

Roy Childs - Wet Wood Turning - 19th June 2002

Reviewed by Alan Pattison (photos Gregory Moreton)

Roy Childs kept the members of the club interested with an informative demonstration of wet woodturning. Roy started with a rough bandsawn blank of Cherry, 175mm diameter by 125mm thick. The blank was mounted on a small faceplate and brought to the round using a ½" bowl gouge with a straight across grind. A small recess was turned in the end face of the blank using a specially ground scraper to suit the jaws of the chuck. Finally the outside profile was finish rough turned.

Having completed the outside profile the chuck was then mounted onto the blank and checked for concentricity before the blank was taken off the lathe. Roy used a 'long and strong' bowl gouge to do the hollowing out and explained that to avoid kick back which is caused by the gouge bevel being unsupported as you start the cut, turn the gouge so that the flute is on its side and pointing away from you, as the cut develops turn the gouge back to the normal cutting position.

If you are using a bowl gouge with a pointed grind then it will be necessary to position the handle of the gouge across the bed of the lathe to enable the bevel to be supported. As the hollowing continues and the gouge comes round the corner towards the base the bevel is not fully rubbing, resulting in vibration and a rougher cut, this can be avoided by using a gouge with a steeper (shorter) bevel.

Roy demonstrated an alternative method of mounting the blank on a pin chuck with a large diameter pin with a sprung loaded ball at one end, which avoided some of the problems experienced by Roy and club members who had used small diameter pin chucks with varying degrees of success. This method of mounting is ideal for mounting blanks to produce natural edged bowls.

Roy leaves the wall thickness about 10% of the diameter (20mm), which is sufficient to allow for distortion during the drying process, before wrapping the rough turned bowl in newspaper and leaving for about six weeks before finish turning.



Finally Roy showed us how he mounts a wooden spigot inside the bowl with a bead of hot melt glue so that a new chuck recess can be turned on the base ready for finish turning. The outside of the bowl is then finish using a smaller bowl gouge which produces smaller cutting forces. Finally the inside is turned to produce an even wall thickness of 10mm. To finish the bowl Roy would normally use an oil finish such as Danish Oil.

