

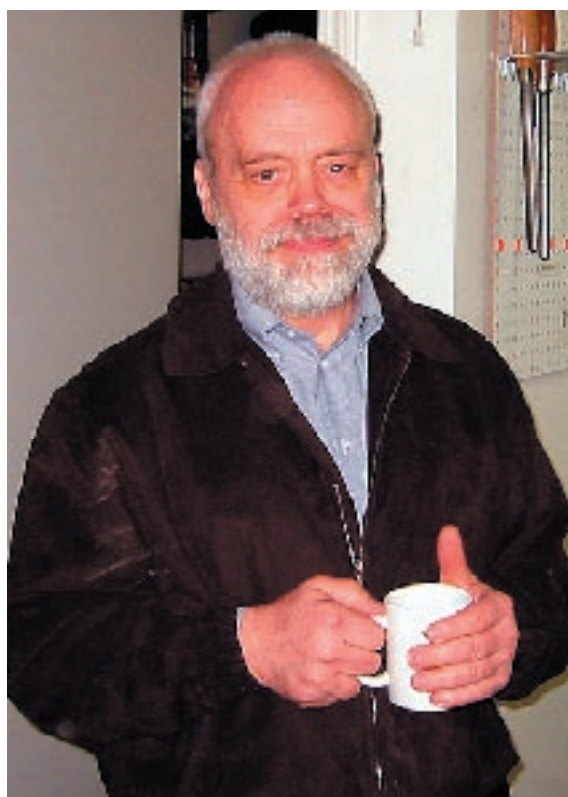


CHIPS & Chatter

THE SILICON VALLEY WOODTURNERS' NEWSLETTER

Ron Ashby's finishing touches

"There are only three things you need to know about finishing: base, build, and top."



Ron Ashby started his Mendocino company, Wood Finish Supply (www.liberonsupply.com), about 47 years ago. He is a mail order distributor for a variety of finishing products including those from Behlen, Star, Mohawk, and Liberon. A turning enthusiast himself, he has eight lathes. According to Ron, there are only

three things you need to know about finishing, regardless of the type of finish: "base, build, and top."

Ron likes lacquer finishes on turnings. They go on fast, can yield from a dead flat to a high gloss surface, and resist spotting and fingerprints. So he began with a lacquer example of his "base, build, and top" philosophy, then expanded it to oils.

In a lacquer finish such as Star Spray Lac, the *base* is one coat of sanding sealer. But a coat on rock maple isn't the same as a coat on buckeye. It may take two or three coats on a soft wood to create a suitable foundation. Whatever it takes, this IS the foundation, and it has to be sufficiently thick for everything else to work. If we were using an oil finish, the base would just be a heavy, wet coat of oil, soaked in and wiped dry.

The *build*, in lacquer, might be two gloss coats. These clear coats don't muddy the finish the way coats containing flattening agents would. These build coats are like framing in a house. The durability of the finish is here. Oils, which leave little film on the surface, might require three or more coats, applied over several days so they can polymerize and dry. Star makes a water white formula for French polishing, a modern padding solution based on urethane,

PRES SEZ



This

month's President's Challenge is a Craft Item. That could be anything from a writing implement to a guitar slider or a puzzle stick. We have all made the little items for our families and even some of us have sold a few at Craft Fairs. So what are you going to make?

Next month is our annual Spinning Top challenge meeting so start thinking of that also: Biggest, Smallest, Longest running, Most different, etc. If you have any other ideas, please contact Herb Green.

I get a lot of calls and emails about used equipment: people wanting a lathe or some other tool. If you are upgrading any of your tools or just want

to sell a tool, post the info to our club. You can do that a number of different ways, such as the For Sale area of our newsletter or the For Sale section in our yahoo group area; or you could even let me know and I will post the info at my studio. We always want to upgrade our stuff and this is a great way to do just that. Usually we can make great deals and move on to other tools we wanted or just had to have. This week, there are a couple of lathes for sale. I'm sure there is a great deal there just waiting to happen. One other note on this subject, if you are not sure about a tool or equipment ASK! Ask other members, ask someone that already has one, ask someone that might have already had one. Just be sure to ask around for help with your decision on that new tool. We have so many resources in our club, be sure to use some or all of them. That's why we are here: we all like to share, especially information.

Next Meeting

Join us at our next meeting, on Wednesday, April 2nd, at 7 P.M., when our own Don Bonnet shows us how he turns finial boxes. Location: Rich Johnson's Woodturning Center in San Jose.

Rich's Center is located behind his home at 14979 Joanne Ave., San Jose. From Hwy. 680, take the McKee Road exit East about 1.5 miles to Toyon Ave. Turn left and go 0.6 mile, turn right onto Joanne Ave.

Remember: Bring your chair and items for Show and Tell. We all learn together.



Rich

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE: A CRAFT ITEM

TURNING OUT

Show & Tell, President's Challenge

Dick Pickering brought a carved leaf and bowl made with his Powercrafter high speed carver, after he was inspired by a demo at the Home & Garden show. He also brought a hand-held pin chuck made with the chuck from an old Makita drill. This is for the raffle tonight.



Dick Pickering shows his carved leaf and bowl.



Rich Dege shows his alder bowl

Rich Dege brought a red alder salad bowl, a present for the lady who supplied the wood. He finished it with mineral oil.

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

Phil Roybal led off with a holly hollow form, which, because of its unusual shape, had to be turned and hollowed from just one end. He finished it with Minwax Antique Oil and wax.



Phil Roybal shows his holly vase.

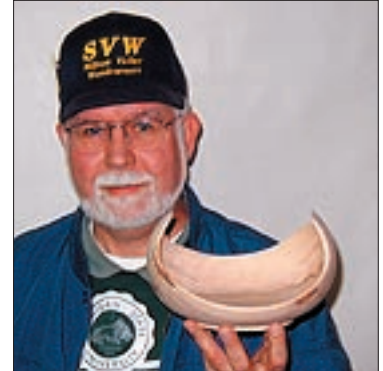
Dick Pickering brought two

bowls. The smaller was of mulberry. The second bowl was of an unknown wood, perhaps magnolia. He finished both with sanding sealer.

Rich Johnson turned a piece of grass-wood, which he didn't like turning because of the dust.

Rich Dege brought a privet bowl, rough turned several months ago. He worked on it more the day of the meeting, but left it unfinished for lack of time.

Bob Tang brought three bowls. The first was a juniper bowl with deep clefts, finished with



Top to bottom: Dick Pickering, Rich Johnson, Rich Dege, Bob Tang.

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*Challenge,
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lacquer. He next showed a large vase shape of black acacia. He also brought a black acacia open form bowl, for which he saturated the bark with superglue to keep it on. The acacia bowls are finished with Danish oil and buffed.

Tony Bryhan showed a large oak bowl from the crotch of a tree, so it featured heartwood from both trunk and a branch. He also brought an oak bowl darkened with a steel wool and water mix.

Josh Salesin brought a flat maple and bubinga bowl turned a few months ago.



Tony Bryhan hefts a huge oak bowl.



Josh Salesin displays maple and bubinga bowl.

Mike Rude showed a red bark eucalyptus bowl, where the bark was saturated with CA glue. He finished the bowl with 50% Deft.

Jim Gott presented a mulberry open bowl.

John Brugo brought red bark and blue gum eucalyptus bowls.

Raffle winners were Phil Roybal and Rich Johnson.



Top to bottom: Mike Rude and his red bark eucalyptus bowl, Jim Gott and a mulberry bowl, John Brugo with red and blue gum eucalyptus bowls.

April's Challenge: A Craft Item

MENTOR PROGRAM

Our Mentor program now includes five volunteer mentors. Contact Phil Roybal to join the list. Members who need some help (but not formal lessons) can contact:

Rich Dege	(408) 272-8122
Jim Gott	(408) 265-9501
Rich Johnson	(408) 254-8485
Ron Newcomb	(510) 797-6665
Phil Roybal	(408) 255-4789

Con't . from
pg. 1

called Hydrogold Wipe-Easy. This would be the base, with wax or nothing on top.

The top coat in lacquer might be a satin gloss lacquer (or dead flat on bark, so the bark doesn't get dirty). Oils can be top coated with just about anything if they are several months old. Clean the surface, then use 4-5 coats of Flecto's Natural Oil Finish with tung oil and urethane. Let it dry until you don't smell anything, then wax it. You can achieve the same look with a variety of finishes, but getting there may take several more coats with oil and wax than with lacquer. For example, Ron's elm burl bowl (featured in *Sourcebook of Shapes*) would need five or more coats of oil to get the same semi-gloss sheen that lacquer provided in a coat or two.

You need patience. If you stop finishing when the surface looks good to you, it won't look good in a year, so go a step or two beyond what looks good enough. Don't seal a finish with wax soon after application, because wax seals in the solvents. Give it a while to dry first. Ron lets lacquer dry for at least two weeks in a heated room before waxing.

Ron showed a buckeye hollow form finished with CA glue, polished with polishing compound. He thinks CA is THE finish for pens because it resists fingerprints and stains. The finish on this form began with water-thin



*Buckeye form finished with
CA glue.*

glue as a sealer, than medium CA to build. Temperatures need to be above 55°F for the CA to harden. (If you use CA, don't keep it in the fridge. The chill causes condensation condition within the bottle that will make the glue pre-cure.)



Ron shows one of Jan Sanders' colored plates.

How about color? Jan Sanders (author of *Coloring Techniques for Woodturners*), colors her

pieces, such as the plate

Ron pre-

sented. She used water dye on ash, with gilt cream worked into the pores of the wood, then Liberon finishing oil on top to seal the surface. She applies the finish with brushes and Q-tips. This is a good way to make uninteresting wood interesting, and these pieces just flow off Jan's tables at shows.

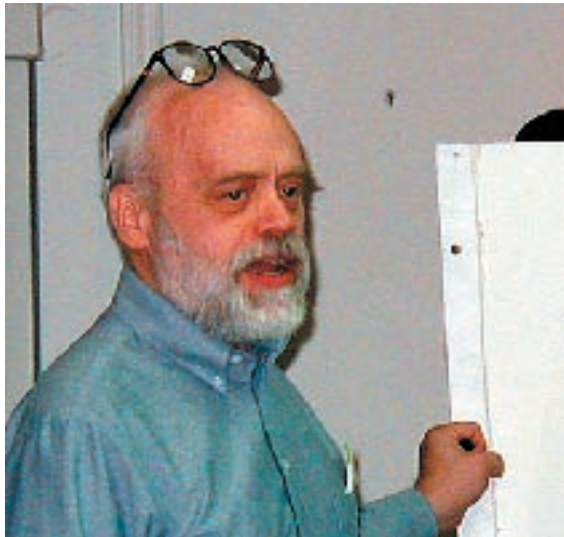
The elm burl bowl from John's *Sourcebook for Shapes* shows a lacquer finish that was originally very glossy, but has mellowed over 10 years. It was done with lacquer from an aerosol can, sanded back to semigloss. Ron notes that dyes must be the color you want to start with. You can't get a darker color with multiple coats of dye, just as you can't get black from multiple coats of grey.

Ron brought a small wood bowl treated with a patinating solution to create a faux verdigris finish that made the bowl look like old brass. He showed a hollow form of maple, dyed with ruby red, water based, aniline dye, then shaded with black toner in lacquer. The piece sported a top coat of clear lacquer to protect the coloring.

Aniline dyes in reds and oranges tend to fade. If you use



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aniline dyes for the range of colors they offer, water based dyes are the most light fast. Metalized extract dyes are more durable, and are available in basic colors that can be mixed to yield just about any shade.

Ron had lots of tips for finishers. For instance, he says one of the best finishes for turners is shellac because it is so fast to apply. Two coats of 2 pound cut make a durable finish that lasts for years. The toughest shellacs are button shellacs because of partial polymerization that occurs during the manufacturing process. Check <http://www.shellac.net/>, exclusive importers for the largest shellac manufacturer in India. Then go to a full service paint store for 200 proof, denatured alcohol for the shellac. Its label should say it contains less than 5% denaturants. (Behkol is Behlen's brand.) The purity of the alcohol is what determines the "shelf life" of the shellac.

Want a good black stain? Start with Metalized Extract Dye. Go over the piece with three different kinds of dye: alcohol, water, and oil based, in that order. Put a few drops of red in the black dye to cancel the blueish cast that sometimes appears. For coloring CA, use finely ground earth pigments.

Most woods change color over time, regardless of finish. However, you can help retain wood colors by using pre-catalyzed lacquer with UV level 3 filters that keep finish and wood from oxidizing. Also

available is a water-borne UV level 3 spray lacquer. Next step down is water-white Cellulose Acetate Butyrate (CAB), a non-yellowing resin.

Deft is for average consumers. 50% Deft is about 9% solids, much less than what comes from spray cans. Lots of us use Deft, but Ron recommends new Watco Clear Wood Finish, a brushing lacquer that dries in a few minutes. It's better than Deft because of its higher resin content.

Whatever finish you use, let it dry. Lacquer should cure for 21 days in a desert, or 30 days in the Bay Area, before buffing.

How to finish craft items that take a lot of handling? Use "waxing lacquer" that has metallic soaps in it so it feels like it was just waxed right out of the spray gun.

Got water spots? Renaissance Wax is a microcrystalline, pH neutral wax that resists water spotting. Probably most spotting comes because there's not enough foundation for the wax to protect. If wax spots, the spots are in the wax, so just re-wax.

Ever get orange peel when you spray? Its rough feel is due to atomized particles that dry on contact and don't flow. Use IBIB blush eliminator to control spray gun output in hot, dry conditions. You'll find details on "flash off control" at Ron's web site. In moist conditions, if you get blushing, use retarder. Put on one coat of lacquer per day and let it dry. If you get orange peel from a spray can, spray blush eliminator on top of it right away. Set the piece level and let the lacquer flow out.

Buying a spray gun? Avoid turbines. Conversion HVLP guns give the best finish. A Binks 115 touch up gun is a good choice, even though not it's not HVLP.

Need a food safe finish for goblets or bowls? Behlen's Salad Bowl finish is FDA approved. This is a urethane finish, and once the solvents are gone, it's safe. Almond and walnut oils are good food surface finishes that won't go rancid. Get them in health food stores.

STAFF REPORTS & OTHER BUSINESS

PRESIDENT (RICH JOHNSON)

The Home and Garden Show was a poor show for us, in part because we had a terrible location. We sold \$800 worth of turnings, with Dick Pickering being the high seller.

SVW will have its annual club picnic on July 19th, at Rich's place. It's a potluck, but our club provides the meat. We bring side dishes and drinks.

VP/PROGRAM CHAIR (HERB GREEN)

Next month, Don Bonnett will turn a final box for our April meeting. May is top month, and June will feature Merryll Saylor talking about color and design.

SECRETARY/EDITOR (PHIL ROYBAL)

We currently have 40 members, 37 of which are up on our SVWoodturners group site. I've posted new text and photo rosters on the site. If your picture's missing from the photo roster, ask Jim Gott to take your picture at the next meeting.

We've had some requests to establish a public web site, and Josh Salesin has accepted the challenge of putting it together.

LIBRARY (JEFF THORSON)

We have a lot of new items in our library. See the list on our Yahoo site. At three pages, it's a little too long for this newsletter.

APPAREL (DICK PICKERING)

Dick has hats. If you staff a show, you must wear an SVW hat or shirt, both to meet our contractual obligations and to attract new members.

TREASURER (JIM GOTT)

Income:

Shirts	\$20
Videos	\$26
Membership	\$250
Hats	\$30
Raffle	\$65

Expenses:

Jesus Morales (Feb.)	\$50
Pres. Challenge prizes	\$20

New Balance	\$2176.60
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NEW FACES

George Keritis, a friend of Rod's, and Jesus's cousins, Manuel and Rafael, came to our meeting, along with George Rodgers, visiting from Chicago. A father and son team joined at our meeting. Ed Howes and his son, Michael Howes, are our newest members. Please welcome them.

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