



INLAND NORTHWEST WOODTURNERS NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting is Thursday,
November 5, 2009 7 PM at the
WoodCraft Store classroom,
N.E. corner of Sprague and
Sullivan (north side of the Fred
Meyer parking lot.

October Meeting



Thanks to Dan Chadwick and Charlie Benson for the tag-team sphere turning demonstration.





Size it,



round it,



rotate it



finish it.

Sphere Turning Tips and References (compliments of Charlie Benson)

www.rrosand.com/articles/18-1 (Robert Rosand), www.woodturners.org, click on Tech tips and “making spheres”, www.turningwood.com/johnny/johnt1.htm, (John Tolly – Hollow Balls)
www.woodensphere.robhoppe.com, (Rob Hope on ball turning steps)

- 1) Start your project between centers. Use stock long enough for your sphere, 2-3 inches for a drive chuck and a little extra.
- 2) Layout—Turn a round cylinder and measure the diameter. Lay out this distance along the cylinder axis and mark the middle. Add about $\frac{1}{4}$ " to each and mark.
- 3) Part down the outermost lines and begin to turn your sphere.
- 4) Re-mark the lines as you cut so you can visualize the destination. The center line is your first axis, keep it visible.
- 5) Use a pattern for the first few attempts. Cardboard is good, cut with a knife so you can use both pieces. The cutout piece is for the drive cup depth – see below.
- 6) When you are satisfied with the initial turning, turn a tenon for your chuck, (in the waste wood, then remove both ends leaving $\frac{1}{4}$ " on the ends, (use a hand saw).
- 7) Cut your friction drive cup with a 0.5-1 degree included taper and deep enough inside to hold the ball by the cup rim. If you can't visualize that, then use the cardboard cutout.
- 8) Now you are ready to rotate and mount your sphere between the friction chuck (drive cup) and the tailstock. Use some improvised device to protect our sphere from the point. Make a small cup that fits over the live center or a piece of leather, rubber, etc.
- 9) Remount with the nubby ends up and the pencil line centered in between the cup and tailstock This is the second of the three axes.
- 10) Now you can cut towards the shadow. Leave about $\frac{1}{16}$ " or less shadow.
- 11) Cut toward the shadow ball but not below it. If you cut below it you are increasing the shadow somewhere else.
- 12) If you cut away the line, remark before you rotate.

- 13) Rotate before cutting too much off, you can always come back and work on it. Be conservative.
- 14) Use 3 axes – Mark ‘em and use ‘em.
- 15) Do not cut out your reference lines or balls get smaller and smaller. You can sand them out later.
- 16) No ball is likely to be perfectly round.
- 17) Shellac or friction polish is an easy finish.
- 18) End grain tends to not cut as fast as side grain, making for an oblong ball.
- 19) Cushion the drive and tail stock, if the wood is soft.
- 20) Cracks, checks & bark inclusions are design opportunities.
- 21) Use dry wood, very dry wood if you want it to stay intact.
- 22) If you want to use green wood, expect it to move and check. Consider hollowing the sphere to help with drying.
- 23) Hollowing requires a different approach: 1) put tenons on both ends, cut in half and hollows both pieces and glue back together. 2) hold the completed ball/sphere securely on the headstock side with a vacuum chuck, a doughnut chuck, a tight fitting cup aided with tape to secure or some other tricky holding device. (Berger Ring)
- 24) Now you can proceed to hollow through a very small hole, that means you are really good! You can always plug it and return.
- 25) More advanced decorations, i.e., Christian Burchard off-axis grooves are easily achieved with a faceplate on the headstock end. You can leave one screw in place and off-set the cup the desired amount. Make it secure.
- 26) Decorating your finished project can take many forms – use your imagination.
- 27) Have fun and start simple.

November Meeting:

Next meeting will include open turning **demonstrations and instruction**. Stations will be set up demonstrating platters (Bob Schmidt), candle sticks (Russ Fairfield), a refresher on spheres (Dan Chadwick), bowls (Jim Christiansen) and tool sharpening (Charlie Benson). Be sure to bring some tools if you want help getting them sharpened by the master.

Matthew Hill will be a guest at our November meeting. He will be conducting a hands-on workshop all day on Friday in the Woodcraft classroom. He will also be doing a demonstration on Saturday featuring lidded containers, texturing and pyrographic techniques. The cost for Friday is \$80, Saturday's demo is free. Preview his work at www.matthewhillstudios.com.

Also, November has traditionally been the club **tool sale and swap**. If you have tools you would like to sell, bring them to the next meeting. The format will be like a silent auction, items will be displayed with a bid sheet, members can write their offer, highest/last wins. There has been confusion in the past on who gets the money: the owner of the tool is the owner of the proceeds. Bartering and swapping will be allowed, spitting and cursing will not.

Planning for 2010:

If you have suggestions for demonstrators or demonstrations, please contact Larry Blanchard, lard@intergate.com. Club officers meet prior to each meeting, 5:30pm in the deli area of Fred Meyer. If you have club business you would like to discuss, suggestions to offer or would like to help with the planning and organization of our group, please come to a board meeting.

Library:

Over the years we've developed quite a nice collection of videos, books, magazines and articles. See librarian, Sabrina Murphy at the meeting.

Sabrina says:

- 1) Only two items may be taken from the Library at a time and those items must be returned before any others may be taken.
- 2) Any items not returned by the next meeting will incur a \$1 per item-per month late fee.
- 3) All late fees must be paid prior to any more items are checked out from the Library
- 4) Late fees will go the club treasury to buy new materials.

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Great segmented work on the sharing table. Francene King checks out a turned and carved vessel, Everett Best looks over a big bowl made by Charles Schwartz. Charles says "...I like holes..."

Keep Turning!
Chad Gladhart
Club Secretary

PS: Check this out- <http://contest.woodcentral.com/EntryIndex.aspx?Contest=11>