

September 2015 Meeting—Simon Hope

Simon stated that he would make a decorative tape measure and also if time an off-centre turned candlestick.

For the Bell tape measure he started with a block of Muhuhu between centres and quickly roughed this to the round. He formed spigots on each end and then parted the block into two uneven lengths. With the larger part gripped in the chuck he trued up the face and marked the centre with a dimple formed with the corner of a parting tool. He then drilled out the centre with a 35mm diameter Forstner bit in a Jacobs Chuck in the tailstock. As he had used the Forstner bit the inside of the hole needed the use of a gouge to clean up the finish. A chamfer was formed on the inner edge and a relieving slot cut on the inside so that the thread chaser would have clearance. With the lathe speed set at about 350 rpm Simon commenced to cut a 20 tpi thread on the inside of the piece.



He then mounted the smaller piece in the chuck, tidied up the front face. He then measured the internal diameter of the female thread with Vernier callipers and added 1 mm to the reading and then transferred this to mark the end of the smaller piece. He then cut a spigot 15mm long to this diameter and formed a chamfer on the edge. He cut a relieving slot at the base of the spigot and proceeded to cut a thread along the side of the spigot. Simon demonstrated how to use “superglue” to harden the wood to make cutting the thread easier (not really necessary for Muhuhu). When the thread was a good fit to the female thread Simon screwed the larger piece to the smaller piece in the chuck. He turned away the spigot on the end and formed the bell shape and sanded the whole piece. To disguise the join a small bead was turned. A 10mm diameter hole was

drilled in the top of the bell and then the top unscrewed from the bottom part of the bell. A 10mm hole was drilled in the centre of the base part to a depth of about 15mm. The base part was reversed into a set of O'Donnell jaws and the spigot removed.

Next Simon mounted a length of square section Muhuhu in the O'Donnell jaws, roughed it to round then formed the tape spindle and then shaped the handle.

To finish, a slot was cut into the side of the bell and a slot cut along the length of the tape spindle. The tape spindle was pushed through the hole in the top part of the bell and the tape slid into the slot in the tape spindle. The bottom of the bell was then screwed into place ensuring that the spindle entered the hole drilled into it.



Off-centre candlestick



A 70 mm square section piece of sycamore (about 7 inches long) was mounted offset between centres. The centres were positioned about 10mm from the corners. When the blank was spinning it was possible to see 2 “ghosts” at each end and Simon turned away the 1st ghost until he reached the second. He then cut away in the centre until he got to solid wood. He opened out this cut and then formed a spherical shape in the centre.

The piece was then remounted on the centre line and the square ends turned to the round. As there is not a lot of wood supporting the centre Simon carefully reduced the end to round by gentle cuts from the centre out to the ends. With the ends round the base and candle holder can be shaped, also a 1/2 bead was formed at each side of the sphere.

This was a well presented and enjoyable evening.

