Either hand or power sanding at the lathe makes the finishing process much easier. The downside to that is all the dust that seems to permeate every nook and cranny of the shop – not to mention the turner. Always wear an approved/appropriate dust-protection respirator while turning and finishing.

There seems to be tons of ways of controlling the dust at the lathe. Most seem to have dust collector hoses glued, tie-wrapped, suspended, etc., etc., to the lathe. A look at the dust collection fittings at the Spokane Woodcraft and standard 4” ABS plumbing components at Home Depot and Lowe’s got me to thinking about a movable dust hood/shroud. I had several sets of new castors from a shelving project that could be used to make the device ‘mobile’.

As an up-front disclaimer, I claim no originality in what I came up with – a lot of folks may have beat me to it – However, I just didn’t find what I had built in numerous internet searches.

I am fortunate to have a relatively large amount of floor space in my shop, so the ‘design’ shown in the accompanying photos works well.

I use a Delta model 50-760 1.5 hp 1,200 cfm dust collector (I chose that make model because of price and also because it came with a 1 micron bag). The lathe dust collection shroud is connected to the dust collector through 30’ of 4” flex hose.

The lathe dust collection shroud shown on its mobile base. Note that both the shroud and the hose are ‘jam fit’ and thus removable, and, in the case of the shroud, it can be rotated to better fit around the piece being turned. The shroud is a Woodcraft item number 144614 and is called a “table top dust collector”.

More “dust collection at the lathe”
Bob Schmidt
Inland Northwest Woodturners
This photo shows the mobile base in more detail. The base is an 18” sq piece of ¾” MDF. A 4” ABS toilet flange is bolted upside down to the middle of the base. A “Y” connector is PVC-glued to the toilet flange – the photo shows a combination of 4” dust collection and 4” ABS pipe fittings. The Spokane Woodcraft store has the 4” dust collection to 4” ABS pipe adapters. Note, again, that the hose is jam-fit to its mate on the mobile base. This allows the hose to be easily disconnected for other uses.

Note that the length of the vertical riser pipe should be of a length so that the center of the shroud port is at the same above-floor height as the center of your lathe spindle.
This photo shows the shroud located ‘up close and personal’ with the piece being turned – in this case a 16” diameter platter.

Note that this method, like most others will NOT collect many of the chips & shavings as you proceed with your turning. Having said that, I have found that if the shroud is positioned as close as possible to the work, it will pick up a lot of the shavings.

Where this shroud really ‘shines’ is during the sanding phase of turning.
In this photo, I have the tool to the platter. You can clearly see shavings coming off the tool and being ingested into the dust collector via the shroud.
Here, I’m sanding the platter with the shroud placed close to the work and the dust collector turned on. You can’t see it in the photo, but the bulk of the dust is being pulled into the shroud and ultimately to the dust collector.

Note that when sanding with this system, you must place your hand/sandpaper between the 6 and 3 o’clock positions so the rotation of the piece will throw off the sanding dust into the shroud.
Another photo showing the shroud in place – you can see a ‘strip’ of sanding dust in line with the platter. Note that I’m holding my hand/sandpaper in about the 6 o’clock position.

I also use a right-angle drill for power sanding. I’ve found that there is more than sufficient room to maneuver the drill and sanding pad with the shroud in place.

What I have found when using this shroud, is that there is MUCH LESS dust in the shop.

Remember that even if you use a device such as this, you must always wear an appropriate respirator ‘just to make sure’, along with eye protection, etc.

If you have any questions regarding this shroud system, don’t hesitate to write me at:

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Happy Turning!