



OXON WOODTURNERS' CLUB

January Newsletter 2022

Dear Members,

It was great to see so many of you attend the Club night on Thursday evening. I'd like to start by offering thanks to everyone for helping set up for the evening and tidy away afterwards, and sincerest apologies for the absence of a video feed of the demonstration; We appear to be missing a critical component which interfaces the cameras with the projector, and I will ensure this is corrected before the next demonstration evening.

Despite the AV equipment issues, patron of the Club [Gary Rance](#) put on an excellent demonstration.



Gary started with some basic spindle turning (pommels, beads, coves, ogees and vee cuts) before demonstrating how he turns a pocket watch stand.



Gary also found time at the end of the evening to demonstrate turning of two wooden fruit; an apple and a pear, both of which were completed within just fifteen minutes. It was a privilege to see the speed at which a skilled production turner could knock out two saleable items, and it made for an excellent finale to what was Gary's 23rd demonstration for the Club.



In other news, I'd like to announce the return of the monthly Club competition, with details to follow on how the scoring system will work. The items demonstrated by Gary will be make suitable projects for the first Competition.

All members are invited to produce **a piece of turned fruit**, or for those of you wanting a bigger challenge, **a pocket watch stand**. Entries should be brought along to the next Club meeting on 10th Feb 2022 for judging!

For those of you who were unable to attend the demonstration from Gary, here are some of his top tips provided on the night.

For the turned fruit:

- Apples are made from a blank 2-3/8 × 3 × 3" (60 × 75 × 75 mm)
- Pears are made from a blank 3 × 3 × 3" (75 × 75 × 75 mm)
- Each end of the fruit is drilled separately. Both fruit are turned using a homemade screw chuck (a wood screw driven through a piece of hardwood; to be held in a 4-jaw chuck), using a piece of card as a washer (to prevent marking the turned surface) when turning the fruit over to shape the other end.
- A piece of stained twig is used for the stalk, and a clove for the blossom end. These pieces are glued in with CA glue (do not use activator on the clove as it will turn white).

For the pocket watch stand:

- The curved top piece is a turned ring, cut in half. The ring is *ca* 3/8" (9 mm) thick and *ca* 2-3/4" (70 mm) diameter; use of a jam chuck was required to finish both faces.
- Use a jig for cutting the ring accurately in half and a disc sander to get the two ends flat/planar. A jig was also used for accurately drilling both ends, and for the pilot hole in the middle before fitting the brass screw hook.
- The direction of the grain in the top piece should run horizontally (as viewed) for strength.
- The pillars are turned with a *ca* 3/8" (10 mm) tenon, and the shoulder is undercut to allow for a flush joint and to prevent glue squeeze-out (Gary recommends Titebond II).

- Each end of the pillars was drilled and fitted with a small wood screw which had its head removed (used as a threaded pin to hold all the parts together).

I look forward to seeing everyone's attempts at one (or both!) of these projects at the next Club meet (**10th Feb 2022**).

Dan