

## June 2014 Meeting - Tom Kittle

Tom stated at the start that he was not going to complete any turning but that he would be showing mostly how to go about making rings.

A circular picture frame or small mirror frame was the first object Tom demonstrated. He mounted a disk of Zebrano on a screw chuck and trued up the edge using a bowl gouge, he then trued up the face of the disk.

The size of the photo or mirror was marked on the face of the disc with a pair of callipers and the centre roughly hollowed out a little. With a parting tool he cut the recess to a depth to take the glass plus a backing plate. From the inside edge of the recess he then cut in at an angle of 45° towards the centre. He then drilled a hole through the disk on the inside edge of this chamfer (this is a sighting mark for when the disk is reversed).



A larger diameter recess was then cut starting on the outside of the original recess, this was to accommodate a backing plate. A small chamfer was turned on the outside edge of the disk. At this point the surface would be sanded through the grits and an oil finish applied (but as this was a demo Tom skipped this).

Next Tom reversed the disk onto a 4-jaw chuck, opening the jaws into the outer recess to hold the piece firmly—he said that any marks made by the jaws would not show as they would be hidden by the backing plate. Carefully cut away the centre with a bowl gouge, using the drilled hole as a guide to the position of the internal chamfer. Once the centre was removed he worked outwards using the inside chamfer as a guide as to how much to remove.

The front surface of the frame remained to be turned. Tom stated that the only cuts you can use are straight cuts, convex cuts or concave cuts and combinations of these to form the front of the frame. This would then be sanded and up to 3 coats of oil applied to finish it.

The next frame that Tom demonstrated was an off-centre one. He used a piece of rippled sycamore and he had drilled two holes in it, one in the centre and the other 12mm away from it. With the piece mounted by the central hole on a screw chuck he trued up the side and the face and cut chamfers on the edge. He then mounted it in the offset hole and lowered the lathe speed (safety precaution as the piece was now imbalanced). Again the opening size was marked and the recesses cut as before. He drilled a small hole as before. Tom stated at this point that if the frame is for a mirror the recess should be cut slightly larger to allow for any movement in the wood.



He then reversed the frame onto the 4 jaw chuck and carefully removed the central portion and worked out to the recess. He then carefully shaped the face bearing in mind that with the offset he would be turning air for some of the time.



The final demonstration was turning an endgrain ring. He mounted a small blank in the chuck and trued up the side and the face. With a thin parting tool he marked off the depth of the ring on the side. Having moved the rest round across the face of the blank he marked the internal size of the ring with callipers. He then made a plunging cut with a parting tool to the required depth inside of the marked line. He then carefully worked out to the line. The ring was now defined and he then shaped the profile. To remove the ring a parting tool was inserted in the first cut made and the depth of cut increased until the ring was free.

On the surface this seems a very simple demonstration but there were some very interesting tricks and techniques used.