

# Crosscut

Newsletter of the Witwatersrand Woodworkers' Association



"Pssst ... Hey buddy, ya wanna buy an airbrush"

◀ Air brushes for sale?

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**Next Turners Meeting on Monday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016** from 18h00 at the Living Link Hall –

Trevor Pope will talk on making and fitting handles to chisels and hammers.

**Wood of the Month:** Macadamia

**Next Meeting on Wednesday, the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016 – General meeting** from 18h00 at the Living Link

Hall. Andries Kemp will talk on Creative Furniture: Function, Form & Style.

## News

**5<sup>th</sup> September 2016 - Turner's meeting.** Steven Barrett demonstrated how to make an egg cup in preparation for the Spring Challenge. The picture shows him cutting a recess prior to remounting the base onto an expansion chuck. Herman gave some feedback on the AWSA congress in George at the end of August. He showed some pictures of the work on display and the seminars he attended. Plans are afoot to repeat the congress at the same venue in 2017, but perhaps during the school holidays to allow more people to attend.



**Wood of the Month – Mulga – Acacia Aneura.** Chris van Heeswijk explained that this native of Australia is similar to Australian Blackwood – Acacia Melanoxylon in appearance, but somewhat denser.



**14<sup>th</sup> September 2016 - General Club meeting.** Stephan from Vermont Tools showed some new airbrush products including one that uses prepackaged fabric paints in reusable sachets



**Hobby-X Pretoria 2016.** This took place at the HeartFelt Arena, Valhalla on 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> September 2016. Johan Kramer took a stand to publicise his turning group *Spirit of the Wood*. Schalk van Niekerk also took a stand in the name of his *One Good Turn* group. The venue was smaller, but also more accessible than the Dome.



**Spring Challenge.** On Sat, the 10<sup>th</sup> September at Albertskroon, a group of turners gathered to make shavings and discuss the merits of milking stools. Several egg cups were produced in the process. A jury was appointed and the best stools and egg cups on the day were selected. Roger Matthews' hexagonal stool with its complex joinery received the nod, with Bobby's and Trevor's stools receiving a mention. The



stretchers on Roger's stool join together to make a triangle using some complex joinery. Roger showed us prototypes he made of the joints before he made the stool.

David Smith bought a set of the new **Blackline woodturning** tools designed by Roy Marcus' company

**Circumference** that was on special at the AWSA congress. David bought the set to the Spring challenge to try them out making an egg cup.

The Blackline tools from **Circumference** ([www.circumference.co.za](http://www.circumference.co.za)) have several innovations that make them unique. They are similar in concept to the **Easy** tools offered by Mr Woodturner ([www.mrwoodturner.co.za](http://www.mrwoodturner.co.za)) (shown on right) using replaceable inserts at the end of the tool shafts.



However the inserts provided by **Circumference** are different – they look like PCD (Poly Crystalline Diamond) and are expected to have an extremely long life. It is probably not practical to sharpen the PCD inserts, whereas the **Easy** inserts are carbide and can be sharpened on a diamond wheel or plate. The **Circumference** tools are supplied as individual shafts each holding a different insert, all fitting into a common aluminium handle. The **Easy** tools are supplied complete with individual handles. The **Circumference** handle uses an innovative collet design – the collet is made from Delrin (a plastic) that provides the right combination of flexibility and strength, so that the tool shafts are held firmly, but the collet can still be tightened by hand, allowing tool-less changes.

Both the **Easy** and **Circumference** tools are designed as scraping tools – the shafts are held horizontally.

No rubbing of bevels is required, which makes them user friendly for beginners. Despite the scraping action of the cutters, a satisfactory finish was achievable, due to the sharpness of the inserts, thanks to the very hard insert material used.

Personally speaking, I'm not convinced that these tools offer much for the experienced wood turner who already has a set of HSS tools. However, for beginners they can serve to make wood turning much more accessible. Sharpening is intended not to be an issue, as you are supposed to buy new inserts, but I do wonder about the economics of this. For a beginner, they may be worth considering.



**Plough and Moulding planes.** Following the success of Winston's presentation on planes he followed up with a presentation on plough and moulding planes on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> September at Albertskroon. Winston started with the Stanley #50 which is a simple plough plane. He showed how this plane can be used make rebates and simple



mouldings. He then moved onto the more complex #45 and #55 planes that can be used to create an infinite variety of mouldings. One particular advantage of these planes over a machine router is in the reproduction of antique mouldings for restoration. It is possible through a combination of cutters, and even grinding custom profiles, to reproduce a moulding to match an existing one.

Winston also showed his horizontal drilling system that he uses for drilling holes for doweling. This is based on an article from Practical Woodworking Magazine, February, 1972, reproduced below for your information, courtesy of Winston.



The original design uses a Black&Decker drill in special cradle, but nowadays drills and small routers have a shoulder behind the chuck or collet that can be used to mount the machine. So it is possible to adapt the design to modern power tools.

The clock that Winston is holding incorporates mouldings made using moulding planes.



## Club Notices

**Toys for Charity – end of year braai** – Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016 at the Gereformeerde Kerk, Randburg Remember to make at least 10 toys to donate for our designated charity.

### 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. Contact Eddie Marchio on 011-678-8062 or [rm22 AT mweb.co.za](mailto:rm22@mweb.co.za) for more information.

**Wednesday workshop.** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays, from 17h30 to 20h00 at Albertskroon. Contact John Allen on 083 457 4801 or Clive Stacey (See 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays monthly from 09:00 to 12:00. Contact Winston at 072 553 5045 or [kleins AT iburst.co.za](mailto:kleins@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](mailto:Johankramer300@gmail.com)

### Saturday meetings

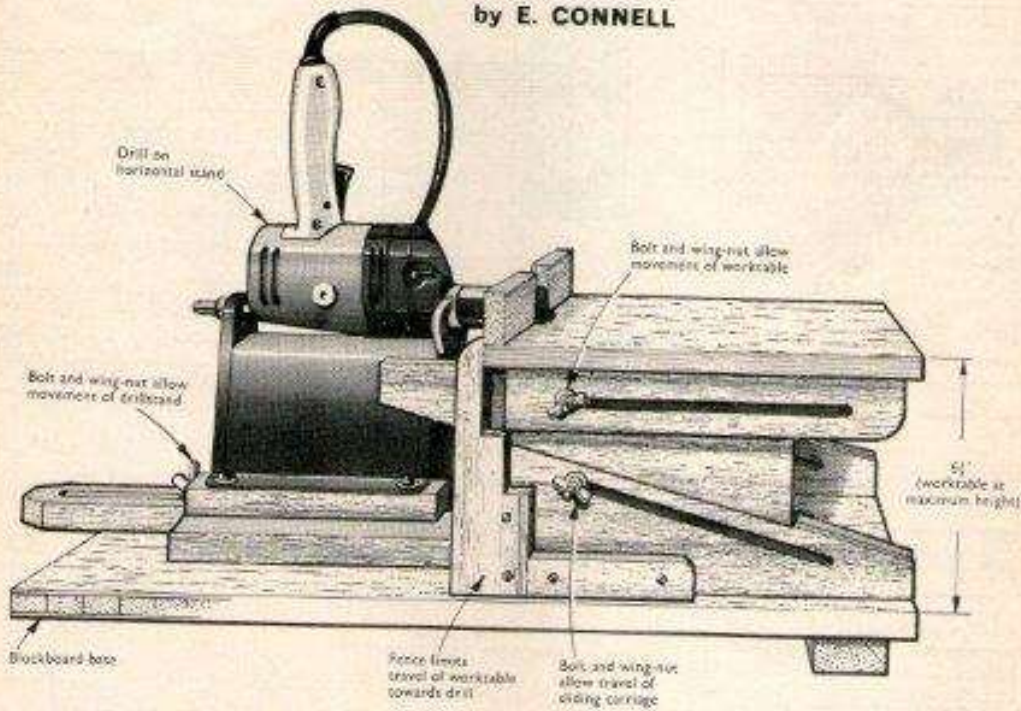
1. Second Saturday of month - Eddie will open the workshop – 011 678 8062 [rm22 AT mweb.co.za](mailto:rm22@mweb.co.za)
  2. Third Saturday of month – Clive will open the workshop – 083 407 8008 [stacey AT netactive.co.za](mailto:stacey@netactive.co.za) Clive will also open the workshop during the week “BY ARRANGEMENT”
  3. Fourth Saturday of month – Graham will open the workshop – 082 900 0242 [grahamcr AT mweb.co.za](mailto:grahamcr@mweb.co.za)
- Please can the conveners complete the attendance register on the bar counter, so we can gauge attendance?

**For sale:** White Grinding Wheels. Custom made specially for sharpening turning tools. These were made in a batch to a special order, and are offered for sale by the Pretoria Woodworkers club. 80 grit, K hardness, 1 ¼” hole. Two sizes 150 diam x 32 mm wide R300- and 200 diam x 32 mm wide R400- Contact Carel van der Merwe on 083 283 7303 or At Smit on 012 993 1822 (Note that for most bench grinders, you will have make a bush to suit the shaft of your grinder, and the guard may need to be extended. This does require some expertise, so bear this in mind before buying and measure up your machine beforehand.)

Routers and milling machines are used fairly extensively in industry. Quite recently a range of milling cutters designed to be used with a power drill and bench stand was introduced to the British market. These tools interested one of our readers who studied the techniques of using them and eventually decided to modify the maker's recommended jigs by making an adjustable table that was simple to operate by the not-so-skilled.

# ADJUSTABLE MILLING TABLE

by E. CONNELL



THE IDEA of making an adjustable milling table came to me after I had sent for the CeKa Zenses booklet which, thanks to being confined to bed, I studied with more care than is sometimes possible.

Their method at that time relied exclusively on a vertical mounting of the drill, and while this opened up several possibilities, it excluded several things which I always seemed to need. Thus, while it made possible the tonguing and grooving of the edge of a board, it would only be possible to groove across the face of a very narrow board. Obviously a horizontal mounting would expand the possibilities considerably.

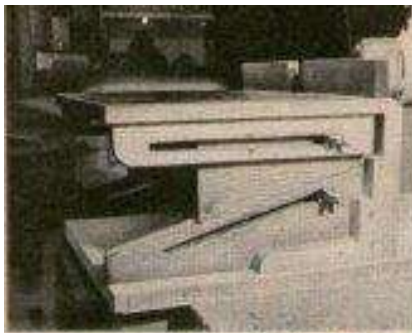
As soon as I was on my feet, I constructed a vertical drill platform to test out the validity of their claims. I modified their design by using bearers and wing-nuts at the side below the working table level to make quicker adjustment possible. Having



1. General view, with table half raised.



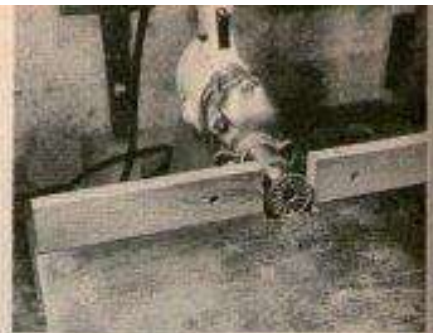
2. Carriage retracted; table right down.



3. Carriage right forward; table fully up.



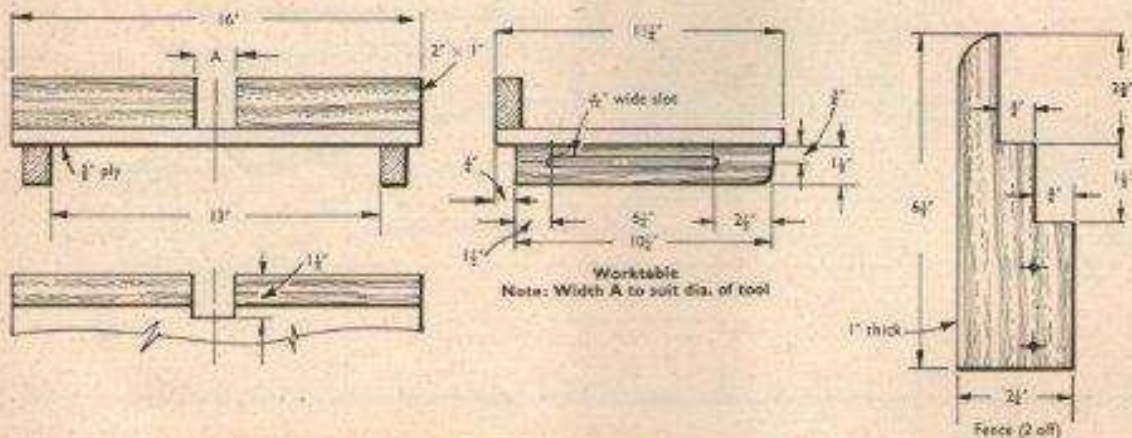
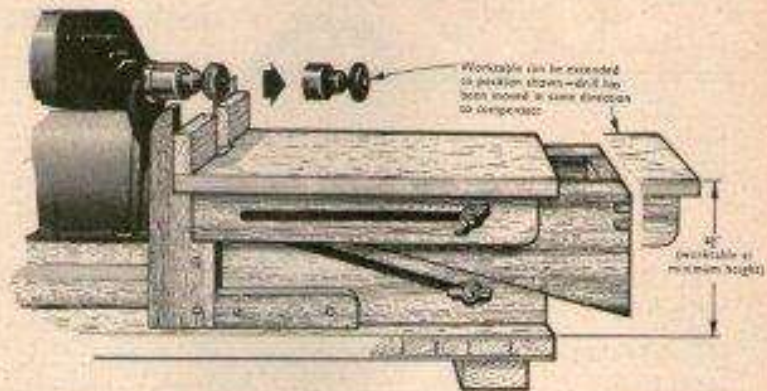
4. Table set for grooving.



5. Table set for planing.

satisfied myself that the cutters really worked, I set about a horizontal mounting. Not being fully confident that my design, even if it worked, would not call for modification, I used only salvaged wood.

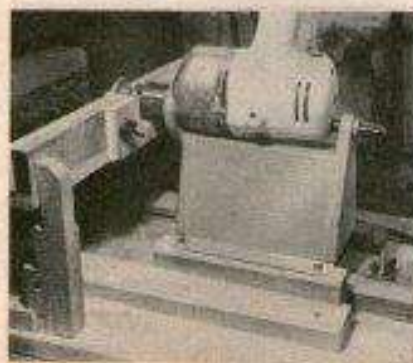
The sliding carriage and fixed base pieces were of salvaged oak; the working table was a piece of 1/2 in. plywood salvaged from a desk-top, and even the blockboard base was a piece of salvage. In spite of this, the table worked very satisfactorily, once I had grasped (which I blush to admit I did not immediately do) that the work-piece had to be moved from right to left and not the other way round, as in the vertical drill.



The mechanics of the system are simple. The sliding carriage is free to slide up and down the fixed base by a tongue and groove arrangement. At each side of the carriage are two bolts and wing-nuts, the lower set engaging in angled slots in the fixed base, and the upper set in slots in the worktable, which is also free to slide on the carriage.

For every 1/16 in. that the carriage is moved the worktable is raised or lowered 1/8 in. Although I have never got round to fixing a rule alongside the angled slots, there is no doubt that such a device would aid speedy adjustment.

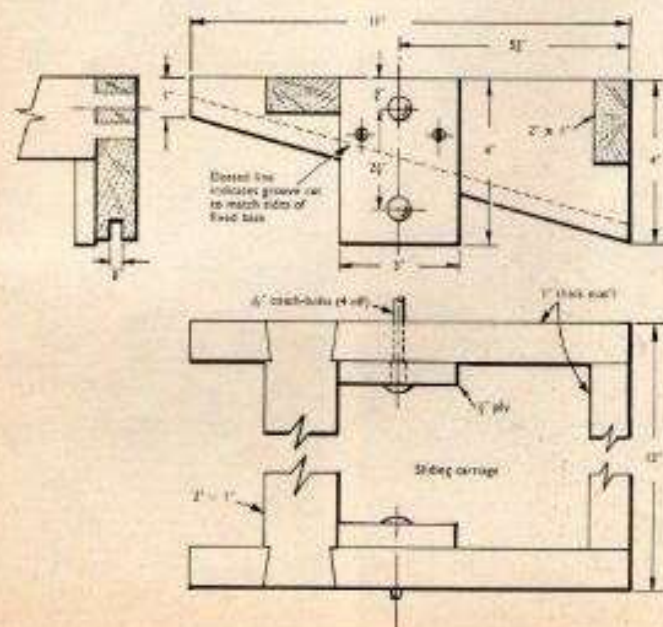
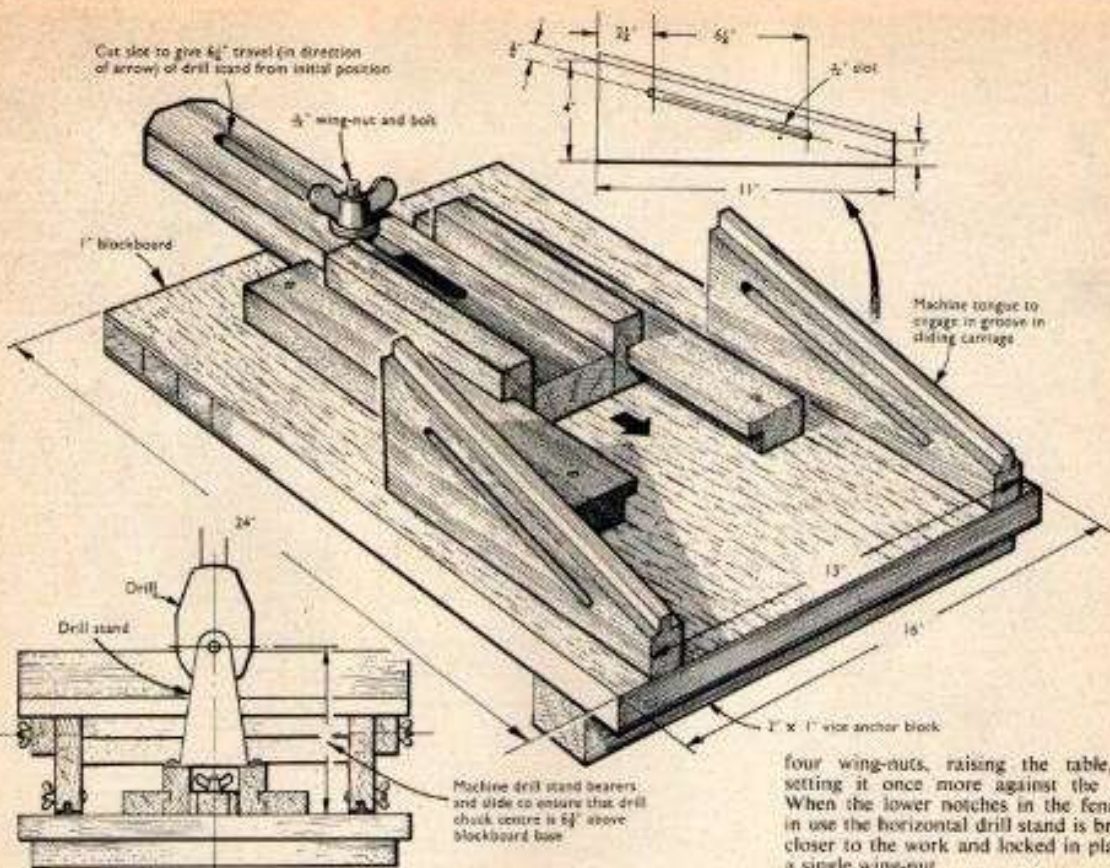
Thus, by setting the worktable against the fence, a cut can be taken and the cut subsequently deepened by slackening all



6. Arrangement for adjusting drill stand.



7. General view with table removed.



four wing-nuts, raising the table, and setting it once more against the fence. When the lower notches in the fence are in use the horizontal drill stand is brought closer to the work and locked in place by a single wing-nut.

With regard to safety, I can only say that I have used the thing without trouble, and I am a cautious chap. (I have never acquired any of the circular saw devices offered for amateur use, simply because I regard them as too dangerous.)

In operations which could be done equally well on either the vertical or horizontal mounting, the horizontal table has certain advantages. It is much easier to see what you are doing, and you do not have to peer round the drill—or have the drill handle poking in your eye. Thanks to an old ammeter, I can check on the blood-pressure of the drill in use, and I am satisfied that my drill is not being overloaded.

Finally, one oddity needs perhaps to be explained. Mine is a small but very heavy bench (4ft. by 28in.). It was made from 7in. by 2 1/2in. joists back in 1950, when the amateur joiner took what wood he could get, and was thankful. I have never been able to afford the luxury of fixed drill stands, and all apparatus which I use is first mounted on blockboard.

To the underside of the blockboard is fastened a batten of 2in. by 2in.—or larger. This I anchor in the bench vice. Crude as this may appear, it has never given me the slightest trouble, and I have never had to complain of vibration or chatter. This is equally true whether I use the heavy Record vice in the centre of my bench, or the ghostly little "suitable for amateurs" one at the end.