



Crosscut

Journal of the Wits Woodworking Association

◀ In 1964, Festo introduced a portable circular saw with a guide rail.

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Next meetings – Woodturners – Monday, 6th October 2025 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop** – Judging the design of turned artwork – a video on how to assess turned pieces.

Main Club meeting – Wednesday, 8th October 2025 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop** – Using a tracksaw – tracksaws have become commonplace tools, particularly useful for breaking down sheet goods into component parts. Also, how to make and use a guide for a common hand-held circular saw (also known as a Skilsaw).

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 – Monday, 1st September 2025 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop** – New range of Wize turning tools - demo by Brendan and Jamie Turner from Hardware Centre, (see right) who are now the distributors. These tools trace their lineage back to the Blackline tools pioneered by John Bond. These have been relaunched by Roy Marcus with Wize branding. They are the same tools that were previewed by Steven Barrett a few months ago. The tools have a range of aluminium handles that accommodate different size shafts to suit the job in hand. A key feature carried over from the Blackline tools is the use of Delrin collets that are flexible enough to accommodate a wider range of shaft diameters, but still allowing them to be hand tightened. The shafts hold a variety of tungsten carbide inserts, designed for a long life. It is possible to sharpen the inserts using diamond stones or CBN grinding wheels, but most people won't bother.



(Previously, the Blackline tools offered PCD (Poly Crystalline Diamond) inserts but these have been discontinued, probably due to price and being too hard to sharpen.)



Following on from the round skew topic at last month's meeting, Willie showed how to make a handle for a round skew. He made a brass ferrule using a collet chuck. After turning a handle, he showed how to fit the ferrule onto the handle.



Main Club meeting – Wednesday, 10th September 2025 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop** – Using a Festool Rotex sander – Do's, don'ts and how to avoid pad damage - Graham Swallow.

Graham explained the two modes of operation of the Rotex - rotary and orbital. In the picture, he is showing how much torque the Rotex sander generates in rotary mode compared to orbital mode. He emphasised the importance of using an interface pad to protect the expensive Velcro backing pad from damage. Alternate sources of interface pads were discussed, as well as the issues about holes lining up and the use of Abranet.



Mr Woodturner has moved from Blairgowrie to 137 Alberts Road, Newlands 2192 - not far from where we had our workshop in Albertskroon and where Tom had his antique shop.

Mr Woodturner

Calendar of Events for the remainder of 2025

AWSA Symposium 2025 – The Association of Woodturners of South Africa Annual Symposium is being held from the 3-6 October 2025, with international presenter Helen Bailey. You can view her work on <https://www.helenbaileywoodturning.com/>

In addition, South Africa's leading turners will be demonstrating in the two breakaway rooms. Last year there were 111 attendees, this year could be bigger.

The venue remains the same as last year (Northlink College, Tygerberg Campus, Rothchild Boulevard, Panorama Parow). For details and to register, visit www.awsa.org.za

International Guest
Turner
HELEN BAILEY

ASSOCIATION OF
WOODTURNERS
OF SOUTH AFRICA

AWSA SYMPOSIUM
3rd – 6th October 2025
Northlink Tygerberg Campus
Rothschild Boulevard
Panorama
Cape Town

For further information contact:
Gert Ferreira on 083 265 5835 or info@awsa.org.za
"Not just seeing what is but seeing what can be!" Roger Chandler

WESTERN CAPE
WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION

East Rand Woodworkers Association fair – Saturday, the 25th October 2025. Details and venue to be confirmed, but likely to be the Northmead Methodist church, Benoni as past years.

Toy-makers' Braai Saturday, 22nd November 2025. This will follow the same format at previous years. Please make as many toys as you can to donate to the three charities that we support.

Summer Challenge – Postponed to the Main club meeting at **MiW** on the 11th February, 2026. A competition to make beforehand and bring a wooden item for the kitchen. This can be turned or “flat-work” – cutting boards, spoons, rolling pins, salad bowls, pepper-mills, and trivets are examples of things you can make. Bring and braai. More details to follow.

The list of suppliers that donated to the 2024 event is given below. Please patronise them. If you can mention that you are from WWA and appreciated their donation, they will appreciate it.

CONTRIBUTING SUPPLIERS 2024

Supplier		
ANDROWARE (Blacksmith)	Häfele South Africa	Prosono International
Asax Agencies	Hamilton Brushware	Richem CC
CCL	HP Will	Robert Sorby
CGR Agencies	Lasher Tools	Skillcraft Agencies (iNGCO)
Creative Turning	Maple Street Timbers	Spear & Jackson (ECLIPSE)
Eco Timbers	MATUS & Hi-KOKI	Spectra Spray
FEW	Metabo Power Tools	Sprayon
FIRST CUT	MITCO Tool Company	Stevens & Co (Ryobi)
Genkem	Pepper Mills for Africa	Vermont Sales
Gedore Tools	Power Tool Repairs Cape Town	Upat SA

“Established in 1987 ASAX Agencies are specialists in precision tooling and machinery for the woodworking and aluminium industries. Our commitment to quality, innovation, and precision engineering has made us a trusted partner. ASAX Service centre offers high precision sharpening, manufacturing, re-tipping of all types of woodworking tools.”

Woodworking Association of Pretoria Wood and Craft Expo
– 27 to 30 November 2025 – the usual venue.



Annual Subs are due. Please can you pay your R600- into the FNB account below? Please add your name and “SUBS” to the reason for payment so the treasurer can record your payment.

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.



Of Spokeshaves and Twca Cams

Trevor Pope

I've spoken about spokeshaves at club meetings before.

Amongst other things, I use them for spoon carving, to shape the handle and the outside of the bowl of the spoon.

More experienced spoon carvers use a Sloyd knife such as this MoraKniv 120 which has a 60mm long blade. They expertly peel long, thin shavings from the outside curve of the spoon bowl for a smooth surface.



Spoon carving – Outside – Spokeshaves

I don't have that level of skill, so I use a spokeshave where I can. A spokeshave is like a hand plane with a handle on the side and a short sole, so it is easier to take controlled cuts.



There are two basic geometries of spokeshave blades, like hand planes: bevel up and bevel down. Each has its advantages and disadvantages for dealing with reversing grain.

The Stanley #151 is the classic bevel-down spokeshave. Like a Bailey pattern bevel down plane, such as the #3, #4, etc., the blade is mounted at a 45° angle to the sole. Just like the corresponding hand planes, it copes with reversing grain adequately. Skewing the cut and closing up the mouth help with difficult grain.

The counterpart to the bevel-up hand planes, like the #60½ block plane, is the wooden spokeshave. It has similar virtues and faults to the bevel up hand plane: It cuts end grain cleanly, but it doesn't deal well with reversing grain.

This picture (from Paul Sellers' web site in an article reviewing the Veritas spokeshave kit) shows some wooden spokeshaves.

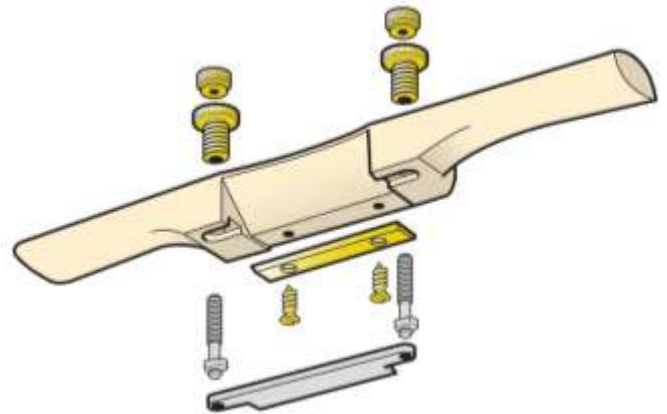
Interestingly, the version he built in 2015 used a boxwood sole insert ahead of the blade. The current version uses a brass strip.

Both types of spokeshave are intended to be used with two hands, with the workpiece clamped in some way.

Even using a shaving horse and spoon mule for holding the work piece, there are cuts at angles that can only be done with the spoon held in the hand.

Using conventional spoke shaves single handed is uncomfortable, so I needed an alternative. I decided to make a spokeshave that is comfortable to use single handed. Rather than butcher an existing

spokeshave, I used a spokeshave kit from Lee Valley – Veritas and made the handle to suit. In the kit, all the hardware is supplied, except the wooden body, which the customer must supply and make. The wooden body, shown in the exploded view of the Veritas kit on the right, is a conventional design with handles on either side of the blade intended for two-handed use. I made a similar body; except I made cylindrical handles that are better suited for single handed use. The remainder of the design is the same.



The kit is well thought through, and the instructions are detailed. If you follow them step by step, you will be able to make a functioning spokeshave. The subtleties of the geometry around the blade are well explained. Aside from the shape of the body, the other change to the sequence suggested in the instructions, was to file the 45° bevel on the brass strip after it was installed, to line up with the ramp inside the mouth.

The picture shows my new spokeshave at the bottom, a conventional wooden spokeshave in the middle and a Stanley #151 at the top. I don't know what the wood I used is – dark, hard and slightly oily.



Spoon carving – Inside – The *Twca Cam*

Twca cam is Welsh for “knife bent” to describe a crooked knife that is used for hollowing out spoons and bowls. The bent or hook knives that I have are intended to be used by one hand, whereas the *twca cam* designs that I have seen have longer handles allowing two-handed use, with the workpiece clamped in place.

I bought a cheap hook knife off Temu for about R60- and used the blade in a longer handled *twca cam*. This is the donor knife blade ►, with handle still attached.



Quantity:
1PC

This is a commercial *Svante Djarve Twca Cam* listed by The Spoon Crank for \$150. The blade is much more substantial than the Chinese one, but until I try one, I'm not prepared to invest over R4000- on a tool that I don't even know will work for me.



The one shown has a hook diameter of 60mm and handle of about 350mm, which makes it suitable for two-handed use.

The sweep diameter of the Temu blade is 30mm, which is a bit on the small side. I made a 280mm handle from Karee (*Sersia lancea*) with a 22mm copper ferrule. I suspect the Temu blade will be a bit flimsy and the steel may not be very good, but we'll see.



The upper picture shows the blade removed from the original handle on the right and the new handle above.



The lower picture shows the blade inserted into the new handle.