

Shavings No 45 September 2018

The Ulster Chapter Newsletter

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Shavings - October 2018 By Brendan McAreavy

The demonstrator for October 2018 was our own Eugene Grimley who showed us an alternative approach to segmenting



where, instead of cutting segments in



the traditional manner, they are cut from a cylinder of wood that is sliced

vertically on a bandsaw. The beauty of this method is that the grain of the wood stays in order leaving a very pleasing effect on the finished item.

Eugene showed the cutting set-up on a bandsaw and how he used a sled calibrated to the particular bandsaw being used to push the cylinder of wood vertically into the blade with a stop to



prevent the blade cutting too deep and how that was repeated the whole way around the blank. It is important to ensure that the kerf of the blade is taken into consideration and suitable filler material is used to retain the original orientation of the grain in the blank. The segment shape can be varied by cutting off-centre which can achieve a 'bent' appearance to the segments in the finished piece. When cutting the segments use slots cut in the sled base to determine the width of each segment and simply rotate the blank to the cut line after each cut.

A couple of important tips were to use fresh, sharp, bandsaw blades because blunt ones leave gaps and tears in the segments, and, for ease of movement

Eugene recommended laminating the sled to help it glide on the bandsaw table.

We need some sort of veneer to fill the kerf of the blade and Eugene recommended 'Hobbies' (<https://www.alwayshobbies.com/materials/wood>). He uses their 3mm Mahogany and 2mm and 3mm ply. The quality of the materials is very good and reasonably priced.

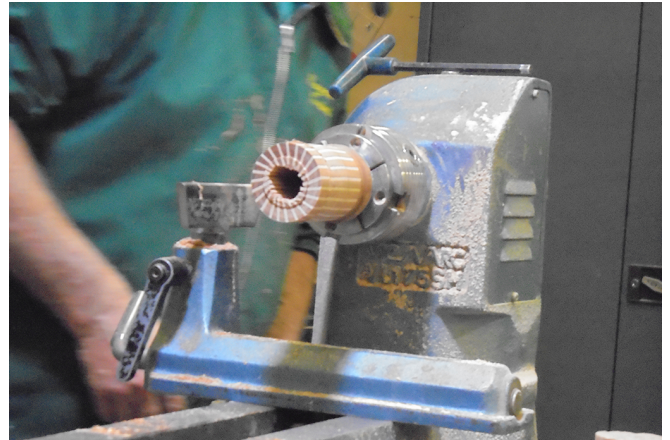
In order to separate the segments it is best to cut them clear with the bandsaw after they have all been formed. Eugene tried drilling the centre cylinder out but the drill bit ripped the segments. There is always the issue of going off course and ending up with different sized segments. Eugene numbers the segments to keep them in order and preserve the grain pattern. Another tip we got was to try out things you see and not to let reputations put you off. Just because a famous turner makes something it doesn't mean the rest of us can't try it too.

In order to hold a segmented piece together to let the glue set there are a number of options from large Jubilee clips, band clamps, string frame clamps, strap clamps and an 8" metal



band clamp which is very efficient but has a restricted range of opening.

When gluing the segments and spacers in place Eugene advised using a flat



surface to ensure that one face of the blank was square.

When it came to turning the prepared blank Eugene had glued a blank to it in order to allow him to turn the base and prepare a plug to seal the hole left by the method used to cut the segments. Eugene worked the sides of the piece and then, satisfied that he had a shape he liked, he tidied the hole in the base and removed the blank to prepare a plug for the base.

Eugene jam-chucked a blank and cut a tenon that allowed him to turn it around and grab it in a chuck. With the blank in the chuck and the face flattened, Eugene measured the hole in the segmented piece and cut an appropriate tenon about 3mm deep in the blank. This was a cut-and-fit process so go easy if you try this because it's not hard to take too much off. The reason there was 3mm left in the tenon was because that matched the thickness of the ply used between the segments. Once the tenon fitted, the blank is glued to it and clamped on the lathe, normally to be left overnight

but, in this case a prepared blank was substituted.

A fresh blank was mounted on the lathe and the original glue block removed. Eugene started with a parting tool but finished with a Japanese saw because trying to cut the whole way across the rim with a parting tool could fling the piece off the lathe or, at least, leave a very poor finish where the final part of the joint lets go. Eugene used a skew on the flat as a negative rake scraper to



tidy the cut surface and then a bowl gouge to tidy the top. The deep wall thickness allows for lots of design ideas so your imagination can have fun now. When Eugene had an internal profile he liked he used a 3/4" scraper to refine the inside and blend the curve. A scraper is a very efficient way to take tiny, delicate, cuts without the worry of a dig-in that can happen with a bowl gouge.

After the break, and our wonderful raffle, Eugene changed blanks and produced a segmented Cherry bowl. It had been glued to a board with a paper joint to get the flat gluing surface required and he had to work fast because there were 36 elements to be glued together. While talking about glue and time David O'Neill informed us of a glue bottle device from Axminster

that he considers very good to save time and give even glue coverage (<https://www.axminster.co.uk/axminster-glue-bottles-ax22118>).

The blank was mounted on the lathe and, again, Eugene tidied the hole in the bottom of the blank and made a plug and tenon to fit it. That was glued in position and the sides shaped into a Ogee style. When satisfied with the shape Eugene power sanded the sides and then separated the bowl from the glue chuck by establishing a cut line with a parting tool and then finishing with a Japanese saw. The paper joint also allows us to use wedges to prise the bowl off the glue chuck but that can go wrong if inappropriate pressure is applied in the wrong spot of the rim. Once the blank was released it was turned and mounted to allow access to the top and inside. Eugene levelled the rim and removed the inside of the bowl with a bowl gouge. When removing the inside of the bowl we need to be careful where the segments meet the glued-in plug in the base because it is easy to go through.

As before, there was lots of wood to remove due to the segment size so there are opportunities for experimentation. Because of the way



the segments were aligned off-centre in

this bowl blank it meant the end effect was to show them skewed around the central plug which is a very pleasing effect. Eugene used a scraper to try to match the Ogee shape on the outside to the inside to see how that would affect the shape of the segments. The bowl wasn't finished today but Eugene explained how he would do that using a jam chuck with pond liner or other soft material (router mat) on the face and power sanding.

For his final project Eugene mounted a small box on the lathe. As before he made a plug for the base with a tenon to hold it later. He measured the diameter of the hole up the inside of the box so that gave him a limit for cutting into the walls from the outside. When the box was shaped to his satisfaction Eugene removed it using the Japanese saw and reversed it on the chuck. He tidied the top rim with a skew and fitted a prepared lid and finial to produce a very attractive little box.



We thank Eugene for this very interesting demonstration and for opening up yet another woodturning avenue to explore. PS. See Ulster Chapter Web Site for more photos

Chapter Info.

- Welcome to Members Wilbert Smyth & Francis McHugh who joined us in September.
- The next Chapter meeting at the Woodshed will be the all day demo by International Demonstrator Jason Breach on Nov 10th. The cost is £25 and Jason will be demonstrating a variety of techniques starting at 9:30 sharp. Tea and coffee will be supplied but bring your own lunch
- **AGM Notice.** The Ulster Chapter AGM will be held at 12Noon in the Woodshed on Saturday 8th December . The Minutes of last years AGM and an agenda will be circulated by email prior to the meeting.
- 2019 Demonstrators and competition titles have now been arranged and confirmed. Many thanks to Eugene Grimley and Michael Dickson these will be announced at the AGM
- Members are asked to return overdue Library books (an amnesty will be in place until January) Members will be reminded about outstanding books when signing in.
- Remember there are back issues of Woodturning Magazine available to bring home.
- Chatter, Spiralling and Hollowing tools can be borrowed from the Library on request

- There will be a sale of culled library books in the new year.
- Please remember to bring snowmen and Christmas trees to the November meeting. It is hoped Jenny from the RVH will be present to collect them.
- Members should start now to prepare pieces for exhibition in Ballymoney. The Committee would like to encourage as many people as possible to enter work. A special display of beginners work could be a great idea
- Membership fees will be collected following the AGM in December.

Diary Dates

- Nov. 10th All Day Demo - Jason Breach, 9:30am, Cost £25 (Bring Packed Lunch)
- Dec. 8th AGM 12.00 noon
- Dec Pay Annual Subs to Treasurer
- Feb 28th Ballymoney Exhibition Launch Evening

September's Competition results

CATEGORY 1



1st Brendan Thompson



2nd Jim Neill



3rd Willy Adams

CATEGORY 2



1st Keith Hyland



2nd Ricky McDonald



3rd Stephen Dowie

November Competition **Category1** A Tool Handle **Category 2** A pair of tool Handles

Competitions improve your turning. It provides an opportunity to make a range of items as well as showcase and share your work. Making a piece for a competition gives a sense of purpose to your turning and a sense of achievement when you place your piece on the table. Nobody will be judgmental or detrimental about the quality of your work but receiving positive/constructive comments and advice from the judges is one of the best ways of improving. Have a go and feel the BUZZ! Trust me its fun....

END