

plumber's solder. Bob mentioned that the composition of the solder (95% tin and 5% antimony) is very similar to pewter.

Martin Rost showed a cedar bowl finished with walnut oil, and a heart shaped bowl. The heart shaped bowl was made entirely on the lathe and did not employ sawing to shape.

Doug Ruggiero and **Bob Fentress** showed the cabinet for the club's mini-lathe that the two collaborated on. It is designed to sit on the ways of the club's lathe and be bolted down.

Decorating Turnings

Ken Deaner

There are many ways to decorate turnings. Coloring, texturing, burning, and carving have become quite common in the field of turning. Some turners use turned sculptural forms as the canvas upon which they apply other skill sets to make their work unique. Adding beads or coves to a piece changes its character. Paint, stain and dyes alter the look of a piece, but carving transforms a common shape into a new exciting form.

Complex carving and texturing is not simple to master. They require skills that take time and practice to learn. Painters study their art for decades before they master the fine nuances that set their work apart from the common man's.

Once a turner has mastered his craft he can set out to learn new skills that can enhance his work. Turners might try to master many techniques at once. This is a bit like being a jack of all trades but a master of none. Each new skill requires a great deal of practice and a slew of new tools and materials. Be patient!

Setting out to learn how to carve can be complicated. There are many types of carving: chip, relief, hand, power and even chainsaw carving. Each requires a different set of skills along with new tools. Choose wisely and learn one at a time.

A turner has to change his way of looking at a turned form if he is going to carve into his work. The wall thickness of the turning must be considered before a piece is carved. The type of carving must be planned in advance to avoid puncturing the wall. Carving goes below the surface of the work. You must leave wood in your turning in places you ordinarily

would not and carve it away. Carving is not a gross act. It must be done with care. You must clean finish your turning and then carefully carve trying for as smooth a cut as possible to avoid endless sanding. Avoid gouging the work with your carving tools or tearing grain. The less damage you do to the work the better the final product. Start out with a simple plan and use scraps to practice before attacking a well turned piece.

Carving tools are sharpened differently from turning tools. They must be razor sharp and highly polished or the surface will tear as the blade cuts into the wood. Some carving tools are shaped like skewers or gouges while others are more knife like. You can use hand tools or reciprocating power tools. The key is sharp tools. There are a number of power carving tools on the market. Dremel, Foredom, Proxxon, and Arbortech are a few of the manufacturers. There are rotary tools along with reciprocating tools. There are many makers of hand carving tools. The Swiss and Germans have a good reputation when it comes to hand carving tools. Palm tools are good for detail work. Mallet tools are great for large pieces but may be too aggressive for thin turned objects. Chip carving knives can add new dimensions to turned bowls.

You may also want to apply files to shape your work. Many manufacturers carry riffler fine, medium and course files. Micro Plane files remove material fast, and are wonderful for grating cheese.

Adding any surface decoration to turnings will add considerable expense to your hobby budget. Whether you color, texture or carve it requires new tools along with the new skills you will have to learn. Like turning you will buy items that you will use once and discard. It is part of the learning curve. There will be other items that will become as indispensable as your lathe.

Ask questions of those who decorate their work. Pick their minds to find out what you need in order to get started. Take a course or attend a workshop with someone who turns and carves. Decorating your work will add to your excitement.

Good luck.