



A monthly publication of the Presque Isle Woodturners

# Turn to the News

Volume 3 Issue 10

October 2015

## Highlights

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## Meeting Notes

.At the September meeting, Larry Stadler presented insights into making pens. Pens are fun to make, and there are many different styles available. Larry offered one on one instruction for anyone interested. Just give him a call.

Norm Anderson has a silver maple that will be coming down shortly. It's about 18" in diameter. If anyone needs some maple, contact Norm at 833-1012.

## President's Message

As I write this I find Fall is creeping up on us. This weekend the club will be demonstrating at the Wild Winds Folk and Art Festival at the Warren Fair Grounds. Not many have volunteered to help but it would be nice if you took a ride down and see what we do.

October brings Joe Herrmann's hands on scheduled for the 5th and 6th. So far I have two names besides my two days that leaves about 12 spaces available. The cost of \$50 a day is affordable and includes all day sweets, coffee, pop, water and a good lunch. These hands on are not only about what you make but all different techniques you learn at them and the different thoughts and ideas used to create turnings. We need to fill all these spots, we need to see you folks taking advantage of what your club offers.

I have next years three main demonstrators booked and am working on 2017. I have two more symposiums to go to this year and will be on the look out for talent for 2017. Remember the club needs your participation to stay a healthy organization.

# FYI

## Member Projects

If you have a woodturning project that you would like to showcase to our club members, you can send me detailed information about your project with pictures.

## Classified Ads

Ads for woodturning and woodworking related items are free to members. Send detailed information with pictures.

## Members Questions & Answers

Members are asked to submit woodturning, finishing and tool questions to our resident experts to answer. There are no dumb questions, someone else in the club may have had the same questions.

## Wood to Turn

Do you have wood, need wood or know about wood that is available for turning? Let me know and I'll pass it along. .

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## Tips & Tricks

### Cabinet for sanding accessories

My sanding cabinet is the handiest thing I have ever made for my shop. I use it to keep all of my abrasives organized by grit, with coarsest on the left and finest on the right. As I am sanding my bowls, I don't need to look at the back of the abrasive to see what grit it is—I can just reach for the next one in line. I keep various sanding attachments and other useful accessories in the drawers. Keeping these items organized has been a big time-saver for me.

Two important points if you decide to make one: my cabinet is on wheels,

so I can move it to whichever lathe I am using; and a lid is essential for keeping most of the chips out prior to sanding.

—Dale Larson, Oregon



# Library News

One of the greater assets of PIW is the extensive library of tapes, DVDs, books, and reference materials available in the club library. If you have not already done so, take a few moments and browse through the

materials. Materials are offered on an honor system. Please sign the card attached to the desired item and place it in the Library black box. When you return the item, retrieve the card from the box, cross out your name and place

## Latest Additions

- ♦ See Bill Noce for more information

## PIW Activities calendar

Joe Herrmann

October 7th



### Jimmy Clewes Woodturning Demonstration

Presented by the Pembroke Woodturners Guild

**Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

with a 1 hour lunch break

**Pembroke High School Auditorium**

**Routes 77 & 5, Corfu, NY**

½ mile south of I-90 Thruway Exit 48a on Rt. 77

**\$20.00 per person at the door**

Lunch will be made available for purchase

**Door Prizes and 50/50 Raffle**



In this full day demonstration you will learn many of Jimmy's turning, embellishing and coloring techniques. His projects at the demo may include an oriental-style lidded box, a deep natural-edge vase, a colored & figured rim platter (that he may light on fire) and many more.

Jimmy is not your ordinary woodturner. Upon a first meeting, one would think of him as a renegade, a free thinker and not within the stereotypical image of a woodturner. His charming British style, unending wit, creative mind and magnetic personality are only some of the attributes that make him popular in the woodturning demonstration circuit.

For more info about Jimmy, visit: <http://www.jimmyclewes.com/>  
Questions? Contact: Brian Effinger / 716-830-0749 / [effyman@gmail.com](mailto:effyman@gmail.com)

## PIW Board 2014 and Elected Officers

### *President*

Bill Blasic  
piwtrnr@verizon.net  
814-796-4609

### *Vice-president*

Joe Herrmann  
latheturner@windstream.net  
440-563-5785

### *Craig McCune*

Secretary  
craig\_mccune@roadrunner.com  
814-833-7409

### *Treasurer & Club Photographer*

John Fox  
jkfox@roadrunner.com  
814-434-3445

### *Elected Board Member*

Bill Noce  
[nocnoc@zitomedia.net](mailto:nocnoc@zitomedia.net)  
440-997-8908

### *Elected Board Member*

Jim Meyer  
blossomandjimbo@adelphia.net  
814-474-5106

### *In place of Past President*

Don Proctor  
h2opolo@roadrunner.com  
814-449-1902

## Mentor Contacts

Bill Blasic 11291 Lake Pleasant Road, Union City, PA 16438 814-796-4609	Dave Swanson 7279 Rohl Road, North East, PA 16428 814-899-5175	John Fox: 176 Cambridge Road, Erie, Pa 16511 814-434-3445
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*For new turners and those looking to expand their skills, PIW has established a 'Mentor List' of those members willing to assist in that effort. Please make arrangements directly with anyone on the list for help.*

For contact information updates, including your email or mailing address, please contact Terry at [piwnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:piwnewsletter@gmail.com)



## About PIW

Presque Isle Woodturners Inc. is affiliated with the American Association of Woodturners and is organized exclusively for educational purposes with a mission to educate woodturners and the public, in and about the art and craft of woodturning. This is accomplished by encouraging and facilitating training programs for woodturners, disseminating information about sources of material and equipment, exposing the art of woodturning to the general public, and serving as a resource for any group or individual interested in woodturning.

Presque Isle Woodturners was originally organized in 1999 by a small group of individuals with a common interest in woodturning. The PIW has grown to a group of over 50 members and became incorporated as a non-profit organization in 2003.

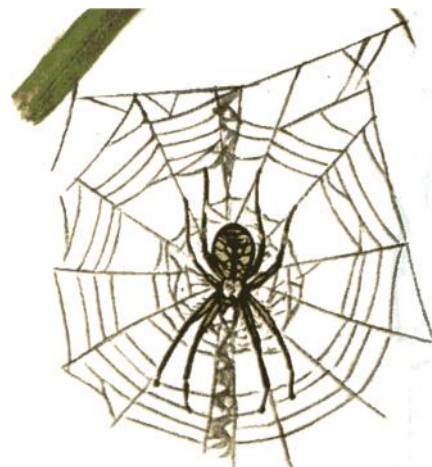
The sharing of experience between members, presentations by invited woodturners of regional and national reputation, and an extensive library of books and videos on the subject of turning are benefits of membership. Topics covered at any meeting may include turning technique, design, safety, finishing methods, and ideas for projects.

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 2831 West 23rd St. (Behind Parker's Garage) at 7:00 PM. Visitors are welcome any time, join us.

## Site of the Month

### [Woodturning Videos](#)

This site hosts hundreds of woodturning videos on just about any subject.



## Woodturning Resources

### [American Association of Woodturners](#)

Woodturning Association

### **Tools and Supplies**

#### [Bear Tooth Woods](#)

Specialty pen kits

#### [Best Wood Tools](#)

Specialized woodturning tools

#### [Craft Supply](#)

Woodturning Supplies

#### [Craft ID](#)

Signature medallions

#### [Earth's Watch](#)

Wooden jewelry and watches

#### [Franck Johannesen Woodturning](#)

#### [Geiger's Solutions](#)

Robust Lathes and accessories

#### [Klingspor](#)

Abrasives and woodturning supplies

#### [Highland Woodworking](#)

Woodworking tools, supplies

#### [Hunter Tool Systems](#)

Carbide woodturning tools

#### [Hut Products](#)

Woodturning tools, supplies

#### [John Jordan Woodturning](#)

Woodturning tools and more

#### [JT Turning Tools](#)

Woodturning tools & accessories

### [OneWay Manufacturing](#)

Lathes and accessories

#### [Packard](#)

Woodturning Supplies

#### [Peachtree Woodworking Supply](#)

Turning and carving tools, supplies

#### [Penn State](#)

Woodturning tools, supplies

#### [Rockler](#)

Woodworking and Hardware

#### [Ron Brown's Best](#)

Woodturning tools and videos

#### [Sanding Glove](#)

Abrasives and sanding equipment

#### [SS Niles Bottle Stoppers](#)

Stainless steel bottle stoppers

#### [Thompson Lathe Tools](#)

High quality steel woodturning tools

#### [Vinces WoodNWonders](#)

Sanding products

### [Woodcraft of Atlanta](#)

Woodworking and Hardware

#### [Woodturners Wonders](#)

Lathe lamps & CBN wheels

#### [Woodturningz](#)

Pen kits and woodturning supplies

### **Magazines**

#### [More Woodturning](#)

Woodturning magazine

#### [Woodturning](#)

The British woodturning magazine

#### [Wood magazine Forum](#)

Wood Magazine

Q & A on Woodturning

### **Websites**

#### [Woodturning Videos](#)

Excellent woodturning videos

### **Wood Sources**

#### [AustralianBurls](#)

Burls from Australia

#### [Bell Forest](#)

Figured and Exotic woods

#### [Big Monk Lumber](#)

Exotic woods

#### [Century Tree Turnings](#)

Woodturning blanks

#### [Got Wood?](#)

Source of Wood turning blanks from Piedmont area of South Carolina

#### [Hardwoods Incorporated](#)

Specialty Hardwoods

# MORE WOODTURNING MAGAZINE

Your online source for innovative ideas and detailed articles about the woodturning world

## What's in it for me?

- Awareness of what's going on in the woodturning world
  - News and events, including latest tools, new techniques, and classes/programs
- Opportunity to improve skills
  - Step-by-step tutorials on specific woodturning projects with detailed photographs/drawings
  - Articles covering a wide variety of woodturning topics in three categories: beginner, intermediate, and advanced
  - A question and answer column to address specific questions or problems
- Connections with other woodturners
  - Artist profiles that introduce you to well-known and up-and-coming woodturners each month, with pictures of their work
  - Periodic surveys that collect and disseminate information from and to subscribers

## What does the magazine look like?

- *More Woodturning Magazine* is an online publication, available to subscribers on the first of each month.
- The Magazine has nine main sections: Editorial, News, Tutorials, Articles, Events, Q & A, New Products, Product Reviews, and Meet the Turner.
- Subscribers can print the magazine or save it in PDF format.
- Look at a sample issue at [morewoodturningmagazine.com](http://morewoodturningmagazine.com)
- Send an email to the editor/publisher, Dennis Daudelin, with your specific questions: [dennis@morewoodturningmagazine.com](mailto:dennis@morewoodturningmagazine.com).

## How much does it cost and how do I subscribe?

- *More Woodturning Magazine* costs \$25 per year, payable by using a secure online payment method or by mailing a check.
- Go to [morewoodturningmagazine.com](http://morewoodturningmagazine.com) and hit the "subscribe" button; that's all it takes to receive twelve issues per year of what people are saying is the best magazine around!

*"Your publication is absolutely my favorite woodturning resource...I enjoy the variety of the articles and the in-depth information."* D. J., Helotes, TX

*"The candid information supplied in your magazine...probably saves me ten times [the subscription price] every year."* K. J., Fort Myers, FL

*"Without question, the best woodturning magazine available."* T. H., Sea Isle City, NJ

# Make a Decorative INLAY PEN

Charles Mak

For a lot of woodturners, myself included, pen turning was the first joyful encounter with the art of the lathe. But after a while, making pens, regardless of their style or materials, can become less interesting. Inlay kits do make for unique pens but are not economical for some, while other methods (making a Celtic knot, for instance) may be too complicated. I would like to offer an easy process for creating eye-catching inlay pens without the use of kits. This process also offers a wealth of design opportunities.

This simple method involves drilling holes and/or mortises

into a pen blank and filling those voids with contrasting materials prior to drilling the blank and gluing in the brass tubes supplied with your pen kit. The blank is then mounted on the lathe, turned, and finished in the usual manner, and the result is a one-of-a-kind inlay pen with interesting patterns. By changing the combination of voids, their shapes, the filler materials, the layout, and the final size of the pen barrels, you can create an almost infinite number of patterns for your pens (or other spindle projects).

## Tools and materials

In addition to the usual pen-making tools (spindle gouge, pen mandrel, drill press, for example) and supplies (pen blanks, pen kits), I use a 1/4" (6mm) brad point bit to drill holes and a 1/4" plug cutter to make round plugs from scrap wood (*Photo 1*). I use a mortising machine to cut the square holes (mortises), but you could also use a mortising attachment on the drill press. I cut 1/4" square filler stock on the tablesaw. Alternatively, you can use pre-cut 1/4" dowels and square rods.

## Design the pattern

Explore possible designs by pondering questions like these:

- What kind of layout do I want for the dots and/or squares on the pen?
- Will they follow a certain pattern—straight line, spiral, evenly spaced, or will they be randomly placed?
- How many voids and which shapes/sizes do I want?
- What will be the effect of the wood or other material I choose for the pen blank and plugs?

To help me visualize and examine my design choices, I usually sketch them on paper (*Figure 1*). As you gain more experience with the technique, you can explore many other design options and choices of materials (*see sidebar*).

## Applying your design

Once you have a design blueprint, use a fine-point felt pen to mark the hole locations on the pen blank. I also draw two straight lines on the blanks to indicate the rough size of the finished pen. ▶



Chuck a 1/4" plug cutter in the drill press to make plugs of a contrasting wood.



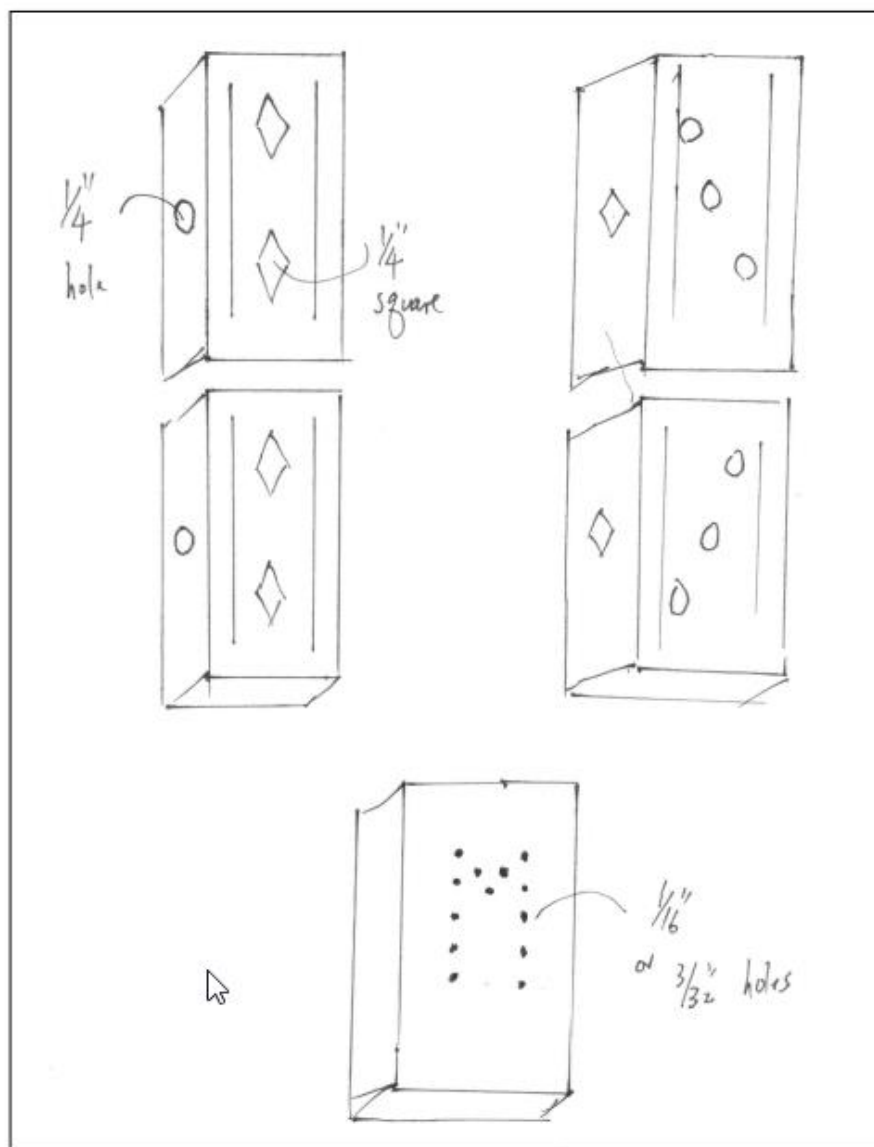


Figure 1. Sketch out your inlay designs to help visualize the patterns.

Make sure your pattern is placed well within the boundary lines (Photo 2).

Place the blank on the drill press and chuck a 1/4" brad point bit to drill through holes for the dots you have marked on the blank (Photo 3). Use a mortising machine or (drill press attachment) to cut the squares or diamonds (Photo 4). If you don't have a mortising machine or mortising attachment and plan to make only a few squares, you have a third, cheaper option: cut them by hand. To do this, drill a 3/32" (6mm) center hole in each square or diamond mark. Then cut to the square corners using a 1/4" bench chisel or mortise chisel (sold as a chisel and bit set, but the auger bit is not used) with a mallet. At this stage, if the squares are not perfectly cut, don't worry—I'll show you a quick fix later.

After the holes and squares are drilled, fill them with plugs and square rods using cyanoacrylate (CA) glue or epoxy (Photo 5).

### Prepare and turn the pen blanks

Before cross-cutting your pen blank to size based on the brass tubes supplied with your pen kit, mark the blank to indicate the grain orientation. This will help you mount the two pen barrels on the mandrel in the correct order and ensure the wood grain is running continuously from one barrel to the next



2 Use a dark pen to lay out your design and boundary lines based on the finished diameter of the pen.



3 Drill all the 1/4" holes in the blanks using a drill press.



4 Use a mortising machine or drill press attachment to cut the square holes. You can also cut them by hand with a chisel and mallet after drilling a smaller hole within the square.



5 Glue the plugs and square pieces into the drilled voids.



**6** Square the ends of the pen barrels to the brass tubes.



**7** Turn the pen barrels to the desired profile and size.



**8** Apply and buff coats of wax on the pen barrels.



**9** Press fit the pen parts together.

after assembly. At the drill press, chuck a brad point bit sized to your pen kit and drill a hole through the length of the blank. Clean out any debris left in the hole and then glue the brass tubes into the pen barrels using thick CA glue or epoxy. Once the glue is cured, square the ends of the pen barrels to the brass tubes. I use a pen mill for this task (*Photo 6*).

Insert the barrels between the appropriate sized bushings on a pen mandrel, using the mark you previously made to ensure correct mounting order and orientation. Once secured, mount the mandrel between centers and turn the pen barrels with the tool of your choice (*Photo 7*). Use sharp tools and take lighter cuts when the blank's diameter nears the size of the bushings.

Lower the speed of the lathe for sanding. Move the sandpaper along the axis and keep it from contacting the bushings. After sanding, finish the pen with your preferred method. I like to apply two coats of polish (a shellac-based lacquer) with a paper towel to bring out the grain. I then inspect the whole pen, looking for any tearout on the inlay pattern. Here's my trick for repairing rough inlay transitions or tearout. Choose a wax stick that is close in color to the inlaid material (dot or square/diamond) and rub some wax into any voids created by tearout. With the lathe turning at a high speed, buff the waxed spots with a lint-free cloth to blend in the repairs. Apply and buff a coat or two of a lighter tone wax on the whole pen (*Photo 8*).

## Assembly

Lay out the pen kit hardware and the turned barrels in their proper order. Follow the kit's assembly instructions to press fit the parts together (*Photo 9*).

Whether or not you believe the pen is "the tongue of the mind," as Horace asserted, you can express your creative side with your own pen inlay designs. ■

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*Charles Mak runs a small business in Alberta, Canada. He has developed a variety of woodworking classes and teaches in his spare time. Charles is a frequent writer, sharing his work in various magazines in Australia, Britain, and North America. He can be contacted at [spindleturning@gmail.com](mailto:spindleturning@gmail.com).*

## Inlay design ideas

Experimenting is part of the fun with this inlay technique. Consider these alternatives and others when you plan your next inlay pen:

- The holes/squares can be overlapping to create a unique look. Or, with small holes drilled and plugged, you can create initials or a distinctive image on the pen.
- By using colored markers and light-toned dowel rods like maple as the filler materials, you can color your pattern the way you want (after the pen is sanded). Simply seal and protect the color with a coat or two of suitable finish.
- Try non-wood filler materials or a combination of materials for your patterns such as plastics (clear or colored), acrylics, Corian®, sawdust, and even soft metals.
- Holes can be left unfilled or partially filled (for a dimpled look). If holes are not plugged, consider hiding the exposed brass tube by painting it with a black felt pen or one that is close to the wood blank in color.

