



Crosscut

◀ Acorn boxes made by Herman

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Next Turners Meeting on Monday, the 3rd February 2020 from 18h00 at the Living Link Hall. Turning a medallion by John Speedy.

Wood of the month for February will be the rubber tree.

Next General Meeting on Wednesday, the 12th February 2020 from 18h00 at the Living Link Hall. Wood Finishing by Gareth Williams from Wood Finish Management.

News

2nd December 2019 – Turners meeting – Herman showed how to turn an acorn box with a tight-fitting lid. He showed the sequence he follows by making the lid first and then the bottom. By careful fitting he is able to make a close-fitting lid which will not accidentally come off inside a pocket.

Wood of the Month – Chris van Heeswijk presented Black Locust – *Robinia pseudoacacia*, which literally means *False Acacia*. Native to the central and eastern USA, it is an invading species in other parts of the USA and Southern Africa. It can also be confused with Honey Locust except that Honey Locust has thorns and not just spines. The wood is dense and durable, being well suited for use in outdoor furniture. It can be recognised by the deeply fissured bark with diamond shaped fissures. (Images from Wikipedia.)

11th December 2019 – Main club meeting – at the Albertskroon workshop.

Planned - Bring and braai + first drink free at Albertskroon.

Woodworking related quiz. Bring tools to sell and swap.

Reality – Cancelled due to load-shedding, apologies to all those that fought the traffic, only to find that it wasn't possible to proceed with the meeting without electricity.

8th January 2020 – Main club meeting – cancelled due to unavailability of the presenter – held over to February 2020.

Club Notices / Committee Matters

Hobby-X 2020 – 5th to 8th March 2020 at the Dome,

Northgate. You will have already seen the email from our chairman, Alistair asking for volunteers to demonstrate, man the stand and provide items to display on the gallery.



Branding Irons – Steven Barrett purchased his branding iron from Benji at 082 256 1946 or logopunch@mweb.co.za. Steven explained the process of making one involves designing the artwork and sending it the supplier for a quote. Once you are happy with the design, the die is machined using a CNC machine.

Annual Toys for Charity Braai on 23rd November 2019 at the Gereformeerde Kerk, Randburg
– We collected 1632 toys, which were split between three charities – Baby Moses, Little Eden and Kids haven. R1850- was donated from auctions, donations and sales.



Detailed shot of the Bullivant log-house. You may recall Ken showed us the work-in-progress some time ago. Here is the completed house, with some help from his family for the detailed painting.

Woodworking 101 – Bobby says:

Hi everyone. Happy New Year to you all. Our first WoodWorking 101 is scheduled for 1 Feb. at 09h00 at the Albertskroon workshop. The project is a bar stool as shown. This presents challenges as the tenon shoulders are at an angle. If we all make the same size stool, we can set up the workshop machines to do the mortice and tenons as a mass production. A cutting list and for the material required

4 legs	740 mm x 48 mm x 48 mm
4 top rails	240 mm x 75 mm x 20 mm
4 bottom	330 mm x 50 mm x 20 mm
1 top	370 mm x 370 mm x 40 mm

Timber of choice, Meranti or better.

See you on the 1st Feb 2020.

For further information you can contact Bobby at 083 873 3872 or bobbymel109@gmail.com.



Toys for charity 2019 – Tables and stools made from MDF off cuts, machined on a CNC router by David Smith ▼

Regular Events:

Every Wednesday and Friday – Graham Rudings will open the workshop, but reserves the right to cancel at short notice. Graham is setting up an email circulation list for announcements and any cancellations. Please email Graham grahamcr AT mweb.co.za to be added to the list. Graham can be contacted on 082 900 0242.

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.

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. First Saturday – Bobby Bezuidenhout – Woodwork 101 for beginners. Contact Bobby on 083 873 3872 or bobbymel109@gmail.com
2. Second Saturday of month - Herman will open the workshop – all things turning related – 083-631-0501 hermanpotgieteresq AT gmail.com
3. Third Saturday of month – Contact Pierre at 083 308 7917 or pm9917 AT gmail.com
4. Fourth Saturday of month – Graham will open the workshop – 082 900 0242 grahamcr AT mweb.co.za If you plan to attend, please send your email address to Graham, so that he can send out any last minute cancellations.

“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.



Using resin in a woodworking environment - Making of a river scene

By Graham Rudings

This process uses a combination of wood, resins, pigments and hardeners and the end result being commonly a river table. The bark of the wood is used as the edging to the river and the more natural the finished product the better the visual image. There are literally 1000's of projects on the internet to get a cross section of what people have achieved



Getting Started

- Selection of wood is important in terms of size needed for the project and whether you want a prominent bark or a muted bark. Many of these projects cover items like lounge side tables; dining room tables; and or casual patio tables
- The importance of your resin is also critical to the overall project and as a pointer I have used Polycell resin (not impressed with results - it got extremely hot, turned a light amber shade, and developed hairline cracks. I have used Poly Steel which is used in the motor industry again it seemed to have an amber tinge but didn't overheat or crack like the previous product
- Strand Hardware Resin and Hardener - this product is one of the better products available - however in my tests the resin did appear a little cloudy when used in its mixed ratio - however this is not a deal breaker if you are going to add pigments. The ratio of mix is 100 (resin) to 41 (hardener) for this product the product is expensive at R 480 for 1 litre resin plus the hardener
- AMT (in Spartan) product was in my testing the superior product and was considerable cheaper (about R 1000 for 5 litres and the required hardener), but the end result was that the resin set crystal clear.
- I used melamine veneered chipboard to create the trough in which you will settle your wood stones etc. to create your river scene. It is also vital that you use silicon sealer on all joints to ensure that your mixed product of resin and hardener don't escape through any gaps.

- It is also vital that you use a "release agent" and spray the internal trough thoroughly with this agent, otherwise you will have problems with the resin sticking to the melamine and the chipboard will lose the war and you will have to sand off chipboard and melamine from your "river". I haven't tried it as yet but I will be trying on a small test sample as to whether a product like "Spray and Cook" would suffice as a release agent
- When setting up your scene you need to make some decisions - like - whether you want to leave a gap around your "scene" into which you will pour your resin mix i.e. a border of resin mix around your "river" - this is a personal choice. You also need to determine up front whether you are going to submerge your "scene" in the resin mix or whether you will only pour to within 2/3 mm of the upper level of the wood and bark. If you are going to use wood and its natural bark as the edge of your "river" you need to paint the bark with *tarbond* which is a product that AMT recommend - it removes all air bubbles within the bark before you pour your resin mix
- When making up your resin mix you may well want to put in a pigment into the mix - use the pigment that Strand Hardware sell but be warned these pigment are exceedingly strong in terms of how quickly they lock in their colours - use the tip of a tooth pick and add small amounts and stir your resin mix thoroughly. Unfortunately, if you add too much pigment you can't reverse the situation and you will have to start again
- It is vitally important that you mix the resin and the hardener thoroughly (I use tongue depressors - ex Dis Chem). Most persons involved in these projects recommend stirring for at least 15 minutes before pouring - I have found that stirring for 20 minutes or so with the AMT product does lessen bubbles
- Each pour should be between 5 - 7 mm in depth and there are all manner of means of determining mathematically what quantities to mix - I generally determine depth, width, and length as a guide to how much to mix. If you are adding rocks and some pebbles for your scene then mix a little less resin mix. I can't find any literature or warning as to what the consequences are if you pour to a greater depth than say 7mm - I imagine it may just take longer to cure.
- During the course of this first layer hardening you will find numerous bubbles will rise to the surface which needs to be burst, it is recommended that you use a gas type blow torch. A word of warning if you do your pour do it in the mornings so that you have time during the day to burst the bubbles. In my last example I poured mid evening and the next morning found some unwelcome bubbles on my project
- Before you make your second pour ensure that the original pour has hardened properly before this second pour and also inspect your trough for any leaks - you will also need to decide whether you are going to add pigment or not
- When your second pour has been completed and hardened you can safely remove your project from the trough take care as you don't want to damage the wood or the resin



Some notes:-

- If you put pebbles as part of your river bed ensure that they do not go right to the end edges of the river as when you come to trim up the edges on the table saw you better have an old blade which you don't mind destroying



- You also need to decide whether you want to sand the top of the river to remove resin from your wood (overspill of resin on wood) or whether the resin stays and covers the wood totally.
- Should there be a need to sand your resin be extremely careful in this operation and it is suggested that you use grit of the order of 1000 then 2000 and then finally 3000. If you use lesser grits chances are you will leave swirl and score marks on your resin mix which will detract from the crystal-clear image you are trying to achieve

- The resin mix does have a tendency over its setting period to pool which is it hollows in the centre so slightly overfilling may be required - also see previous point when sanding



- The resin is very sticky when you get it on your hands or worktops - Acetone is what is used to remove the resin mix. A word of warning Acetone is very harsh and if you speak to your spouse, she will explain how well it removes nail polish so be very careful and don't get it on painted surfaces
- Through my experiments I found that resin does not stick to Perspex so it is an ideal product to use to stop the resin mix flowing to areas (perimeter mainly) where you don't want it to flow
- The resin mix does seem to impregnate some softer woods so if your intention is to have the wood as a dominant feature ensure that you get very little resin mix on the wood as it takes some sanding to remove

To those who decide to take the journey have fun.

