

# Echos From the "BAT" Cave

Baltimore Area Turners

**BALTIMORE AREA**  
  
**TURNERS**

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## JIMMY CLEWES DEMO



(Above) Jimmy Clewes entrances a full house of  
BAT members and others. (Below)



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### 2014 Officers:

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Sharpening gouges



Screw Chuck Hole



Cutting wood away from tenon

## JIMMY CLEWES



Hogging off wood from base

Raconteur and internationally known turner, [Jimmy Clewes](#), stopped at our meeting during his tour of the Mid Atlantic states. He was greeted by a full house in the large Fellowship Hall at Boumi. Drawing on his over 20 years of turning experience he regaled the audience with stories and tips as he turned an Oriental Square Box.

He started with a discussion of sharpening, tools, and chucks. He sharpens his gouges with the Irish grind originated by [Liam O'Neill](#). He uses about a 60° angle and sharpens with a vari-grind jig on a wolverine. His go-to tool is the [Thompson 1/2" bowl gouge](#). His signature design has a deeper flute which gives a smaller bevel on the bottom. He holds them in wooden handles with the [Jimmy Clewes Quick Release](#) made by Doug Thompson.

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Base bottom done - time to flip



Cutting away top of base





Starting to hollow bowl . . .



. . . final hollowing cuts

## MORE JIMMY

*(Continued from Page 2)*

He spoke about chucks. He prefers dovetail jaws over One-way's serrated jaws and likes the One-way Jumbo (chuck) Screw. He explained how jaws were made from a circular machining which is cut into quarters. Thus, they form a perfect circle when there is a 1/16" gap between the jaws. He aims to size his tenons and recesses to fit that to produce the maximum contact and maximum holding power.

On to turning. His project was a square winged lidded box. He started with 7 1/2" and 3" square maple blanks for the box and the lid, respectively. He mounted the box blank on a screw chuck, spun it at 2600 RPM, faced it off and scribed a tenon. He cut the outline of the tenon with a parting tool and used a gouge to shape the wings. He made an ogee by drawing a line at about 1/3 diameter, cutting down to that line with a convex curve, then cutting from the edge against the grain to make a concave curve, finally blending the two parts with a light cut with the grain. For sanding, he said would hand sand the wingtips first, then power sand the body.

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The base is done



Starting the lid





Completing the lid bottom



Shaping the lid top



Cutting a finial knob

## STILL MORE JIMMY

*(Continued from Page 3)*

He then flipped the base, trued up the face, and marked out the box diameter. He cut away the square edges down to 1/8" edge thickness. He hollowed the box first with his swept wing bowl gouge, then finished with an English ground gouge with the heel ground away to create a microbevel.

The blank for the lid was mounted between centers and turned at 3200 RPM. He turned a tenon and roughed out the top curve. After flipping the blank, he trued up the face and marked out a diameter slightly larger than the opening of the box for the lid tenon. He turned away the wood around the tenon and gradually sneaked up on the edge to achieve a fit just a bit looser than a 'sucky pop fit' for the lid. Afterward, he drew an outline on the lid edge to establish the shape and cut down to the profile. He cut a recess in the box tenon, flipped it again and, with tailstock support, made finishing cuts on the top of the lid and turned a finial knob.

Finally, he remounted the bottom to reshape the foot

(While turning the base, a large chunk of maple went flying but was stopped by the BAT Shield before anyone in the audience was injured. )

Jimmy is an excellent teacher and turner and a delightful speaker. His in-person performance is even better than his excellent videos. It was great to have him present to BAT. Thanks, Jimmy!



Final comments



The finished finial knob



*(Top to bottom)* Grinds:  
Irish, English, Microbevel



# SIGNING OFF



Before leaving, Jimmy kindly signed DVD cases, the demo piece, and even the BAT lathe.





## RAFFLE NEWS

Walnut, Hickory, Apple, and Osage Orange splits, Peach Pit Pen blanks from Robert Gibbs (bobspenfactory@gmail.com), an Osage log and a Treewood crotch were donated to the BAT raffle by generous BAT members. 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 10, 2014 at 7:00 PM

Agenda: Holiday Party - Food, Fellowship, Election, Games, Gift Exchange, 2014 Susan Shane Memorial Ironman Challenge Finale



## ELECTIONS COMING

Board elections will be in December. The following slate will be presented:

President: Ron Ford  
Vice President: Stephen Jones  
Secretary: Richard Dietrich  
Treasurer: Wayne Kuhn  
Librarian: Clark Bixler  
Program Director: Ron Ford  
Webmaster: David Maidt  
Public Relations Director: Stephen Jones  
At Large: Stan Dorman, Pete Johnson, Tom Szarek, Matt Grimes

## PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE ENTRY



Larry Maccherone brought two bangles for his Challenge #5 entry to the November meeting.

## PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

BAT President Yaakov Bar Am has announced the sixth and final President's Challenge for 2014:

**December** – Turn a holiday tree ornament.