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Life is sexually transmitted.

Anonymous

I am just beginning to explore the world of YouTube. A few years ago I put up 40 YouTube clips myself but have not looked around there much myself until recently. There are a lot of poorly produced and even scary things about turning on there, but I have been introduced to two excellent YouTube celebrities recently. I met Capt. Eddie Castelin at the SWAT turning Symposium in Texas and had a nice phone conversation with Carl Jacobson from Oregon. Both are very well known on the YouTube circuit. They both have thousands of subscribers to their YouTube channels and produce new turning clips regularly. If you subscribe to their channel you will get notified when they post new clips. There is some overlap in the people in the turning world and the YouTube world. I find myself in both now. Check it out.

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TIPS & TECHNIQUES

Topic of the Month: Carbide Cutter Use

In the last few months I have been traveling a lot and met some great people in the turning world all across the country. Many of the students I worked with and others I had conversations with have been using the Hunter carbide tool in my hollowing system. There was a few that tried to use it without great success. I encouraged them to go back to it and do some homework before using it. I suggested there are many resources available to understand the carbide cutters advantages, and rules, and to take advantage of all three cuts the cutter will do. There are some things the carbide cutter will do that no other tool can accomplish. There are some things you don't do with it. I advised turners to go back and visit my In-Depth Hollowing DVD where I use the carbide cutter to hollow a goblet. I show the bevel supported cut, the hogging off cut, and the negative rake scraping cuts. I also have an article published in the AAW journal, "Carbide Cutters Are Here to Stay". The rules are in written form there. Also, all my articles are archived on my web site. www.lylejamieson.com

On the other hand, many, many turners using my carbide cutter love it. This is, by far, a huge majority of my tool owners. They are using it and enjoying the benefits. It offers a better surface on the wood left behind, and it is designed to be disposable, it cannot be sharpened back to the factory razor sharp edge. It is easier to hollow with it, once you understand its advantages. One benefit is the cutter stays sharp for a very long time. This is good news and bad news. It is so efficient at cutting wood that it is hard to tell when it is getting dull. Even dull it works very well. I have found a few students recently that were using a pretty dull carbide cutter. We put a new replacement cutter on and the difference just blew them away. They were shocked at how much better and easier the sharp cutter produced a cut. If you look at my used nanograin carbide cutter in a microscope you would see the edge has very tiny microscopic chips out of the edge. The particulate that my Hunter tools are made of is so fine that it chips and is still sharp. Remember to move the cutter often and use it 360 degrees. Is it time to replace your carbide cutter? Is it time to dig it out and try it again? The results might surprise you.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ROBUST VS POWERMATIC LATHES

Lyle,

Hope your trip went well. Really thank you for the visit and class time spent together. I hope to get up and do another session with you in Traverse City next spring.

Looking at lathe upgrades. Question, how would you compare the Robust Sweet 16 and the Powermatic 3520B? Besides the \$2000 difference in price, how do they compare?

Ron

Hi Ron from Indiana,

Your question is hard to answer. Usually most folks compare 16 inch swing with 16 inch swing lathes and 20 to 20 etc. I really like the robust lathes, a lot. The size difference between 16 and 20 is huge however. You already have a 16 inch swing lathe, so you know the limits. I don't use a band saw and I spin a square turning blank to round, so the extra swing is nice to have. I think the Robust is a better lathe. Better fit and finish. Better engineering and features. Better electronics. Made in USA! We have a Powermatic 20 for our club and I have turned on it many, many times. A lot of people have them. A lot of people like them and it is a good lathe for the money. It is rare that I don't have an opinion one way or the other but this time I would be on the fence...sorry. You will be happy with either.

TORMEK JIG SETTINGS

Lyle,

Thank you for your prompt return email. I have some old equipment in my shop. My lathe was made in 1936 and my grinder is from the 1970's. I am acquiring new equipment as my budget will allow. Wood turning equipment is not cheap! For example, a new CBN 180 grit wheel can set a woodworker back 170 dollars. I just tossed out in the garbage an inexpensive wet sharpening grinder that I could never get to work to my expectations. My worry is that I will purchase a new item that doesn't work very well and I will then have to replace it shortly with something different. I am relatively new to wood turning and am far from being an expert. I want to thank you for all your advice over the last few months.

Please pulse your readership for their experiences using the Tormek SVB-185 jig with Tormek BGM-100 dry grinder setup on a slow speed dry grinder Jig.

John

Hi John from Michigan,

Thanks for the order, it should be shipped tomorrow. Sorry, I do not use or recommend use of the Tormek wet grinder for turning tools. Using the Tormek jigs with a standard grinder works but the slop or play is not what I like to see. I want to have the tools at the same angle as the last time I sharpened. It's all about repeatability. Another point, setting it up with Tormek numbers will get it close also, but close is not what I want. You are grinding away much more steel then necessary. The stability and accuracy of the Wolverine system will save your tool's life. Suggestion: I would consider getting an 80 grit Alum-oxide stone and a Wolverine jig and save some money rather than buy the CBN now, the total will be less than \$170.00.

With that said, if you still want to continue with the Tormek, I will put this in my newsletter and see if anyone has the information you seek. However, I would work backwards and use the new gouge to set up your jig rather than numbers that will be different and change the angles. Especially the side angles are important to continue with my techniques and the tool control you are looking for.

SHARPNESS DIFFERENCE BETWEEN STONES AND CBN WHEELS

Lyle,

I am currently using your 10V signature bowl gouge. I am reading more sharpening information on the internet about the best way to sharpen 10V Steel. Do you think I should be sharpening the 10V steel tool with a 180 grit CBN wheel instead the ceramic 80 grit 3 X SG wheel I am currently using? I want to put a sharp durable edge on the 10V tool right off the grinder with no honing involved. Sometimes I don't think I can put as sharp an edge on my 10V bowl gouge as my M2 steel bowl gouge using my present 80 grit sharpening ceramic stone wheel on both tools. Is there a difference in the make-up of the two steels that could account for this difference of the quality of the cutting edge using the same 80 grit ceramic stone? I cannot find a finer grit than the 80 grit ceramic stone in my woodworking catalog or I would try it and see if it would make a difference. Any insight and advice you could give me would really be appreciated?

Thanks again,

John

Hi John from Michigan,

I have used both the stone and the CBN wheels. I cannot see any perceivable difference in the sharpness of the edges from the different kinds of wheels. You are correct, the steel is quite different. The 10v will hold the edge longer. I do not like to use the finer grit stones. They heat up and don't cut as well. I prefer the burr from a 60 or 80 grit wheel too. The 180 CBN works well also.

RANGE OF EFFECTIVENESS FOR CHUCKING METHODS

Hey Lyle,

I am eagerly looking forward to seeing you again. As you know I watch DVDs many times. I was watching yours again and saw the diagram where you show which chucking method is best.

On one end you have the face plate and glue block pretty close together and at the other end you have the chucks.

Where do the screw threads and jam chucks fit on the line? There was one other method and I do not remember what it is now.

Arlin

Hi Arlin from Iowa,

I leave today on my next teaching tour and I will see you soon.

A screw chuck is off the chart, not a good way to hold wood and you lose control of the axis. You want to start between centers.

A jam chuck is used for reverse turning mostly, again, a very poor holding method for basic turning or hogging off. I prefer a friction drive reverse turning with the tailstock up for support and do not use a true jam chucking method very often.



(I had the pleasure of working with Arlin, a disabled Vet, one more time on my recent trip to SWAT. He has been working on his shop setup. He is picking up techniques and tool control very quickly. As I advise to all my students we just need to spend some time at the lathe to improve our tool skills and get more enjoyment from the lathe.)

CARBON STEEL TURNING TOOL USE

Lyle,

I own some high carbon steel and some high speed steel lathe tools. I am aware of the difference in loss of temper is much easier with a HCS tool than with a HSS tool when heat is generated during sharpening. But is it true that you can put a sharper cutting edge on the HCS tools but the edge does not last as long? In your opinion is the time it takes a HCS tool to get dull so short that it is not worth owning or using them anymore? Do you currently use any old HCS tools or have you put them away in a drawer never to be used again except on rare occasions?
John

Hi John from Michigan,

You are absolutely correct. Carbon steel tools can get a little sharper than HSS but the advantage is lost as soon as you put it to a spinning piece of wood on the lathe. Thousands of feet of wood go by the edge in a short time. I do not use, and I do not recommend using any carbon steel tools for lathe work. The old tools are antiques, save them for a hundred years or so and they might be worth something. The next level up from M-2 HSS is to graduate to the Thompson tools with better 10 V steel.

SHARPENING SHORT GOUGES

The flutes on my gouges are very short now about 3 inches, so soon the jig will not accept them.

Jorge on Wood Central

Jorge location unknown,

Grind a flat on the round area behind where the flute ends so the jig can be pushed back on the flat, and use more of the tool as it gets shorter and shorter. Make the flat the same depth as the flute depth.

JET VS POWERMATIC LATHES

Lyle,

I am thinking about getting a new, bigger lathe so I can handle larger pieces of wood like those you use in your DVD. I am looking at a Jet JWL-1642EVS-2 lathe for \$2649.99 and a Powermatic1352001 Model 3520B for \$3999.99. Do you have an opinion on these and/or do you have another suggestion?

Roger

Hi Roger from South Dakota,

The Jet is a good starter lathe but if you can swing it the larger, stronger, Powermatic is a huge leap in quality over the Jet and well worth the extra money. You will have fewer limitations and obstacles and be able to take your turning skills farther. You get what you pay for with the better lathe: better machining, better engineering, better electronics, and more stability. The next step up would be to a Robust, better yet and made in the USA.

ADAPTERS FOR OFF SIZE BORING BARS

Hi Lyle,

I'm wondering if you know of a source for getting some adapters so that I could use 3/8", 1/2" and 5/8" boring bars in my Jamieson System. Any advice you have would be appreciated.

Thanks,

Jim

Hi Jim from Michigan,

I have a new 1/2 inch boring bar that I use an adapter for my handle, 1/2 inch to 3/4 inch. I sell the adapter sleeve separately, call me to order, \$10.00. It is the most versatile size. My bar is dual purpose to do any shape with one bar. See it on my web site in the store menu. The smaller boring bars get vibration with much overhang over the tool rest. The 5/8 inch is not much help over the 3/4 inch I already use.

Michael Hosaluk has/sells adapters for almost any size tools. He has some in the Packard catalog but call him for others.

MONROE OR CAPPED HOLLOWING CUTTERS

Hi Lyle,

Thanks for the Newsletter.

I was at a demonstration Saturday and the demonstrator swears by the Monroe Hollowing Cutter (#2). I asked if it clogs up. He says it may appear clogged but all you have to do is push it against the wood when cutting and it clears. Now, I have great interest in the fact that the Monroe Hollowing "Cutter" does just that....cuts. Certainly the pass with the Monroe will leave a smoother service than the HSS scraper. But, your carbide set up is cutting, is it not?

I know you will give me the true comparison and would appreciate your thoughts and direction.

1. Monroe Cutter jamming?
2. Difference of ease and finish in hollowing for each.
(Monroe vs carbide vs HSS scraper)
3. Your suggested choice?

Turning is doing great.

Thanks Lyle

Alan

Hi Alan from North Carolina,

Nice to hear from you and hope you are enjoying the summer. We have two new grandkids and have been traveling a lot, but it is good to keep in touch.

Great question! I could write a book on the subject. If you want all the technical details give me a call. There are some very high profile turners that use the Monroe cutters. They "work" for what they use them for. Look at the shapes they hollow with them. They are usually turning open mouth vessels, bell shaped or cylindrical. The cutter is not slicing on an angle to the surface of the wood. Also, it has a more acute angle on the edge so it will make a clean cut on the side grain. The steep/acute angled edge will have to be sharpened often to keep a clean cut going. Scrapers usually have a blunter edge angle that holds a sharp edge longer. Why the cap or restraining cover? These capped cutters have been around for decades. They were designed because people were getting catches inside hollow forms and the fear of a catch was stifling. So for the beginner the capped cutter meant no more catches. With my captured boring bar system you cannot get a catch. Of course, Monroe cutters have been used with hand held tools. With hand held tools it is possible to get some bevel supported cuts with a lot of practice. But the bevel support is beneath the cut, not following behind with other bevel supported cuts like with a ring tool or bowl gouge. Therefore the cut wants to go deeper and deeper, resulting in the need for the restraining cap. After using a captured boring bar and laser measuring system most people would not want to return to hand held boring bars.

The cutting edge of the capped cutter is breaking all the rules. There is no bevel support and it is violating the 90 degree of scraping. So, in real life it is getting a catch to MAKE the cuts, but...the catch is minimized by the restraining cap. This action makes it hard to do thin walled vessels and clean up tool marks, making the learning curve rather extensive. What about vessels with voids or natural edged?

If you want to do bulbous shapes the undercut surface around the small mouth opening is usually end grain. If you want to do things like lidded boxes the inside bottom is usually end grain. The Monroe works better on side grain than end grain. It works better when the movement along the tool rest is cutting with supported, downhill direction. Many times it is necessary to cut the wrong way to the grain inside a hollow form.

You guessed it; the biggest criticism of these cutters is clogging up. Do you want to push harder against a side wall, a thin side wall, to get the shaving clog off? Also the side grain shavings inside a closed vessel become a challenge to extract from a small hole.

OK, what is the bottom line? The Monroe cutters work and work well for what they do. I think the limitations they have and the obstacles they create outweigh their advantages.

The HSS cutter has the versatility to do any shape vessel through small openings. Think about making a shape that is bigger in diameter than it is tall. These squatty shapes are difficult with many tools. My carbide cutter has the best chance for success. It can be used with a bevel supported cut. It is slicing through the wood fibers on an angle so the surface of the wood is better than scrapping cutters or Monroe type cutters. Your questions are very revealing. (1) Jamming? Yes! (2) Ease and finishing? Three out of three! (3) Suggestion? I think you have answered your own question, I agree with you. The limitations would soon drive you/me crazy.

FEEDBACK

Thanks for a great class day in your shop last Thursday. The Copper Falls restaurant was a good recommendation!

UPS should be delivering my hollowing tools later this week and I can't wait to get started.

Again, thanks for all your help.

John from Rhode Island

Greetings from the beautiful north woods of Wisconsin!

I was one of the participants in the class you gave at Tim Muench's shop for the Northwood Turners.

I brought 2 of my "bowls from a board" to show at lunch time on Monday. After setting up and trying my new hollowing system, I tried it on a few pieces and enjoyed how well it worked.

Shortly thereafter I started a new "bowl" and got to the point of cutting the rings on the lathe.

It has always been the scariest part of the job because I had difficulty holding the tool at the right angle without vibration or binding. I got to thinking about the setup of your system for hollowing and set it up on the lathe. I had made the tool from 1/4" square tool stock and it fit in the Bar end perfectly.

I put it in the angled end and set the backrest support with the long end facing out toward me so that I could reach around the tail stock.



I set the tool height at the center.

After the first cut I had to grind the "point" off of the bar as it would rub on the wood.



The bar holds the tool high enough that I can leave it in its handle and not interfere with the tool rest, so that I can keep the support as close to the cut as possible.

As you can see, I got a nice clean cut. (This picture is just before the 3rd cut).

I cut all the rings with little or no vibrations and I did have it bind once but increasing the speed and backing off on the tool feed took care of that. I just thought you might like to know how your system can be used in other ways than just hollowing.

Don from Wisconsin

Reply: Hi Don, WOW!! You made my day. Thanks for sharing your process and photos. Enjoy!

Lyle,

I have lots of relatives in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan including Iron Mountain. I really wish I could travel and meet tons of turners that would be awesome. Tell the guys hi for me and to keep learning to turn new things and new ways.

Arlin from Iowa

Reply: Arlin, I was talking about you and your amazing journey today in my class at lunch. I have six students here in northern Wisconsin way up in the boonies. Two of them knew your name. They have been keeping up with you and learning from your questions on my newsletter. Small world we live in. They wished you well and said to say HI from Wisconsin. The club travels up to Iron Mountain, Michigan to turn and entertain at the Veterans Hospital up there. They are a great bunch of people. Keep in touch.

Steve from West Virginia called me and said: "I just got the new bowl gouge you sent me already. Thanks for the quick shipping. I really love this tool, love the grind, love the Thompson handle. I think I will sleep with it tonight!" LOL

Thank you for the great instruction on your YouTube videos. Being new to turning for 16 months now, your videos were precise on avoiding catches

and explaining in detail some of the dynamics of what is happening as the tools are used on wood. My skills and confidence have increased as I was excited to try out what you were teaching. Thank you for giving. Wish you were closer, as I live in Baltimore. Maryland is a great place for turning, as the wood supply is plentiful.
Sincerely, Kevin from Maryland

CALENDAR

Check out my website calendar for more specifics.

(<http://www.lylejamieson.com/information/calendar.asp>)

July, 2014 - Wisconsin

August, 2014 - Illinois, Texas

September, 2014 - Virginia, Georgia

March, 2015 - New York

May, 2015 - New Hampshire

June, 2015 - Pennsylvania

September, 2015 - Wisconsin