish. Sometimes less is more, especially if the wood is beautiful, let the wood do the talking rather than a lot of gingerbread.

Once these items are taken into consideration, it's time to get started. First true up the face and the edge of the stock. I usually mark out the foot with a pencil and turn this first, next make your recess for the chuck to expand into. Take a reading of the outside diameter of the chuck jaws in its closed position and add a little to it so the jaws can expand into it. I like to use dovetail jaws as I feel it gives better holding power and you don't have to go very deep with your recess. Next turn your finger hold on the flange. This can be any design you wish as long as you can get your fingers under the platter to left it off the table. Your turning is pretty much finished except for any decoration (lines or beads) you might want to add.

The next step is to sand the bottom. Tool marks can sometimes be taken care of by scrapers held at 45 degrees and lightly dragged across the piece. Go easy and use a light touch and a lot of sanding can be eliminated. Sand to the point that no sanding lines are visible and it is ready for finish.

6) Turning the top of the platter.

Some things to consider for the top. How wide should we make the rim? Are we going to carve it, dye it, pierce it, etc? What about the transition from the rim to the bottom of the platter. Should the platter be absolutely flat? Yes, if you will be using it to serve beverages such as wine in wine goblets. It can be slightly concave if used for other items such as cookies or dinner rolls.

7) The rim or flange

It's usually a good idea to turn the rim first as you have the support of the mass of wood in the center to support the outer rim. The rim usually looks better if it is slightly tilted toward the center of the platter. If the wood has some stress it could move making it difficult to finish the rim. Once you turn the rim I would normally sand this rim ready for finish. Make and design such as beads or

coves or lines that you want because once the center is excavated out and the piece has moved it's too late to go back to it. Now you're ready to start excavating the center of the platter. What you are looking for is a nice clean sweep from the outer diameter to the center with no undulations and without a pip in the center. It can be slightly concave or absolutely flat depending on the use.

Flat bottoms sound easy but it is difficult for the novice. Something that will help is to keep the tool rest 90 degrees to the bed ways of the lathe. Keep your finger with the tool against the tool rest and at the same angle sweep across the bottom of the



platter. Once you think it's pretty flat draw some pencil lines and with a flat scraper sweep across the bottom. Repeat this as often as necessary until all the lines



Check Thickness

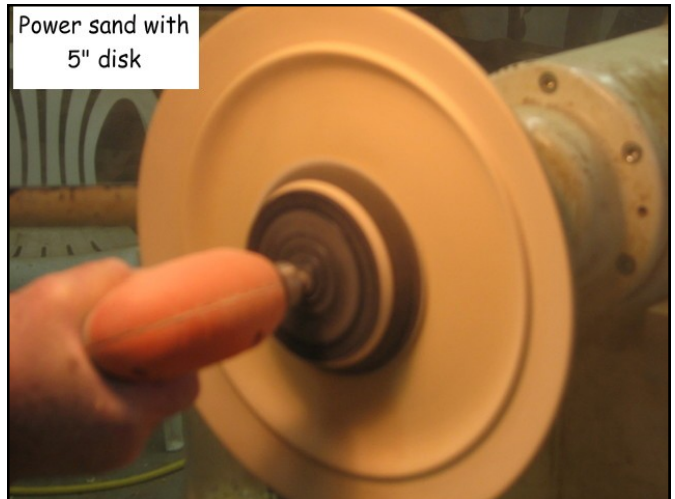


Check flatness with
Straight edge
(if you want a flat bottom platter)

disappear with one sweep. Another check is to use a straight edge to check the bottom, removing the high points. After that sandpaper on a felt sanding pad, sanding block will also let you discover any high points. Use of a random orbit sander can make life a little easier and speed up the process of developing a flat bottom. Power sanding with smaller round sandpaper or hand sanding with small pieces of sandpaper can put undulations in the bottom of the platter. Avoid doing that. Once you are satisfied with the sanding you are ready to apply the finish of your choice.

Conclusion:

Platters are fun to make and afford all kinds of design opportunities. Also the women seem to love having a few of them around. They make great gifts and the ladies are happy to have them. So have fun and make the ladies happy. Above all else work safely, take care of your equipment and it will afford you lots of pleasure.



Power sand with
5" disk

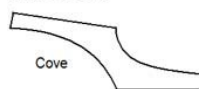


Finished

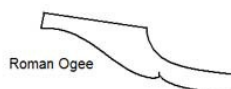
Resources Used:

- 1) The Woodturners Workbook by Ray Key
- 2) Turning Projects by Richard Raffan
- 3) Woodturning Projects by Mark Baker
- 4) Woodturning Design by Ray Key
- 5) Creating Beautiful Trays - King Heiple - North coast Demo 9-03
- 6) Woodturning Techniques by Ray Key

Some Platter Design Features:

Finger Holds

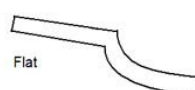
Cove



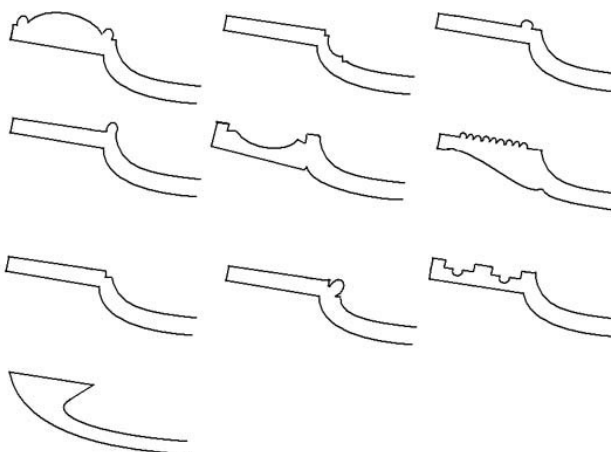
Roman Ogee



Oval



Flat

Add Your Own:RimsPlatter Addendum, Larry McCardel
Jan. 17, 2009

Larry McCardel provided this demonstration to BWWT woodturners on Jan. 17, 2009. Larry had a handout that he gave to all members and then provided this commentary during the live demonstration.

He indicated that one should start with platter turning by going over the lathe to make sure that it was in fine working order. Because of the size of the project and the cost of the wood, there should not be a failure of the equipment that might cause the loss of the wood or injury to the operator. So he suggested that one should wax the bed of the lathe to get smooth movement of the tool rest holder and the tailstock. One should also take out any nicks in the tool rest to prevent the tool from skipping or dragging along the top. Wax could also be used on the top of the tool rest to get the tools to move freely.

Larry suggested that one should use dry stock for the turning of a platter. He indicated that this would prevent warping of the platter when finished. The platter is usually wide in dimensions and if it warped it would be ruined in appearance as well as in functionality. When choosing a blank, one should look for nice figure or fancy grain. One should make a selection of determining which side should be exposed. Larry suggested that one should have the fancy grain on the bottom and then you could turn down into that grain so that the grain would show in the center of the platter when finished. Therefore the top rim would be somewhat less enhanced with grain, but the beautiful grain would be deep in the platter.

Larry marked the center of the blank by drawing a line from each corner to the opposite side. This provided a cross mark in the center of the blank. He then took a compass and drew a wide circle to provide the limits of the platter. He proceeded to cut the circle

line on a bandsaw in order to get a platter blank. He indicated that one should not throw away the nice corners of the blank as they could be used for smaller turned items, such as a bottle stopper, Christmas ornament, toothpick holder or even pen blanks.

He uses a screw chuck to mount the blank on the lathe. He used a Glaser screw chuck to hold the piece on the lathe. He said that these are still available from Highland Hardware for around \$130 or so. If the platter blank is too thin, then one could use some plywood discs to take up the space of the screw chuck so as not to bottom out in the piece.

After mounting the blank on the screw chuck, the first cut that he took was to make a pull cut from the center of the blank to the outer edge. This was done to level out the blank and provide a true and accurate face. Then he used a small gouge to true up the edge or rim of the blank so that it would spin in a balanced mode and provide accuracy to the blank.

Now he took a gouge and turned away the excess wood in order to make a finger hold at the underside of the rim. This finger hold was done to make it easier to lift the platter off the table. It is at this time that one should also turn the rest of the platter bottom. Here one would want to remove excess wood that does not fit the shape that the turner is seeking. One should also turn a recess that will fit the scroll chuck when the piece is turned around to turn the top. Here one can add any fancy decorations to the bottom.

Typically the bottom should be about 1/2 the diameter of the platter. This will give room for making the finger hold as well as the embellishments on the bottom. When finished turning the underside, one should sand and prepare the wood for finishing.

At this point, the platter blank is ready to reverse on the scroll chuck. After the platter

has been turned, then true up the face of the top of the platter. The rim should be turned first and leave the center of the blank in place in order to provide stability when turning the rim. Create any fancy designs on the rim to suit the woodturner. The rim looks better if it slopes to the center of the piece. After the rim has been shaped, then one can begin to take out the thick wood in the center of the platter. If the platter is to be used as a serving tray, then the bottom should be flat. If it is to be used as a decorative turned piece, then the bottom can have a slightly curved appearance. The bottom of the interior can be checked with a small straight edge for flatness. This could be a ruler or possibly a small stick that has been cut accurately on the tablesaw. Sand the entire top of the platter and prepare for the finish.

Larry applies all his finish off the lathe. He said that he uses a gel finish and puts on very thin amounts each time. He puts on about 3 coats and lets each coat dry before applying the next coat. After three coats he buffs the piece on the Beall Buffing System. He skips the brown tripoli and moves right to the white diamond wheel. That provides a very nice shine for piece. Then he adds another 2 - 3 coats of gel finish and buffs again. He then will add a final coat of Renaissance Wax to complete the project.

We would like to thank Larry for this fine demonstration on platter turning.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Schaible, Sec.

BUCKEYE WOODWORKERS
AND WOODTURNERS
Jan. 17, 2009

The new president of BWWT, Jim Brown, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am on Jan. 17, 2009. Jim welcomed all the guests and thanked everyone for coming out in such extremely cold weather. There were 46 members present at the meeting. He introduced 3 new members who had recently joined the club as well as two guests who received information from the Hartville Hardware demonstration that was given in November.

Jim also mentioned the names of about 15 individuals from the club who have been instrumental in providing support for the club over the past year. He indicated that it is because of these people doing the small jobs and taking care of the large instructional format that we have continued success as a club. Jim wanted to emphasize that in order for the club to have success it takes more than just the pres. and the other officers to complete the necessary tasks to have a viable organization. Jim issued a sincere thanks to these individuals.

Pres. Brown also presented a gift of appreciation to Phil Brower, the past president of BWWT. This was in commemoration of his fine service as President of BWWT for 2008. The members thanked Phil with huge applause and accolades. It was under his leadership that several nationally known woodturners were invited to our club as well as numerous monthly demonstrations used to further the skills of the members. For this, the membership remains appreciative of his leadership. He also received a roll of 36 grit sandpaper as a memento of his historic rise to the presidency of our club. It was hoped that this 36 grit paper would be useful in finishing his future woodturning projects.

Jim Brown mentioned that there will be a Hartville Hardware Tool Sale on Feb. 20 & 21.

We have been asked to put on another woodturning demonstration at the store. Jim asked for volunteers to come to the store on those two days so that we could demonstrate the art of woodturning. Feb. 21 will be a regular meeting of BWWT and it might conflict with participation in the Hartville demonstration. Ben Fix thought that he might be able to slip away from our regular meeting to have someone present for the demonstrations. Other members could come after the meeting to help him out. These demonstrations at Hartville Hardware have been beneficial to our club by increasing the membership and showing the public the skills of our club members.

The Warther Museum trip is planned for this spring. It will be held after the regular meeting of the club when members can car pool to the museum. The Warther Museum is a collection of hand carved items by one man who started his interest in woodcarving as a young man. He was able pro-

vide for his family by making kitchen knives of fine quality steel. He started this business because he could not find carving knives of high quality that he wanted for his hobby. To this day his ancestors still continue the family knife making business right out of the basement of the museum.

Treasurer, Bill Seabolt, gave a treasurers report as well as indicating that we still had some tool steel available at \$5 per bar and some club patches for the same amount.

It was mentioned that the Cindy Drozda demonstration will be held in Sept. 2009. There will be one day of club demonstrations by her, as well as two days of hands on activities. One of those days will be a beginner hands on while the second day will be for intermediate skill based turners. The cost will be \$100 per day for each individual. There will be no cost to members for the club demonstration on Sat. She is able to accommodate 6 to 8 members per hands on days. Members are to see Bill if they wish to participate in this activity. He is willing to take partial payment through out the year in order to pay for the \$100 tuition. Members can go to www.cindydrozda.com to see her work.

Jim Brown also indicated that BWWT has applied for an AAW grant of \$1500 to supply us with a video system. This system would enhance our demonstrations on a monthly basis as well as provide better viewing when we utilize nationally known turners for demonstrations. This will be a wide screen TV and large enough for all to see from their seats. The deadline for this grant from AAW, the national woodturning organization was Jan. 15, 2009.

Jim also mentioned that the Show and Tell tables are available for members to put their monthly projects on. Jim asked that members need to bring in more projects to show their skills. He indicated that we also have a cabinet in the dining hall where we can show some of our smaller turned items.

The Feb. demo will be put on by George Raeder and will deal with the use of dyes and finishes on woodturned items.

Jim received a letter from the Peg Wear from the Holden Arboretum. They wanted us to participate in the 2009 Arbor Day celebrations on April 24 and 25. They would allow members to sell their wood items and a commission of 20% would be kept by Holden. Members would need receipts for their customers. They also wanted us to take some of their wood and make items for sale by the organization. It was mentioned that the wood they had available was wet and it just would not be ready for use by the time they indicated in April. There seemed to be limited interest by the members.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Schaible, Sec.

Calendar of Events

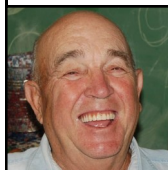
The February meeting will be at Camp Y Noah on Saturday February 21st

The February demo will be put on by George Raeder and will deal with the use of dyes and finishes on woodturned items.

We will visit the Warther Carving Museum for a Hobo lunch and tour after our regular meeting on May 16th, 2009. The lunch will begin at 12:30 with tour following. Wives and or significant others are invited for what promises to be a very interesting and educational display. Cost for lunch and the tour is \$24.95 per person. Plan to Attend!

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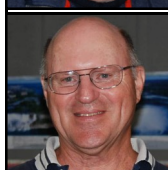
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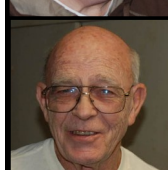
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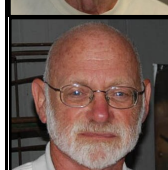
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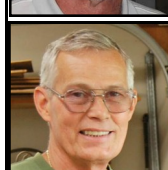
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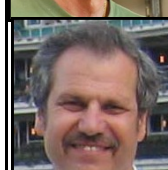
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