

Echoes from the "BAT" Cave



Sept-Oct, 2017
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Combined Sept-Oct Issue

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September Ornament Demo

Back in September, the club had the honor of hosting Tim Moore from the Chesapeake Woodturners. He demo'd how to turn holiday ornaments for us. (cont'd next page)



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He showed us how he makes the 3 main parts of the ornament and then assembles them into a finished masterpiece.



On the left are the 3 components of a typical holiday ornament. On the right is the assembled masterpiece.

Below, is what happens if you're not careful when you hollow out the body of the ornament! :-0



October Show-n-Tell



In October, the club meeting featured Snow-n-Tell. Thirteen members showed off their latest creations. Don Shultz brought in his new pocket-pen design that he recently turned as a commission piece for King Kong so he can sign autographs at the premier of his new movie "Kong, Skull Island" The pen does indeed work!



Mid-Atlantic Woodturning Symposium

About 11 BAT members attended the 2nd Annual Mid-Atlantic Woodturning Symposium held at the convention center in downtown Lancaster, PA the weekend of October 27-29. We all had a great time and those of you who didn't come, lost out on a great time ! There were 28 different demos that you could attend. The demo topics included, but were not limited to, segmented turning, pyrography, surface carving, finials, boxes, jewelry, tool control, ... you name it. Along with the demos there was a gallery area where fellow local turners showed off their latest pieces and a great vendor area covering wood, tools, and turning supplies. Check out the pics below to see what you missed.

Instant Gallery —>

(unfortunately pict taken on last day after several items had already been removed)

↓ *Typical demo session*



The 2 sides of the vendor area.

An Inexpensive Introduction Into Turning Hollow Forms

(by Edward R. Cohen, M.D.)

Introduction

As I mentioned in my previous article, wood turning manufacturers have produced various hollowing jigs to compensate for the lack of tool rest support. There are well over a dozen brands to choose from, most of which are either of the articulated or captured bar variety. Each has their advocates.

The Laser (Old School)

The other inherent problem in turning hollow forms is difficulty in measuring wall thickness due to the inaccessibility of using traditional calipers. In 1999, laser assisted wall thickness systems were introduced and became an instant success. With few exceptions, most companies now offer a laser attachment as standard or an option. For those of you unfamiliar with laser assisted hollowing, the turner generally sets the laser beam at a specific distance from the cutting edge of his tool (which represents the desired wall thickness). When the cutter is inserted into the form, the laser will shine on the side of the form until the selected wall thickness is reached and then drops off. It works but it is not as easy in theory as in practice. There are several inherent problems with a laser system but it was basically our only option until 2014 when video assisted systems were introduced.

The Video System (New School)

Four hollowing system manufacturers already offer video as an option but at a steep price: (CutterVision from JT Turnings \$1099 with no monitor, Trent Bosch's Visualizer \$650, Simon Hope (UK) \$300 and TAZ System - video included in the \$950 system. In my opinion, several more systems will be introduced in upcoming seminars.

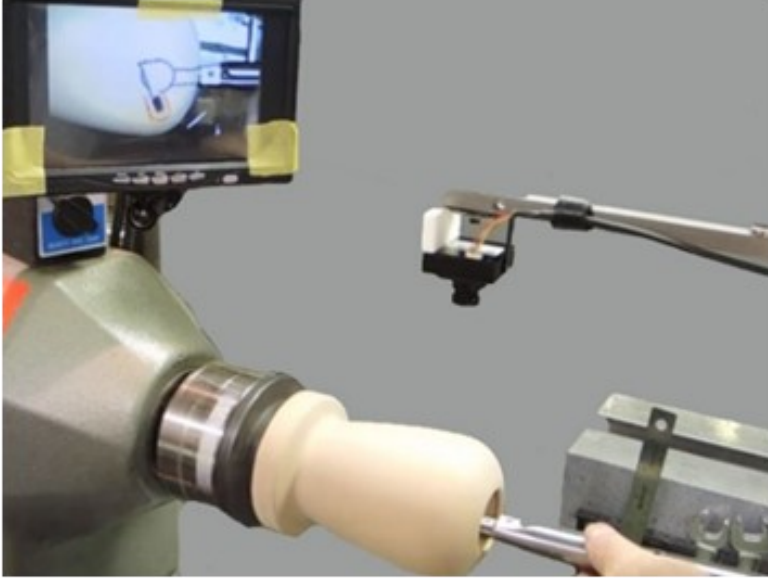
Advantages of a Video System

By comparison, the camera has several advantages over the laser. Most lasers are battery operated and can lose their charge at inconvenient times and have been known to shake loose. The laser is much more sensitive to vibration and requires far more skill to adjust than the camera. Both the laser and the camera require adjusting when the tool is changed; however, only the laser must be re-adjusted with the curve of the wood. Body position is flexible with the camera but one must stand at the side of the lathe to follow the laser.

As far as precision is concerned, the laser is inherently more accurate and highly- skilled users can turn 1/8" walls with confidence. On the other hand, for most of us intermediate skilled turners, 1/4" wall thickness can be turned with ease using either system and down to a 1/16" with practice.

In my opinion, the paramount advantage of the video system is that it far excels the laser when

Hollowing (cont'd)



it comes to ease of use. Interpretation of a video image is far more intuitive than analyzing a changing red dot.

How the Video System Works

Let me begin by stating that the system is not an endoscope; i.e., it does not project the interior of the form onto the screen. The concept is so simple that it can be difficult to visualize. The camera is focused on the tip of the cutter just outside the opening of the form. An image of the cutter is copied on the monitor using a dry erase marker on an overlay of clear, plastic

film. A measured border is drawn around the cutter image which represents the desired wall thickness. As the cutter enters the form, the camera will follow the cutter which is represented on the screen by the drawing. You are watching an image of the cutter as it makes its way through the wall of the form. The image of the screen never moves so you visualize it as the form moving on the cutter. When the border you have drawn reaches the bottom of the form, you have reached the desired wall thickness.

What You Need

7" color monitor	32.00
Small surveillance camera	13.00
2 Power supplies (not provided with the units)	12.00
2 dry erase felt-tip markers of different colors	5.00
3 or 4 clear plastic sheets	2.00
Mounting device for monitor	<u>9.99</u>
	\$73.00

If you don't already have a laser outrigger, see below for cost of same.

Where to Find It

Outrigger for Camera: If you already have a laser setup than you can simply mount the camera on its overhead arm. If you don't have a laser system, Ron Brown, www.ronbrownsbest.com, sells an outrigger (with a laser) for \$79.99 and you can buy an extension for larger rigs for \$29.99.



Camera: www.amazon.com has the several inexpensive cameras. Search for **miniature color**

Hollowing (cont'd)



surveillance cameras. Several are listed like this one for about \$14. Similar cameras are also available on www.ebay.com. The connectors from the power supply sometime differ and so you might consider getting the camera and power supply together at this link on Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00T00X1FC/ref=cm_sw_r_cp_apip_rzCoyBBBDMvRy.

Monitor: There are several inexpensive monitors available on Amazon shown on the right for about \$32. Search on **7" color monitors**. You can mount it on a shelf with the included stand or mount it as desired using a **ball head monitor mount** (\$13) also shown on the right from Amazon.



12v Power Supply (2): You will need separate power supplies, one for the monitor and one for the camera. These are readily available on Amazon for \$6.

Getting Started

Mount the camera on your overhead bar using Velcro, twist ties, small hose clamp, cable tie, etc. Center the camera directly over the tip of the cutter. Connect the camera to the monitor, but don't hook up the audio cable, it will just make noise. Locate the monitor where you can see it best. Power both up. Place a clear, plastic sheet, cut to size, over the monitor screen and hold in place with tape or mini spring clamps. Place the camera/cutter unit just outside your hollow form and trace an outline of cutter in the center of the screen. You can use a firm, contrasting background to help the tracing. Adjust the camera up or down to suit, the lower it is, the larger the image on the screen. Start cutting and have fun. You only need to change the cutter image if you change the cutter.

Here is a short YouTube video that shows the system set up and in use.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pidLwThKHSw>.

Feel free to email me for any questions or comments at polodoc@erols.com .

- Ed

(Your rogue newsletter editor greatly thanks Ed for sharing his knowledge and experience and for writing up these past few articles for the newsletter.)

Wood Raffles

We had some great wood available at our wood raffles. It's just one of the great reasons to attend the club meetings. The September stash is on the left and the October stash is on the right or is it the other way around? You tell me! Do you remember what the wood raffles looked like the last two months? Think of it as a contest with no prize ! :-)



Sect'y/Newsletter Editor STILL Needed !

The December issue of the newsletter will be your **LAST** issue unless we get a new editor. Your rogue newsletter editor has filled in long enough. It's time for some new blood in the editor position. He doesn't want to hog all the fun of the editorship. He wants someone else to have a chance to experience the joy. If you think you might have an interest to fill the position, please speak with any board member. They'll be glad to fill you in on what would be required. Come on! Join the elite BAT Board !

Baltimore Area Turners

Baltimore Area Turners meets every month on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm Our meetings are held at the Boumi Temple located at:

5050 King Avenue
Baltimore MD 21237-3325

Drive around to the parking lot at the back of the building and enter thru the set of glass doors. If the door feels like it's locked, it's not, just give it a tug. :-)