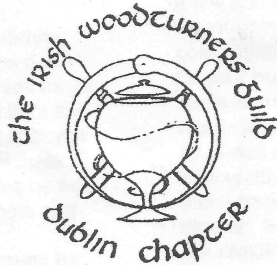


Dublin Chapter
Irish Woodturners Guild



Newsletter Vol 6, No 2

April/May 99

We are well into the 1999 turning season now and judging by the turnout at recent Terenure meetings the craft is growing in popularity even, I am glad to say, among women. And an increase of younger members too which bodes well for the future of turning. This interest was reflected in the attendance at the national AGM held at the end of March in Dublin- mentioned elsewhere - about 64 turned up including some 16 from our own Chapter and by any standards this says something about commitment and participation. Future events were well aired at the AGM with the various Chapters using the occasion to promote their own seminars planned for this year. In particular the chairman of the Ulster Chapter, Robert McKenzie, reminded us of a seminar being held by their group on the 29th May. This Chapter are suggesting that the national seminar in 2000 should be a special affair with demonstrators from America, the UK and Ireland and the venue should, for a change, be in the North. Food for thought

I understand that most have now paid their subs for 1999. However if there are any who might have forgotten please do pay up without delay and make the treasurer's job easier.

Chris Hayes, editor.

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Demos

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Competitions

June --Tom Newman perpetual trophy
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Committee

Chairman- Jim Molloy, 39 Glenbrook Park, Rathfarnham, D14, 493 4477; Vice-Chairman and Competitions-Frank Gallagher, 3 Rossmore Close, Templeogue, D6W, 4902879; Hon. Sec-Owen Furniss, 40 Broadford Crescent, Ballinteer, D16.4941262. Treasurer- Harry O' Riordan, Acer Glade, Burnaby Park, Greystones, 2875345. Editor- Chris Hayes, 85 Willow Park Grove, Glasnevin, D11, 8422525. Librarian- Maurice Boyle, 2 Pinewood Drive, Glasnevin, D11, 8422535; Also, Seamus Carter, 15 Woodlands Road, Johnstown Estate, Dun Laoghaire, 2870087; Irene Christie, 16 Grannamary Close, D16, 4936135

The Interview

At most of the Terenure meetings you may notice a man sitting quietly, never dashing about but often contributing to the general discussion and making his own points or even asking the demonstrator to clarify something. He submits work to the competitions too and manages a win from time to time. Just like you and me you might say. Well, no, not exactly because my client this month is not ordinary in every sense. He is Donal Browne and he spends his day in a wheelchair. Ever since contracting polio in his twenties he has had to get about first with the aid of calipers and sticks and of late only with the help of a wheelchair and an adapted car. To his credit he has worked all his life, bought his home, and married and raised a family. Around his house I saw fine examples of furniture he made in the past and indeed he is still trying new things. He showed me photos of a Victorian crib he is embarked on which is more than half way there. It's framework is some beautifully figured walnut which he rescued from somewhere and is now to have a new lease of life. The thing that struck me most about this project is that he has made it as a knockdown piece because it has to be dismantled for shipping to his daughter in Germany! Donal has only been turning for about 18 months, which I found hard to credit as his work is both skillful and imaginative and prolific. Having experimented with a metal cutting lathe early on and finding it wholly unsuitable he bought a homemade one secondhand, tried it for a while and then sold it on at a profit! Tom Newman gave him much encouragement and advice - how many lives has Tom touched and influenced - and soon Donal was turning out pieces on an Axminster MC900.

When I was shown around his workshop, which must be the most comfortable and roomy one I have ever been in, I could see where he is having some trouble with the variable speed pulleys. I suspect Donal will be in the market for another lathe quite soon. He has the usual aids to good woodworking including a saw bench, drill press and a very useful grindstone which incorporates a water wheel. Donal says he finds it much more beneficial to grind on the water wheel with the stone moving away from the chisel or gouge, or the opposite from the norm. The edge he obtains is superior and longer lasting.

To wind things up I asked Donal what he felt about our Terenure meetings and the few changes which have occurred recently. He believes the new competition marking scheme is a much better way and could we have meetings every 2 weeks? Again, like others, he wishes there was more opportunity to talk to fellow turners and get advice when needed. Could it be done?

Thanks Donal for having me around and telling me something about yourself. -Editor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Ed,

Last Christmas thanks to the festive season I had a few bob to spare which I earmarked for woodturning tools. let me tell you a wee story concerning one item. maybe my experience could be your best teacher!

I walked into one of the tool supply stores in Dublin and asked the price of a long hole boring kit. I was a bit taken aback when I heard IR49.95pounds, but then I thought, if that's the price then I have to pay it and after all I have the money. So I paid up. However a few days later still ranking over my purchase I phoned another tool supplier(around the corner from where I bought kit) to enquire the price they charged for the same item only to be quoted IR39.95pounds!!! But there's more! Soon after this I was thumbing through a woodturning mag and saw an ad for my boring kit, price 19pounds, sterling of course. I enquired and learnt they would supply this for 25pounds including p&p. The bank's charge for a sterling draft for this would have been IR30.81pounds. If I had known I could have saved myself about IR19 pounds and had it delivered to the door!

The lesson? Unless you are in the surtax bracket shop around!

Pacellii O'Rourke

"Wood is good for you"

(from a letter in Woodturning which quotes an extract from the Herald Tribune)
Researchers at the University of Wisconsin were seeking ways to decontaminate chopping boards and make them as safe as plastic. The general feeling always was that plastic being non-porous doesn't ingest bacteria. Wood is full of tiny holes and the bugs love to jump in and play hide and seek. Right? However that's not what the microbiologists found. When they deliberately contaminated vboth plastic and wooden boards with nasty things such as salmonella and listeria they found that none of the bacteria on the plastic died whereas 99.9%of the bugs on wooden boards keeled over within 3 minutes. Futhermore, if they left both kinds of boards dirty overnight bacteria multiplied on plastic but died off on wood. No matter what kind of wood or plastic they tried the wood always came off better. Now they are looking for an agent in wood that kills bacteria. So much for the euro-breaucrats who recently issued a directive that all surfaces where food is prepared for public consumption should be plastic.

(sent in by Bill Kilpatrick)

The March demo

Bandsaws by William Edwards

I am a firm believer in that if you want advice on anything ask those who earn their living at it, so for advice on wood machines William Edwards is the man. Our Chapter is privileged to have William as a member. Woodturners can't do without a bandsaw and Bolton Street (where William teaches woodworking) can't do without him.

Saturday the 6th March was well spent as we watched and listened to William take us through the Ten Commandments of setting up the bandsaw:

1. Thou shalt not work without adequate eye and lung protection.
2. Check thrust bearings
3. Check guides.
4. Check tracking- dress rubber tyres if needed.
5. When fitting blades fit from top first.
6. Tension blade- to test this try to give it a half twist or listen to the sound when flicked with the thumb.
7. Adjust guides top and bottom.
8. Recheck all of the above to make sure before starting up.
9. Never ever try to make adjustments when the saw is running. To be really safe always disconnect from the supply before setting up or making adjustments.
10. When feeding wood into the saw use a push stick at least 300mm (12ins.) long or use two where the situation demands it.

On behalf of the Chapter I thank William for a very educating morning and I will feel a lot safer using my bandsaw from now on.
-Seamus (fingers)Carter

Woodsong

Birch turnings, like concave fluted mushrooms, long-stemmed, delicate, translucent as parchment, form fairy rings on the dusty windowsill.

In the dark cavern of your workroom, you choose and lift another slab, listen for its voice, caress its knots and ridges, envision its possibilities.

A bowl for Buddha? The living element yields its heart to your fingertips, to your eye and ear. Satisfied, you secure the iron bolt into its rough-hewn end.

Ivory- coloured tendrils spiral to the floor forming fragrant heaps, soft curling drifts to join and mingle with those of apple, birch, maple, camphor and oak.

And on the lathe, seduced and shaped by the sure touch of your lean hands, the cherry wood sings.
-American Woodturner

Tip

A good source for different kinds of glues (including a very useful one called SuperPhatic which "penetrates and swells the grain as it dries, IR3.95 for a 50m size") is the Model Shop at 13 Capel St. It claims to be superior for joints and such and any residue can be cleaned up with water. Worth a visit anyway.

The Royal Oak

The most common name for public houses in the UK is "The Royal Oak". Dublin has but one bearing that name, and it is a long established landmark beside Finglas Bridge some hundred yards beyond Glasnevin cemetery. The gable on the city side bears a neatly painted logo of an oak tree.

The oak founds its way into history during the English Civil war. At the battle of Worcester the Royalists were heavily defeated and fearing capture, King Charles II took flight and climbed an oak tree. Were it not for this noble tree and its obliging nature the Stuart dynasty would have come to a sudden end. Following the Restoration and in thanksgiving for the safe deliverance of the king, Oak Apple Day, instituted by an Act of Parliament in 1664, began to be celebrated on May 29th each year. This continues to be observed in a few places to this day.

Did you know that in England over 2000 years ago, in the time of the Druids, that the oak was considered sacred? And some oak trees still thriving there may be the very same branches under which Saxon kings sheltered more than 900 years in the past. Indeed the largest oak in the world is alive and well and living in Gloucestershire.

And of real interest to any of our woodworking friends who may be anxious about the longevity of their fine piece in English oak - the shrine of Edward the Confessor in Westminster Abbey is built of oak and the wood seems as sound today as it was in the 11th century
-Maurice Boyle.

Competition Results

March 99 Natural edge goblet

Beginners	3rd Michael Magee 2nd Irene Christie 1st Norah Castle
Experienced	3rd ----- 2nd ----- 1st Chris Hayes !!!!
Advanced	3rd Des McMahon 2nd Owen Furniss 1st Tom Forde

April 99 Napkin rings

Beginners	3rd Frank Foley 2nd Michael Magee 1st Peter Kennedy
Experienced	3rd James Nolan 2nd Chris Hayes 1st Norah Castle
Advanced	3rd Albert Sloane 2nd Owen Furniss 1st Mick Healy

Tree Council Walk

Joe O'Neill has arranged a guided walk in the Balrath Woodand, Co Meath, for Sat May 22nd. Anyone interested should contact Joe as early as possible on 298 9441 Balrath is on the North Road about 16km beyond Ashbourne, look for sign for Navan, turn left here, just after Texaco station turn left again after passing grassmeal factory. The wood is about 400m from here.

The April Demo

A three legged stool

THE DUBLIN CHAPTER EASTER SATURDAY MEETING

At 9.30 on Easter Saturday morning the car park of Terenure College was half filled with members cars. A large turn out for a bank holiday weekend, 74 people including 5 lady members, attended the demonstration by Tom Hayes the subject "(A three legged stool).

Before the start of the meeting Tom had drawn a circle on the blackboard using a homemade compass. He first proceeded to divide up the circumference of the circle into six equal parts using the compass set to the circle radius as a marker, then, by eliminating every second mark he demonstrated how it is possible to arrive at the 120 degree calibration necessary to set out the leg positions. Later during the meeting Peadar McArdle told us how, using a clock face he achieves the same result. He uses the 12o'clock, 4o'clock and 8o'clock positions to divide up the blank into three equal segments

Tom had well prepared his demonstration. On arrival he presented the scribe for the day "yours truly" with a set of plans of the stool for inclusion in the next Newsletter, making my job that much easier. The seat of the stool was 8" in diameter, a piece of kiln dried beech, Tom first described how to dowel and glue two pieces of wood together to make up a piece 8" wide, as a disc of this dimension is not always available. To make the jig, first get a piece of waste about 8" long by 1 1/2" by 1". Mark a centre line on one edge and at equal intervals drive in some pins leaving 1/4" protruding. Snip off the tops of the pins. Mark the pin positions on the top of the template with a pencil. Now place the template and the timber to be dowelled on a flat surface and push the template into the timber. This will leave three pin holes which mark where you should drill the holes for the dowels. Repeat the sequence on number two piece of timber.

Tom pre-drilled the sockets to house the legs, the logical reason for this? (his saw tooth bit is not cutting very cleanly after many years of use and leaves a jagged edge) then he screwed a disc of M.D.F. to the side that would be the top using short screws, the screw holes would be turned away later when he dished the seat. This disc fitted into his favourite chuck. Tom McDonagh asked "How did you drill the holes for the legs at

the desired angle"? Tom Hayes replied; I have a tilting table on my pillar drill. Tom McDonagh said; "Some of us hav'nt got sophisticated machinery like that, how would we manage"? Tom Hayes retorted; "If you hav'nt, then I'm afraid that you are being left behind by technology". This type of banter, which was the spirit of the day was enjoyed by all.

With the stool top mounted on the lathe Tom trued the outer edge, then the base and using a dividers he marked out the position for a dovetail recess (for mounting on a chuck later) He defined the width of the recess with a parting tool then turned out the centre with a gouge, and cut the dovetail using a skew placed flat on the tool rest so that the chisel was scraping exactly on the axis. He lightly rounded over the bottom edge of the seat. This finished Tom sanded and sealed the base using cellulose sanding sealer and sanding sealer thinners in a 50-50 mix and buffed with a piece of cloth. ((Tom does not see the need to wax the bottom of a craft item like this) The seat was then reversed onto the chuck and the top was tackled. The mounting disc was removed and the screw holes were turned away leaving a shallow dish in the top. A 5/8" bowl gouge was used to achieve this. The seat was sanded down to 240 grit and sealed then Tom waxed the piece with Black Bison wax polish. The wax was applied with 0000 wire wool.

Then three identical legs were required. A suitable blank was mounted between centres rounded using a roughing out gouge and sized with a vernier gauge. Tom had made a "storey board" i.e. (a piece of wood on which the exact measurement were marked out) and this template was offered up to the turning wood and pencil marks were made on the revolving blank at the salient points. He used a parting tool and a 1" spanner to achieve a perfect dowel to match the sockets in the stool base. The bead was replicated by means of a bead forming tool and finished with a beading tool. Tom emphasised that he only part finishes the bead until the detail beside the bead is finished, in case the skew slipped and did some damage. Of course, when finished the leg was a perfect fit and an exact match of the two that he had prepared earlier.

All in all it was a great meeting, The competition exhibits were superb, a great variety of designs and ideas, beautiful woods beautifully turned and finished. Congratulations to all who entered and especially to the winners.

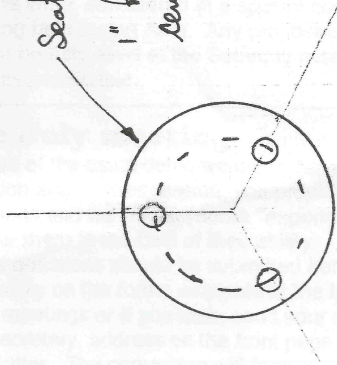
-Peter Mulvaney

THE THREE LEGGED STOOL

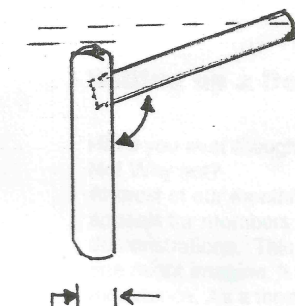
by Tom Hayes

3/4/99.
TH

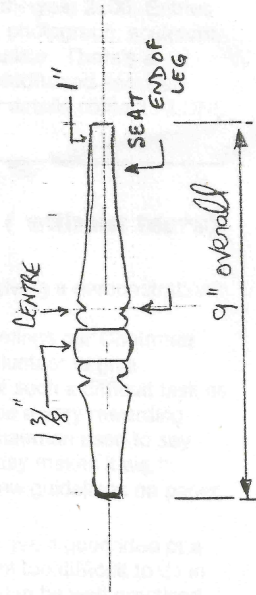
Seat 8 1/2" diameter
1" holes drilled 120° apart for legs.
centred 1 1/2" in from edge of seat.



Mounting angle of leg is chosen to ensure the bottom of leg is outside the perimeter of seat. adjust angle depending on length of leg.



approximately 1 3/4"

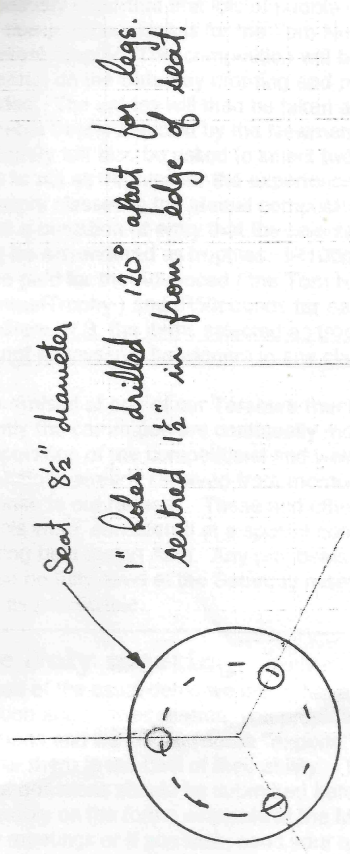


Detail of leg. Decoration looks better if slightly below midpoint of leg

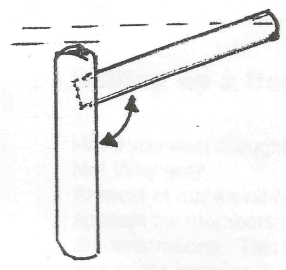
THE THREE LEGGED STOOL

by Tom Hayes

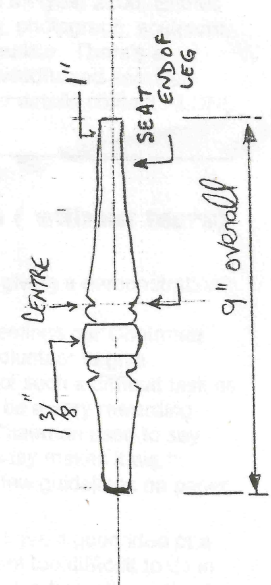
3/4/99.
TH



approximately 1¾"



Mounting angle of leg is chosen to ensure the bottom of leg is outside the perimeter of seat.
adjust angle depending on length of leg.



Detail of leg. Decoration looks better if slightly below midpoint of leg

Reminders

The committee would like more interest to be shown in the monthly competition, particularly among the so called experienced turners. More about that rare breed later. Remember, that pushing yourself to try something you might not ordinarily make has to be beneficial for the mind. See it as a challenge and don't worry if it doesn't turn out exactly as you intended. Submit your best effort and leave the judges to decide. You may be surprised. I often am.

It especially important that lots of people enter the June competition which is for the Tom Newman Perpetual Trophy. This competition will be judged as normal on the Saturday morning and prizes awarded. The entries will then be taken away and a suitable trophy selected by the Newman family. The family will also be asked to select two more items to act as trophies for the experienced and beginners classes in the annual competition. It will be a condition of entry that the selected items must be surrendered as trophies. IR100pounds will be paid for the Advanced (the Tom Newman Perpetual Trophy) and IR50pounds for each of the others. N.B. the items selected as trophies may not necessarily be winners in any class.

As promised at one of our Terenure meetings recently the committee are continually monitoring the operation of the competitions and welcome the suggestions already received from members in response to our request. These and other aspects were considered at a special committee meeting held during April. Any proposals will of course be fully aired at the Saturday meeting as soon as practicable.

The July meeting

Instead of the usual demo we are to have a question and answer session, you provide the questions and we will find some "experts" to answer them to the best of their ability. The plan is that questions should be submitted beforehand preferably on the forms available at the May and June meetings or if you wish, send your query to the Secretary, address on the front page of this newsletter. The committee will form a panel of say, 3 advanced turners for the first session to dispense nuggets of wisdom and another 3 for the remainder of the morning. No restrictions being imposed, but the Chair will control as always and decide if answers should also be sought from the general assembly.

Other news

Our Secretary, Owen Fumiss, has produced an introductory leaflet setting out the activities of the Dublin Chapter in outline, which will be available to prospective or new members or indeed the

general public at, say, exhibitions or similar events.

Exhibitions

Our former chairman Des McMahon has agreed to help with organising a new committee which in turn, we hope, will lead to an exhibition sometime during 1999 or perhaps several.

Forthcoming Seminars

May 15th 1999 -Galway Chapter
May 29th 1999- Ulster Chapter
Oct. 1st-3rd 1999- National Seminar in Gorey
Oct. 30th 1999 Limerick Chapter
Nov. ? 1999 Cork Chapter

Another kind of exhibition

The organisation ALONE plan to celebrate the UN International Year of Older People with an exhibition in October in Dublin's Civic Offices. The theme of the exhibition is "Expressions of what it means to be elderly as we approach the Millennium" Older people from all over the city, as individuals or groups, are invited to submit a creative piece of art, expressing what it means to be elderly as we approach the year 2000. Entries can be a painting, drawing, photograph, sculpture, poem or whatever form you like. There's a chance to get some nice woodturned items on display. If you want further details contact ALONE direct on 679 1032.

Setting up a Demo (without tears)

Have you ever thought of giving a demonstration? No! Why not?

At most of our monthly meetings our Chairman appeals for members to volunteer to give demonstrations. This is not such a difficult task as one might imagine. It can be a very rewarding experience. As a former Chairman used to say "the all expenses paid holiday makes it worth while". Maybe I can put a few guidelines on paper.

To start with, you need to have a good idea or a project something that is not too difficult to do in the allotted time. You need to be well practised and very familiar with the procedures involved in the project. Some professional turners when demonstrating use wet wood as this is much easier to turn, it is softer and the shavings really fly and there is less dust. If you are going to demonstrate something like a stool or a clock you must use well seasoned or kiln dried timber and you must have any fittings necessary for the job. Giving a demonstration helps you to focus on your

skills; you think about your reasons for your choice of the methodology and put words on what you do.

In the days before the demo you should keep a notebook or a clipboard in your workshop and write down your thoughts and ideas as they occur to you. As you practise making your piece, you need to make a note of each tool that you use. For instance if you like to draw diagrams you will need some chalk. If you need to drill a hole you will need an electric drill or a Jacob's chuck; you proceed in this manner and establish a list of all of the tools that you will need on the day. It is a good idea to have a completed copy of the item that you have previously made, as an example of your project. Because of time constraints and a lack of dust extraction at the venue it may not be possible to complete a full object on the day. The demo that was given by Tom Hayes recently is a good example of forward planning. The project called for three legs, Tom had pre-prepared two legs and had to make only leg on the day, (which fitted), in other words, good planning.

We have all heard about Murphy's law, things can go wrong, just as they do in your workshop. All Woodturners know this and can accept this. The old adage (the man who never made a mistake never made anything) is true where our craft is concerned. Finally on the day before your debut carefully sharpen all your tools, assemble your kit and pack it into your car. The evening before, write a sequential list and try to write out what you want to say. Remember what you say is almost as important as what you do. If the demonstrator stops talking the audience will start talking. You must keep control of the meeting or the Chairperson must keep control. Encourage constructive participation and re-state good ideas that come from the floor to make sure that all

The National AGM March 1999.

This was probably the best attended AGM in recent years, held in the Aisling Hotel in Dublin. Some 64 members from all the Chapters including 16 from ours, crowded into a fairly small room. A full report with the names of all the committee will no doubt be published in the next issue of the Journal due out early May or thereabouts. Its new editor is Francis Moron who already has some changes in mind and would welcome contributions from any member at any time- his phone number is 825 7654 or fax 822 0363. If you forget send your copy to me and I just might send it on!

present have heard. If you don't know the answer to a question seek an answer from the members present. The lads are usually very generous with advice and share their expertise willingly. So why not have a go? If you do, the best of luck. Above all, preach and practise safety.

Yours in woodturning
Peter Mulvaney

Apology

Irish Timber Products who had arranged to attend the April meeting were unable to be there as their trailer axle collapsed on the way out. Sorry but they will be around again.

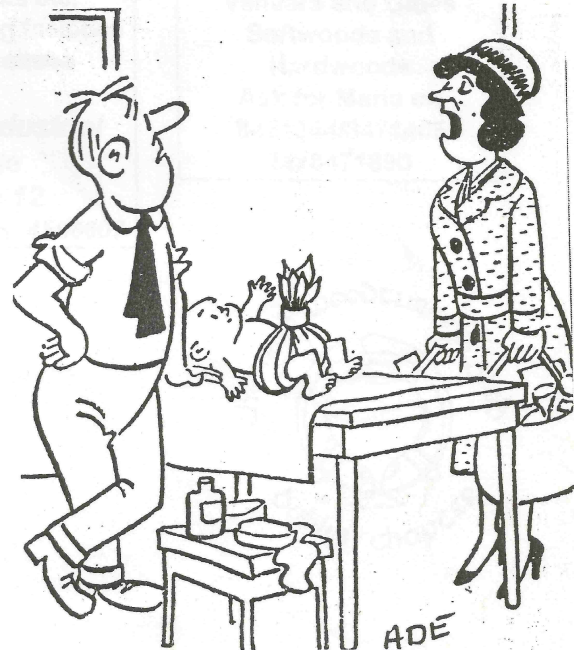
Coded sandpaper

An American turner has a useful way of marking his pre-cut strips of sandpaper. Instead of marking 120, 240 etc., on individual pieces he takes magic markers in various colours and draws a continuous "S" shaped line on the back of each sheet or full roll before cutting. You can quickly devise a simple single or two colour code to suit and hang the colour chart in front of your lathe. Another way of squeezing a bit more life from those expensive bits of sandpaper! Lord, how we miss Peter's sales!

-American Woodturner

Woodturning Courses

Available from
Joe O'Neill, 27 Ballinteer Drive, D16
tel. 454 1822 (6 to 8pm) or 298 9441 at other times also
Peter Mulvaney, 33 Ardmore Park, Dun Laoire
tel. 280 2745



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silly verse, a limerick?
Come on, I can't be the only
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