
MAKIN' SHAVINS'

May 2016 update

I will once again try to publish a newsletter. I have generated several in the recent past only to have them disappear into the unknown strata. This time I will try a different method of sending the text and hopefully it will work.

With that in mind, let's cover a few items on my list.

SWAT Training, A different kind of SWAT training is coming your way. The SWAT (South Western Association of Turners) will hold it's 25th Annual Symposium at the Waco Convention Center the last weekend of August 2016. This is great news to me, I've attended at least 5 symposiums for this group and have been amazed at how serious and professional this program can be. I've met many of the lead turners of the world, many of the personalities of this great hobby. What you will find is a fantastic program hosted by all volunteers. They attract fine distributors of woodturning products

Now, if you are interested in tools, you can probably find 3-5 different kinds of simple turning tools, from turning gouges to exclusive turning gouges. And if you are looking for Carbide tool inserts, they will be there in packs. But what will be interesting is all the goods and gadgets you use for turning, which you can probably take a test drive on before you buy it. That is something you can't do in your catalog of local wood store. They actually have the manufacturers on site to assist.

If you are looking for wood, or wood like products, at great prices, then this is the place for you. Is probably my first choice for pen blanks and fancy blanks for turning. These are selected for display and only the best survive. Here is a warning, go early and get into the show early to see the blanks. They will even hold them or loan you a hand truck to get them to your car. Bring a tarp or flap to cover them and protect them from the Texas sun in August.

Then there are the demonstrators, and they always attract a great crew of demonstrators, from talented beginners to very good professionals. I have learned a lot from both types. I actually learned how to use CA glue for a finish and then personally made it work for the novice turners. This year we will all get to see the Lead Demonstrators for 2016 will be

Mike Mahoney, Dick Sing, and James Duxbury as an alternate. Then there are the regional demonstrators, who are being selected as you read this. I've seen some of the best turners in the world, (my ranking - not theirs), watched them turn, shop and explain the basics to woodturners. That was an excellent to my belief that the finest people in this world are woodturners.

Details: The Symposium is August 26 - 28 at the Waco Convention Center on the river. This is the 25th anniversary of this association and they will pullout all the stops to make this a great program.

Website: <http://www.swaturners.org> is the website with the details. You can also register on that site (do it soon) There are links to at least two hotels that are near to the center, but if you are in a pinch for \$\$\$ or looking to bring in the motor home or camper, then check Waco for other accommodations. By the way, if you are fortunate enough to be a veteran, then ask for your discount or upgrade. I did, and it worked out right fine. (a word of caution about reservations, if you make them on a discount site, you may not get all the services that come with a regular reservations. Although meager, the breakfast and other benefits are included in company reservations)

Most questions can be answered on the website, <http://www.swaturners.org>



Faceplates: I get a lot of calls from beginning turners about faceplates, they ask how can they get bigger ones to fit their machines. I try to be informative and diplomatic with my responses, but I decided to give you a few options.

Make your own - All it takes is a piece of wood, or really good plywood (if using plywood then look for furniture grade, even a 2' x 2' piece from Home Depot) I go for 3/4" as a base and add to that. The plywood because it is flat and dense and cuts to a circle really easy. Cut the circle with a saw, band saw or scroll saw. Locate the center and then make it into a face block.

I use the base and add that to a steel faceplate, which came with my lathe, by using #12 standard screws. **I will not use drywall screws for this or any attachment to spinning wood, ever!**

This makes your faceplate more variable than you can ever imagine. Put a grinder groove on the outer edge of your faceplate and then reference this on your wood faceplate so the screws align and it remains balanced. Now add a face back if needed and attach that with the same screws. This allows you to have a stock of different size plates to mount to. If you make face blocks in several dimensions then you can use them to face mount to, put inside a bowl, or as a base holding device.

The basic faceplate is a great way to hold work. I've cautioned you about using drywall screws in the assembly, just don't do it. They are cheap for a reason.

Now what in the "Make your own" line. Go to the hardware store and find a machine nut to match the thread on your machine. I have found that a regular Ace hardware has a great selection and even ordered the 33mm nuts to fit my OneWay lathe. But they had nuts on the shelf to fit my other lathes and normally sell the 1"X 8 nuts to fit most mini and small lathes. Buy a few and put them in your faceplate storage box. (don't have one, you will in a minute) Drill a hole in the center of the wood faceplate and add a nut. I mean for you to drill a hole for the entire nut to fit into and then set the nut using a two-part epoxy (don't go for drugstore quality epoxy when making this piece) I use a medium set epoxy from Penn State Industries for this. Put it down on a piece of wax paper and fill the void, not the threads, with the epoxy. After allowing a day to set, put it on your lathe. You may have to true up the face, but do it gently and keep it flat. This will work great as a base for adding pieces to, back-ups for open bowls, etc. If you are looking for a place to purchase a new faceplate, just google faceplate on the computer and start checking. Most places will tell you a source if they know of one. Remember this when you make other purchases and then them in that way.

More on faceplates and holding work in the future.

Beat the Drum!

In this newsletter I have beat the drum about two items, Wearing Jewelry while turning and using drywall screws for holding work.

The Jewelry thing is not new with me. I cut rings off of several young carpenters, carpet layers and electricians over the years. One guy returned a few weeks later with a new ring because his wife told him that without a ring, they weren't really married. Another guy came back telling me that his wife was happy that he didn't lose a finger, or more. You tell me which guy came out on top.

The Dry-Wall screw thing is almost as old. As a young carpenter I installed cabinets for a kitchen firm in New Orleans. They had one rule, #12 drywall screws, tightened by hand. The idea was that we could not strip out a #12 with a common screwdriver and by hand we knew when it was firm.

The day-to-day use of drywall screws was just coming into being the way to go. Get a high-speed screw gun and screws for less than a nickel apiece, then you are home free for installing trim, cabinets, bracing, stairways, etc, etc.

Comments, requests or questions:

Send me photos at capneddiecastelin@gmail.com, that is where you can send comments, questions or other stuff.

I'm also available to chat at 504-715-0512 and available on FaceBook

