

Ken Wraight



Ken is from Australia and began his woodturning career in 2000, turning it into a life-long obsession

perhaps 5 or 6 years later. Since that humble beginning, Ken has won many awards including the prestigious Australian National Woodturning Exhibition (Open) on five separate occasions.



Ken regularly travels around Australia teaching and demonstrating. He has also demonstrated in New Zealand, America and regularly at the annual Turnfest symposium in Australia. Ken also is a regular contributor to the Australian Woodworker magazine.

Now, thirteen years on, Ken Wraight's work has an international following. Ken's work typically features a multitude of pieces turned to tolerances usually reserved for metal working – his work is easily recognised by its delicate spindle décor often mixed with intricate lattice



turning. This combination is the hallmark of his work.

That said, he can and does turn magnificent larger work, including exquisite platters and bowls.

“When the wood or someone says that it cannot be done, I simply ask why not? I try to not only imitate life but transcend that to take pieces beyond the traditional forms usually associated with woodturning. I paint with different woods and shapes using

extremely dense and hard timbers sourced mainly from the desert outback of Australia.

Typically, I imagine a completed project, then draw it to scale.

Later, I work out how

to turn it. The elusive ideal is a project that is almost impossible to turn.

My ‘carriage series’ - which now comprises two pieces with a third in the wings – is representative of that ethos. In time, I hope to leave a legacy of work that is uniquely my own.”



Demonstrations

Turning Precision Box Components

My Phoenix Box is a typical example of my work. This box is made up of fourteen pieces that are turned to exacting tolerances. It also contains a number of intricate rings at the lid join – with the lid a half sphere in shape that has a hole at the centre to mount a finial.

Part 1. How to turn the components using:

- hot melt glue to safely secure work
- simple cardboard templates to turn accurate body and lid components
- methods required to turn and hold a 2mm thick lid
- making inset lid rings and how to reverse and mount them into jam chucks
- sequence and techniques required to turn and sand delicate finials
- working to the dimensions shown on drawings using vernier calipers
- miniature mark-out sticks to transfer measurements, so that components can be accurately repeated



Part 2. In addition to the above:

- holding small finials to enable the drilling of 1.5mm mounting hole
- the components are assembled to complete the box

Participants will learn new skills to complete extremely delicate work and see the tools that I use.



Multicenter Ringed Weed Pot

Vertical Separation is one of my “Separation Series” and it consists of a vertical spindle turned weed pot framed by two multi axis rings.

How I produce the rings and spindle turned weed pot.

- how to pre-drill and prepare a blank prior to turning
- simple carriers to offset work
- process for making thin end grain rings
- accurately turn small spindles
- work to the dimensions shown on drawings
- hotmelt glue to support work

In all, participants will learn new skills to complete delicate work. I will also show the tools that I use and explain their use.

Candlestick

Turned inside/outside and offset, mounted on an offset base. A simple method to begin inside/outside turning.

- simple way to mount inside/outside turned pieces
- how the inside shape controls the outside of the finished piece
- offsetting inside/outside turning controls window shape
- quickly and accurately rotate pieces after turning inside
- make a simple multi center chuck and turn an offset base

In all, participants will learn the basics of inside/outside turning. They will also be introduced to multi centre turning, using simple shop made chucks. I will also show the tools that I use and explain their use.

