Woodturners Guild of Ontario

Woodturner n. **A person who enjoys the art and process of shaping wood into various forms**

"ask not what your guild can do for you; ask what you can do for your guild— you get back what you put in"

LOCAL AAW CHAPTER

December 2008 VOLUME 4 ISSUE 4

Message from Richard Pikul, President

Welcome new WGO members

John Gibbons
Maurice Adams
Phil Shaw
Tony Banas
Paul Hodgins
John Walker
Al Wright

The Ontario Wood Carvers Association held their annual competition last month, and for the first time, included woodturning, but as a single level group. Our own Bob Rollings and Russell Wilson walked away with a first and second respectively in the woodturning group and Bob also won the best in show. This is quite an achievement as the carving entries were astonishing! Click on following URLs to see pictures.

Bob's Indian Food Basket at:
http://www.ontariowoodcarvers.com/html/competition__2008_nolevel_12.html

Russell's enclosed form on a pedestal at:
http://www.ontariowoodcarvers.com/html/competition__2008_nolevel_13.html .

Next year the OWCA 30th annual competition will include woodturning, with entries grouped in multiple skill levels, so get your 'best piece ever' design ready for next October. Don't forget that our own competition will be held during our meeting in May 2009 and you can enter the same pieces in both competitions.

We have now had two all day sessions at the Humber College woodworking shop. This is a terrific site to hold all day hands on sessions.

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IT's YOUR GUILD - BE INVOLVED !

Share your talent and learn from others at the same time.

Do you have ideas for us ?

Please tell us how you can help - e-mail the editor at:

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Woodshop in a Small Space
Peter K. Kaiser

I live in a rather small back-split suburban home. Being a back-split more than half of the basement is crawl space; and I really mean 'crawl'. The remainder of the basement contains the furnace room and the laundry room and finally my woodshop which can be seen in photo 1. The woodshop area is about 250 square feet.

Photo 1

The main reason I share this information is to show how I have coped with a small area and hope others who have the same space problem are willing to let us know how they have solved the problem. Photo 1 shows my shop as one descends the basement stairs.

Dust is always a problem especially in small areas. At first I had the red, round dust collector sitting on top of the shelves shown in photo 2 and the system shown in photo 3.

Photo 2

Photo 3

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In photo 3 the smaller canister is an 8 gallon shop vac and next to it is a large garbage can with a cyclone lid on top. The cyclone lid makes all but the finest dust fall into the large garbage can and the remainder goes into the shop vac. This latter system was fitted with conduits to provide suction at several dust making machines, including my lathe. Unfortunately, considerable dust still escaped from my lathe and my wife continually complained about dust settling on the furniture up stairs. This problem was satisfactorily solved with the lathe dedicated dust collector seen in photo 4.

Photo 4

My wife no longer complains about dust coming from the basement.

The space problem was solved by having most of the equipment and storage shelves on castors. I used two fixed casters and two rotating casters. The lathe and the bench grinder stands have slides under their feet. Because of the equipment weight there is sufficient friction so that these two pieces of equipment do not move unless I intentionally move them.

In photo 5 you can see equipment in its normal position and in photo 6 moved to the right so the floor can be cleaned. Then all the equipment is moved to the left so the

Photo 5

Photo 6

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remainder of the floor can be cleaned. Everything is placed for easy access to the closets along the far and right walls. These closets do not contain any woodshop related equipment.

The sander is placed just behind the band saw and uses one of the dust collector hoses normally attached to the band saw. Up against the wall is a spindle sander and router table. The sander can be used in present position. The sander has to be move to use the router. Sometimes, for large objects, the router is moved to the top of the table saw.

Those of you who work in confined spaces know the importance of keeping the shop clean. The vinyl tiles help considerably to clean the floor and move equipment around on their castors and slides.

The band saw can be used in its normal position. However, if large items are to be cut, it is often necessary to move nearby equipment and shelves. The table saw just to the right of the band saw usually has to be moved when used. There is a jointer/planer which is infrequently used. It is placed under the work bench and moved on to the work bench when needed. In this position it is easily connected to the dust collector conduit. There is another table saw with a dado blade. Since it is infrequently used, it serves as a storage table.

Double duty is the watch word in a small space. It is hard to see, but all equipment stands have storage space below them. The table saw, with the blade retracted serves as a convenient temporary table.

It is useful to have the lathe on sliders because it is not uncommon to move the tail stock end away from the stand that holds all of my clamps. Even when I turn an unbalance large piece of wood, the lathe stand has never moved. Under the lathe I have several concrete slabs to add stability. They also serve as shelving for storage.

If one looks close on the upper right side of photo 2 they can just see another shop area with a drill press. Actually, this area (my original shop space) also contains considerable storage shelves, a work bench and hand tools stored under the work bench. My original 6” grinder is also in this area.

Just to summarize how much is in my shop space here is a list of items: Delta midi lathe, 14” band saw, two 10” table saws, dedicated lathe dust collector, general dust collector, two sanders, router, sliding mitre saw, 6” and 8” bench grinders, 10” drill press, 6” jointer planer, air compressor, two mobile storage shelves, assorted hand tools which are stored on shelves and cabinets. In addition a fair amount of wood is stored on shelves.

I would appreciate hearing from fellow WGO members on their methods of using space. Critiques of my attempts are also most welcome. This Newsletter would be a convenient way to share your approaches to efficient woodshop usage.

A Discussion of Forges
Thomas Dalzell

WARNING
The following is a partial report on the author's propane forge. No representation of completeness or safety of any of the products or techniques described is made. This information is for entertainment purposes only. Anyone attempting to use this information for any purpose does so at their own risk. The author has no expertise whatsoever in the maters discussed and cannot be relied upon in any way.

The March skills meeting included a demonstration of heat treating and some forging by Michael Bonnycastle. These processes can be accomplished at a small scale with a propane torch of the normal household variety. Such torches quickly reach their limits, and much more effective forges can be constructed out of household items. I displayed my home propane forge to the meeting, but did not demonstrate it due to fire regulations. My forge is large enough to handle thick woodworking plane blades. It is quite light and compact.

Propane forges are essentially propane torches and a container that retains some of the heat produced while providing ample exhaust for the flame. They are somewhat similar to a BBQ when the lid is closed for baking.

The simplest forge is a single soft refractory brick. This is drilled lengthwise with a 1" hole. A second hole is drilled from the center of the large side of the brick to meet the first hole. A household propane torch is positioned so that its flame enters the side hole, and the piece to be heated is inserted in the lengthwise hole. The torch's heat is held in the insulated chamber, and builds considerably higher heat than the open flame alone will provide.

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The submission of woodturning related articles to this publication is encouraged. All rights to any submitted articles remain with the author of the article. Deadline for articles & advertisements is the 5th of the month prior to publication.

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This simple one brick forge has reportedly been used for the manufacture of hunting sized knives, even some forge welding.

This structure of a chamber with refractory insulation and a propane torch is the basic configuration of propane forges. An immense amount of creativity has been lavished on hotter torches, and chambers that facilitate different construction methods. Specialized skills like machining and welding may be used, but almost every possible deficit in skills or materials has been overcome by someone.

Burners fall into two general categories: forced air burners ('blown burners") that use electric blowers to force combustion air into the burner; and self aspirating burners ("Venturi burners") that, like the familiar propane torch, pull the air in like a perfume bottle sucks up perfume. The Venturi burners would seem the familiar choice. They are a little more complicated to get to work, however, and their use has almost become a sub-hobby for some. Thankfully commercial and kit burners are now available. One burner now advertises "proud to be a supplier of burners to NASA". The dark art of burner making has yielded to commercialization and made what was once a "thought provoking" hobby into something a little more mainstream. Blown burners seem to be more popular among blacksmiths, they are simpler to use and reliably deliver welding heat. Venturi burners appeal because they are compact and more adaptable for the occasional user, and they promise to deliver higher efficiency for the amount of fuel used, they can be adjusted from very low to higher heat.

A useful concept is the difference between a reducing and oxidizing flame. In simple form the oxidizing flame is noisier and less liquid looking. It has maximum oxygen present. The reducing flame is softer looking, and quieter, and colder. The main difference in use is that the reducing flame will be less likely to oxidize metal and damage its surface, because it is oxygen deprived.

These burners are not limited to forges. They are also used for kilns and foundries.

The "Forge" part of the forge is normally welded up from a tubular metal form. I purchase pipe for this purpose though many people recycle various gas cylinders. Using gas cylinders is an extremely dangerous practice and cannot be recommended. Metal is not required for building a forge, and soft refractory bricks are used in some structures. Metal does make it possible to mount fittings either to hold work or to attach burners.

Forges are divided into designs that will be used extensively for welding, as in the manufacture of Damascus steel stock, and require a means of dealing with flux that degrades refractory insulation; and styles used for blacksmithing and heat treating that are simpler to insulate. The most common insulation is koawool which is an insulating batting material that tolerates extreme heat. Other alternatives include mixtures of vermiculite or perlite and refractory cement; and soft bricks. A wide range of designs have been attempted and seems to work, though efficiency can vary significantly. With any forge it is best for efficiency to keep the hot area as small as possible. It is possible to use the same burner to power up different shells designed for varying purposes.

Sources:

Burner: Hybrid burners sells complete Venturi burners, T-Rex is probably the most versatile with a wide heat range, and ample heat.

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Regulator and hose: Most any gas supplier or hardware like Princess Auto have these, they are often used with weed or ice burners, though they are more than just a needle valve arrangement one sometimes also finds. Be sure the regulator and hose are rated for propane. The regulators I have seen are painted red.

Shell: This is the physical container. Mine is made out of pipe welded top and bottom, lined with refractory wool and stove cement. While the whole thing is welded up solid there isn't any pressure in the forge, it is just an insulated compartment in which the heat of the flame is contained. Most forges are arranged horizontally and have the burner mounted a little more tangentially than mine was mounted. This is said to mix in more oxygen.

Lining materials: Koawool. An insulating blanket material that can be sourced from potter's supply stores, or online. The koawool blanket is sealed with a slip made of refractory/stove cement (from a building supply) that has been reduced with water to a thick brushing consistency. This can be coated with Satanite, a reflective coating that directs UV energy to the core of the forge (potter's suppliers or online).

Connections: The hose will need to be connected to the burner, and normal brass fittings are used for this, and all fittings tested. No adhesives or tapes should be used ahead of the jet on the burner. Any ball valves or sealing tapes used should be propane rated. Builder's and plumber's supplies have all these pieces.

Gas: Propane as sold for BBQs. In heavy use, larger bottle from commercial suppliers like Praxaire, airliquide, etc...

Burners, plans, and parts can be found on the net, including:
http://www.hybridburners.com/ I use these. While it is possible, to make your own burner, the parts are actually more expensive than the store bought burner, unless you just happen to have mint extra pieces from an Oxy torch waiting to be cut up. The medium efficiency torches can be built cheaply though, and might be worth it to someone who only used the forge occasionally

http://www.zoellerforge.com/ (Sell a few of the "too expensive" parts mentioned above like the jet assemblies, at decent prices.)

http://forgegallery.elliscustomknifeworks.com/ (1 brick forges and coffee can forges, more parts and hard to get steel for various purposes)

http://tzknives.com/gasforges.html (sell a ceramic shell for those who use a lot of flux for making stuff like Damascus. This would also serve as an option for those who want to buy, not jerry rig something on their own. This shell with a Hybrid burner should be just the thing, and a lot more sophisticated than the general run of gas forges costing many times more.)

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http://www.dfoggknives.com/forge.htm (this website probably has the best forge designs on the net. The forge I showed used a normal air feed burner, Don uses an electric fan feed burner. This seems to require a more permanent installation style than the one I use. Mine can be tossed in the corner of your truck or garage. Most pro knife smiths use the electric version since it arrived on the scene earlier. This website also has build-alongs for Knife making belt grinders and many other things.)

http://ronreil.abana.org/design1.shtml (one of the original tinkerers, and a very comprehensive site for burner designs of the lower efficiency style Reil has since installed Hybrids. This is the burner place, but there is so much stuff here mostly it can be confusing)

http://www.backyardmetalcasting.com/refractories.html (alternative to koawool, slower to heat, but holds the heat)

http://64.176.180.203/washtubforge.htm (charcoal alternative, could probably burn wood, or cow pies)

More:
http://www.budgetcastingsupply.com/

http://metalcast.boorman.us/reil_1.html (Reil Burner step by step)

http://www.backyardmetalcasting.com/refractories.html

http://www.cvbg.org/tips/superquench.PDF#search='super%20quench' (Make friends and have fun hardening MILD steel!!)

http://www.anvilfire.com/iForge/index.htm (every home should have a rolling mill - you know you want one!)

http://www.anvilfire.com/iForge/index.htm (Grab a hunk of hard plasticine and forge along with the experts at Anvilfire. Read the safety entries before handling any dipped steels, and possibly killing yourself)

Best books for small scale tool forging:
- The 50 $ Knife Shop, by Wayne Goddard (best info on small scale forges and anvils and heat treating techniques)

- Tool Making for Woodworkers, by Larson (good coverage of smithing techniques, hard to find)

- Various books by Alexander Weygers, (lots of gouge coverage. Lee Valley sells the compendium and libraries often carry the volumes). Weygers books are pre-propane home forges, and he uses a little coal forge.

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Gas Burners for Forges, By Porter. A book on making high performance burners, Forges, Kilns, etc... Expert coverage of subject, except the burner designs probably don't save you any money and the forge designs are a little atypical. Absolutely wonderful at laying out the science and safety. The book is a great confidence builder.

Bowls From Recycled Logs
Michael Finklestein

Editor's note— This is not an article in the usual sense. If you click on the following link you will get Michael's information.

http://www.michaelfinkelsteinwoodturner.com/Turning_Bowls_from_recycled_trees.html

If you scan your mouse cursor over all the photos you will see that some of them can be enlarged.

What I like about this presentation is that Michael shows you how to visualize a log before you start to cut it up.

WGO MENTORS PROGRAM

Editor's note— I saw this announcement of the WGO Mentor's Program in an early issue of the WGO Newsletter. Seems like a terrific idea so I am presenting it again

WGO offers a *mentoring* program for its members.

Any WGO member who has a woodturning problem or equipment issue which they cannot find help to resolve come to the Skills Night meetings or contact a member of the Executive. You will be put in contact with

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We have four of our own mini lathes located at the college and there are four college lathes that we can use. A proper sharpening station with Oneway sharpening jigs and tool holder is available as well. The workshop is large enough to simultaneously hold multiple groups working on different projects. Attendance for the first two sessions was not large, but very informative and productive for those who attended. Once our members find out how rewarding an all day (or, if you wish, a couple of hours) hands on session can be, I expect more will take advantage of this great facility.

Summary of the September 18 WGO Meeting Demonstration by Peter Exton
Submitted by Jack Wallace

The guest speaker was Peter Exton who is specializing in inside out turnings as art sculpture. He used 3 pieces each cut with a cross section having angles of 120 and 60 degrees. Three of these fit together to form a hexagonal cylinder which is then cut on the lathe to form a flame shape. The 3 pieces are then separated and each piece is turned 180 degrees and fastened back into a cylinder shape which is cut once more. This forms a hollow part with some unique curves . when 6 or 9 parts of this nature are assembled into a column the assembly take on some interesting and challenging overall shapes as can be seen in the following photos. All very unique and impressive. This report hardly does justice to the demo that Peter did for the club. We can only say thanks Peter, and it's tough that more people did not have the opportunity to see such an easy way to do a complex sculpture on a lathe.

Remembering Murray Webber
Fred Klap

November has been a sad reflective month for me. I lost a longtime turning buddy, and my brother-in-law who was married to my sister for 56 years.

I helped Myrna Webber by clearing up the shop, collecting the wood and helped find a home for most of Murray's equipment. Peter Steenwyk made miracles happen. Thanks Peter.

I would like to suggest that we form an action committee from our club and our neighbouring clubs to look after the needs of surviving partners of woodturners. A bereaved person has no clue to what the equipment does or what it is worth to new turners and people who want to upgrade. They should not be taken advantage of but treated with respect.

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I would like to participate in such a committee by being available on such occasions and help write the rules for evaluating wood, equipment, temporary storage for equipment and a list of machinery movers.

Editor's note: Bravo Fred; a fantastic idea. I would be willing to participate on your committee.

LUNCH WITH MURRAY

For the past five years, Murray Webber and I had lunch together three to five times a week. We have known each other for many years. My wife, Joan, was close to Myrna Webber's sister, Barbara, when Joan arrived in Canada at age 11. Murray and I connected on woodturning on a visit to my cottage in the early 90's. I had just bought a Record lathe and was experimenting with primitive wood turning. At some point he invited me to a WGO meeting which transformed my turning life.

Through the years we had lunch together, we talked about many things and I got to know a lot about him. He was a thoughtful man. His interests were many. Design concepts and where the art of turning was going fascinated him.

His father was an astute man, a manufacturing tailor who specialized in men's pants. Murray went to Harbord Collegiate and then to university. He was a camper and a member of the Boy Scouts. Early in his career he landed a job with a property management company and then went on to be part of a construction company that built houses, hotels, stores and among other things the Bloor Street Colonnade. Murray was a founding member of a group that was called the Sixpack that explored art theory as it applied to turning. He was also a member of the Wood Turning Design Group.

I have been going through his shop organizing his store of wood. I feel like an archaeologist; the range and beauty of the woods collected is amazing. Murray was a meticulous worker. His choice of shape, embellishment and surface treatment were a joy to behold. A few days before he died we chatted about his new projects. He wanted to work on larger pieces while seated and we discussed the future of woodturning. Ross Robertson dropped by and recounted Murray's very disciplined and analytic approach. The Sixpack learned to appreciate the helpful candor he brought to the table.

I have just returned from a solo lunch. I remember the many political, financial and turning discussions that coloured our lunches. Murray was a man of many talents, with a huge appetite for travel, the arts, music, family and Myrna.

We will miss his critical and caustic point of views and the strong opinions that made Murray so special. I will turn over to Peter Steenwyk Murray's wood collections and give his many friends at the WGO the opportunity to own and turn some of these treasured woods. The proceeds will go to Myrna Webber.

Murray's General lathe, Tormec precision sharpening system, Excalibur scroll saw and Dewalt chop saw are still available.

General Lathe Review
Richard Pikul

Our guild purchased three of these General lathes after hearing good comments from other owners.

Before turning all of them over to our workshop site, one was used for a weekend craft show demo and I used one to gain some experience with this lathe.
Since I have received a number of enquiries from members about this General lathe, I decided to write up my findings and opinions. To obtain further information regarding this lathe and to view current promotional brochures, visit the General web site. The wood lathe section is located at:
http://www.general.ca/pagetitre/ang/lathes.html

The price in the present General promotional brochure (November, 2008) is shown as $CDN 745.00. The regular price is listed as $CDN 900.00.

If you are looking for a lathe to take to the cottage, take to hands on or collaborative sessions, a second lathe, have limited space in your shop, or if your projects are less than 12” (304mm) in diameter and maximum weight is less than 20kg (44 lbs) – you should seriously consider purchasing this machine.
I found that it performs well – better than any of the mini lathes (and some of the larger lathes) I have used to date. It has several features that make it stand out. The only negative item I can report is the size and reach of the banjo/tool rest.

Now for the detailed evaluation.

Spindle speed **300 to 3600 RPM**
Three belt positions, with nicely overlapping speed ranges. Change is easy, using the quick release lever to loosen the belt, with belt access from the top of the headstock. The access door is kept closed with a screw. A magnet or latch would have been a nicer touch, but safety agency rules forced General to incorporate the screw to ”lock” the cover in place.
Swing over bed **12” (304 mm)**
Swing over tool rest **9 1⁄4” (236 mm)**
Tool rest reach **approx. 4.75” (120.7mm) (tool rest set parallel to bed)**
A 12” (304mm) swing over the bed is a nice feature for a mini lathe, however the banjo supplied is a drawback. It does not have enough reach to bring the tool rest out far enough to turn a 12” (304mm) work piece when the tool rest is placed parallel to the bed. I think that a tool rest with a full 10” (254mm) reach should be supplied with this machine to take full advantage of outboard turning. Purchasing an additional tool rest to take advantage of this lathe's capabilities is always an option.
Swing over side bed **19 1⁄4” (490 mm)**
Swing over side tool rest **16 5⁄8” (424 mm)**

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Outboard turning on a mini lathe – a really good idea, makes this machine far more useful. Eighteen inch bowls on a mini lathe, a first! The only drawback is that the banjo/tool rest do not reach out far enough to take full advantage of this capability. Headstock can be rotated to use the outboard turning function in a few seconds.

Distance between centres 17 5⁄16" (440 mm)

This is enough for most applications. With a chuck mounted on the spindle, this distance is a bit less, but still functional. If a longer bed is required, a 32" (813mm) bed extension, increasing the bed length to 47"(1194mm) is available as an option (item #25-205). This is more than enough even if you are making table or bar stool legs. It may also be possible (check with General first) to use multiple bed extensions for making even longer items.

Spindle thread 1" - 8 TPI

A good choice, the standard for all smaller sized wood lathes.

Tailstock through hole 3⁄8" (9.5mm) DIAMETER

This feature is useful for drilling long, accurately centred holes for lamps etc. The supplied live centre has a removable centre point, so it can be used to hold the work while a hole up to 3/8" (9.5mm) in diameter is drilled.

Morse taper MT #2 (Headstock & tailstock)

This choice is also good, large enough to withstand heavy use. Virtually all accessories from other vendors are available with MT2 Morse taper.

Self ejecting travel (Tailstock) 2 1⁄8" (55 mm)

The tailstock shaft travel is enough for most applications. A coarser screw thread would be a nice feature. It would mean fewer wheel rotations to move the tailstock shaft over it's full travel.

Tool rest 6" (152 mm) Post diameter 5/8" (15.9mm)

This is a good length for the 'included' accessories. I would have preferred a 3/4" (19mm) or even a 1" (25.4mm) shaft for the tool rest post.

Face plate 3" (80 mm)

I would like to have seen at least six mounting holes instead of the 4 in this face plate.

Motor 3⁄4 HP, 110 V, 8A, 2500 RPM

Finally, a mini lathe with enough power to swing some weight! The drive belt is also over 30% wider than most mini lathe belts. This wider belt will deliver the motor power more effectively to the spindle. The motor is very quiet with a smooth body and fully sealed – no cleaning shavings and sawdust from fins or fan blades! The electronic motor controller is mounted in a separate box behind the headstock. A bit of care is required when the headstock is removed for maintenance or transportation to keep the controller box from bearing the full weight of the headstock. Note that there is no option on the controller for reversing the motor rotation.

Weight 146 LBS (66.5 kg)

This is considerably heavier than other mini lathes. The extra weight is an advantage when working with larger and/or unbalanced work pieces. If this lathe is to be a 'portable' turning station, don't panic. The headstock and tailstock can be quickly removed, reducing individual piece weight to less than the total weight of most other mini lathes.

Other notes:

- Fit and finish: Machining is accurate, banjo, tailstock and headstock move easily and with minimal 'wobble'. The natural locking positions of the headstock and tailstock are tight and accurate. All three of the lathes we purchased did not require shims to align the headstock and tailstock centres. These were the first mini lathes I have encountered that did not need shims to align the centres vertically!

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Other notes:

- Paint appears to be a baked finish so it should wear well.
- Castings are solid and thick, no problems with twisting or vibration from unbalanced loads.
- All labels and name plate are adhesive backed, none are screwed or riveted on.
- Bed machining; at first view it seems to be 'rough'. In fact, this 'texture' prevents the banjo and tailstock from creeping, without requiring hard locking pressure.
- Digital spindle speed display – what a nice bonus!
- Headstock locking pin also adjusts the headstock washer backlash. This helps to positively align the headstock in the 0 and 180 degree positions. In fact the alignment is close enough that, for most applications, no fine tuning is necessary.
- Indexing, in 10 degree increments, is built in. It's not all that user friendly, but it is another feature normally not seen on a mini lathe!
- The feet are individually adjustable – and sturdy enough to actually be useful. I tried them at various heights and found that they should not be adjusted to lift the lathe more than 1/2" (12.5mm) above the top of the feet. Over this height, the lathe can vibrate when an unbalanced work piece is being turned. If you want to use this lathe without bolting it to your stand or workbench, drill shallow (1/2" (12.5mm) deep) x 1.5" (40mm)) diameter blind holes in the mounting surface for the feet to rest inside. This will keep the lathe from 'walking' around. Note that you should fix the lathe to your stand/workbench if turning any pieces that are unbalanced or weight more than about 12lb (6kg). You don't have to buy any bolts and nuts to mount this lathe. The lathe mounting holes are threaded so the included feet may be used as mounting bolts. Just remember to use the supplied nuts to act as locks to prevent the bolts from loosening.
- If you turn or sand with your body tight against the headstock area you may find that the power switch can be accidentally turned off. It's better than being accidentally turned on....
- A removable 'key' on the power switch is a good safety feature, especially if children or inexperienced adults have unsupervised access to your workshop, or if you are demonstrating in a public place.
- Removable stops (2), located at the ends of the bed prevent the headstock or tailstock accidentally slipping off the ends of the bed. If you tighten them securely, this is also a good safety and security feature when turning in public places, or if you have a tendency to push the tailstock a little too far.
- One of our lathes was delivered (still in it's original factory packaging) without the spur drive and live centre. I reported this to the General dealer. Eight weeks later and the drives were still missing. I then contacted General directly and received the parts in three days. General had no record of receiving the request from the dealer, so it's not a surprise that we did not receive the parts earlier.
- One last item; Do not just flip through the manual, READ IT THOROUGHLY! Reading the manual before you use the lathe, then reading it again after you get used to the lathe is important. I know that most of you just put the manual away (sometimes in the recycling bin) because you think that it does not contain any useful information. You cannot be more wrong! Even if you are a turner with long experience on many lathes, a manual for a new lathe will, at the very least, remind you of the safety issues and show how this particular lathe is different and how it is put together. The description of operation will highlight the features and functions that you may have overlooked. So, do not forget to RTM! (read the manual).

Editor's note. I found a woodturner's website WGO members might find interesting. His name is Dennis DeVendra. He is from Columbus, Ohio. One of his main distinguishing features is his blindness. Click on the following URL to access his website http://www.blindwoodturner.com/index.html