

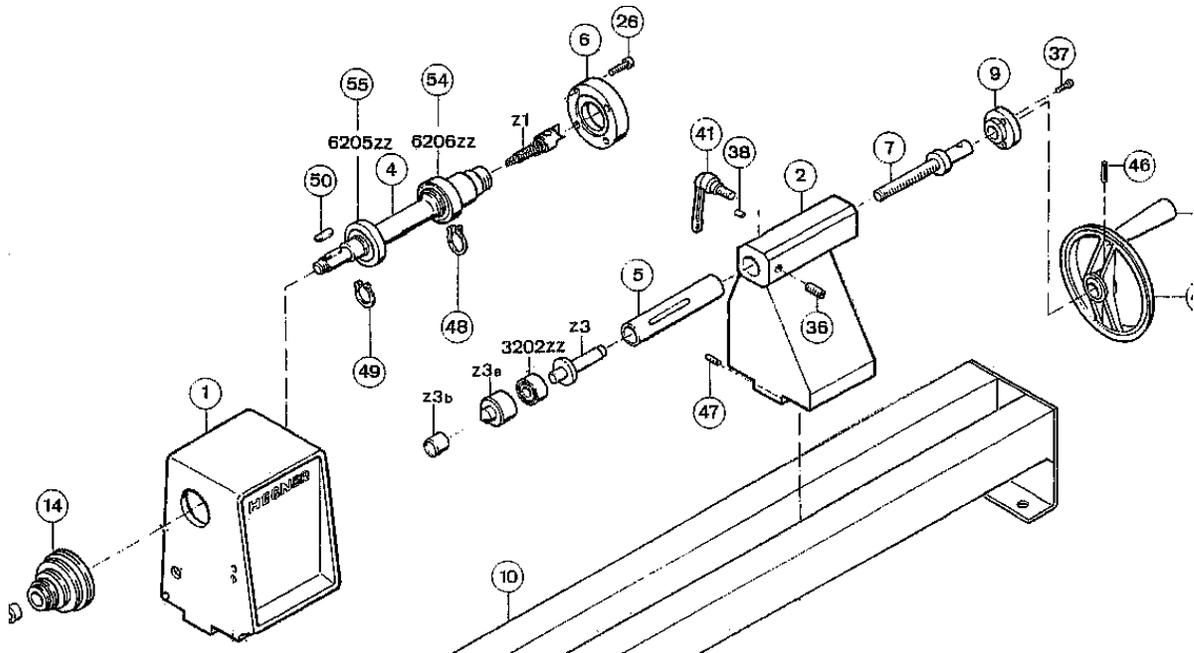
Updating My Hegner Lathe

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My main wood lathe is a Hegner HDB 175 of 1991 vintage that I purchased second-hand, via Scott Myles, from the original owner, when he became too frail to continue using it. The present Hegner model is the HDB 200, which is recognizably the same lathe, but with a number of improvements. Roy Gibbs has one, so you may have seen one in the metal. The newer model has a 200mm centre height, compared with my 175mm. It also has a #2 Morse Taper (MT) hollow tailstock that is useful for boring through.

The diagram below shows the parts of my lathe before the new parts. The tailstock (5) holds a #2 MT centre, but it is not hollow. Also, the drive centre (z1) is a screw-in 4 prong one, with a M16 x 2mm thread. This has been replaced by a #2 MT on the newer models. The new headstock spindle (4) is hollow to allow inserted MT tools to be ejected.

The spindle is a sturdy 40mm diameter, so it can easily withstand a hole bored through it. I wanted to be able to fit other drive centres, so I have been pondering how to do this. I contemplated machining the existing shaft by drilling through and then reaming out a #2 MT. Before I went further, I thought I should try to buy a spare shaft, in case of a mishap, so that I wouldn't end up with an unusable lathe.



When I first bought my lathe second-hand in 1999, I discovered that the original importers were Hardware Centre, who only sold five units in South Africa back then. They were unable to assist me with spares at that time, so this time I contacted the UK directly. Roger Buse at Hegner UK was very helpful as he was from my previous contact with them, and they passed me directly onto the factory in Germany. Optimistically, I not only enquired about spare parts, but also whether there were perhaps some upgraded parts that I could use instead?

Corresponding with Hans Link of Hegner Präzisionsmaschinen GmbH by email, he asked me a few pertinent questions to more closely identify the exact model that I have. He then responded with a detailed list of the parts that I should fit to upgrade my machine to the newer spec. To confirm this,

he sent me an updated manual and illustrated parts catalogue. I duly ordered the parts from Trudy Hoepfner at Hegner, who was most efficient. It turned out I just got in before they closed for four weeks for the August holidays, so they were posted on the last day. They then arrived two weeks later.

Fitting of the new tailstock parts (5), (7), (9) and a new hand wheel was faultless – everything fitted exactly. The hand wheel thread is still new, so it doesn't spin nicely like the old one, but this doesn't matter anymore. Previously I had to retract the tailstock quill fully to eject a Morse Taper centre, so spinning it saved time. Now, I insert a knockout rod through the hollow quill and the quick operation doesn't matter now. Optimistically, some time ago I bought a hollow centre for the tailstock, and an auger, that I can now use. Expect to see a lamp or two emerging from my ~~workshop~~ studio.

The new headstock spindle (4) was a direct fit in place of the old one. The bearings were tight on the old shaft, so rather than risk damaging them on removal, I bought new bearings and circlips (R90- from Bearing Man) and fitted these.

Previously, I experienced problems with the special nut holding the pulley to the shaft loosening enough to make an annoying rattling sound, so it was very tight. It required a punch to loosen it, so it was slightly mangled. A new one was suggested and supplied, so I fitted it with Loctite to stop it loosening.

As pointed out by Hans, to accommodate the new hollow headstock spindle, I drilled a hole in the end belt cover. This is for a knockout rod for removing Morse Taper drive centres from the headstock end. Now I can also drill through the head-stock end as well. However, this will need a left hand auger, and I haven't seen one of those yet. (I will make one from a silver steel rod if I decide I need one.)

All in all, I was most impressed. The knowledge of the Hegner staff was excellent, they were most efficient and everything fitted perfectly. I wonder how many other manufacturers offer this sort of service for a 13-year-old machine?

If you are one of the other four South African HDB 175 owners out there, reading this, let me know. If you also feel the need for a #2MT headstock drive and hollow tailstock I can provide you with the contact details and even help you with the upgrade. (Budget about R1700- for these changes.)