

# Echos From the "BAT" Cave

Baltimore Area Turners

**BALTIMORE AREA**  
  
**TURNERS**

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## HOW TO SCREW



Wayne Kuhn zooms in on Bob Rupp cutting a screw thread as Susan Shane watches the video.

Bob Rupp demonstrated his home-made screw thread carving machine at the March BAT meeting. Exclusive photos inside. (MEMBERS ONLY)

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BAT members (above) give rapt attention as Bob Rupp (left) explains thread cutting.

## SCREW THREADING DEMO

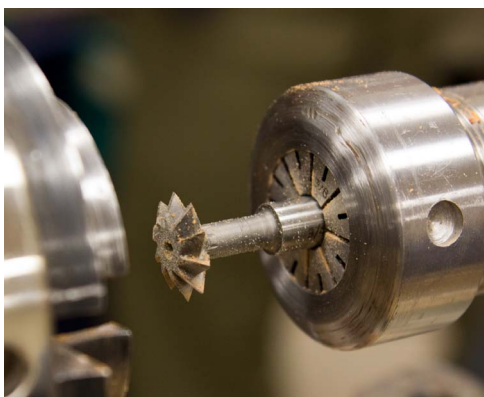
Bob Rupp was faced with a dilemma - how to get a tight fit on box tops while allowing easy removal: "So I made a thread cutter," he said at the February Show and Tell. He made it sound easy. In March, he showed how easy it could be in a demo.

Eschewing hand-chasing threads (tools are expensive, steep learning curve) and commercially available thread cutting devices (way too expensive), he explained the development of what he called his "Redneck Thread Cutter."

It starts with a star cutter which is mounted into a collet chuck on the lathe spindle. A cross-slide table is mounted on the lathe bed - Bob fashioned his out of MDF. Mounted on that is an apparatus which allows a threaded rod to be turned by hand on an axis parallel to the spindle. In this case, the 8 TPI on a 1" rod matched the chuck adapter used to hold the part to be threaded. The pictures show the setup of the device. It is carefully adjusted to allow a 0.050" deep cut on the surface to be threaded. For lidded boxes, he turns the mating portions with a 0.150" overlap to allow for thread thickness.

The thread cut matches the thread of the adapter rod, in this

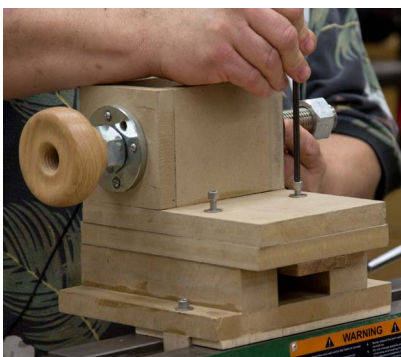
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60° Cutting tool in collet chuck



MDF Cross-slide table on lathe bed



Attaching apparatus



Attaching chuck-held part to apparatus





Cutting an internal thread



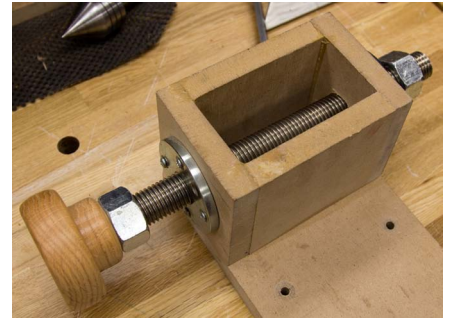
Walking BAT President Shane through the process

case, 8 TPI. Later in the demo, he showed another adapter he made which uses 16 TPI x 3/4" rod and will produce 16 TPI . To show how easy to use the system is, he guided BAT President, Susan Shane, through the process.

Bob's presentation was relaxed, humorous, and thorough; in short, delightful. He cut many feet of thread in White wood, Yellow wood, and Brown wood. We appreciate all the effort he put into preparing and presenting the demo. His creativity was inspiring and I wouldn't be surprised to see screw threads popping up in future Show and Tells. Thanks, Bob. Great job!



The cutter in action.



Closeup of apparatus.



Bob brought in this excellent egg box with a threaded lid.



## RAFFLE NEWS

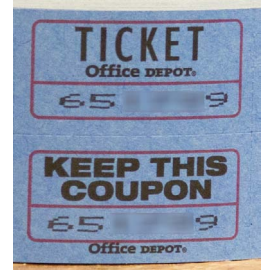


Rounds of Cherry and Persimmon, Locust branches, Juniper logs, Maple and Dogwood splits, Acrylic pen blanks and Ash spindle blanks were included in the March BAT raffle.

The BAT Board will be trying different raffle procedures during Demo meetings. The goal is to allow an efficient means of distributing the prizes to the winners and maximize the time available for the demonstrator.

Please bear with us as we try to streamline the process.

Thanks to all who bring in contributions to the Raffle.



## PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

I'm challenging every member to turn something they have never turned before. It doesn't matter if it's large or small. It can be a segmented piece, a pen, jewelry, salt & pepper shakers, votive holder, a box, a Banksia Pod, a multi-axis piece, a plate, a bird house, tree ornament, an egg, a sphere, etc. However, it must be something you have never turned before. Please bring it to the April 13th meeting for Show & Tell and let us know why you chose to do that particular piece. There's your challenge, now let's see how many of you will take that challenge and have fun with it.

*Susan Shane*

## BALTIMORE AREA TURNERS

Baltimore Area Turners meets every month on the second Wednesday of the month at the Greater Baltimore Woodcraft Store at:

1125 Cromwell Bridge Road  
Towson, MD 21286

Next meeting:  
April 13, 2011 at 6:45 PM



### Sources:

Bob bought his cutter on eBay and built his own threading jig. The following links will give you an idea of how much money he saved:

[60° Cutter](#) (Enco)

Cross-slide table (Enco)

[Thread Chasing Tools](#) (Woodcraft)

[Commercial Thread Cutter](#) (Best Wood Tools)

### Classes:

For those new to turning, classes are available at:

[Woodcraft](#)

and

[Mark Supik & Co.](#)

Both offer classes in bowl and spindle turning.