

Echos From the "BAT" Cave

Baltimore Area Turners

BALTIMORE AREA

TURNERS

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DAVID REED SMITH: HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS

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BAT veteran David Reed Smith gave a demonstration of his technique for hollow spherical holiday ornaments. His demo was chock-full of tips and tricks and turning wisdom. He kept the group spell-bound with his inventiveness and turning skill.

MORE INSIDE



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David Smith (*left*) captivates BAT (*right*) with his discussion of gluing techniques.

HOLIDAY ORNAMENT DEMO

Once again, David Reed Smith graced BAT with a detailed demonstration. He showed his technique for making hollow spherical ornaments. His presentation of the multi-step process was done very efficiently using his 'Magic Box' (complete with magic wand) in lieu of waiting for glue to dry, etc.

He started with a 3x3x3 split piece of maple which he makes by splitting a 3x3x12 turning blank with a band saw, then planing and cutting to 3" lengths. He discussed various techniques for gluing the two halves. The technique that provides a strong joint which is easily split and cleaned starts with 3M Original Blue Tape glued with Tight Bond glue with cereal box or poster board in the joint. He clamped the glued assembly and placed it in the 'Magic Box' and removed a dried version of the blank. He determined centers by using the intersection of a single diagonal on each end with the glue joint. He mounted the piece between centers, using cup centers to avoid splitting the piece. After rounding to a cylinder with a spindle roughing gouge, he set up his [Shadow Sphere Jig](#). This model had been improved since he [demonstrated](#) it last year.

He supported a single LED flashlight over the piece, which cast a shadow on a circle template held on a platform on the ways. He said he removed the reflector from the flashlight to sharpen the shadow and used a computer printed circle which was sharper than a fuzzy pencil line circle.

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(*Top to bottom*) Applying Blue Tape, Clamping the glued assembly, Mounted between centers, Roughing the cylinder.

ORNAMENT DEMO

Using a detail gouge, he carefully removed material until the shadow matched the circle, then smoothed it with a [modified 3-point tool](#). The ends were cut with a [narrow shear scraper](#), then the remaining nubbins were cut with a utility knife.

After marking the pieces for reassembly, the halves were split with a spackle knife, the tape was peeled off and the halves were mounted in a [tape jamb chuck](#). The chuck is turned from a hollow cylinder with a 20° interior wall which is lined with 2 mm craft foam. The halves are drilled for depth and hollowed. To avoid damaging the edge, he used a skew to cut a groove to guide the bevel of the bowl gouge in hollowing. The two hollowed halves were glued together, clamped and placed in the 'Magic Box.'

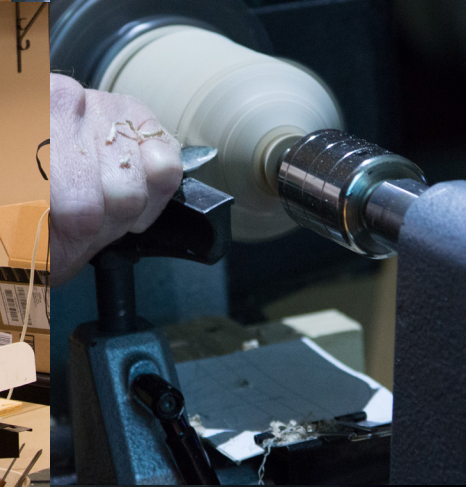
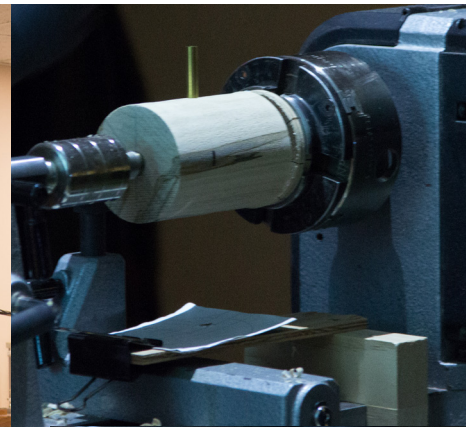
For sanding, the assembly was placed between a cup chuck covered with craft foam and an 'infinite diameter' cup chuck on the live tailstock center with the seam at a 45° angle. He sanded the rough areas with a sanding stick with 2 layers of craft foam and 100 grit paper held on with Grizzly Tape. He then turned on the lathe to a slow speed and proceeded to go through the grits, alternating rotating the piece with changing grits.

He turned a small finial for mounting, then made a hanging hook from 20g brass wire.

Finally, he decorated the sphere by burning equally spaced circumferential lines from pole to pole. (One of these masked the seam.) He measured the circumference with a piece of cardboard, divided it into segments and transferred the marks to the equator of the sphere. He used a jig to orient the sphere properly for turning the lines. Finally, he drilled a hole for the finial and glued it and the wire hook in place.

David showed multiple variations of his spheres including plywood segments, celtic knots, and Bondo inlay patterns.

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HOLLOW ORNAMENT

Dave is obviously an accomplished turner. His clever techniques and pieces never cease to amaze. Even after almost 30 years of turning, he is full of ideas and the excitement he brings to a demo is contagious. Thanks, Dave, for a fantastic demo.

(clockwise from upper left) Splitting the sphere, Cleaning the ends, Mounting in tape jam chuck, Taping, Drilling for depth, Hollowing hemisphere, Gluing hollowed hemispheres, Clamping, Sanding out rough areas





MORE HOLLOW ORNAMENTS

(clockwise from upper left) Turning the finial, cutting a groove for burning, Burning a line, the finished product, Variations, Pattern layout and finished ornament

The procedure for making a variation on this ornament is published in the December 2013 Woodturning Design Magazine (Issue #46). Dave's website has [that article](#).





RAFFLE NEWS

Silver Maple, Ash, Willow Oak, and Tanwood splits, a Walnut block, an Ailanthus branch, a Walnut bowl blank, and brass ferrules, and more were donated by BAT members to the November raffle.

Thanks to all!

BALTIMORE AREA TURNERS

Baltimore Area Turners meets every month on the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be held at the Boumi Temple at

5050 King Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21237-3325

Next meeting:
December 11, 2013 at 7:00 PM

Agenda: Holiday Party - Food, Contests, and the Ironman Challenge Finals. You may want to bring a side dish or dessert and a gift to exchange.



SUSAN SHANE MEMORIAL IRONMAN COMPETITION

Here are the current standings (in alphabetical order):

	Goblets	3W	Box	Platter	Bocce	NE Bowl	Points
Richard Dietrich	x	x	x	x	x		5
John Fisher				x			1
Ron Ford	x	x	x	x			4
Louis Harris	x	x	x	x	x		5
Pete Johnson					x		1
Stephen Jones						x	1
Wayne Kuhn	x	x	x	x			4
Dave Maidt					x		1
Jim Oliver			x		x		2
Bob Pegram					x		1
Bob Rupp			x				1
Roland Shepard	x	x					2
David Smith	x	x					2

Don't forget - you can catch up by submitting prior month's challenges at the December meeting.

To participate in the Susan Shane Memorial Ironman Competition all you need to do is participate in the President's Challenge. Each participation awards one point. There have been multiple President's Challenges throughout the year. The person who accrues the most points at the end of the year will be rewarded. In case of a tie, all winners will be rewarded. We hope that folks will put forth their best effort into each challenge and we look forward to seeing the results.

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

BAT President Yaakov Bar Am has announced this year's final President's Challenge:

December – Turn a lidded box with a 3" or larger fabulous finial.