



Jamie Donaldson

<http://www.jamiedonaldsonwoodturner.com/>

As with many high schoolers of the 50s and 60s, my formal wood education began in shop class. Then real life intruded, and although I continued an informal love affair with wood and woodworking, the years rolled by - college (BA Philosophy), wife, Army (Vietnam), profession (horse photographer), and midlife corrections (but same wife!).

The wood flame was rekindled in 1986 when I added a lathe to my wood shop tool inventory. Aspirations soon revealed my ignorance, so I attended my first turning



workshop in 1987, and the magic of beauty in found wood was revealed to me. Here was a process that encompassed material, skill, form, logic, artistry, tools, and not deferred gratification. The orgy had begun! The pattern of workshops served to expand my skills and expectations, and collecting at craft shows and galleries brought substance to my newfound passion. Each teacher

was selected to lead me down a new path of interest and exploration, and I sponged from their experience and bought their objects as wondrous souvenirs. I learned to make many of my own tools and see the potential beauty in wood all around me.

The hours I spend at the lathe are a communion. The fellowship of wood and steel is a spiritual

experience by itself, and the yield is always more than art or kindling. Wood is a gift of Nature, each piece unique and full of potential surprises. Shape and function speak of history, the diverse past and present civilisations and cultures of the world. Each piece evolves according to its unique natural design. The process of revelation is a rewarding experience for me and hopefully for other observers.



Demonstrations

Square Turning

Are you tired of the monotony of turning “brown and round?” Try the challenge of turning squares, it will inject a bit of excitement



back into your shop! After all, most turning blanks are sold in square form, so why are you wasting away those expensive corners at the bandsaw? Square and rectangular forms are entertaining projects with a world of options available to the adventuresome turner, and there are no new tools required. There are some specific variations from turning round objects, and remember that the tool rest is your friend! I will reveal to you a new world of turning excitement during this demo, hopefully without the spilling of blood!



Cutting with Carbide -the Hunter Hollowing Tool Process

In a perpetual quest for the ultimate in cutting edge tools, woodturners have recently been exposed to a glut of carbide tipped wonders. The majority of these tools are configured as scrapers, but the one exception I know and use is the line of Hunter tools, which have cupped and honed carbide cutters. These rascals are both hard and sharp, so they stay sharp for a



very long time, and the slicing action is far more efficient than scrapers. Any tool that reduces sanding is legal in my shop, and with practice the sliced surface is far superior to any surfaces from scrapers. However, there is a learning curve, and many turners have applied a Hunter tool (flat like a scraper) to spinning wood with dramatic results! I was an early user of these tools, devised by a turner with input from other turners, and they are the only carbide tools I believe any turner really needs.



Hollow Form Carving

Hollow forms are an entertaining challenge to turn, but how about adding some appeal and value to the project when the wood is bland? There are upgrade options such as paint or dye, but carving is a higher value added alternative. I mostly use basic hand tools rather than a hoard of power carvers, and when was the last time you carved something of value with your pocket knife? My personal designs are generally based on patterns of basket weaving techniques, but many designs such as spirals and fluting are options. Of course size, density of the wood, and complexity of the design may dictate efficient carving methods and tool selection, but the results will be both higher in value and awesomeness!

