

Rocky Mountain Woodturners

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

May Newsletter

Vol. 8 - No. 05

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Events Calendar

May 9	Digital Photography – Lisa Roberts
May -July 14	Smithsonian Exhibits Lathe Art
May 13 – 17	Mike Mahoney Intermediate workshop @ Craft Supply Cost \$545.00
June	Chris Stott
June 12	Super Wednesday @ Craft Supply
June 13 – 15	Provo Woodturning Symposium For a registration form, you can get one from this site. http://www.woodturnerscatalog.com/symposiumreg.html
June 17 – 21	Allan Batty & Bill Jones Intermediate workshop @ Craft Supply Cost \$695.00
June 28-30	AAW Symposium - Providence, RI For a registration for, you can get one from this site. http://www.woodturner.org
July 11	
July 15 – 19	Stewart Batty Intermediate workshop @ Craft Supply Cost \$ 595.00
August 8	
September 5	
October 3	
November 7	
December 6	Christmas Dinner Party

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May MEETING

Thursday – May 9 @7 PM
Industrial Science Building
Room 105
Colorado State University
Ft. Collins, CO

There will be no officers meeting.

Agenda:

- Announcements
- Show and tell & Challenge
- Wood raffle
- Break
- Demo

Demo: Digital Photography –
Lisa Roberts

APRIL MEETING MINUTES

Nancy Quick-Brewer

There wasn't an officer's meeting before the general meeting as a quorum of 3 was not met. The officers did meet the following evening and discussed several items that have been on the agenda. Once again, a larger meeting place has been raised by many members. Doug is looking into us holding our club meetings at the Loveland High School. And Lee is checking into the possibility of moving across the alley. We are open to any other suggestions. It was decided that in the near future it was voted and approved that we will purchase a video camera, tripod, and pa speakers for the club. There was some discussion about another educational grant being given out by our club this year. The 2002 Rocky Mountain Woodturners Symposium may not happen due to the lack of volunteers at this point. Other activities are being considered, an artist's showcase and a recruitment and sale event.

The general meeting was brought to order at 7:00 p.m. by vice president Wayne Van Every. Wayne mentioned that I had received a very touching email from a member of our club, David Kahne who lives up in Laramie about the Fisher Houses that are being built in Germany. (More on this further on in the newsletter.)

Doug had asked Wayne to let everyone know that he would like to try and see if it could be arranged that all those attending the Utah symposium and the AAW symposium stay in the same hotel.

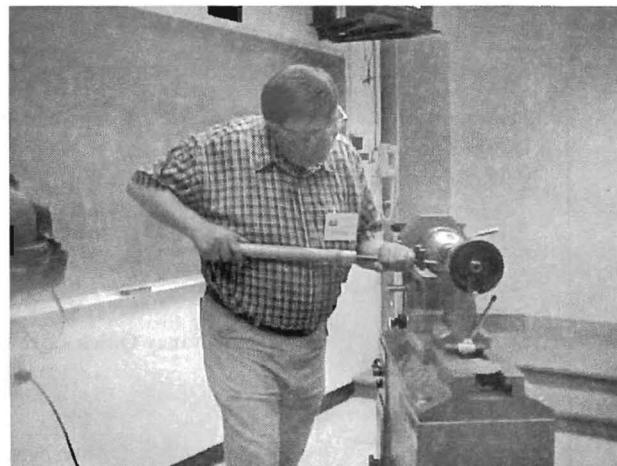
We had one new member join our club this month. This is Stephen Andersen from Estes Park, CO. Welcome to the Rocky Mountain Woodturners Stephen!

Treasure's Report: Allen Jensen reports that we now have \$ 5,742.16 in our clubs treasury.

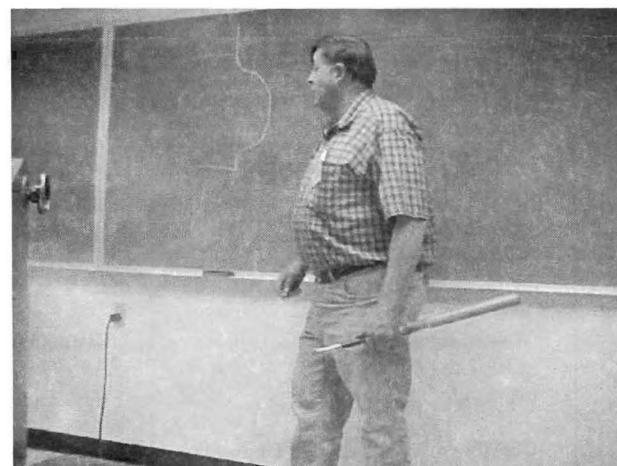
May Challenge: Once again, the Challenge for May is **Tops!** Read on and you will see why. This is a very easy task, and we are asking that each member make **5** to bring and donate to the Fisher Houses in Germany. For those of you who may not know, the Fisher house in Germany is like the Ronald McDonald houses here in the United States. I found out about them through one of our club members, Dave Kahne of Laramie. He said that within the first 9 months that the first one was built, 179 families had stayed there. I will enclose a copy of part of the email I received from Dave on this a bit later in the newsletter. Please take time to read it. I have also asked

the Front Range and Pikes Peak clubs to join our club in this great effort! At time of this publication, the Pikes Peak club has graciously joined in! I was sent an email that their challenge for May is tops for the same cause, the following is a quote that was in the email I received from their club. "The membership voted for this Challenge over turning something other than wood by a large majority." I wish to thank all of the Pikes Peak members for their contribution to this great cause!

Demonstration: Metal Spinning



Chuck showed how he does metal spinning, based upon the number of questions it seems many of the club members are interested in the technique.

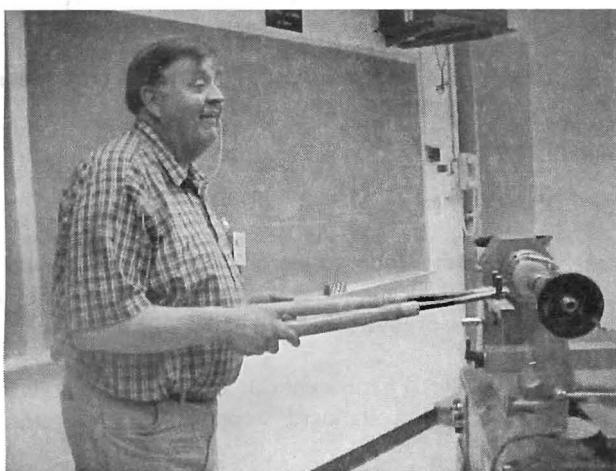


Chuck uses the blackboard to show what he is doing.

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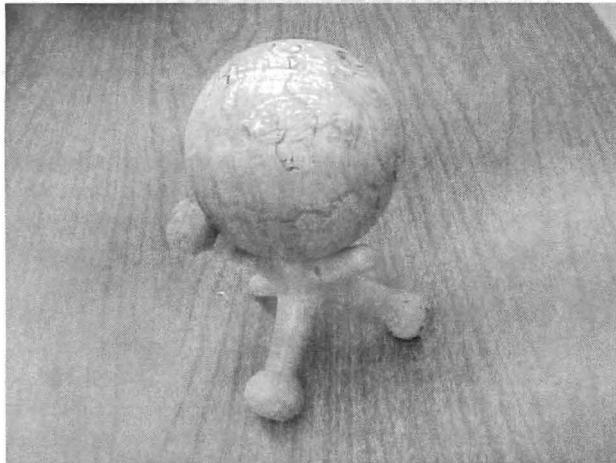
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And this is where you have to use two hands at the same time!

Editors Choice of Show n Tell



Anyone for a game of jacks? The above piece was beautifully turned by Robert (Bob) McConaughy. Bob says he turned the jack out of birch and the ball out of maple. He sealed both with Sealacel. Bob also sheepishly admitted he bloodied one knuckle during the process of turning the two unique pieces. Job well done Bob!

The Fisher Houses: This is part of the email I received from David Kahne on the Fisher houses. David is a long time RMWT member, and a retired Air Force pilot.

Are you familiar with Fisher Houses? They are like Ronald McDonald houses at hospitals, except Fisher Houses are at military hospitals. Last June a new Fisher house was opened at the Air Force Hospital at Ramstein Air Base in Germany. Families can stay there while a family member is in the hospital, and the costs to the family are very low. The Fisher Houses are endowed by a couple named Fisher who lost a son in Vietnam. It's a wonderful help, and the children who stay there are challenged to keep busy and interested. When that new

Fisher House opened, I made about 20 tops and they went over like gang busters. They keep the kids occupied for hours, which is a HUGE help, and the kids take the tops home with them. Hard to describe how grateful the Fisher House Manager was for those tops. 179 families have stayed there since it opened 9 months ago. I am going to make another batch of tops for that hospital Fisher House. If RMWT members are so hooked on tops as to make them a club project 2 – 3 times this past year, how would they like to make a batch of tops for the Fisher House in Ramstein, Germany? They are swamped with Enduring Freedom going on in the Middle East. They are so busy, that a second Fisher House is being built there, and will be completed in November. In case the members don't know it, Ramstein is where the wounded and the dead come first from Afghanistan and Pakistan, and many families go there to meet their wounded members. I had a nice note from Kathy Gregory, the Fisher House manager, thanking me for the past effort, but she mentioned they are out of tops. How about some help from RMWT on this? Would be a nice "war effort" for the club.

Dave Kahne

If you go to the trouble of making tops, please place them in a bag and put your name and address with them so the recipients will know who and where they came from. Wayne has offered to donate shipping them on FedEx to Germany.

Show & Tell: We had another nice turn out of show and tell at the April meeting. Here's a photo of some of the beautiful pieces. Wayne did the critiquing.



These pieces (from left to right) were made by Allen Jenson, Mike Paulson, Don Deatherage, and I have to apologize, as I don't recall who made the candlestick holder. In the center is one of David Nittmann's beautiful pieces, and this one he calls "Stellar Motion."

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Here are the tops that were brought in for the April challenge. These tops go to the collaborative challenge committee to help out with the RMWT's entry at the AAW symposium. There is quite a nice and colorful selection.

Challenge Winners: We did things a bit differently this month with the gift certificates, one was given out for the challenge and one for show 'n tell. This months challenge winners were Les Rice, winner of the \$15.00 gift certificate to The Wood Emporium and I was very lucky and won a wonderful piece of Big Leaf Maple Burl donated by David Nittmann. Thanks David! David won the gift certificate for show 'n tell also for the Wood Emporium in Loveland. I don't know how we will be doing it in May, guess we will just have to wait and see.

THE INTERNET

Nancy Quick - Brewer

<http://www.verinet.com/~drmelli/rmwt.html>
[www. Grandbrass.com](http://www.grandbrass.com)
www.woodfinder.com
[www.woodshop news.com](http://www.woodshopnews.com)
www.thuyawood.com

BULK GREEN WOOD SEALER PURCHASE

Wayne Van Every

The cost for the sealer is \$5.75 per gallon. Or, I am providing containers from Home Depot filled for;

2 gallon (plastic pail with lid) - \$15.10
5 gallon (plastic pail with lid) - \$33.70

Call 970/378-8815 leave messages or send an email to vaneasy200@aol.com. Orders from Front Range and Pikes Peak Woodturning Club members are welcome.

MEMBER INFO EXCHANGE

Nancy Quick-Brewer

If you have sold your listed item, please let me know so that I can remove it.

Wanted: Used chuck with 1X8 thread. Call Steve Anderson at 970/586-2787

For Sale: Made to order shop coat with or without additional sleeves. See Don Deatherage at one of our meetings, or give him a call at 308/ 673-5341

For Sale: Pharmaceutical grade cyanoacrylate glue. Stronger than standard woodturning CA glue. 99.8% pure!

CA-thin - 2oz \$5.00	CA-med - 2oz \$5.00
CA-750 - 4oz \$9.00	CA-thick - 2oz \$5.00
CA-gel - 20gm \$4.00	CA-flex - 1oz \$5.00
Activator - 2oz \$3.00	Debonder - 2oz \$4.50
Aerosol activator 6oz - \$6.00	

Call Dennis Liggett, 719-481-8754, liggy@mindspring.com.

For Sale: Powermatic dust collector 1½ hp with 1 micron felt bags \$150.00.

Ongoing great deal on sanding disks: 2" disks are 10 for \$1, grits from 100 to 400, velcro back (we always have these available - call if you don't see us at the meeting) - Call David or Cindy @ 303/449-7170 (leave a message anytime), or cdrozda@nyx.net, or rotoremotion@earthlink.net.

For Sale: Mint Condition! Not one board has been run through this! Delta 14 band saw, with enclosed base and all the goodies. Purchase new in 4/96 and never ran a board through it! He has a \$1000 invested, but would sell for \$700. Includes mobile base, rip fence, riser block (12" capacity), 3/4 hp motor, cool blocks, 2 ea solid surface blades, Duginski book and video. All manuals and original sales receipts included! This is a rare find! Call Brook Alexander at 484-8766.

3-1/2" VICMARC CHUCK MISSING

The club's 3-1/2" Vicmarc chuck that is used for the club demonstrations is missing from the library cabinet. If anyone has it, or knows where it went please let one of the officers know. It was purchased for the demos.

DELTA MIDI LATHE

The RMWTs owns a new Delta Midi Lathe that is available to any RMWT member in good standing to be checked out for your use. Contact Doug to arrange to pick it up at the Loveland High School or at the meeting.

Put your photos on the Web

What good is a digital camera if you can't share your snapshots with the world?

Your new digital camera has made you the hit of the holidays. At the office party, everyone cranes their necks to see your shots on the nifty little LCD screen. At the family gathering, everyone mugs for you, snubbing grandma and her ancient 35mm. You're a digital Herb Ritts, the Annie Leibovitz of bits.

So, where are your pictures, hot shot? Still on your hard drive? *Still on your camera?* Tsk, tsk. The whole point of digital photography is that it makes it simple to share your shots with friends and family, no matter how distant. Aunt Lizzie is just dying to see the pictures you snapped of your kid's fifth birthday party and your woodturning chums equally eager to see what you've been up to in the workshop. So you need to figure out how to put those photos on the Web.

But wait, you say, doesn't that mean resizing and organising them? Doesn't that mean creating a Web page on which to display them? And, if you're going to do the job right, doesn't it also mean creating "thumbnail" versions, so visitors can see what they're getting before they download the full-size images?

Well, the answer's yes on all counts. But don't worry, the process of creating an online photo album isn't so hard--if you can operate that camera, you can do this, too. With the help of the following tips and a couple free programs we'll tell you about, you'll have your shots up for the world to see in no time.

Step 1: Grab the Software

Ready to share your talent with the world? Your first step is to grab the necessary software. Your digital camera came with software that lets you get the pictures from your camera to your PC, but it probably didn't provide software that creates Web photo albums. For that, you'll need to create the thumbnail (miniature) images and HTML pages that make up a Web photo album and you'll need to transfer the resulting files to a Web server. We can suggest two free, downloadable programs that'll take care of both chores: MyAlbum and FTP Explorer.

Introducing MyAlbum

Several Windows apps can help you assemble Web photo albums, but MyAlbum, despite a few quirks, is a freeware standout. Once you learn your way around its somewhat confusing interface, you'll find that MyAlbum is pretty darned powerful, and it will save you hours by automatically creating thumbnails and Web pages for your images. Download the M Album setup program from FileWorld and double-click the icon to install the application. Because it weighs in at just 762KB, you won't have to wait all afternoon for it to download.

Also Starring FTP Explorer

FTP Explorer is a free program that takes files from your drive and copies them to a remote server on the Internet. As the name suggests, FTP Explorer works a lot like Windows Explorer--you click and drag a file to move it from one place to another. Though it's no longer actively developed, FTP Explorer is easy-to-use, stable, and 100 percent free.

Step 2: Prepare Your Album

Now that you have the software you need, it's time to get your hands dirty. The first thing you do is move all the image files you want in your album into one folder. Make sure that none of the file names contain spaces. (For example, rename Family Picture 1.gif as FamilyPic1.gif.) This will save you some headaches later if your Web server doesn't like spaces in file names (most don't).

Once your image files are ready, open My Album by clicking *Start, Programs, MyAlbum, MyAlbum application*. My Album loads, and the album wizard starts. Click the Next button. The General Settings dialogue box appears.

Talk to the Wizard

You need to feed this dialog box some basic information about the album you're creating. Enter the album title (and comments if you wish) in the appropriate boxes. Ignore the other options in this dialog box and click the Next button to get to the Color and Appearance dialog box.

Here's where things get exciting. You need to choose the thumbnail size. The default size is 80 by 96 pixels. If your images are more square or longer horizontally than these measurements, you can adjust the pixel size here. Given that different digital cameras shoot different aspect ratios, it's not possible for us to suggest a setting that will be optimal for you--some experimentation might pay off. For your first time through, stick with the default and see what sort of results you get. Click Next.

Fill the Album

Now the "Adding pictures to the new album" dialog box appears. You can either choose individual files yourself or let My Album do it for you.

To choose files individually, click the "Add pictures by selecting files" button. A familiar-looking Windows file selection dialog box appears. Navigate to the folder that holds your images, and then select the files you want. (This dialog box adheres to Windows standards--if you hold down *Ctrl*, you can select multiple individual files; if you hold down *Shift*, you can select entire ranges of files.) Then click the Open button. My Album adds your files to the album-in-progress.

The wizard dialog box should be staring you in the face again. Click the Finish button.

Create a Web Page

You should now see thumbnail versions of all the images in the main My Album window. You can drag them around to

change the order in which they'll appear or even remove images from the album by clicking them once and then pressing *Delete*.

Now it's time to let My Album do its stuff. Select *Edit, Export album*. The "Export album" dialog box appears.

1. First, in the "Common parameters" section of the dialog box, make sure that the JPEG/GIF radio button is selected. Now, to the right of "Output folder," click the Browse button. Navigate to the folder where your images live and click OK.

2. Back near the top of the dialog box, click the "Save thumbnails" radio button. Now click the Start button near the bottom. This tells MyAlbum to save the thumbnail images as separate files. When the message "Export complete" appears in the status box at the bottom of the dialog box (this should happen pretty quickly), move on to the next step.

3. To tell MyAlbum to create Web pages, select the HTML Pages radio button in the "Export as" section. Then select "Multiple pages with thumbnails." Set the background and text colors for your photo album by clicking the brightly colored boxes at the bottom of the dialog box. For easy readability, it's best to choose dark text on a light background or vice versa.

4. Click the Start button. MyAlbum creates thumbnail index pages and displays the first one in your default browser. *Voilà!*

5. If you don't like what you see, close the browser, change your settings, and click the Start button again. When you are satisfied, return to the "Export album" dialog box, and click the Close button at the bottom.

6. Before leaving MyAlbum, use *File, Save* to save this collection of images so you can recall it later if need be.

Important: MyAlbum has a nasty habit of wanting to save over your previous albums--be sure to direct it to do otherwise. If you create multiple albums, give them unique names. In other words, don't keep saving over the file Album1.alb.

Step 3: Transfer the Files

You have images, and you have nice Web pages that will let folks browse those images. Now all you have to do is put your handiwork on the Web. Your ISP account may include a small amount of personal Web space; if not, you can probably cheaply purchase some space from your provider. Start your Internet connection as you normally would. Then open FTP Explorer by clicking *Start, Programs, FTP Explorer*.

You need three important pieces of information: your host address (the name of the server where your pages will reside--your provider can clue you in), your user ID, and your password. This information needs to go into an FTP profile. Start by clicking the Add button. Name the profile something easy to remember, like "My Web Space." Enter the host address, login (your user ID), and password in the appropriate boxes. Click the Save button, and then click the Connect button. Wait while the program connects to your Web server.

In the FTP Explorer window, navigate to the folder on the Web server where your files need to reside. (Your provider should have given you the pertinent details. You might not have to switch folders at all, or you might have to enter a folder with a name like public_html.) Now use My Computer to navigate to the folder on your PC where My Album put your Web files.

Drag the files that you want to upload--both the images themselves and the HTML pages that My Album created--from My Computer into the right pane of FTP Explorer. (Don't bother grabbing the .ALB file--it's specific to My Album, and won't do anything sitting on your Web server.) Kick back while your files upload. Then launch your Web browser, visit your site, and enjoy. Repeat as necessary! And don't forget to e-mail the URL to Aunt Lizzie.

Article adapted courtesy of Paul Heltzel, of PC World who specialises in multimedia and Web design topics.

Once again, gratefully acknowledge The New Zealand Woodturners for the use of this article. Thanks once more Simon!

Bandsaws - "Tricks of the Trade"

By Jim Manley - Technical Editor

In the first article of this trilogy we looked at what was required in a bandsaw to help the would-be buyer. In the second article we covered tuning the saw and some maintenance. In this final episode I will discuss health & safety, some home made jigs and "tricks of the trade".

Health & Safety

As far as power-saws go, the bandsaw is probably one of the safest to operate. Though one should never become complacent with any power tool there is less chance of drastic consequences if you follow a few simple rules.

Personal Safety: It's the usual story here, Eyes, Ears & Lungs are at risk, use the appropriate safety gear. Remember that with loose cuffs, neckties, and jewelry you run the risk of being sucked in!

Guards & Covers: It is really important that you remember to replace all guards and covers before you start the saw. The manufacturer has put them there for your safety - use them!

Dust: The hazard of dust is a huge problem for woodworkers. Ok, so the effects of this hazard on the user have been covered at length in other issues. The best advice I can give here is to attach your dust extractor to the bandsaw. Some saws have a dust extractor tube that allows permanent hook-up to a dust extraction system. If you don't have a mount point, you can attach a tube from your dust extractor under the table as close as practicable to the blade. The tube can be attached with wire for temporary fastening or a more permanent arrangement can be sought from a local engineering firm. In both cases any air born dust will be carried away during cutting, before it reaches the operator. For the extractor-less operators, my advice would be to don a mask to ensure your own safety.

Sawdust: There is not a great deal you can do about the sawdust, but you must ensure it is cleaned out regularly to keep the fire hazard low. As with any saw, the build up of sawdust is obvious, however, don't forget the hidden areas around the legs where sawdust can build up unnoticed.

Green Sawdust: It is well worth mentioning that green sawdust could cause you some dire problems. We are all aware of the heat that is generated in the compost heap. Green saw dust is basically the same stuff and it is possible for the heat produced during the composting process of green sawdust to reach ignition point. If this heat is coupled with a layer of dry sawdust under the hot stuff and you may have to invite the fire brigade around to your place for some hosing practice. My advice here is to clean your saw out before you cut green wood and again once you have finished. This same bit of advice should be observed when turning greenwood on the lathe.

Top Blade Guard: It is really important that the adjustable top guide be set as close as practical to the job being cut. A good rule of thumb is about 15-20mm max of clearance between the guide and the billet being sawn

Fingers: Woodworkers are not renowned for their ability to count to ten using their fingers. Don't add your statistics to this list by removing a digit. Concentrate on the job at hand and use a push-stick on the smaller items. It's a good idea to hang a push-stick within arms reach on the side of the bandsaw so it can be retrieved in an emergency.

Pulling-out: If you have to back out of a cut, you should first turn the saw off first. Bandsaw blades have a nasty habit of jumping off the drive wheels when they are backed out of a cut. This is because when you make a cut, internal tensions in the wood often close the gap you have just cut. Thus it pinches the blade and with no guide to stop the forward movement it jumps off the wheel. This can also cause the blade to run on the metal covers and destroy the sharpness of the blade.

Never leave the saw running unattended. If you need to leave the area to attend to other matters, switch off the saw first. It might save someone else's fingers.

Operating without a top guide: Never remove the top guide to gain more cutting height. This is a very dangerous practice that can cause the blade to wander, jam or launch itself off the drive wheel into the face of the operator, a very silly trick if you ask me!

Lastly - turn the saw off to remove small chips and offcuts. Remember the count to ten trick as above.

Homemade Jigs: As far as the average woodturner goes there are not too many jigs that you need to make. I have made 2 jigs only, these are for: Cutting Circles and extending the table length

Circle Jig - As a woodturning teacher, I need many blanks that are exactly same size and I only need 3 or 4 different sizes. My circle-cutting jig is a simple device that mounts off a 3/4" plywood table cover. This cover is the same size as my saw table and fits around the blade with a small clearance hole and is attached with a couple of g-clamps. There is a long cut from the centre hole, to the backside, to allow fitting passed the blade. A strong nail is banged in from the table side and cut off at 1/4" long so it protrudes upwards, this is then sharpened to a point. The nail is set on the board at right angles to the blade on the radius size of the blank I require. My bowl blank boards are first cut into the exact size squares with a cross cut saw. I then start the cut with the end-grain touching the blade. It is now just a matter of rotating the blank about the nail to cut the perfect blank. I find it is quicker to have 3 circle jigs with set nails rather than have an adjustable jobbie that I have to reset each time.

Extension table: I found that quite often when breaking down logs or long boards I needed help to hold up one end while I cut off the 6 inches or so I needed. To beat this problem I made an extension table that attaches to my saw table and extends

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out. I made this from a full length of ply and it attaches firmly around the table with a blade slot like the circle cutter and it has a foldaway leg holding up the free end. It is braced either side with 3x2 dwangs every foot or so which has so far (touchwood) survived all the big bits I have thrown at it. I can now saw some fairly long boards with out calling for help. This is the device I use for cutting those square blanks as above.

Afterthought: There may be people out there who have made jigs for their bandsaws for other purposes - How about jotting down a few words and drawings and send these to the editor to help out the others who are new to this game.

Trick of The Trade: From time to time I need to break down a bowl blank into platter or clock blanks. I don't know if you have tried this but it is a very dangerous practice, especially if you have 3tpi blade like mine. The blank usually gets ripped out of your hands and breaks the blade or it puts a really nasty bend in it. My cure for breaking down blanks is to use a g-clamp attached to the blank to add some handholds and leverage. I saw 1/2 way through then stop the saw and back out of the cut. I can now remove the g-clamp and continue the cut by pulling the blank through from the other side.

Fitting a Sanding Belt to your Bandsaw: This is real cool. I buy a length of cloth-backed sanding strip. (It comes in 15-20mtrs rolls). I get a length the same size as my saw blade and join it with a couple of feet of cloth reinforced duct tape. Remember to cut the join on a 45-degree angle for strength. Now fit this in place of your bandsaw blade. Remember to back off the saw guides to save them wearing out and don't tighten it up too much. I also have a piece of plywood that attaches up the back of the top guidepost that the sanding strip runs along that I can sand against it. Does this sound good - its great, especially if you don't have a finisher.

Well that's all I have on bandsaws. If you have any other tool, machine, or gismo you would like me to discuss, write to the editor and I'll see if I can help you out some.

Once again, gratefully acknowledge The New Zealand Woodturners for the use of this article. Thanks once more Simon!