

April 2014 Meeting – Gerry Marlow



Gerry had made the journey from Derbyshire to demonstrate how he makes his Christmas decoration with LEDs inside to give various lighting effects.

For the ball part he uses a piece of lime which is roughed to a cylinder, a chucking point formed at headstock end, he then removes the corners and uses a sphere turning jig to quickly turn the sphere. The jig is shown in the photo. The sphere is then mounted in the chuck and a parting tool used to make a recess to take the female part of the light fitting. He then hollowed out the sphere with a spindle gouge and tidied up the inside with a scraper to a thickness of 2-3 mm followed by final adjustment of the opening to take the light fitting. The inside and outside of the

sphere were sanded.

A jam chuck was made to fit the hole for the light fitting and the sphere was mounted on the jam chuck with the tailstock holding it firmly in place. Most of the waste at the tailstock end was removed and sanded to blend in the shape. Gerry then used a Decorating Elf to texture the surface starting from the tailstock end. He varied the angle of the Elf to get slightly differing patterns all over the surface. He then coloured the surface using some purple spirit stain on tissue which he dabbed randomly over the surface, followed by blue and yellow spirit stain. This was followed by covering the whole of the surface with liming wax, working it well into the texture. With the lathe on a slow speed remove as much of the liming wax from the surface as possible. He then applied a microcrystalline wax to the surface and with a tissue got a bit of a shine on the surface. He parted the sphere off at the tailstock end and drilled an 8mm hole to take a spigot on the finial. An 8mm bar mounted in a Jacobs Chuck was inserted in this hole to support the sphere for the next operation which was to cut slots all around the sphere with the slotting saw jig (see photo) and using the lathe's indexer.



The finial was turned from a piece of sycamore and a second piece of sycamore was mounted in the chuck to form the cap on the sphere. A hole and various recesses (to take the male part of the lighting equipment) were formed in one operation by employing a specially prepared flat drill bit. A small offset hole was drilled to take the on/off button. The piece was reversed in the chuck and the top domed and sanded. A small drum sander was mounted in a Jacobs Chuck and used to scallop the edges of the cap. To ensure they were even Gerry marked 8 points round the circumference as guides. The whole was then assembled, superglueing the fittings in place. Finally the whole was buffed and given a coat of Carnauba Wax.



Gerry had some time over and showed a very quick way to make a baby's rattle.

A very enjoyable evening which ended with Gerry raffling off his ornament for charity, he also presented the rattle to one of our members who had recently had a new grandchild.