

# ECHOES FROM THE "BAT" CAVE

## BALTIMORE AREA TURNERS

### Steve Haddix - Embellishment

June 2019  
Volume 14, Number 6

Steve Haddix demonstrated embellishment techniques for our June meeting.

Steve opened with a discussion on the process of developing skills, and the importance of trying to push the limits of your abilities and techniques. It's okay to fail. Failure is part of the learning process, and often leads to new discoveries.

#### **Embellishment:**

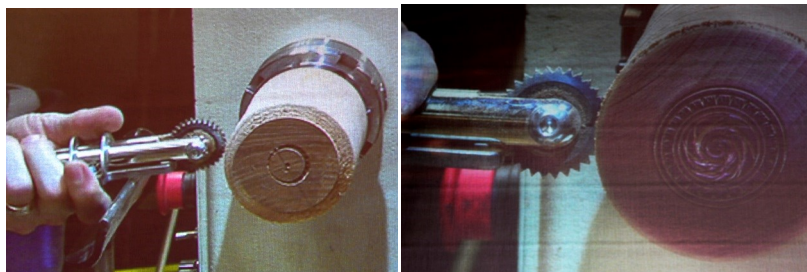
Embellishment is a good way to make a plain piece of wood more interesting. Steve mentioned the importance of starting with a good (well sanded) form before applying texturing / embellishment. He recommended two books;

*Woodturning - A Source Book of Shapes* and *The Art of Turned Bowls*. (Look for these to be added soon to the BAT library.)

#### **Sorby Texture and Spiraling Tool:**

Steve demonstrated embellishment techniques using the Robert Sorby Spiraling and Texturing Tool. The Sorby Texturing tool comes in two sizes, the standard and small, or a set that includes both. The large tool uses ball bearings. The small tool uses brass bushings for the wheels, a drop of oil on the bushing is recommended before use. He recommends care with securing the pin that holds the wheel on the small set. Speaking from experience, the wheels are very small and easily lost in a pile of shavings or sucked into the dust collector.

The texturing tool works more as a scraper than a cutter. With lathe speed around 400 rpm, start by presenting the tool on center (shown left), then drop the tool below center to cut (shown right). Pivot the tool slightly left to right as you proceed along the cut. If not cutting well, drop tool further below center, do not push harder.



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# Steve Haddix (continued)

## Adjusting Pitch

Each texturing tool comes with a variety of wheels, each with a different number of teeth, and thus different distance between the points of the teeth on each wheel.

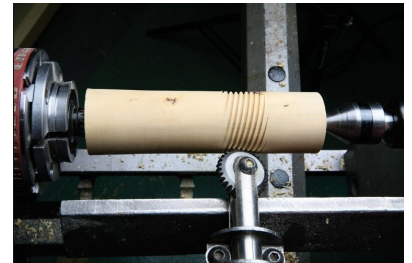
To create a cleanly cut texture, the diameter of the piece must be an exact multiple of the distance between the teeth on the wheel. There are two ways to do this. The first is to adjust the diameter of the piece. The second is to rotate the tool (left or right) in the saddle to adjust the pitch of the wheel. You can see from the image at the top right of the

page that the tool saddle has a scale to track pitch settings. The tool pictured is set at zero pitch, with the wheel parallel to the lathe axis.



Rotating the tool to the left or right will cut spirals in opposite directions. To knurl, first cut at the desired pitch setting on one side of the scale and then at the same setting on the opposite side.

Shown below is a bowl Steve made whose edge was spiral cut and knurled with the Sorby tool.



You can use a parting tool or a “three point tool” to separate or frame areas of embellishment. The bowl to the right is an example of using a parting tool between the spiral cut and knurled sections.

## Other Techniques:

Steve also demonstrated the sunburst technique shown in the center of the Viking Sunset bowl shown top right. The “orange peel” technique shown below right was made using the sharp pointed texturing wheel. Don’t run the wheel in constant contact with the wood. Push in and pull out randomly to create the effect.

These techniques work equally well on end grain, as shown below left.





## Steve Haddix (continued)

The following are many examples of Steve's skill and techniques of embellishment.  
For more examples of Steve's designs, visit his Instagram at [www.instagram.com/sthaddix](https://www.instagram.com/sthaddix)



# Steve Haddix (continued)

The following are Steve's notes on embellishment he wanted to share with the club as part of his demonstration.

## 1. Perspective on texture and color

- a. The goal for the texture demo was to show you enough about texturing and coloring that you have some ideas where you might use texture or color in your own work and that you feel confident going out on your own and experimenting yourself. That said, if you end up liking everything that you produce, or even if everything that you try turns out, then you should decide if you're taking enough chances with your design concepts. Even when things don't work out, some of my favorite pieces started out with a different plan, but evolved as I either didn't like the results or my technical skills weren't up to the challenge.
- b. The advantage of working with plain wood is that it owes you very little – or from a different perspective - as the wood worker you don't owe it very much either. It gives you more free reign to try new ideas knowing that it's ok if they don't work out.
- c. When working with color and texture though, the same design principles apply for shape and balance. You can't fix bad shapes or poorly sanded surfaces by throwing texture or color on top. when it comes to understanding how to create pleasing forms to use as your canvas, I think Richard Raffan's "Art of the Turn" is one of the best resources on the market for beginners and seasoned turners alike. ([https://www.amazon.com/Art-Turned-Bowls-Designing-Spectacular/dp/1561589543/ref=sr\\_1\\_fkmr1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1513627177&sr=8-1-fkmr1&keywords=richard+raffan+art+of+the+turn](https://www.amazon.com/Art-Turned-Bowls-Designing-Spectacular/dp/1561589543/ref=sr_1_fkmr1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1513627177&sr=8-1-fkmr1&keywords=richard+raffan+art+of+the+turn))

## 2. Textures

### a. Sorby Texturing Tool

#### i. Introduction

1. Wheel options include different cutters that vary by pitch (number of teeth per inch) and different outcomes (orange peel texture versus cut grooves)
2. If the circumference of the form is an even multiple (or very close to it) of the pitch of the cutter, then the teeth are likely to engage back in the same grooves and create a repeating pattern. If not, the pattern won't repeat as consistently and the result is more random. Both can be pleasing, but a minor change in diameter (skim cut) is often enough to change the perimeter enough to switch between patterns.
3. Better on harder, but not brittle, woods
4. Can be used for distressing or primitive designs on softer woods
5. Speed – around 500 rpm, but +/- 200 RPM is ok
6. The small Sorby texture tool has bronze bushing and needs a drop of oil before every use to prevent wearing out. The larger has ball bearings that do not need oiling.

#### ii. Spiral

1. The resulting spiral varies with the set tool angle. The indexing line and number allow you to produce consistent results when switching from leaning right to leaning left (and vice versa).
2. The spiral tool is presented to the wood on center line like a cutter, engage the teeth and then raise the handle to apply pressure (dropping the cutter just below center).
3. Hold the cutter with a gentle pressure to give it time to work. Rocking the handle back and forth from (left/right) gently allows you to expand the cut across the wood.
4. To re-engaging the teeth back into the prior groove, use very light pressure when presenting the cutter until you feel the cutter drift back into the prior grooves, at which time you apply sufficient pressure to begin the cutting action again.
5. You can use a quick cut for accent lines while holding for a longer period to time will create an actual spiral

#### iii. Knurling diamonds

##### 1. Diamonds

- a. You get a pleasing diamond pattern when you cut with the index first on 2L and afterward on 2R. Use medium pressure so not to tear out wood and make sure both passes are cut for the same time for an even result.
- b. Clean up the torn fibers by burnishing with wood shavings of a brass brush

##### 2. Squares

- a. Leave the wall thickness so you have room to reshape the outside if you're not happy with your initial texturing results
- b. Set a right angle between your R and L hand angle to create a square knurl pattern  
Raised band - show how cutting away the surrounding wood creates a banded bowl look



# Steve Haddix (continued)

- iv. Straight lines
  - 1. Holding a cutter with the teeth horizontal creates a pattern of straight lines that can look very pleasing as well, especially on the rim of the bowl or box
  - 2. Rim looks better balanced / symmetrical
  - 3. You can also combine the pattern of the big wheel and the small wheel cutter to create an interesting look
- v. Embossing / Orange Peel wheel
  - 1. Creates a coarse pattern – good for more primitive designs
    - a. To get a random pattern, vary your pressure while using random stabbing motions in and out to alter the appearance
    - b. The pattern can be used on the rim of a platter to create a primitive hammered texture look and also looks nice between accent lines.
- vi. Ways to accent the lines
  - 1. Use 3-point tool (or tool of your choice) to create accent lines on either side of you texture to make your patterns stand out
  - 2. Combine with other patterns

## b. Other Textures

- i. Chatter tool
  - 1. Works on end grain so good for boxes, tops, etc.
  - 2. Can make or buy
  - 3. Faster speed creates courses pattern, slower equals tighter pattern
- ii. Wagner Tool / Ron Brown's Best – knurling tool that embosses a predefined pattern (as opposed to cutting the pattern)
- iii. The Wood Elf - used to make a couple texture patterns in pre-cut coves
- iv. Hand Textures – when you look at Nick Agar's work, you see frequent use of hand applied textures as well, including:
  - 1. Dremel patterns
  - 2. Discuss other texture or accent options
  - 3. Leather texture tools – Show the tools, results depend on the wood
  - 4. Wood burner or wire
  - 5. Carved lines – with power chisel or with hand chisels

## 3. Adding color to accent textures

- a. To accent textures there are three choices
  - i. Rub a color on the surface while the wood is turning using a pad that is only slightly wet so not to get dye into the grooves
  - ii. Color the whole texture (including the grooves) and then add a surface color or wax for contrast
  - iii. Color the entire surface and then rub a color into the texture (like a liming wax or milk paint)
- b. Options for color
  - i. Dyes –
    - 1. Spirit dyes are alcohol based, can still be thinned
    - 2. Typically have some shellac in them for shine
    - 3. Can be airbrushed, brushed, wiped
  - ii. Milk paint
    - 1. Milk paints are high in casein protein and polish nicely once dry
    - 2. Typically dry in about an hour but can be accelerated with hair dryer
    - 3. Can also be thinned to air brush with very good results. Cautious when air brushing milk paint not to over-atomize the paint and have the it dry in the air, resulting in a powdery surface that won't properly adhere.
  - iii. Reactive paints - contain metal powders that chemically react to create an aged patina
  - iv. Typical wood stain
  - v. Burnishing with piece of oily wood can give interesting color bands as well.
  - vi. Surface waxes
    - 1. Patinating / Gilding wax – pigments mixed into the wax, sits on the surface, thinned with alcohol or lacquer thinner. Apply the artist wax on top of the airbrushed bowl to show a metallic look. Light passes with finger or makeup sponge to avoid getting wax in the texture. One site recommends a light coat with a fixative to lock in the color below
    - 2. Liming wax – colored and thinned wax that fills pores or cracks to accent the wood. Can be applied over finished or painted wood.

# Steve Haddix (continued)

4. Filled lines / filled defects
  - a. Milliput
    - i. Colored epoxy that can accent or contrast other colors in your wood
    - ii. Use the parting tool to cut in a line perpendicular to your surface – generally 3/32 is my goal
    - iii. Lots of ideas on YouTube about combining milliput in geometric patterns
    - iv. Available on Amazon
    - v. Tape the surface around the line to avoid getting the milliput in the end grain
    - vi. Let harden at least 12 to 24 hours before sanding
  - b. Other inlays using thin CA glue rather than epoxy to avoid air bubbles
    - i. Copper
    - ii. Stone / aggregate
    - iii. Create your own defects or extend the existing defects to heighten the look
5. Other techniques
  - a. Modeling paste and gesso
    - i. Apply to surface of your bowl or platter
    - ii. Emboss patterns in the paste
    - iii. Sand or further carve new patterns once dry
    - iv. Paint similar to other textures
  - b. Reveals
    - i. Painting colors on a surface
    - ii. Applying a tape or frisket to the surface to protect the surface
    - iii. Apply a contrasting surface paint over the entire area
    - iv. Remove the frisket to allow the original color to show through
  - c. Pyrography and pyro-carving
    - i. On it's own
    - ii. Using markers to add color

For interesting YouTube videos, google Mike Peace and Sorby Texture.

## Resources:

Woodcraft – Sorby Texture Tools, General Finishes Milk Paint power or pre-mixed, Chatter tools, liming wax

<https://www.woodturnerscatalog.com/> - Chestnut Spirit stains (NOT Artisan), gilding wax, KJR sanding system

Hartville Tools – crown cutters (may be less expensive than Sorby optional cutting wheels)

Color-Tone dyes can also be interesting (used by guitar manufacturers)

For more of my sample designs, see visit [www.instagram.com/sthaddix](https://www.instagram.com/sthaddix)

# What's on Tap for July?



I hope that everyone had an enjoyable Fourth of July celebration.

Shannon Rogers, The Renaissance Woodworker, will be our July demonstrator. Shannon's passion is working with hand tools and he will be doing some turning on his pole and treadle lathes and afterwards will invite our members to give it try. He is also an expert on wood identification and will share some of his knowledge with us. I know this will be a most enjoyable and informative demonstration.

Ed Cohen

Program Director

**Interested in sharing a tool, technique or project with the club? Demonstrate your project-in-progress at an upcoming BAT meeting. Contact program director Ed Cohen for details.**

# Turn for Troops Update



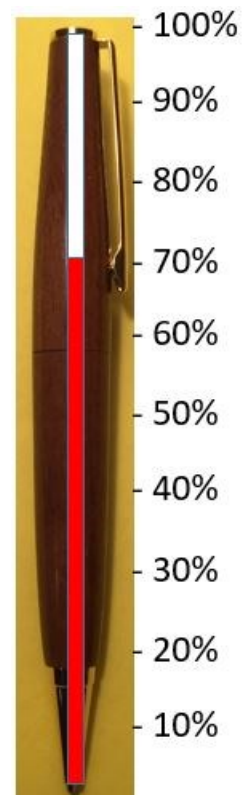
We want to thank everyone who came to support BAT in turning pens for the troops, an event held at the Victory Villa Senior Center, 403 Compass Road in Middle River, Maryland, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday June 29, 2019. The woodturning was done in the woodshop class trailer at the rear of the building. Sixteen club members showed up to support this project and turned 54 pens in a matter of hours. Some volunteered to man lathes to instruct others in the making of a pen, and many others turned pens. We especially want to thank Karen McDonough, Director of the Victory Villa Senior Center, for helping to make this event possible.

This Turning for the Troops service project is well on its way. As of this writing we have 704 pens completed. I am sure that by the next meeting we will have even more finished pens. We have given out about 850 pen kit sets to be turned by members and have additional pen kits available for any members who would like to complete them before our November deadline.

We thank all those who came to support us on this Saturday! Our goal of 1,000 pens is not far off, and all completed pens will be turned in during the Fall to honor the service of veterans.

Ron Ford, President of BAT

Tom Szarek, Chairman of Turning for the Troops project





# The President's Turn



Hello everyone – Summer brings us longer days and, hopefully, more time for turning. I know that some of you have shop spaces that do not lend themselves to use in colder weather, so many of us take advantage of the warmer days (lately, HOT days) to indulge our hobby.

I thought this would be a good time to ask everyone to be mindful of personal safety habits when we are turning. In our eagerness to get to those projects that may have been put off waiting for a more agreeable temperature, it may be easy to take shortcuts that can lead to unfortunate accidents.

Probably the single most important piece of safety gear any of us have (or should have) is a quality face shield. Wood properly held on the lathe is unlikely to come flying off, but faults in the material, overly aggressive cutting, and using the wrong speed can add up to a bad surprise. Protecting your face and eyes from chips, flying pieces, and even shavings is number one.

Comfortable shoes, not sandals, or other open footwear is another must. Just like the area above your shoulders, exposed feet can suffer real damage when you least expect it.

Breathing apparatus is also important. The dust created by turning and sanding can be damaging, and use of a good quality respirator is always a good idea. In addition, some of us have found that we are allergic to or otherwise affected by some species of wood. Good respiratory gear can go a long way toward preventing what has for some involved a trip to the ER.

Stop and take a minute to survey your surroundings. Be certain that there are no trip hazards, loose, or dangling cords, or other potential accidents waiting to happen. Turning is a fun and fulfilling hobby. Let's make sure it is always a safe one, as well.

Hope to see your new creations soon,

Ron Ford  
President

## BAT Mentoring

Please know that free mentoring is available to all paid members. This is a great opportunity to get some one on one expert advice on any questions, problems or other issues you may have in relation to your turnings. So if you're frustrated, unhappy or just not completely satisfied with your turnings this your chance to get help. Our experienced mentors can help you with all aspects of wood turning. Whether it's basic bowl turning, hollow forms, spindle work, sharpening, sanding, embellishments, etc.

No question or problem is too small. In just one free, 3-4 hour session you could take your work to an entirely new level. The sessions are also relatively anonymous. Only I, the mentor and you will know. So please at the next meeting take this wonderful opportunity to fill out a mentoring request form.

This your chance to possibly bring something to the next show and tell in May or an upcoming meeting. We are truly looking forward to some different members to show their work. This is not a competition or a judging. We welcome every one of our members to bring something. No matter what.

Thank you,

Chuck Cohen

# 2019 President's Challenge

The **first challenge** for 2019 is to turn 10 pens for our *Turning for the Troops* service project.

The **second challenge** will be to prepare a finished piece from an item won from the monthly wood raffle. There is no limit on what the item may be, just that the material came from the monthly raffle. Get your creation ready for the May Show and Tell meeting!

The **third challenge** will be to turn a lidded box for Beads of Courage. Important requirements on finish and size of the box will be covered at the meeting and provided in the next newsletter.

## Please Note:

Please look for the President's Challenge sheet at the monthly meetings. Please make sure any omissions on the list below are recorded on the sheet at the meeting. We want the sheet to serve as the record. I will update the newsletter from the sheet. Please contact me by email, at [scott.bleakney@yahoo.com](mailto:scott.bleakney@yahoo.com) if there are any questions.

## 2019 President's Challenge Participants

Name	#1	#2	#3	#4
Chuck Cohen	X		X	
Jim Conlon	X	X		
French Cornett	X			
James Crane		X		
Jim Fisher	X	X		
Chuck Fletcher	X	X		
Ron Ford	X	X	X	
Louis Harris	X	X	X	
Joe Heinlein		X		
Richard Hill		X		
Bob Sobczak	X	X	X	
Charles Stackhouse		X		
Tom Szarek	X			
John Withtrow	X	X		

# Baltimore Area Turners Meetings

July 10 - Renaissance Woodworker

August 10 (SATURDAY) - Club picnic at Boomi Temple

September 11 – Chuck Engstrom – Work holding

October 9 – Nigel Howard – Bowl turning with a twist

November 13 – Show and Tell

December 11 – Holiday Party

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

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## BAT Club Discounts

Mark Supik & Company - \$20 discount on instructional classes for members of BAT  
( [www.marksupikco.com/workshops](http://www.marksupikco.com/workshops) ) 410-732-8414 [mark@marksupikco.com](mailto:mark@marksupikco.com)

Hartville Tools - 15% discount for club members. See information on following page.  
( [www.hartvilletool.com](http://www.hartvilletool.com) ) 800-345-2396



# Hartville Tool's Turning Club Discount Program

1. As of 6/21/2019, BAT joined and is part of Hartville Tool's Club Discount Program.
  - a. Members will receive a **15% discount and free ground shipping on regularly priced items.**
  - b. Limited to members who agreed to have their contact information sent to Hartville.
  - c. BAT list can be amended to include new members.
  - d. Must be renewed annually to stay in effect.
2. This arrangement currently excludes Festool & certain other items. (all exclusions listed on the Hartville website.) [www.hartvilletool.com](http://www.hartvilletool.com)
3. Orders can be placed by phone, mail or using their website.
  - a. Anyone at Hartville can take a member's order.
  - b. Members must identify themselves as BAT members and as such, participants in the Club Discount Program.
  - c. There is a place on the website order form to indicate that you are a member of the program.
  - d. Hartville staff review all orders (web/mail, etc.) before finalizing and billing.
  - e. Currently, orders can only be sent to the address listed on BAT form.
  - f. **Currently, Discounts will NOT** show on e-receipts but **will be listed on the hard copy** that comes with your order.
  - g. **Discounts will be applied** prior to billing credit cards. (If prearranged with Hartville, members can pay by check.)
4. While Hartville does fill some 3<sup>rd</sup> party orders. (Amazon, Ebay, etc.) These orders are **NOT part of the Discount Program.**
  - a. *Only orders placed directly with Hartville Tool are eligible.*
  - b. *Unfortunately, Discount can NOT be used for prior purchases.*
  - c. *The Club Discount only applies to future purchases.*
5. Items on sale or special pricing by the manufacturer will be priced at lowest of: Sale, Special pricing, or Discount program. **Discounts and special offers cannot be combined.**
6. Offer excludes: Custom or Special orders; Shipping, handling, & taxes (if applicable); Festool Products.
  - a. As expected, "All prices & exclusions are subject to change w/o notice."
7. Contact & ordering:

Website: [www.hartvilletool.com](http://www.hartvilletool.com)

Phone: **1-800-345-2396** (M thru F; 8 am to 5 pm EST)

Mail: **Hartville Tool  
Attn: Order Dept.  
13163 Market Ave. N.  
Hartville, OH 44632**

## Want to build your woodturning skills?

The American Association of Woodturners (AAW) strives to deliver the publications and services that our members need to grow, connect, explore, and thrive in the areas of woodturning that are important to them. With nearly 16,000+ members and 360+ chapters internationally, AAW's many resources, including our award-winning *American Woodturner* journal, help our members to learn, create, and connect.



By signing up for a complimentary Guest membership, you can have limited access to a sampling of AAW resources for a full **60 days**. You'll be able to explore what the AAW has to offer, kick our tires, and hopefully decide to become a full-fledged, paid AAW member to benefit from everything the AAW has to offer.

Visit us at [woodturner.org](http://woodturner.org)

BAT is a local chapter of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW) which serves the Baltimore metropolitan area. A wide range of skills and interests are represented by our members. Work ranges from small utilitarian project to galley art and includes pen making, bowls and platters, hollow forms, small projects, furniture spindles and architectural work. We are fortunate to include professional turners and published authors among our members. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in woodturning, and guests are always welcome.