



CHATTERMARKS

The eNewsletter for Woodturners of Western Puget Sound

The Skew: Menace



Eric Lofstrom is back with us this month with a topic that could calm the fears of many of us in the group. **SKEWS** tend to strike fear in the heart of the average and sometimes experienced turner. How many times will it take before I can stand before the lathe with skew in hand and not have to force myself to breathe? Usually it's a little detail that I want to put on my project and I don't need it to choose this particular time to go all screwy (or skewy) on me and

or

ruin what I have been laboring on.

Eric has been with us many times before and brings with him years of experience, not only in turning, but in teaching what he has learned along the way.

Eric will not only be demonstrating and explaining the skew cuts—planing, peeling, paring, coving and rolling; but he will also talk about the proper way to sharpen your skew to get the most use out of it.

Go to his web site at ericlofstrom.com and download the handout that he has on [skew skills](#). If you read over it before you come to the meeting, it should make much more sense to you. At any rate, you'll have the handout as a reference for those times when you're holding your breathe at the lathe.



Magic

JUNE 2016

Regular meeting is the last Wednesday, of the month

Meet & Greet at 6 PM followed by announcements at 6:30.

Kitsap Adventist School Gymnasium
5088 NW Taylor Road
Bremerton.

Other activities include

Featured Demonstratio, Refreshments, Show and Tell, Wood Auction, Sandpaper & Glue sales.

See our website at

OPCAAW.COM

TURNABOUTS / BY RUSSELL NEYMAN

Cyanoacrylate (*noun*) *cy-a-no-ac-ry-late*: any of several colorless liquid acrylate monomers that readily polymerize as anions and are used as fast-acting adhesives in industry and in closing wounds during medical procedures; sometimes known as “instant glue.”

—Merriman-Webster’s Dictionary

This was another game-changer for me: “Back when,” I had heard stories of woodturners using “Super Glue” or “Krazy Glue” and thought of it as nonsense. That stuff is for fixing the handle on your coffee mug or costume jewelry, but no serious craftsman would ever consider using it on wood.

First of all, that stuff is expensive, especially when purchased in those tiny tubes at the hardware store. For woodworking, wood glue was the appropriate answer and anything else was really a wrong choice. Turns out, I was wrong.

The truth is, cyanoacrylate — we all know it as simply “CA” — is so much more than just a glue. Besides a quick fix for

crack repair or stabilization, it serves as a finish, a void filler, and an undercoat. Recently, when my thumb had an unfortunate encounter with a sawblade, I closed the wound with it.

In my woodturning operation, it would be hard to get along without CA. I keep several versions right next to my lathe, and I also keep a variety of application tools and accessories.

I first learned of it’s usefulness watching a Dick Raffan YouTube video. He was turning a small box and suddenly the wood gave off that telltale whine that says, “this wood has a craaaaaack.”

Raffan whipped out a small bottle of thin CA and immediately fixed it, spraying the glue with some accelerator. Thirty seconds later he was turning that same piece of

wood again. “Hmmm, I thought, “that was handy. Gotta get some of that.”

Then I heard that other woodturners used it so finish small objects — pens mostly — but the technology surrounding its use was somewhat hazy. There were questions and occasional hiccups... the toxic fumes and the occasional steamy white crust that forms. So, I set out to figure things out for myself.

I’m going to share what I learned and offer a few tips on maximizing its use.

CA is offered by multiple manufacturers in four basic versions: Thin, medium, thick and flexible. There are various complimentary products that are offered with each of these, notably accelerators that provide instant curing. There are also solvents and debonding agents, none of which I have used

to any extent, so I’ll skip that part of the discussion.

There are several ways to apply CA and I employ them all. The bottles come with a narrow spout that usually squirts out more than I want. Some stores make tiny applicator tips that give good control.

My favorite method of application is a Q-Tip. I dip it in the bottle and apply as necessary. For larger applications I sometimes use a straw, placing my finger over the end to “hold” the glue inside until I want it released. There are other methods of application that I’ll explain later.

For repairs of cracks, the thin version is always my first choice. It penetrates deeply and soaks into the wood well, but if the crack is wider than a 16th of an inch, I’ll add a second application of the medium thickness variety. The combination of these two usually does the trick.

Filling voids is another matter altogether. The thickest version of cyanoacrylate usually carries the words, “gap filling,” on the label. In my experience these take much

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Raffan whipped out a small bottle of thin CA and immediately fixed it....

longer to cure and usually leave a plastic-looking area.

A better solution is to pre-fill the gap with a wood-like substance like sawdust or coffee grounds, then apply both the thin and the thick to the area. Of course, with both the crack repair and the void filling you'll end up with an area that now has a dark spot where the CA was applied. This needs to be sanded off, or applied over a larger area that follows the grain to look natural. It's a tricky business and requires a bit of slight of hand.

The standard cyanoacrylates — thin, medium, and gap-filling — are fairly rigid when cured, and there is the chance that a crack will reappear as the wood moves later on. In some cases I choose to use a black flexible version of CA. So, instead of hiding the crack, I'm actually enhancing it, making it look like a natural feature.

CA is also a great wood stabilizer for punky wood or areas that are prone to tear out. And if you've decided to turn a piece that will have bark or other inclusions, such as a natural edge bowl, it can be used to seal up these areas and stabilize them.

Believe it or not, the best way to apply it to an irregular surface is to spray it. Grab any old pump sprayer that formerly held glass cleaner or hairspray and simply spritz it on. Yeah, the sprayer will be trash seconds later, but you'll have a nice uniform coat of CA on the bark in record time. Occasionally, The Dollar Store sells small spray bottles and I use those when I can get them.

Pen turners have been using CA as a finish for years, applying one or two coats with a paper towel, sanding the glue smooth, and polishing it with compounds. This creates a tough, extremely shiny surface (it's acrylic, after all) that is suitable for something that gets handled a great deal.

But I don't think it's use as a finish has been taken far enough. In my shop, I sometimes work with punky, spalted wood that I know will be difficult to achieve a beautiful finish. CA, with all its gap-filling properties, both densifies soft woods and fills in many of the voids, so I simply slather the entire vessel with medium glue on a paper shop towel, let it dry, and sand it smooth. This usually requires several applications to get it right, but

the results are worth the bother. Later, I have the option of applying polyurethane or lacquer.

Besides pens it can be used as a stand-alone finish for other objects: bottle stoppers, chopsticks, hair tongs, and salt shakers.

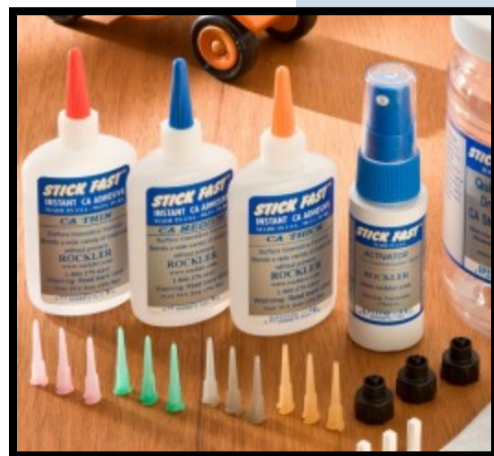
You can't discuss CA without also bringing up the topic of polishing. (See my earlier article about Beall Polishing Systems in the April edition of CHATTERMARKS.) After applying multiple coats of the thin variety, sand the surface to about 400 grit level and polish with the white diamond compound. Careful, though, because you can wear through CA.

There are some issues that need to be addressed. Cyanoacrylates don't mix well with moisture, so avoid applying it to wet wood (do a test piece when in doubt) or in high humidity situations. It also gives off a toxic gas, so wearing a protective mask is advisable.

As a service to our members, our club sells basic cyanoacrylate products during our meetings. I suppose I'll see you at the Glue & Sandpaper Table this month.



Russell Neyman is a writer, woodworker, and a historian who lives in Port Orchard. He is president of the Olympic Peninsula Woodturners. He operates a cabinet shop in Port Orchard and teaches woodturning.



A typical assortment of CA glue. Photo from the Rockler website.

"CA is also a great wood stabilizer for punky wood or areas that are prone to tear out."



Calendar of events, shows, classes and other things

2016

June 29—	—	Eric Loftstrom— Skew Magic
July 27—	—	Molly Winton—Small Hollow Vessels
August 13	—	Club Picnic
August 20	—	Olalla Blue Grass Festival
August 24-28	—	Kitsap County Fair
Nov 5-6	—	Port Townsend Woodworkers Show

A CALL TO AID

You belong to this club because it is active, dynamic and informative. To accomplish that, help is needed from **ALL** members, not just the same select few. If you have been sitting on the sidelines soaking in all of the information and benefits of the club, it is time to join in the fun!

What can you do?

► Volunteer for one of the festivals.

We will be participating in the Kitsap County Fair, the Olalla Blue Grass Festival and the Port Townsend Woodworkers Show (see above for dates). At each event the booth will need to be staffed. **Sign up.** Pick a time and day and commit. It will be the most fun you've had all year. You don't have to be an expert turner. Just someone who wants to share his/her experience.

► Make a bunch of tops.

George Kromka has his 'bucket of tops drive' going for the Kitsap County Fair—KCF. They are for the kids to play with while the parents stand and watch a demo of woodturning—and hopefully, sign up for a newsletter or join the club. It's great practice for tool control and can be in any variation that strikes your fancy.

► Donate an item for sale.

At the PT Woodworkers Show, we will be able to sell items. We had so many requests last year and were totally unprepared for it. So, please, make a pen, a bottle stopper, an ornament, or some other small item that can be sold for \$15 to \$25. While you're at it—make two or three or MORE and donate them to the club to sell at the show.—JTC



~CONTEST~

BLANK CHALLENGE

Larry Lemon will be coordinating a new contest. The premise is to take a defined size of blank and make anything you can dream up. Talk to Larry about your ideas of what the contest could be about. He's the auctioneer, so catch him after the wood auction.

Speaking of the AUCTION

This has been said many times before. Here it is again.

*The programs that the club presents to the members costs money. In order to fund the presentations and other functions, the club needs to have a source of revenue. Membership dues only pay for **HALF** of our expenses. The other half comes from **WOOD SALES**.*

The club depends upon its members to bring in quality wood to be sold to other members. We expect you to get a bargain purchase, but not a fire sale steal. If a blank is worth \$35 and you buy it for \$15, everyone wins. If you buy the same piece for \$3, the club loses.

You won't go bankrupt if you bid an extra \$1 or \$2 or \$5 for that blank. Help the club by loosening the death grip on your wallet.

If you are donating wood to the auction, please bring **quality** items. Use your fireplace to get rid of your junk—JTC



How do I become a good turner?

"Stand at the lathe."

- Rude Osolnik



NEW NAMETAGS

Have you noticed that the new name-tags are now color coded. **Blue** if you're a paid up member. **Yellow** means the person is on the Board of Directors. Please don't throw things at the ones with yellow tags.

If your nametag is white, that's because you haven't paid your dues. Now's the time to trade that whitey in for a Blue. If you see someone without a nametag or a white one, talk to them about paying their dues.



As you were told at the last meeting, Wally Dickerman, who was our guest of honor at our 25th anniversary, has died in Portland. After many decades of creating wood art, the craft will miss him.

In an email to the board, Dale Larson says that the equipment that Wally used is being sold on June 25th at Dale's place, 5010 SE Regner Rd, Gresham, OR.

Contact him at 503-661-7793 or his email, woodbowl@frontier.com for a listing of the items available.



Early Bird and Sharpening

We will endeavor to have a mentor at one of the small lathes at 5:30 PM, before the general meeting to aid you and answer questions that you might have on turning. If you have a particular project, bring it in to be evaluated or given help in turning.

Jimmie Allen should be there at 5:30 also to help you with your sharpening challenges. Bring your troublesome gouge and have Jimmie show you how to sharpen it. Then maybe you'll quit hating that tool so much.—JTC



Social Chairperson needed

We are still in need of someone who will take on the responsibility of coordinating our social events. This is primarily the Christmas Party, and would entail directing a team of members and coordinate that things happen as they should for a successful party.



Tree Brigade

This past winter was a windy one, and with the winds come downed trees. Be on the alert for any windfall trees or yard trees that are being taken down—this can be a great source of turning wood.

If you would like to be on a "Tree Brigade" let me (Jim Conway) know.



Some of the benefits of being on said Brigade, besides getting first dibs on wood before it goes to the auction table, is that you sometimes are able to spend hours in the rain working with other crazy turners, grunting and groaning and cracking jokes. Then, you, as a group, are able to invade some innocent restaurant where you continue speak loudly because you forgot your hearing protection and can't stop the ringing in your ears.—JTC



Finish Report

A while back Jamie Straw wanted me to include a little blurb on Minwax Antique Oil Finish as she had heard in a class that it was a far superior product.

Although we try to be even handed here and not tip the scales in one direction or another, I had intended to run a piece on the finish, but lacked the space and ultimately lacked the memory to include it in subsequent newsletters.

I DID, however, buy a can of the stuff and tried it out for myself. Gotta say—much better than what I was using before of the same genre. Dries faster, not tacky the next day and seems to do what you'd expect.

Does the finish hold up over the years and decades of use of your bowl. I don't know. My can is only 3 months old.—JTC



You can walk with a wooden leg but you can't see with a glass eye - Always wear PROPER Eye Protection!

How much wood could a chuck chuck...

My understanding is that wood chucks are a fairly recent innovation to the world of turning. (This would be an indication that I'm not among the long time turners) Prior to that, glue blocks and faceplates were used to hold the turner's work. Those have their place in turning, but the preferred method of holding larger work is with the chuck.



If you've observed Jimmie Allen making boxes, he uses glue blocks with an adapter to reduce the lathe spindle to 3/8" and uses an insert fixed into the glue block. This allows him to place and remove the item he's turning multiple times so that he can fit lids and bottoms to each other quickly and maintain the same orientation of his box.

If you're new to turning and you want to explore the possibilities of chucks for your lathe, be sitting down. The sticker shock of shopping for a chuck can ruin your day.

Scroll chucks—I have heard these basic chucks referred to as "Scroll Chucks" where two short bars are inserted into rotating rings and are used to open or close the jaws. One mentor that I spoke with a long time ago, had a very low opinion of scroll chucks because he felt that trying to hold your block in position and tighten the **two** bars with the other hand was not ideal. Being the terminal Scrooge that I am, I bought the scroll chuck anyway. Yes, it is more challenging to tighten a scroll chuck while holding your block in place; BUT not impossible. In fact with practice you can actually get good at it.



Scroll chuck

Put 10 turners in a room and you'll have 15 opinions of what's right. At another mentor's shop, he had a whole rack full of mostly scroll chucks. So obviously, for him, there was not a problem.

Beyond scroll chucks is a world of chucks that use various T-handles to tighten the jaws. The following has been my experience, though limited.

Oneway makes two sizes of chucks, the **Talon** and the **Stronghold**. One is bigger than the other. The jaws are not interchangeable. But they come with different style of jaws for different uses and they have an insert that will adapt to your lathe. This is useful if you upgrade your lathe and want to keep your chuck—like you go from table top lathe with a 1"-8tpi spindle to a larger lathe with a 1-1/4"-8tpi spindle. One Way (and most other brands) will allow you to change the insert to fit the spindle. However, not all styles of chucks come with interchangeable inserts. Make sure your getting that. I've saved a lot of money by just buying an insert and not the whole chuck.



Common type chuck with 4 sets of jaws & insert.

There are usually three basic sets of jaws that you can buy with a chuck. Number 1 would be the smallest reach (opening) and the jaws protrude from the face of the chuck to grab something skinny like a pen blank. (See photo above. Number 1 is top center) Number 2 is a medium sized and Number 3 would have the largest opening or reach for your largest turning piece.

I also have a **SuperNova²** chuck that I inherited with my newest lathe. An interesting thing about the Nova is that the jaws are interchangeable with the Talon. It also comes with a changeable insert to fit your spindle. (Of course, that's NOT interchangeable with the Talon) The T-handle, however, uses an Allen wrench and the one that comes with the chuck is the type that has a ball at the end. I suppose it is done that way so that you can tighten the chuck with the wrench held at an angle. I found that what usually happened was that as I was tightening it, it would slip off at an angle causing all sorts of frustration. I quickly exchanged the ball type for a straight Allen wrench before I threw the ball one across the shop.



Nova Chuck

I always have to stop and think backwards with the Supernova because you turn the handle opposite of what you learned as a kid—Lefty, loosey. Righty, tighty. Probably because it's made "Down Under".

Both chucks have a limiter on the amount that it can be

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opened. I suppose that this is an engineering design to not exceed the optimum leverage of the chuck. This will limit the size of the tenon that you can use for that set of jaws. Whoever owned my Talon chuck before me removed or filed off the pin that goes in a groove in the body that does the limiting, such that the Talon guides will go beyond the edge of the chuck allowing you to open the jaws much more than it was designed to open. *It will also allow you to extend the guides beyond the spiral track that operates the guides causing you to spend a lot of time figuring out how the thing works and getting the guides back on the track and opening uniformly.*

The guides on the chuck are numbered. Some people feel that the jaws that come with it, if not already numbered, should be marked so that they always go back in the same order. If the tool is machined correctly, I'm not sure that it is that critical.

Here's another thought—there are chucks out there that you have to tighten each jaw individually. I would never want a chuck like that. I want all jaws to operate simultaneously and be self-centering when I open and close them.

There are many different manufacturers of chucks, like Barracuda, PSI, Easy, Grizzly, Hurricane, etc.; and they all have their assets and idiosyncrasies. The three brands I've listed here is the extent of my experience.

One of the irritating things about multiple jaws on a chuck is that you have to change them at times. It's tedious but you either buy more chuck bodies (expensive) or you suck it up and get out your wrench and start loosening screws. I saw a video a while back about the **Easy chuck system**. Their claim to fame is that the jaws can be changed out without messing with 8 screws. Just insert a tool and the jaw pops out! *Bada Bing*. This convenience, however, comes with a price tag.

A **screw chuck** is used by many to save on the cost of the fancy chucks. Basically it's a small face plate with a screw in the center. I used these when I first started turning and they worked well, as long as I could figure out a way to deal with the hole left by the screw or screws. If you're turning a bowl, you can use a screw chuck for the side that will eventually be the inside of the bowl, which allows you to prep the bottom of the blank with a tenon for a chuck or glue block.

Cole Jaws—Ahh! My favorite. Before I acquired a set of Cole Jaws, I fought with the

finishing of the bottom of my bowls. My Cole Jaws mount on my Stronghold chuck and create a very large surface with rubber "buttons" that gently hold an inverted bowl so that you can finish the bottom. There are limitations—Maximum speed is 1000 RPM. Says so on the rim. You **MUST** be easy with your gouge or a catch will rip the piece out of the "gentle" buttons and fling it across the room—not that that has **EVER** happened to me. For a DIY extended bumper for a Cole Jaw, see [January 2016 Chattermarks](#), page 5. Get ready to love screwing bumpers in and out—unless you are turning all the same sized bowls. Hint: your variable speed drill can help the tedium of removing and moving the bumpers. Be careful not to cross thread as the body is aluminum.

There is another large format chuck that works like the Cole Jaws but is adjustable with a twist of two plates instead of 8 screws. Check out a [Longworth Chuck](#) or [HERE](#). Or if you like to DIY check out the [Longworth Chuck Plans](#) on video.

As with all the other equipment in wood turning, you can spend a lot of money at it, so go slow, ask a lot of questions and make a smart choice.

I have been told that the book "[Chucks for Woodturning](#)" is a worthwhile addition to your library.

Jim Conway is the VP of Public Relations and editor of the monthly newsletter. Originally from the deserts of West Texas, he has found his nirvana in the Northwest.

With so many new turners in our club, this column was created to hopefully answer some of the more basic questions that come with the craft. Talk to me if you have ideas for future columns.—JTC



Cole Jaws



Screw chuck

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(Anon)

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Jim Conway,
Editor

The Mentoring Program

CONSIDER A MENTOR—The OPCAOW Mentors are a select group of artisans and professionals who we have designated to promote, encourage, and guide novice and intermediate woodturners within our organization. Mentors provide counsel on subjects like shop setup, equipment purchase, safety, wood preparation and specialized skills. These are some friendly folks willing to give you a point in the right direction.

While not actually a formal training program, meetings with mentors often become just that. In some cases, advanced formal instruction is available at

an hourly rate.

OPCAOW Mentoring is available only to members. Please bring your current badge with you to the first session.

The current Mentors are:

Dan Ackerman (Brinnon)	360-796-4155
Tones Briggs (Port Orchard)	360-271-6448
Bob Hickernell (Bremerton)	360-479-5501
George Kromka (Bremerton)	360-373-1028
Jim Leary (Kingston)	360-297-5872
Jim McFarland (Shelton)	903-352-9807
Brad Stave (Gig Harbor)	206-910-5459

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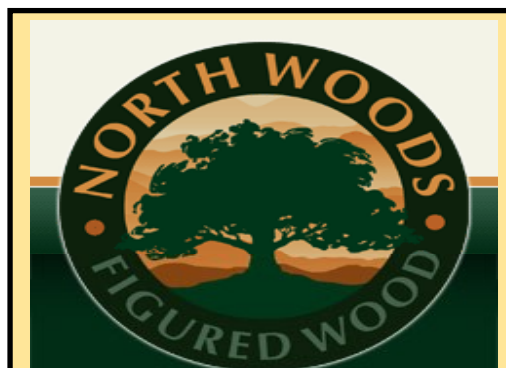
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