

Echos From the "BAT" Cave

Baltimore Area Turners

BALTIMORE AREA



TURNERS

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ALAN CARTER AT BAT



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Turning artist Alan Carter is shown above flanked by two thin stemmed goblets. He made a third one in his demo. He also displayed some of his other gorgeous creations (*below*). There were also two raffles at the May meeting.

MORE INSIDE



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The maple base is started between centers



Making a cylinder



Roland Shepard assists chucking.

ALAN CARTER DEMO

After 30 years as a professional artist and furniture maker, Alan Carter started turning only 3 years ago. As demonstrated by the works he brought and those on his [website](#), artistry is paramount in his creations. He uses whatever turning technique will accomplish the end result. He makes great use of the [Easy-Wood](#) line of carbide-tipped turning tools and has become expert in their application.

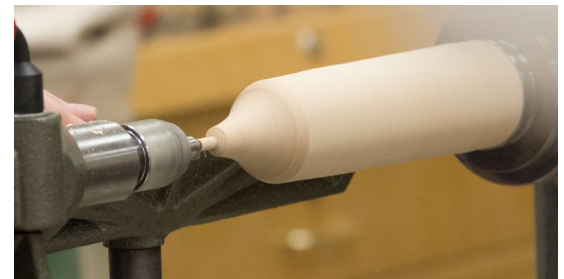
He demonstrated making a long-stemmed goblet. These are done in two pieces – cup and base – usually of contrasting woods. Blanks should be straight and tight grained. He started with the Maple base between centers and knocked the corners off the corners with a bowl gouge. He turned a tenon on one end with an EZ Rougher, shaping the dovetail with a skew. He said the best tenon size is slightly larger than the closed jaws of the chuck – provides most surface for grabbing the wood.

After mounting in the chuck, the stem was trued and tapered with a bowl gouge, ala Cindy Drozda, at 1500-2000 RPM. Ramping up the

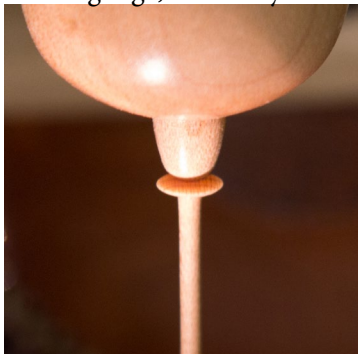
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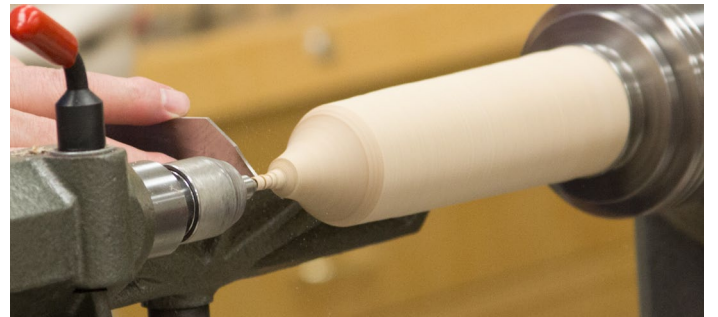
Skew cuts a center hole in the end.

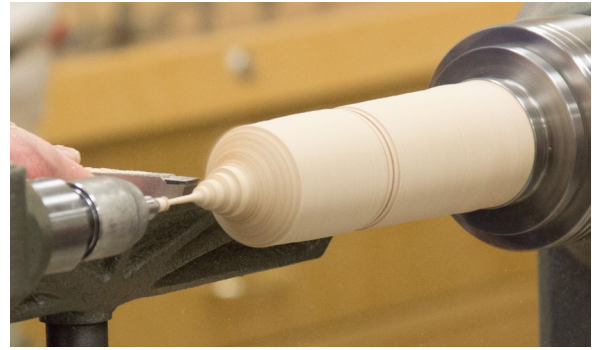
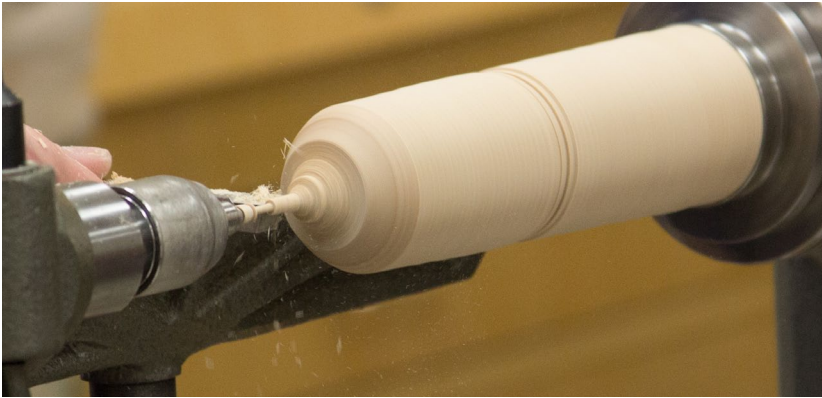


Top end of the base is roughed.



(Clockwise from right)
A hole is drilled in the top of the base to accept the cup tenon. A tiny goblet shape is turned around the hole. A close up of the finished product.





(Clockwise from upper left)

Starting at the top, Carter works his way to the base, roughing out, turning to just shy of final diameter, then sanding. This sequence is followed step-wise. A finger supports the stem to limit vibrations.

Finally he shapes the base and parts it off.

MORE HANDS ON

(Continued from Page 2)

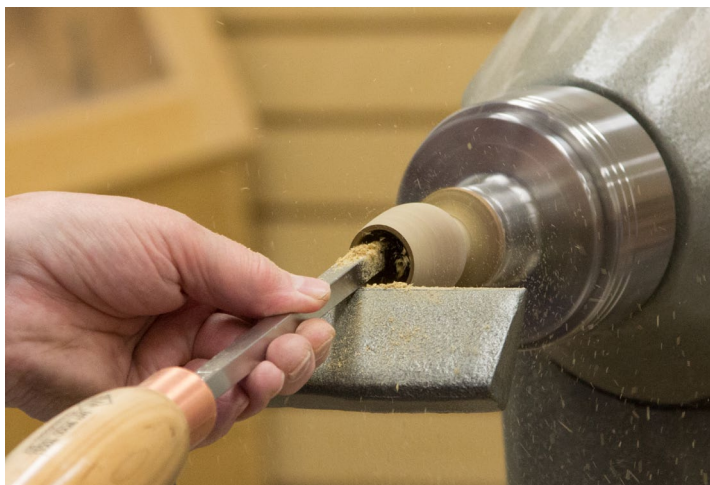
speed to 2300-2400, he made a miniature goblet shape at the top to hold a tenon on the cup portion. He drilled a 1/8" deep hole in the top and shaped the outside with a thin parting tool and a skew, then sanded through 150, 220, 400 grits. Grabbing the EZ Rougher, he roughed down the diameter of the stem, then took it to just shy of its final tiny diameter with an EZ Finisher, holding the scraper at the centerline. Then he sanded to final diameter. He took small bites, roughing, finishing, then sanding each bite and worked his way to the base. He used a sanding pad as backing for the sandpaper to keep it flat and because the sandpaper gets hot. At the base he turned a 'Trombone Bell' curve with a round nose scraper. He used the EZ Detailer on the base to add ornamentation and cut a chamfer on the bottom edge of the base. Finally, the piece was parted off.

The cup was made of Woodcraft's famous "Wood #7," later determined to be Black Palm which turned out to be fairly wet. It was

More on Page 4



(left) Parting off the finished base (right).



Hollowing the cup of the goblet.



Susan Shane illuminates the interior of the cup.

FINISHING THE GOBLET

(Continued from Page 3)

turned between centers to a cylinder, tenoned, then mounted on tower jaws. He used a scraper to shape the sides and a skew to shape the curved bottom, after which the exterior was sanded. He drilled out the bulk of the interior with a Forstner bit, then hollowed with the EZ Finisher held above center to 1/16" wall thickness. "If it's too heavy, it's Viagra time." Finally, it was parted off, leaving a tenon which should fit in the top of the base. In this case the tenon was too long and needed to be filed down.

Alan Carter is truly an artist. His eye for form, design, color is extraordinary. His turning is a means to the end. This was an excellent demonstration of how there are many ways to accomplish the same outcome in turning. Each of us needs to perfect the techniques that work the best for them, all the while keeping the artistic outcome in mind.

There were several technical problems during the demo. Thanks to **Louie Harris** and **Roland Sheppard** for reseating the chuck and securing the rotating headstock.

(This technique was also published in [Woodturning Design](#).)



Applying signature to the base.

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DVD REVIEW

by Richard Dietrich

Yo-Yo Turning

The One Piece (no glue) Design
with: Ed Davidson (aka YoYoSpin)

This two hour video covers the production of two one-piece yo-yos: a wooden one and an acrylic one. He starts with a description of yo-yo anatomy. His designs are the basic butterfly shape with o-rings mounted like tires on either half of the yo-yo to add mass and a layer of protection to the yo-yo.

Davidson is very thorough in his description of every detail of yo-yo construction. The video appears to be aimed at the beginning wood-turner. He takes his time in his explanations and shows almost every detail in the execution of his projects.

After roughing the yellow-heart wood into a cylinder, he uses only three tools: a round-nose scraper, a thin (1/16") parting tool, and a skew chisel to shape the yo-yos. He uses the skew only on its side as a negative-rake scraper. All deep cuts are done with the parting tool. After completing the wooden yo-yo, he shows how to cut a spiral

pattern on another wooden yo-yo with the Sorby Spiraling System. The second half of the video details construction of an acrylic yo-yo which he polishes to a glass-like finish.

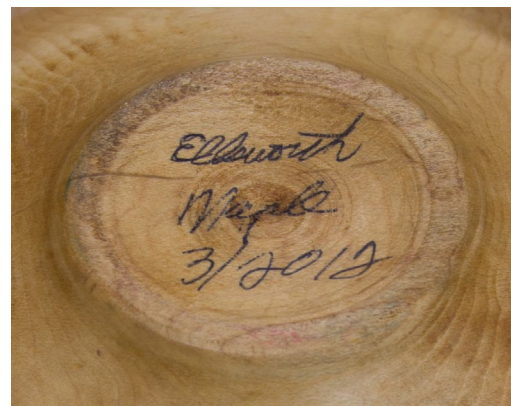
The video appears to be a one-man production. For each scene, the camera angle never changes, though he does zoom in for some details. Most of the tool work can be seen well, some not so well. The angle used for the wooden yo-yo is from directly over head; the one for the acrylic yo-yo is at a better angle so one can see face cuts as well as spindle cuts. The pace is slow but the teaching is effective.

If you're looking for instruction on how to make a ball bearing yo-yo, or skew chisel technique, look elsewhere. But if you want to learn how to make a beautiful and functional yo-yo, give this video a view.

I'd also recommend visiting Davidson's website yoyospin.com. His [tutorial section](#) contains numerous on-line videos on bottle stopper and pen production. There are also videos of rose engine techniques.



SPECIAL RAFFLE - DAVID ELLSWORTH NATURAL-EDGE BOWL



Congratulations to **Tom Szarek**, shown here in the lime light, winner of the special raffle of David Ellsworth's natural-edge bowl which was turned at the March BAT meeting. Thanks to Mother Nature, who dried out the bowl which was left unfinished.

RAFFLE NEWS



A Banksia pod, a Nylon Bowling Pin, an 8" 120 grit grinding wheel, S&S maple, a Maple round, Cherry bowl blanks, quilted maple and mahogany blanks and more were generously donated by BAT members to the May Raffle. Thanks to all.

Thanks again to **Bob Rupp** who has been our Raffle Volunteer for many months.

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:
June 13, 2012 at 6:30 PM

Agenda:
Show and Tell



SPECIAL RAFFLE

The June BAT meeting will feature a special raffle of the thin stemmed goblet made by Alan Carter at the May meeting.

Remember, raffles and dues are BAT's primary sources of income. We use the money to pay for equipment, supplies, DVDs and books for the library, demonstrators and more.

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to **Chet Talkington** and **Dave Maidt** for manning the audio and visual equipment in the absence of BAT's usual A-V maven, Wayne Kuhn.

COMING UP: SHOW AND TELL

The June BAT meeting will feature show and tell by BAT members. Bring in your successes and your problem pieces. We all gain knowledge and inspiration from seeing each other's work and talking about it. Don't forget to bring your EGG for the President's challenge.

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

Don't forget the President's Challenge for June's Show and Tell:

June - Turn a wooden EGG. (You may wish to hollow, pierce, or carve it or burn or paint a decorative design. You may also wish to make an egg cup to hold it.)

Susan Shane