



Crosscut

Journal of the Wits Woodworking Association

New WWA logo, thanks to Daniel Erasmus ◀

Secretary: Kenneth Jackson secretary@wwa.org.za Editor: Trevor Pope tpope@iafrica.com
All written content and opinions are created by the editor, unless stated, and are human generated.
© Copyright reserved. Go to www.wwa.org.za for back issues of Crosscut.

Woodturners - Monday, the 13th April 2026 - from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop**. Turning finials – Poena Coetzee. (The first Monday, the 6th April is Easter Monday.)

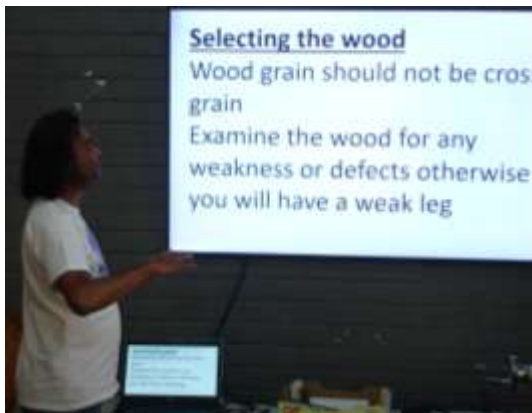
Main Meeting – Wednesday, the 8th April 2026 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop**.
More on Jigs.

Don't forget we have the members' free raffle for those attending meetings - prizes normally have a minimum value of R1, 000.00

News

Woodturners – the 2nd March 2026 - from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop**. **How to turn a chair leg - Peter Middleton.**

Peter turned the square section workpiece to round and then explained the process of setting out the profile on the cylinder.



He then shaped the individual sections between the markings.

Anesh explained some of the design and wood selection principles for chair and stool legs.



The tools Peter used are shown here. They are all made by Peter with unusual cutting tip shapes. He makes the handles as well.

Conventional tools can be used instead. Most turners have a parting tool, skew chisel and spindle gouges that can be used for the same end result.



Main Club meeting – Wednesday, the 11th March 2026 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop**.

Kitchen gadget/utensil project judging.

The winners in three categories were voted on by the members present.

The **beginner's** category had two entries from Joe Spring, who won the category with the coffee tamper, and his son who made the spoon.



The **intermediate** category was won by this magnetic knife rack by Ewald Zietsman. If I recall correctly, the woods are curly maple with African Rosewood inserts.



The **advanced** category was won by Peter Middleton with this large platter, made from Kiaat.



The finish Peter used was Flurit, by Engen, who label it a natural oil.

These are some of the other entries:

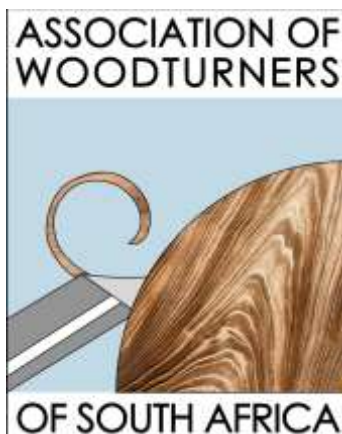


Calendar of Events for 2026



Hobby-X 2026 – Kyalami Grand Prix Circuit – 30 April to 03 May 2026

These pictures are from their web site.



AWSA Annual Symposium – 2026 – this will be held from 03-05 October 2026 at the New Hope School, Menlyn, Pretoria.

Visit www.awsa.org.za to see registration information when it becomes available later in the year.



Reminder – New WWA Account number with FNB – **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. Please note that the **Nedbank account has been closed**.

Access times for **Made in Workshop** for WWA members :

MiW access control for WWA members – all current paid-up members who have attended a meeting have been issued with a bar code sticker to be used to gain access. Please remember to bring your bar code, so you aren't delayed at the entrance.

MiW times for WWA members are as follows

Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9AM to 12AM. However please take note of the following: WWA members CANNOT just arrive at **MiW** 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. This applies only to the woodworking machines. The other machines require the purchase of a membership at the monthly (30 day) rate – which is a good rate anyhow. Machines such as the bandsaw and the Triton router table need no booking. Henry also requires 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.

MiW is a **Maker Space**, which means that members are able access the machines which are included in the list above. Access to the other machines and facilities is subject to additional fees as mentioned above. While **MiW** will provide assistance and training where necessary, members are responsible for providing materials and performing the work themselves. Members need to be skilled and competent to use the facilities to do the work. For example, if you wish to use a CNC machine, you will need to manually program the tool path on the machine or import it from a design tool that generates the tool path for you. There may be a steep learning curve, but that is part of the challenge.

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; or Trenton – 081-365 6039

Schedule for Regular Events

1. Second Saturday of month at 9h00 at **Made in Workshop** – Herman – all things turning related – 083 631 0501 [hermanpotgieteresq AT gmail.com](mailto:hermanpotgieteresq@gmail.com)
2. **Show & Tell** meetings are held at Hardware Centre every Friday Morning at 09:30. All WWA members welcome. Contact Eugene on 0824953394 or eugene@antlerfin.co.za

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

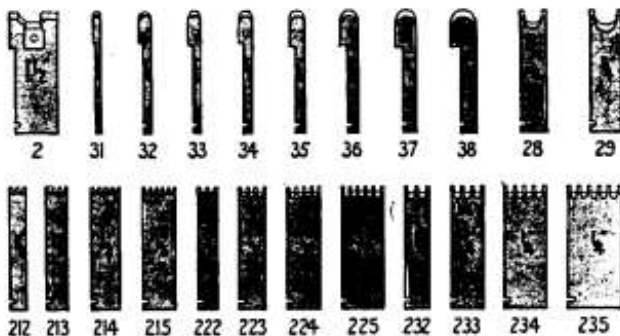


Scratch tools

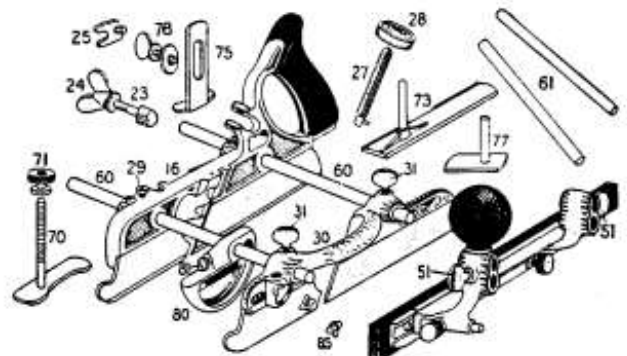
Trevor Pope

Before routers and shapers were available, wooden mouldings were made up using wooden-bodied moulding planes (like these beading planes from Caleb James).

Combination planes such as the Stanley #45, #50 or #55 were also used, but they are complicated to set up and are prone to tear out.



SPECIAL CUTTERS FOR "FORTY-FIVE"



PARTS OF "FORTY-FIVE"

If you don't have a suitable moulding plane or wish to go down the rabbit hole of combination planes, you can make a scratch tool. These are easy to make and use, and with care you can get the moulding you want.

A scratch tool is well suited for adding a simple bead to an edge. It helps to use wood with straight grain when using moulding planes. However, because a scratch tool uses a scraping action and it can be used in both directions, it is able to cope with reversing grain. If it is sharp, you can get a good finish off the tool.

The illustrations on the following two pages come from the book "**Woodwork – Aids and Devices**" by Robert Wearing – Prentice Hall – 1981. It has 200 pages of designs for a multitude of jigs, fixtures and tools

for woodworking, that can be made in the average workshop. I think it is out of print, but a revised edition and electronic versions can be found on line if you search for them.

Old saw blades are ideal material to make the cutters from. Hack-saw and band-saw blades are particularly hard and can be sharpened to a good edge.

83 Scratch tools

The type of scratch tool most commonly used is illustrated at **A**. The block is quite straightforward being in two parts, each about 13mm ($\frac{1}{2}$ in) thick and screwed together. Cutters can be made from pieces of power hacksaw blades, old handsaws or cabinet scrapers. They are filed to the shape of the moulding or groove required at an angle of 90° so as to be able to cut in both directions.

Model **B** is an improvement in that it has a comfortable handle and the fence is easily adjustable rather than the cutter. Model **C** works on the lines of the marking gauge. Its fence, however, is much wider which gives greater accuracy when cutting at some distance from the edge.

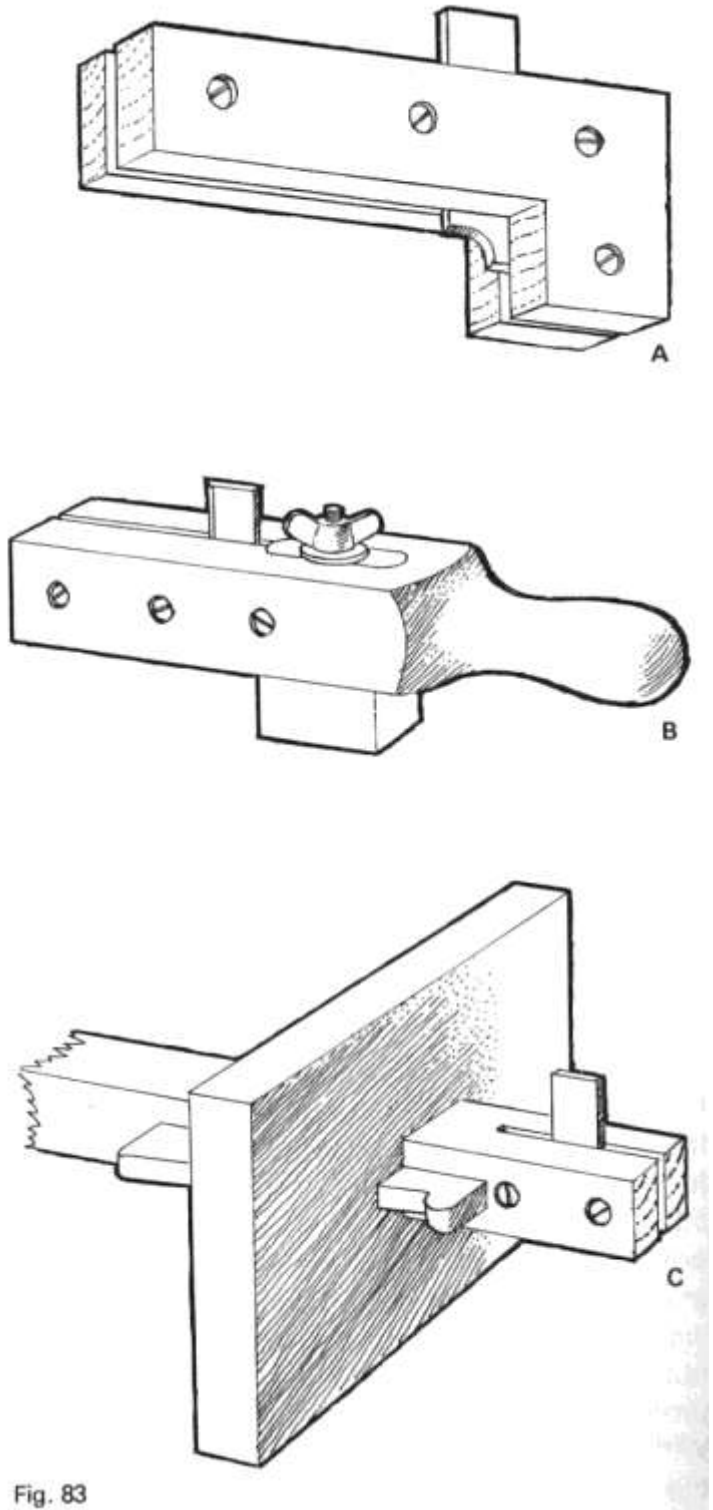


Fig. 83

84 Improved scratch tool

Scratching an ovolo moulding or a small rebate near the edge of a piece presents no problem since, if the tool slips outwards, no damage is caused. When scratching an inlay, for example, the same distance in from the edge, any outward slip will damage the work. The second fence will prevent this on all components within the capacity of the tool.

Mark out and cut the mortises before sawing off the fences and shaping. Prepare the stem slightly oversize and plane down for a tight working fit. Plug the mortises with an offcut of stem when drilling the hole for the locking pin. The stem is cut away at the centre, firstly to take the cutter and secondly to take the brass plate. This latter is cut to shape, drilled for the screws, then rounded on its lower edge. Cutters for this tool should be of a standard width and thickness. Ideal material is a heavy gauge cabinet scraper from which pieces can be sawn and filed.

For work on a corner or well in from an edge, one of the two fences is simply removed.

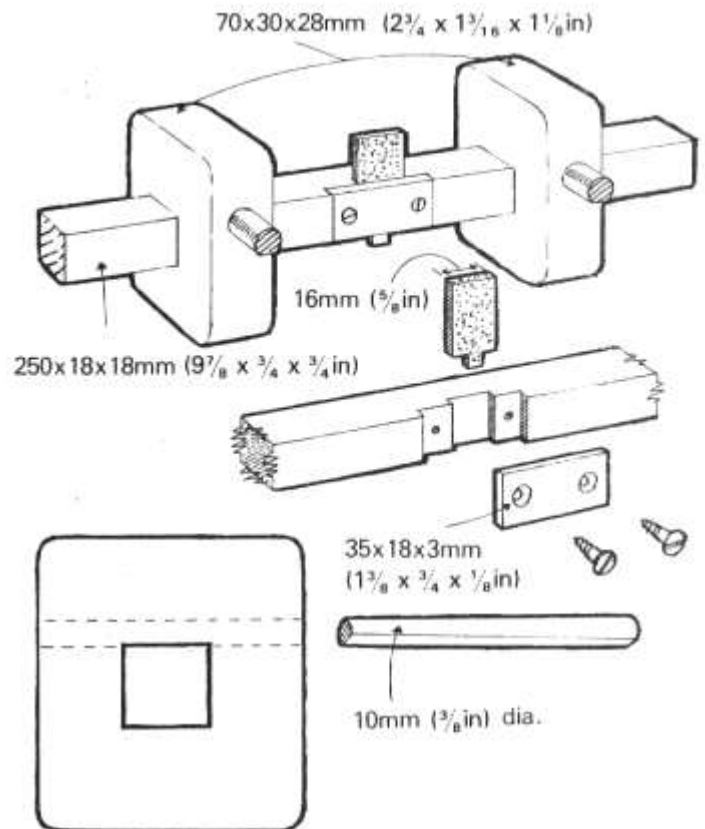
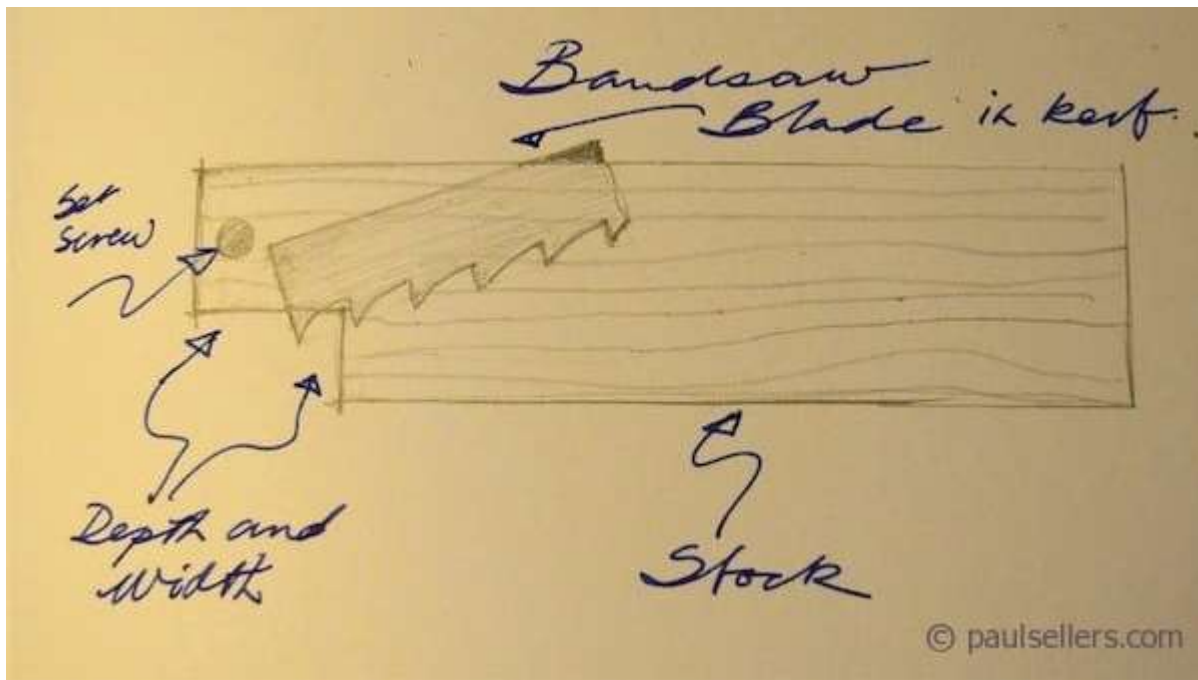


Fig. 84

Paul Sellers explains how to make a simple scratch tool, which he calls a scratch stock:

<https://paulsellers.com/2013/04/minimalist-woodworking-another-poor-beading-tool/>



This sketch is from the page referenced by the above link where he shows how to make a scratch stock. Paul uses a piece of a bandsaw blade held in the stock. He doesn't mention it in the article, but the cutter can be easily shaped using a bench grinder, or a small rotary grinder like a Dremel, to suit your needs. A good bandsaw blade will be too hard to file, particularly around the teeth. The edge needs to be 90° and sharp to effectively cut the wood without tearing out the grain.

In this article, Paul Sellers shows how to make and use a "poor man's beading tool". This is simply a screw in a piece of wood, used to scrape a bead.

<https://paulsellers.com/2012/12/making-the-wall-clock-the-poor-mans-beading-tool/>



This YouTube video shows how to make one:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZnh7VHz_T4

And here are some variations and alternate uses:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ryOcRnkz92U>

There are lots of references out there – I'm sure you will be able to find something that suits the job in hand.

