

## February 2012 Meeting - John French

Originally Carlyn Lindsey was scheduled to demonstrate for us this evening. Unfortunately she injured herself and advised that she would not be able to attend. Ken Hatton kindly agreed to demonstrate in February instead of March, and Carlyn's demonstration was rescheduled for March.

Then a couple of days before the demonstration, Ken became very ill and unfit to demonstrate. A few phone calls later, John 'volunteered' to demonstrate.

So, a demonstration at very short notice! Without having a prepared demonstration what do you do? During the phone call, John looked at a box he had nearby and decided that he could base his demonstration on that. The box in question was based on one that John had seen by Gary Rance. It was a lidded box with an 'on-Lay' (not an 'in-lay'). Gary had used Corian, but John used Purple Heart.



### Demonstration #1

For the body of the box, John used a piece of Pau Amarello. This is quite open grained softwood and can be very dusty. This was turned to a cylinder using an Ashley Isles 1/2" roughing gouge. The cylinder was marked approximately in the middle. One 'half' will form the base, and the other 'half' to form the top. The top was then shaped and a spigot prepared to accept the ring of Purple Heart that John had prepared in the days' notice he had to prepare this demo (and he was not well that day either). The spigot needs to be a snug fit in the ring, with a flat/square surface for the ring to sit on. Once the spigot was turned to the optimum size, the ring was 'Super-glued' on place.

Continue shaping the top and 'on-lay', forming a pointed finial using a spindle gouge. Once the shape is suitable, abrade going through the grits. Then a beeswax/liquid paraffin polish was applied and the surplus polish wiped off. The top was then buffed, parted off, and put to one side. The under-side of the top will be finished later.



The base was then shaped using a spindle gouge. John explained that the shape chosen was similar to a 'gazunder'. I don't know where John got that inspiration from !! The inside was hollowed, again using a spindle gouge. Check the depth to ensure you don't go deeper than the bottom when it has been parted off. A parting tool was used to make a recess for the lid, fine tuning to ensure a snug fit. Abrade the inside again running through the grits. An idea adapted from Hans Weissflog was to cut the corners on a 'finger' of abrasive. This allows the abrasive to follow the inside curvature better. Finish inside with the beeswax/liquid paraffin 'polish', then part off.

The base was then carefully reverse mounted onto the chuck. John had sized the opening to fit directly onto his chuck jaws. Normally you would mount this onto a wooden spigot, carefully trimmed to function as a 'jam-chuck'. Again the spindle gouge was used to finish the base with a slight concave recess to help it sit nicely on a flat surface. Abrade through the grits and finish with the 'polish'.

### Demonstration #2

The second part of John's demo expanded on the idea of the first box. He mounted a sycamore blank on the lathe and rounded it off. This was then parted off – approximately 1/3<sup>rd</sup> 2/3<sup>rd</sup>. The 1/3<sup>rd</sup> piece was left on the chuck. This was shaped as before, then John added a series of beads using a point tool. The beads were then abraded.

The inside was then hollowed out with a step recess created for the lid. Abraded, and parted off. Then it was reverse-mounted on the chuck, and the bottom finished off with a spindle gouge, creating a slight recess.

The 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s piece was then mounted in the chuck. The face was then shaped for the bottom of a spinning top, bringing the tip to a shallow point. Then behind the face was turned down and shaped to form a handle/spindle for the spinning top. Don't try to make this too thin as it may break. Lightly abrade and part off with a skew to leave a reasonably clean edge. Trim and abrade the break-off.





The base can be stood upside down and used as a plinth to spin the spinning top on. Or stand the base the normal way up with the spinning top used as a lid to the box.

