

Crosscut

◀ About 30 years ago, at the old Hardware Centre, Main Street premises, Peter Middleton demonstrates.

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Next Turners Meeting on Monday, 4th June 2018 from 18h00 at the Living Link Hall —
Presentations – My Turners Work Space.

Next General Meeting on Wednesday, the 13th May 2018 from 18h00 at the Living Link Hall –
Wood finishing – Part 1

News

7th May 2018 – Turners meeting. Turning a square bowl by Herman Potgieter. Herman showed some possibilities for turning a square bowl in line with the suggested theme for the 2018 AWSA symposium in George.

Wood of the month by Chris van Heeswijk – Beefwood - Casuarina cunninghamiana, native to Australia, is the species most commonly found in South Africa. *C. cunninghamiana* and another species, *C. equisetifolia* are commonly found along the coast, where they have been used to stabilise sand dunes. The name beefwood derives from the deep red heartwood found in mature specimens, but the colours can vary from pale to dark. It has characteristic medullary rays, similar to oak. The leaves are very characteristic, making it easy to identify



close by. The wood is hard, excellent for making furniture and turned items.

9th May 2018- General Club meeting. The 30th AGM of the WWA was successfully concluded with the election of the new committee for the 2018-2019 year. Herman Potgieter will assume the overall chairmanship of the club and lead the turner's section. Alistair Brande is standing down as chair and was thanked for his services to the club to date. Matt Hoffman will continue as Secretary, and Michael Minassian will continue as Treasurer. The position of Vice Chairman will be filled by Mike Swart, who will also lead the Cabinet-makers section. The financial position of the club is sound and membership reached 124 paid up members this year. Previously, the **Woodturner of the Year** award was given to the most improved woodturner, but this year, in recognition of his overall skill and contribution to the club, the committee decided to award it to **John Speedy**. An example of the work that John produces and shares with the club at demonstrations is shown below.



Club Notices

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

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, Randjespark, Midrand (near the Olifantsfontein off-ramp). The following dates have been proposed Wednesday, 21st August; Tuesday, 05th September; and Wednesday, 17th October, starting at 9h00. If you are interested, please let Alistair which is your preferred date. Depending on the response, we may need to combine dates, which will be communicated. We are arranging prices from a distributor to enable you to buy at a special price should you be interested in purchasing and airbrush and accessories. (I have been holding off buying an airbrush, until I know more about them, so I am looking forward to the course.)

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.

Larger lathes available on the local market.

Trevor Pope

As in previous articles, the focus is on lathes likely to be used for hobbyist or artistic wood turning. This excludes copy lathes, typically used for production of furniture parts. For the limited quantities of table legs used by a hobbyist furniture maker, a skilled turner will make 4 legs in the time taken to set up a copy lathe, and with better results.

Variable speed using a Reeves drive. This design of lathe (typified by the Jet shown right), has been available for many years, and has been offered by various suppliers, such as Strand Hardware, Adendorf and Hardware



Centre. A Reeves drive uses a belt between two cone pulleys – by moving the speed control lever, the relative diameters of the two pulleys are changed, giving a range of speeds. The speeds can only be changed while the lathe is running, which can be a disadvantage. If you have mounted a large workpiece and realise that the speed is set too high, then for safety, you may have to remove it before running the lathe and moving the speed control lever to minimum, before remounting the piece.

You might find that the minimum speed may be rather too high for large bowl turning, so check that this is not a concern before making a decision to buy. These lathes have a rotating head stock allowing great flexibility, both for in-board and outboard turning, potentially allowing large bowls to be turned. However, you may find that when starting with a large workpiece that is out of balance, 500 rpm may be too fast.

The **Jet JWL-1443** (previous page) has a capacity of 14" x 43" (370mm x 1100mm). The swivel head contains a variable-speed Reeves drive that gives a speed range of 500 to 2200 rpm. The minimum speed is perhaps a little high for the largest workpieces when they are out of balance. A $\frac{3}{4}$ horsepower motor is specified. The spindle thread is M33 x 3.5mm and 2 MT is used for the tapers. The extended tool-post support is a potential concern – it may not be rigid enough to avoid vibration in some cases. It lists at R15,850-.



Visually similar to the Jet, and also using a Reeves drive for variable speed, is the **Adendorf MC900** (shown above). It copes with workpieces 305mm diameter by 880mm between centres, with a speed range of 500 to 2000 rpm, driven by a 550W ($\frac{3}{4}$ hp) motor. It weighs 80 kg. It offers a rotating head stock for greater flexibility. One concern I have (as with the Jet above) is with the rigidity of the tool rest arm shown – it looks like vibration could be a problem. Check that the spindle thread is 1" x 8tpi and that 2 MT is used for the tapers, as this is not stated in the specifications. This lathe lists at R6,000- from **Adendorf**.



The **Toolmate** (see right) is another version of the above lathes, with minor variations and a different colour scheme. The mechanical specifications are the same as the Adendorf MC900. The same concerns also apply to this model. This lathe lists at R7,600- from Hardware Centre.



Belt speed change models:

The Nova lathes are popular in South Africa. The **Nova 3000** was first offered over 20 years ago and has been updated as the **Nova 1624-44** with the same capabilities as the **Nova 3000**. It uses the same bed as the redesigned DVR, allowing Technatool to reduce their inventory. It now has a 1.5 horsepower motor (1.1kW). As sold, it has a 16" x 24" (400mm diam x 600mm long) workpiece capability, and bed extensions provide for 20" (500mm) increases in length. (Nick Arnul in the UK uses one with three bed extensions for turning architectural columns.) Weighing in at 114kg, this is a significant step up from the Midi lathes. It has a swivelling headstock, and together with outboard tool rests, it allows large workpieces. It also has a low minimum speed of 180 rpm, which is good for large, out of balance workpieces. It accommodates #2 MT tooling, but you need to check which spindle thread is offered: 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 8 tpi or M33 x 3.5 and ensure that your chucks will fit. If you want variable

speed, Teknatool does offer a DVR upgrade motor, but I haven't seen it locally. The **Nova 1624-44** presently lists at R21,000- from Strand
 (The **Nova 1624-44** can be retrofitted later with a 3 phase AC induction motor and variable speed drive if you need the convenience. See www.cfptech.co.za for variable speed motor/drive combinations.)
 The WWA has a Nova 3000 at the Albertskroon workshop, so you can try it out before you buy one. The picture shows the optional stand as well.

The **Nova DVR XP** (see below) has the same physical dimensions as the **1624-44**, and has the same bed and tailstock. The headstock contains an integrated motor and variable speed drive rated at 2 horsepower (1.5kW) with a continuous speed range of 100 to 3500 rpm. No belts or speed changes are required and low speed torque is excellent. Aside from the price, the only significant concern about the **DVR XP** is the membrane keyboard – some people would prefer solid switches and an analogue speed control knob. Fitting a surge plug is apparently a wise precaution, given our high lightning incidence in Gauteng, and the poor power quality experienced by some consumers. This applies to all lathes with electronics, not just the DVR.



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The DVR is not presently listed, but apparently, some stock is expected later in the year – expect to pay just under R40,000-, subject to vagaries such as the exchange rate.

Jet lathes are imported by Strand Hardware (www.strandhardware.co.za) and are available from Hardware Centre in Gauteng. (www.hardwarecentre.co.za)

A larger Jet lathe is the **Jet JWL-1642EVS** – It has a capacity of 16" x 42", with a swivel head and electronic variable speed control. Two belt speed ranges – 50 – 1200 and 125 – 3200 rpm, connect the 1.5 horsepower (1.1kW) motor to the spindle. The spindle could be 1¼" x 8tpi or M33 x 3.5 (check) and #2 MT head and tailstock taper sockets are standard. It presently lists for R55,400- at Hardware Centre.

(This lathe was used for the main auditorium demonstrations at the AWSA congress in George last year and was well received. It has excellent low speed torque and lack of vibration. It doesn't have a rotating headstock, but by moving the headstock to fully to the right, workpieces larger than 16" can be accommodated, with some restrictions on the location of the toolrest.)



Adendorf also offer a larger lathe that is visually very similar to the Jet JWL-1642EVS, with similar specs that may be worth considering. The capacities are slightly larger than the Jet at 18" x 47" (460mm x 1200mm), with a 1.5kW motor. It weighs 190kg, so this is a substantial machine. Otherwise it seems very similar. One potential risk item is the variable speed drive (VSD) – perhaps you should enquire about spare parts availability, but in the longer term, an aftermarket VSD could probably be retrofitted if need be. It seems to be excellent value for money at R25,000-.



As mentioned above, I suggest you fit surge protection on the AC supply.

A similar looking lathe, albeit with a 1.1kW motor is also available from Topland (<http://www.woodworkmachines.co.za>) with their branding. Clearly, there is a factory in China making these, with variations such as colour to suit the local importer.

SA Machinery did offer some larger lathes including one with a Reeves drive, similar to the ones above, as well as a variable speed drive lathe. Their web site was not operating correctly at the time of writing, so you may need to pay them a visit to check what they are presently offering. Check the spindle threads and tapers supplied are commonly available before making a decision. I would also enquire about spare part availability on items not readily available elsewhere such as variable speed drives. If an integrated motor and variable speed drive fails, spare parts may become an issue.

Some of the pictures show lathes on stands – these may not be included in some cases – check this as well before buying. Not everybody wants a stand. Some prefer to mount the lathe on a bench, particularly for the smaller units, where you are short of space. When the lathe is not in use, it can be stowed under the bench.

If you come across other lathes presently available locally that I have not mentioned or wish to share more information on ones that you use or sell, I welcome your contributions. Because products and pricing change with time, if you wish to share these updates, I look forward to your inputs.