

Jimmy Clewes RPT - Woodturning Masterclass Colouring of Turned Items - April 16th 2003



Reviewed by Graham Wood (photos Gregory Moreton)

Jimmy came to our April meeting to show us his way of colouring turned work, with the idea of enhancing the grain of the wood being used.

He chose a Sycamore Burr out of which he turned a natural edged vessel of simple lines. During the roughing out and the final finishing of the vessel Jimmy went to great lengths to explain the reasons for his turning and tool sharpening techniques.



Once the item had been roughed out, reversed chucked and sanded on the outside and flamed using methylated spirit to raise the grain and finally sanded with 240 grit paper, he started to demonstrate his colouring method using Chestnut spirit stains, explaining that the whole concept of the process is an art form rather than a science, open to experiment and ones own flare, likes and dislikes.



These are the new hollowing tools that Jimmy used to take out the middle of this vase, designed by New Zealand turner [Rolly Munro](http://www.rollymunro.co.nz) - check out Rollys web site at www.rollymunro.co.nz for more details



Finishing cut with the long grind bowl



Raising the grain with meths



Whhhooooommmmmfffff....

Working with three colours, blue, green and yellow, he applied a coat of blue stain all over and then fired it again before cutting back in certain places with the lathe stopped, at the same time keeping an eye on the grain so he could get the best out of the figuring. This process was repeated twice more using finer grits each time with the remaining colours but not applying the stain all over, only applying in certain areas to give the effect he required, the three colours mixing and blending together to give a marbling effect. When Jimmy was satisfied with the result he put on a finishing coat of Chestnut Acrylic Satin Lacquer.



The inside of the vessel was left with a natural finish to be oiled so there was a contrast between the outer and inner surfaces giving a very affective article. Throughout Jimmy's demonstration he was keen to emphasise that he was showing us his way of colouring wood but said there was no right or wrong way and hoped it would give encouragement to others to try something different and give a wider outlook to woodturning. Despite the fact that Jimmy arrived late thanks to the M25 we all had a very inspiring and entertaining evening with a few laughs thrown in for good measure and I am sure we all went home with some fresh ideas and inspiration to further our own woodturning, and look forward of a further visit from Jimmy at some future date.

