



# Oxon Woodturners

## July Newsletter

Dear Members,

This month we had **Anna-Marie Bennett** come and provide an interesting and engaging demonstration for us.



Anna-Marie specialises in miniature work including jewellery and dolls house accessories. She was previously Store manager at Axminster Basingstoke, and has recently started on the UK demonstration circuit following closure of the store last month. In her role at Axminster she provided in-store demonstrations and lathe introduction sessions, teaching beginners how to start turning safely. Anna-Marie has also demonstrated at various shows whilst representing Axminster Tools and we were pleased to host her for her third professional demonstration of her solo career.

Anna-Marie's demonstration started with a brief introduction to tool presentation, providing guidance on setting the proper tool rest height, and a reminder of open/closed flute positions when using gouges which she clearly illustrated by use of a clock face.

Her projects were focused on making use of off-cuts, particularly the corner pieces that are removed from a square bowl blank. The first project was a teardrop-shaped pendant where she discussed the necessity for a delicate touch and working in small sections, finishing the end furthest from the chuck before removing any more of the supporting wood. This will help avoid vibrations, or worse, breaking of the workpiece.

Anna-Marie showed an example of how the shape of this project had been refined with experience, and how working with increased precision allowed a flush fit with the jewellery finding to make a piece that was better proportioned and aesthetically pleasing. She had also experimented with other materials such as Corian and acrylic, and recalled some of the learning experiences these materials provided.



One helpful piece of advice was to practice your finishing cuts on some of the wood normally removed when roughing out, and to sharpen your tools before making your final pass, to minimise the amount of sanding required to remove tool marks.

The second project was a rotating planet piece. This was a small Saturn-like planet with rotating captive “ring”, turned from a single piece of wood (for scale the outer diameter is 30 mm):



Anna-Marie mentioned how she had taken inspiration from a “Saturn bowl” she had seen demonstrated at SAW by Jason Clark: <https://jtcturning.com/saturn-bowls>.

The piece was turned across the grain (“faceplate orientation”) between centres, before holding the ring in the chuck to round over each end:





Anna-Marie used a set of “soft jaws” (<https://www.axminstertools.com/axminster-115mm-soft-jaws-102166>), which she had shaped specifically for holding this project, although other approaches could also work. Due to the delicate nature of the ring (ca 1 mm thick) she stressed the importance of using appropriately sized chuck jaws; they only form a true circle at **one** diameter and this is required to provide the highest level of holding power (due to the maximised contact area with the workpiece).

Finally, the ring was separated from the body by cutting in at 45° sequentially from both sides, using a home-made parting tool. Work on this small scale requires an equally small tool, as can be seen from the picture below:



This needs to be applied with the cutting edge exactly on centre and without any twisting of the tool, which is helped by the ground flat on the underside of the bar (not pictured). The result was a captive ring that could rotate around the body of the planet, reminiscent of Saturn.

As well as the demonstration, we had some excellent pieces on exhibition. This month's competition was the Chairman's challenge, for which I set the task of turning a three-legged stool. This was chosen for the following reasons:

- It will involve both faceplate and spindle turning to complete, but should not require any specialist tools.
- The turning of three matching legs will require skill and patience, and the resulting stool will be inherently stable (even if they're not all the same!).
- Thought will need to be given as to how best to join the individual components together.

**Exhibition of work (Chairman's challenge)**







As you can see from the pictures the standard or work by our Members was excellent, and mostly within the design brief!

Finally, Ian H and Anita H have provisionally joined the committee in an “ordinary” capacity, and I would like to encourage others to join if they are interested. Please get in touch with myself, Ace, or one of the other Committee Members if you’d like to know more about what is involved.

**Dan**