

Crosscut



◀ Toys, on the WWA stand at Hobby-X 2018

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Next Turners Meeting on Tuesday, the 3rd April 2018 from 18h00 at the Living Link Hall —
Presentations – Making wooden bangles – demonstration by Herman Potgieter.
Wood of the month – White stinkwood.

Next General Meeting on Wednesday, the 11th April 2018 from 18h00 at the Living Link Hall – Handy
Gadgets for use in the Workshop. Ken Bullivant, Peter Middleton, Alistair Brande and Members.

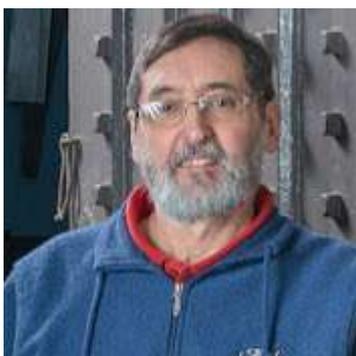
News

5th March 2018 – Turners meeting.

Presentations – Bluffer’s guide to demonstrating.
Trevor Pope explained how to approach demonstrating at Hobby-X, what to do and not to do. Common questions asked by show goers and suggested answers were discussed. Such as: “How much to start turning?” See below for information to be able to answer this.

Poena Coetzee showed some examples of pin chucks and their principle of operation. Poena finds these chucks useful for holding small parts that have a hole bored in them, such as needle cases and French knitting bobbins.

Peter Middleton also showed some techniques for workholding such as how to make an expanding mandrel chuck for holding small pieces.



14th March 2018- General Club meeting.

Several videos were shown on mortising techniques. Two by Paul Sellers (above) were particularly interesting.

Paul showed his technique for chopping mortises. He used a piece of glass on one side



of the wood to illustrate the technique. This gave an X-ray view of the sequence he follows to chop a rectangular mortise. He first used a traditional “pig sticker” heavy mortise chisel, followed by a lighter bevel-edged chisel to compare. If you missed the meeting, you should easily find the video on You-tube, and it is well worth watching. This is a snapshot from the video.

Club Notices

Annual subs are due. They remain at R400- for the year.



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9 MAY 2018 AT THE TRAINING CENTRE, LIVING LINK, PARKHURST AT 18H00

If you are unable to attend, please complete the proxy form to nominate somebody to represent you at the meeting, so that we reach the required quorum.

The AGM will be followed by a normal club meeting.

Possible future visits and courses being considered by the committee:

- Door Making – factory visit and demonstration at Greg Hirschon’s factory in Robertville – near Austro. Greg will demonstrate how they make a door – Saturday Morning.
- Airbrushing course at Vermont, Olifantsfontein – week day.

Details will be advised when available – probably in 2018. Please respond to Alistair when he requests feedback on so that he can confirm attendance when the dates become available.

Regular Events:

Toymakers. The toymakers meet on the first and third Mondays of every month, at 09h00 till 12h00 at the Albertskroon workshop. Meetings will be cancelled if they coincide with a public holiday. Winston will open up the workshop – see Winston’s contact details below.

Ken’s Saturday Workshop. Ken Bullivant holds a Saturday workshop at his house in Boksburg. The location is 13 Franklin Avenue, Comet, Boksburg on the first Saturday of the month from 09:00 to 12:00. They decide on an annual project and work throughout the year making it. Individual projects are discussed and problems solved. Ken also offers private lessons too. Contact Ken on 082 809 0020 if you wish to take part.

Friday Morning workshop - Winston Klein will be convening a workshop at the Albertskroon work shop on the 1st and 3rd Fridays monthly from 09:00 to 12:00. Contact Winston at 072 553 5045 or kleins AT iburst.co.za

SPIRIT OF THE WOOD - WOODTURNERS

Offering Woodturning lessons, One-on One Training, Classes and Club, Willing to assist persons with limited physical/intellectual abilities. Contact Johan Kramer on 083 251 0183 or Johankramer300@gmail.com

Saturday meetings

1. Second Saturday of month - Herman will open the workshop – all things turning related – 083-631-0501 hermanpotgieteresq AT gmail.com
2. Third Saturday of month – Clive will open the workshop – 083 407 8008 stacey AT netactive.co.za Clive will also open the workshop during the week “BY ARRANGEMENT”
3. Fourth Saturday of month – Graham will open the workshop – 082 900 0242 grahamcr AT mweb.co.za
“SHOULD NO ONE ARRIVE BY 10h00 THE WORKSHOP WILL BE CLOSED.”

Please can the conveners complete the attendance register on the bar counter, so we can gauge attendance?

The closing up instructions must please be followed by the convener when leaving. Graham has placed the procedure in prominent positions in the workshop.

I would like to try woodturning at home – how much do I need to spend?

This is a common question that is asked by visitors each year at Hobby-X.

The last article on this dates back to 2015! Prices have risen, as they always do (even if the Rand doesn't fall), so it is time to revisit the topic. I am restricting the discussion to entry-level powered lathes.

You can save a lot by buying second-hand, but this is largely a matter of patience and luck. For most people, buying new is the only option. The prices quoted below are all new, list prices. Shop around – you may find better deals than I have listed.



Before you buy any powered machinery, invest in a good, comfortable set of impact rated safety glasses. (R100-) Don't be a cheapskate about your eyes! They can't be replaced. If you need reading glasses, integrated reading lenses can be found in some such as those available from Elvex.



Cheapest Powered Wood Lathe:

The cheapest powered lathe with tubular bars can be had new for about R2000-. They are readily available used. However, I cannot recommend you buy one – there is a reason they are common second-hand – they have too many problems. This was reinforced to me at Hobby-X when a couple described their difficulties trying to do useful work on such a lathe. The lack of rigidity of the bed meant that the centers would not bed in adequately into the ends of the workpiece due to the bed bowing. This means that the axes of the centers were not co-linear, with the risk of the workpiece flying off the lathe! Caveat emptor!

Mini Lathes:

As a first lathe, I don't think you will go wrong with a mini-lathe with a cast-iron bed. The cheapest suitable unit is the one sold by Adendorff.

Wood Lathes

MAC AFRIC

TorkCraft
Power Tool Accessories

Wood Turning Chisel Set
8 Piece Standard (shown)
• In Carry Case
R395 WCHIST / 009

8 Piece Professional
• H.S.S. in Carry Case
R1895 WCHIST / 010

4" x 6" Belt & Disc Sander Bench Type
• Belt Size: 100 x 915mm
R2295 WSANDS / 016

900mm Between Centres with Swivel Head
R5995 WLATHE / 900

- Motor: 0.55kW, 220V
- 10 Variable Speeds
- 500 - 2 000rpm
- Swivel Head for various turning functions

450mm Between Centres Bench Type
R3995 WLATHE / 001

- Motor: 0.55kW, 220V

1 000mm Bench Type
R1995 WLATHE / 100

- Motor: 0.37kW, 220V

ALSO AVAILABLE
Range of Wood Lathe Chucks:
ENQUIRE IN STORE

(www.adendorff.co.za)

This currently lists at R4000-.

Both Johan Kramer and Schalk van Niekerk have several of these lathes, which have given many years of service.

A woodturning lathe is a simple machine, with only a few moving parts, most of which are readily available, so the risks



are low. Small lathes are also easy to sell second-hand, in case you decide that wood-turning is not for you.

Tools

Next, a set of 8 carbon steel turning tools lists at Adendorff for about R400-.

You must be able to sharpen your tools. An abrasive wood like blue gum can take the edge off a gouge in minutes. A small 150mm bench grinder (R650-) is probably the most practical for sharpening turning tools. Small bench grinders are readily available used but be sure to ask to see it running first. Inspect the wheels for signs of abuse, and leave it running for a couple of minutes, standing well clear in case of exploding wheels! If there is excessive vibration, price in the cost and effort of changing the grinding wheels. If you can, buy a grinder with 16mm, 20mm or even 25mm wide wheels – the wider the better.



You will need to learn how to sharpen your tools. With practice, this is quick and with the cheaper carbon steel tools, I would be less concerned about practicing on them. Some sort of adjustable tilting platform on the grinder will help to grind to consistent angles.

So, to start, budget for

R4000- for the lathe, R400- for some tools, R650- for a grinder and R100- for a good pair of safety glasses = total R5150-

Various sets of turning chisels are available from Tork Craft dealers, so you may want to shop around for a set and price that suits you.

With the above lathe, you will be able to work between centers and on the faceplate. Until 40 years ago specialized chucks were not much used in woodturning. You can make most things without a chuck, with time and ingenuity. A chuck does widen the scope of what you can do and is much more convenient.

Chucks

So, the next thing you will probably want to buy is a chuck. A very basic chuck with a single set of jaws is available from Adendorff, but it is rather restricting. A more expensive starter chuck with several sets of interchangeable jaws is what I recommend. I have one and it is excellent value for money. These can be had for about R1400- to R1800- from various dealers including Strand and Adendorff

It is important to buy a chuck intended for woodturning, as the jaws are designed for holding wood. A metal-working chuck doesn't have the right jaws. Make sure the chuck will fit the lathe's spindle thread, so it can be screwed on securely. The Adendorff and most mini-lathes have a 1" x 8tpi spindle thread, and most chucks are offered in this thread.

High Speed Steel (HSS) tools keep their edges up to 5 times longer than carbon steel tools, which means less sharpening. Also, there is less risk of "burning" the edges when sharpening on the high-speed grinder. If you over-heat the edge of the tool, which is very easy to do if you are heavy handed, you will see that the edge goes blue, meaning that the temperature has exceeded 300° C, and will have lost some hardness. It will then need much more frequent sharpening. HSS tools do not lose hardness up to red-heat, so even if the edge blues, you don't lose the hardness.

If you have bought carbon steel tools and decide to upgrade later to the HSS tools, you will find lots of uses for the older tools, such as regrinding to other shapes, which you wouldn't do with your precious HSS tools.

So, if you have a little more to spend, then this is what I would recommend:

R4000- for the lathe, R1350- to R1800- for a set of 6 HSS tools from Adendorff or Strand, R650- for a grinder, R100- for a good pair of safety glasses; a basic chuck with interchangeable jaws R1400- = Total R7500- to R8000-.

Then you will have a setup that can serve you for many years of turning.

There quite a few different sets of turning tools available from Tork Craft, Strand, Mr Woodturner, etc, so shop around to see exactly which you prefer. There are also a couple of different entry level chucks available, so the above pricing is just a guide. You may wish to visit the web sites of Strand Hardware, Mr Woodturner, Creative turning, Tools4Wood and Toolcraft to see what they offer – prices do change and specials come and go.

The picture below shows a 100mm Jet chuck with 5 different sets of jaws, including Cole jaws, and a woodscrew, available from Strand Hardware for R2300- which may be a good value-for-money option.

However, bear in mind that there are lots more tools that you may wish to buy as you become more proficient. Higher quality HSS tools, chucks, lathes, specialized tools, etc will put pressure on your wallet, but that is up to you.



At Smit from the Pretoria club once said to me: “Eintlik is die draaibank die kleinste uitgawe!” – In the end, the lathe is not the biggest expense!

One disadvantage of the Adendorff mini-lathe is that I am not aware of a bed extension being available locally, so you are restricted to workpieces up to 450mm long. This does rule out table legs. Some of the newer Adendorff lathes use an aluminum bodied induction motor that seems to run quite hot, but this may be due to the better heat conduction properties of the aluminum body compared with more common steel bodies. The internal winding temperatures should still remain within specification.

Pricing and availability of the above items is obviously subject to change. If you are not sure what to buy, don't be afraid to seek advice from your fellow members.

If you take a course or use the club lathes, you can experience some of the tools and kit first-hand, and see for yourself.

I should also mention that you don't need to spend money on expensive wood blanks to start with. A lot of wood is available in the round, freshly cut, for free. When people know you are turning they will often give you wood that was destined for the dump.

Next month, I will list some of the other small lathes available on the local market.