

Crosscut

◀ Example wheels made by Willie Pretorius

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Next Turners' meeting – **Tuesday, 2nd May** 2023 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop** – Turning lids for jars using a screw chuck – demonstration by Trevor Pope

Next Main club meeting – Wednesday, 10th May 2023 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop** – To be advised. 2023 Annual General Meeting to take place as well.

New WWA Account number. **FNB 63026931287** – please make sure that your payment can be identified by adding your **full name**, perhaps cell number and **reason for payment**.

News

Turners' meeting. Monday – 3rd April 2023 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop**. Willie Pretorius showed how to make spoked wheels on the lathe. The hub and rim were turned as one piece with a circular slot where the spokes pass through. Then holes were drilled radially and the spokes were pressed in and glued in place. Then a piece of wood was glued over the rim and turned down to the shape of a tyre. Finally, the wheel was reverse mounted

onto a mandrel and the remaining part of the hub to rim connection was turned away, to leave the spokes wholly supporting the rim and tyre.

The picture shows the completed wheel, just requiring some detailed finishing.

Main club meeting. Wednesday – 12th April 2023 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop** – Talk on novel uses of hole-saws by Willie. Willie showed how to enlarge a predrilled hole, where the centre has been lost, with a larger hole saw. He also showed how to make a custom sized hole saw using bandsaw

blade stock. Finally, he showed how to make a custom sanding drum using a hole saw.

George Gurovich, from Woodoc, spoke about their product range and answered questions from the audience. Of particular interest was the new water-based product range. George then took questions from the members on finishing issues with the Woodoc product range.



Reminder - New WWA Account number. Due to ongoing difficulties in changing signatories and poor service from Nedbank, the committee resolved to change banks. Anesh, our new treasurer has opened an account with **FNB** and requests that all payments be made into this new account: **63026931287** – please add this to your beneficiaries list. Please make sure that your payment can be identified by adding your **name**, perhaps cell number and **reason for payment**. Annotations such as “annual subs” or “WWA shirt” without your name are not helpful – Anesh will not be able to trace your payment.

Access times for **Made in Workshop for WWA members** from Graham Swallow – WWA Chair:

MiW times for members are as follows

Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9AM to 12AM. However please take note of the following:

WWA members CANNOT just pitch up and use machines unless they have booked them with MiW. This refers to the bookable machines such as the panel saw, thicknesser/planer, drum sander, spindle moulder as well as CNC machines of any kind.

Machines such as the bandsaw and the Triton router table need no booking

Henry has also asked me to convey that all the major machines may only be used if the WWA member is familiar and fully understands the importance of the correct and safe use of these machines. Speak to Graham regarding training and qualification to use machines.

Bookings can be made during office hours of 8h00 to 17h00, weekdays by contacting one of these numbers:

Henry – 083 269 9505

Josh – 083 768 7853

Trenton – 081 365 6039

WWA AGM – 2023. The 2023 Annual General Meeting for the Wits Woodworking Association will take place at the Main Club meeting on Wednesday, the 10th May 2023 at 18h00 at **MiW**. Formal notices were issued via email. Please remember to send in your apologies and associated proxies to the secretary before the meeting. If you are able to assist with tasks through the year or by joining the committee, please volunteer. The secretary requests that nominations be submitted by Monday, 8th May 2023, however nominations from the floor will be accepted at the meeting. Before nominating someone, please confirm their availability.

Planning for 2023 Toymakers braai. If you have any suggestions on things you would like to change for the next braai, please approach a committee member with your suggestions. Concerns that arose last year were around how the ticket books are constructed that made them difficult to control and sell. We would also like encourage members who donate toys to put a label on them so we can credit your efforts in pictures for the newsletter.

Raffle prizes during the year. The committee is always on the look-out for raffle prizes through the year. Donations and purchase of prizes such as surplus tools from members are one option. Please approach a committee member if you can assist.

Hobby-X 2023 at the Kyalami exhibition centre will take place from the 4th to 7th May 2023. The shift roster and booking sheet has been sent out – please volunteer to demonstrate or attend to the stand.



Schedule for Regular Events at **Made in Workshop**

1. Second Saturday of month at 9h00 - Herman – all things turning related – 083 631 0501
[hermanpotgieteresq AT gmail.com](mailto:hermanpotgieteresq@gmail.com)

This list is subject to change, so please consult your *Crosscut* each month.

Show & Tell meetings are held at Hardware Centre every Friday Morning at 09:30. All members welcome. Contact Eugene on 0824953394 or eugene@antlerfin.co.za

At the meeting on the last Friday of March 2023, Eugene demonstrated the principles of through dovetailing. It was a well thought out presentation that covered all the basics. He explained the principles of his approach, cutting the tails first. He uses his fancy fret saw to cut out the bottoms of the tails, rather than chopping them out. Then he marks the pins from the tails.



Refinishing a counter top with a water-based varnish.

Trevor Pope

In the kitchen in our home, we have an old yellow-wood counter top that needed refinishing. It was finished with a hard glossy varnish that stood up quite well to more than a decade and half of use. But it was starting to fail in patches, so to avoid any damage and staining to the underlying wood, I decided it was time to refinish.



As you may know, oil-based varnishes do darken the wood and also darken with age, so I decided to refinish it with a water-based varnish.

Previously, I have had good results from *Rystix Timbercare exterior Armadek clear* which is water-based varnish that is durable and UV stable.

However, following the talk last month by George from Woodoc, I decided to try one of the Woodoc water-based products.

The particular product I selected was Woodoc 25W floor varnish in Matt. It was expensive at R320- for 1 litre from Paint Trade, somewhat more than the Rystix



product, but in the interests of science, I decided to try it.

First, I had to remove all the old varnish, which is a tedious job. I decided not use a paint remover, as I was concerned about staining of the underlying wood. The paint strippers available locally are poorly labelled and not all the ingredients are identified, so I am also concerned about toxicity.

I used the scraper shown in the picture, made from an old circular saw blade. It was cut and ground into oval like shape, so that there are no sharp corners to dig in. Despite the high-quality steel, it required regular resharpening, which I won't go into here.

I discovered that it was possible to remove thin layers of the old varnish or by pressing hard to rip it off in strips. It was quite hard work. Yellow wood is quite soft, so as the varnish came off, the surface remaining was quite rough, so some careful scraping and sanding was required.

One of the disadvantages of water-based finishes is that they don't incorporate oily stains well, so these do show up. Also, you have to be careful to remove all the old varnish as this can show up under the new finish. The stains and old varnish tend to blend in with an oil-based varnish because it darkens the wood more.

Once the surface had been scraped, I sanded it with a fine 180 grit, I vacuumed off all the dust and wiped it down with a damp cloth as well.

Water-based varnishes are quite different to apply compared with oil-based. I find that they set quite quickly to touch dry. The Woodoc 25W hardened enough in a few hours that it could be sanded for the next coat without any smearing. This is quicker than the Rystix, which took a day or more. The brush I used has synthetic bristles, because I find that brushes made with natural fibres tend to swell and flare out as they absorb water.

Applying it, I found that I had to consciously maintain a wet edge because it dried quite quickly and going back to rebrush would smear the surface. I had to apply it quite liberally so that it would level out otherwise brush marks would remain. When first applied, it had the characteristic bluish-white tinge of water-based varnishes, but this disappeared as it dried.

I applied four coats with light sanding by hand in between with 180 grit. There wasn't as much raised grain after the first coat as I expected. Four coats is quite a lot, but it is a kitchen work top, so there will be wear. I was concerned that it would look plasticky but being matt, this is not too obvious. You can see there is some reflection from the overhead lights, but it is more diffuse, due to the matt varnish.

You can also see slight ripples from the scraping or even prior machining marks, which only became apparent once I varnished it. I think that if I had invested more effort in surface preparation, this could have improved. This is a work surface with quite a few dings and scratches, so I don't think it matters, and only I can see them.



I wouldn't rate the final surface as fine furniture quality – it is a bit coarse and plasticky. I think oil-based coatings perhaps still have the edge for fine furniture. However, for the purpose for which it is intended, the Woodoc 25W works well.

This is the final surface. It is somewhat lighter than the previous oil-based finish. You can see a few small stains and cracks in the wood, but it is quite old.

