

# Crosscut

Newsletter of the Witwatersrand Woodworkers' Association  
PO Box 411346, Craighall, 2024, South Africa

◀ Birch bark used as a water-proofing layer on a Norwegian wooden house. The roof is then covered with turf.

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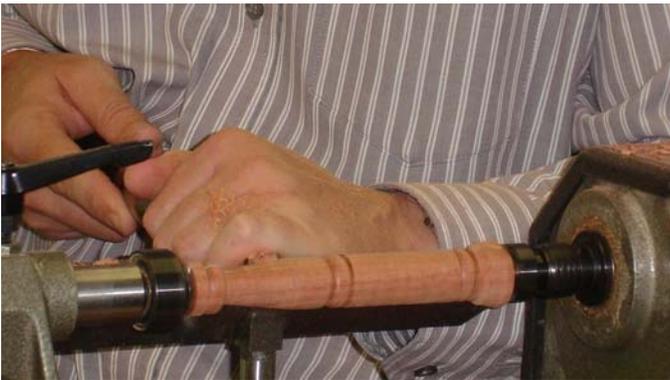
**Next General Club Meeting on Wednesday, the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015** from 18h00 at WWA clubhouse at the Living Link Hall. Talk on Cape wooden furniture and restoring furniture by Gert Esterhuizen – to be confirmed.

**Next Turner's monthly meeting is on Monday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015** at 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at the Living Link Hall. Talk on making pool cues. Wood of Month is Chinese Elm. Please bring any samples or turnings to show.

## News

### **February 2015 Turner's meeting.**

**Split turning demonstration.** Stephen showed how to make a split turning that can be used for decorations such as on a picture frame or as trim on a cabinet. He started with a long rectangular piece glued up from two pieces, with a paper joint between them. He turned the piece down to a cylinder and then applied some beads and coves to embellish the piece before parting off the end. Once off the lathe, he split the piece along the paper joint into two identical parts.



### **Wood of the Month:**

**Betula Pendula – Silver Birch.** Very common in the northern European countries, it has found multiple uses. It is a light coloured wood with no distinctive grain, that can be used for furniture. High quality birch plywood is one application that was illustrated in last month's talk by JP from Timberline in Heidelberg. The bark also has multiple uses from canoes to roofing. In times of famine, the tissue under the bark could be used to make a soup.



## February 2015 Meeting

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**Triton Finger joint jig demonstration.** Greg DeVilliers, from Vermont Tools, who are the Triton agents, demonstrated how easy it is to make finger joints with the jig. He showed how the finger joint jig is fitted onto the Triton Route table. He showed how to align the jig and then demonstrated the making of the four sides of a finger jointed box using the jig. The process was quick and accurate. The jig may be of interest if you plan on making multiple boxes in a production setting. The router table was fitted with a Triton router with a ½” spiral tooth bit. Budget about R2000- for the jig, and about R4500- for the table. (Greg suggested you keep an eye open for any show specials at Hobby-X, if you are interested in buying one.)

The top picture shows Greg cutting the fingers on two sides. The bottom picture shows the completed four sides fitted together.



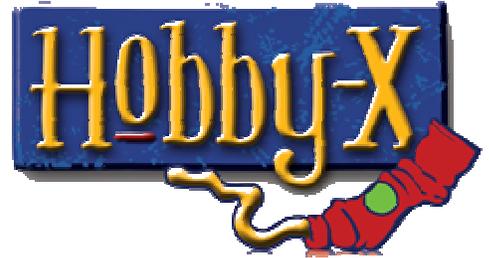
## Club Notices

**Hobby-X 2015.** The WWA will be supporting Hobby-X as usual in 2015. Hobby-X is from Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at the Dome, next to Northgate shopping centre. It is expected that there will be several lathes setup to demonstrate turning, as well as a display area for turnings and toys. If you wish demonstrate another skill such using router, carving, scroll-sawing, etc, please volunteer by contacting Frans Joubert or a member of the committee. The final roster lists will be circulated at the March turner's

meeting for you to volunteer. Helpers to man the stand will also be required.

Set up will happen on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>, in the afternoon. Trade day is Thursday, the 5<sup>th</sup> from 10h00 to 18h00. Hobby-X is open to the public on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> from 10h00 to 18h00, and Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> from 9h00 to 18h00 and Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> from 9h00 to 17h00. Stand breakdown is after 17h00 on Sunday or Monday 9<sup>th</sup>. See

[www.hobby-x.co.za](http://www.hobby-x.co.za) for more information.



#### Regular Events:

**Toymakers.** The toymakers meet on the first and third Mondays of every month, at 09h00 till 12h00 at the new clubhouse. Contact Eddie Marchio on 011-678-8062 or [rm22 AT mweb.co.za](mailto:rm22@wweb.co.za) for more information.

**Wednesday Workshop.** The Wednesday evening workshops are on the first and third Wednesdays of every month at the new clubhouse, from 18h00 till 20h00. Contact Grant Mackay on 082-391-9769 or [mackay.grant AT gmail.com](mailto:mackay.grant@gmail.com) or [gmackay AT worldonline.co.za](http://gmackay.worldonline.co.za) for more information.

**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.

**Saturday Turning workshop.** Schalk van Niekerk conducts Saturday morning turning workshops at his premises in Germiston. (At the old East-African Timbers site) Membership is R400- per year, R30- per meeting. He can accommodate up to 12 people in a session with the lathes he has available for teaching. They meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of the month from 8h00 to 12h00. Contact Schalk on 082 443 4972 or [schalk@onegoodturn.co.za](mailto:schalk@onegoodturn.co.za) or Johan Kramer on 083 251 0183.

## Woodturning lathes on offer for hobbyists and artistic woodturners in South Africa

The variety of woodturning lathes on offer in the local market for hobbyists and artistic woodturners is quite limited, and seems to have reduced further in recent years. There are excellent lathes on offer, but there is not the variety that is advertised in the first world. (see Woodturning magazine) I have excluded the extra cheap lathes sold by the big-box retailers and the high end lathes such as the VB36 from this discussion:

- The extra cheap lathes that can be had for just over R1000-, have square tube beds and flimsy fittings – don't waste your money on those. If you must have one, look in the second hand shops – so you will waste less money, when you realise how little use they are.
- VB36 class lathes – these are typically lathes you graduate to once you find the larger units listed below are limiting you. Expect to pay the price of small car at present exchange rates. If you feel you need one, Jez Rowe in PE was importing them, last I heard.

All the lathes mentioned below accept 2 MT tooling and most have a 1" x 8tpi headstock spindle thread. The larger Novas and Jets may have larger spindle threads.

For the purposes of this article, I have divided the lathes available in the local market into Mini, Midi and larger lathes. Prices have not been included, as these change frequently with the fluctuating exchange rates.

**Mini lathes** – This category is defined by the Jet Mini – JWL-1014, which has been on sale for more than 10 years in South Africa. It has been updated slightly over the years to include an indexing pin/spindle lock, but is essentially unchanged. It can turn a workpiece up to 10 inches in diameter by 14 inches long (250mm diam x 350mm long), with 5 fixed speeds from the ½ horsepower (370W) motor. The 10 inches diameter is over the bed,

and doesn't include the tool rest banjo, so you might not be able fit on a full 10" x 14" cylinder without fouling the tool rest banjo.

The JWL-1014 is an excellent starter lathe. If you out grow this lathe or lose interest, it has good resale value. A bed extension is available to increase the maximum length between centres. It has been offered in a variable speed version (JWL1014VS), which uses a DC motor. The VS has been criticised for lack of torque at low speeds, even on the lowest belt speed range.

In the US the JWL-1014 has been superseded by the JWL-1015 and JWL-1015VS, which we can expect will be offered locally in due course. It has a wider bed and better access to the belt for speed changes. At 35 kg, it is slightly heavier than the JWL-1014. The VS has three speeds – 200-1015 / 300-1750 / 600-3600 rpm from a ½ hp motor. It also has a 24 position spindle lock/indexing pin.

For Jet Lathes, see Strand Hardware at [www.strandhardware.co.za](http://www.strandhardware.co.za) for more info and pricing. Hardware Centre offer some of the range, and the Jet stand at Hobby-X may give you an opportunity to see some of them in the metal.



Mr Woodturner has a lathe listed with the same attributes as the Jet 1014 with variable speed, but it is presently out of stock.

**Midi lathes.** While not a new category, there have been some additional offerings in this category. The bench mark model was initially the slightly larger Jet JWL-1220, which was visually identical to the Jet Mini (JWL-1014), but offered a larger workpiece capacity of 12" diam x 20" long (300mm x 500mm), as well as a spindle lock/indexing pin. A variable speed version was also offered.

Adendorf sells the MC1218 with a capacity of 12" x 18" (300mm x 450mm), and weight of 38kg. The rated motor power is 550W, at five speeds of 580/900/1300/1800/2700 rpm. Johan Kramer and Schalk van Niekerk have used these lathes for some time now and recommend them as good value for money. (See [www.adendorf.co.za](http://www.adendorf.co.za) for more info and current pricing.)

Similar products are offered by other suppliers, such as SA Machinery, although availability is uncertain at present.



Innovations in the Midi lathe range have come from Jet and Nova.

A Nova Comet II was purchased by the WWA for demonstrations, superseding the Jet Mini. In addition to the larger capacity of 305 x 420mm (12" x 17"), it has a variable speed drive. A DC motor is used to provide variable speeds. With a 550W motor, forward and reverse – three belt drive settings (250-680; 530-1420; 1380-4000 rpm), it offers significantly more capability for demonstrations. Low speed torque delivery is excellent. It has a spindle lock/indexer and weighs about 40 kg. One criticism is the speed ranges on the speed control dial are so small as to be almost illegible. Available from Hardware Centre and Mr Woodturner ([www.mrwoodturner.co.za](http://www.mrwoodturner.co.za)). A bed extension is available if required for longer workpieces.



The newer Jet 1221VS has a slight increase in capacity to the JWL-1220 but is a significant redesign. It looks visually different, with a much wider bed, and a significant increase in weight (55kg), it is altogether a much more substantial lathe. You get what you pay for, and it is also significantly more expensive. The capacity is 12" x 21" (318mm x 520mm). It has a 24 position spindle lock/ indexing pin. Variable speed drive is provided by a 1 horsepower (750W) DC motor offering three speed ranges of 60-900/110-1800/220-3600 rpm. It has significant flexibility and apparently, very good low speed torque. At Smit has used his for the past year and he is delighted with it. A bed extension is available if required for longer workpieces.



You can expect to see a Jet JWL 1221 VS, a Nova 16-24-44 and a Nova DVR XP in use on the WWA stand at Hobby-X if you want to see them in operation.

- Continued next month