

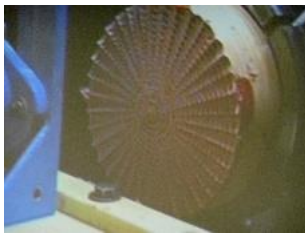
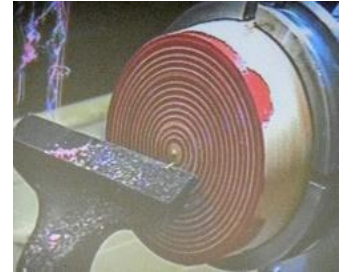
Gerry stated he was going to produce an open form with epoxy resin decoration.



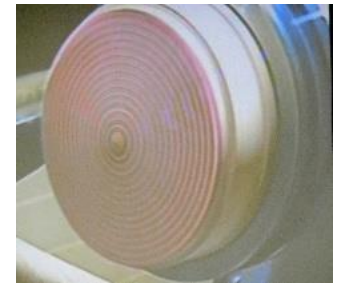
He started with the blank in the chuck and used a slide rest with a small negative rake cutter to cut shallow, concentric grooves in the face of the blank.



Masking tape was wrapped around the edge of the blank to form a shallow well to contain the epoxy resin. The blank was removed from the chuck and the resin mix made up. Gerry has the resin made specially and mixes the resin/hardener in the proportion of 5 parts resin to 2 parts of hardener. West Epoxy System can be used but Gerry has a less expensive supplier. He pours the resin/hardener plus colouring into the centre of the blank. He pours slowly so that the resin has time to flow and fill the concentric grooves without producing air bubbles. When the surface is covered, the blank is put to one side for the resin to harden.



When the resin has fully cured (24hrs or more) the blank is remounted in the chuck and the surface turned away to show the grooves filled with resin. Gerry has made himself a platform that fits in the banjo. The platform has a guide rail which he positions at an angle to the face of the blank. He uses a jig fitted with a router with a ½ inch ball nose cutter to cut grooves from the outside to the centre of the face. Because of the angle of the guide rail the grooves are tapered from the outside to the centre. Using the indexing head on the lathe tapered grooves were cut round the whole surface. He then cut back the edge of the blank a short way to reduce the diameter of the face so that it could be recessed later into the top of a bowl.



The next step was to part off the grooved face using a thin parting tool but before he had completed the parting off Gerry drilled a hole in the centre. As he neared the centre he slowed the lathe speed down so that he could catch the parted off piece safely (it has some crisp, sharp edges!).



The piece remaining in the chuck was hollowed out as a bowl. The surface of the walls was squared off and a recess cut to accommodate the grooved piece parted off earlier. The bowl was reversed in the chuck and the waste was turned away and the bottom rounded.



The base was abraded through the grits to give a fine finish. With the bowl removed from the lathe the grooved top was fitted into the recess using cyanoacrylate adhesive (superglue) to hold it in place.





Gerry's next demo was an off-centre pendant without using "fancy" jigs. He started with square stock between centres and quickly roughed this to the round. He then mounted this in a chuck and shaped a curved surface on the face. He then started to part a disc of about 5 mm thickness. Before finally parting off he shaped the reverse side to match the curve on the face. He then rounded the edge of the disc and completed the parting off. Now he showed the easy way to turn the off-centre pendant.

He removed the jaws from the chuck and inserted an Axminster Gripper jaw (No.4) and rotated the scroll one complete revolution before inserting Jaw No. 1. This is what gives the offset - ingenious! The disc was mounted between the two jaws and turning begun. (Care has to be taken as there are exposed corners on the jaws). Before reversing the piece to turn the rear, be sure to mark the jaw positions on the piece so that you get the correct alignment when you turn it round.



The third item Gerry turned was an off-centre candlestick. He mounted a blank, pre-drilled to take a fitment for a candle, between centres and quickly shaped the bell shape at the candle end. He then remounted the piece off-centre with the tailstock very close to the edge. Gerry proceeded to turn a deep off-centre cove. He then changed the position of the piece, still off-centre and turned a second cove.



Finally, he replaced it on the centre line and turned a half bead and formed the foot.

This was an inspiring evening and contained some useful tips and tricks

