

Christian Burchard Notes By Jim Toftner

Umpqua Wood Turners Demo

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Book recommended by Christian – The Wheel Right Shop – carts were made from specific parts of a tree – cut at specific times of the year. Good place to gain an understanding of wood and how it moves – its strengths.

Wood Bleach recommended Dailey or Baileys – non yellowing – available at Miller Paint – comes in two parts A & B. CB mixes 3 parts a to 1 part B. Bleaching is done after project has dried out. After Bleaching applies Krylon Crystal Clear – then Lacquer.

CB does some shaping of the opening after it dries.

Drying process using the microwave – CB tapes fragile areas with clear packaging tape prior to microwaving – then microwaves object – usually approximately 1 minute then take out and let cool – then microwave for another minute until somewhat dry. The way to tell if it is dry is if your hand feels damp or cold when you put it on the object – usually you can tell the dampness difference of the object in the heavier parts of the turning. Beware of over cooking your wood – you might burn the turning in the thinnest part of the wood.

Sanding wet objects can be done using abranet distributed by Merc. If it clogs up one can simply wash the dust out of the mesh and let dry and use again and again. Green sanding – use a torch to heat the surface – then sand with abranet.

Wintertime is the best time to cut Madrone.

CB starts his turning by gluing a waste block onto the piece of wood using CA glue. CA glue works best with a wet surface such as green madrone.

If trying to fix a dry piece of dry wood using CA glue – always wet the area first – this will prevent the CA glue from staining the wood.

If one happens to stick skin together with CA glue soak in water. CA will let you separate thing if soaked in water. Therefore not the best exterior fix for items that may get wet.

CB uses a lot of CA on his projects. He buys 800/900 Starbond CA in large quantities – then stores in freezer. If some of your glue hardens – freeze it. When you take it out of the freezer – unthaw and it probably will return to its liquefied state.

When first starting to round an object – present the tip of the tool lightly – less in contact with the wood – then move tool in closer making more contact. The less the vibration with the tool, the better it is cutting. The quieter the cut the more efficient the cut is. The louder the cut the less efficient the cut is. For finishing with a skew this is even more pertinent.

Hollow vessels should be slightly heavier on the bottom so that they don't tip over – the bottom should be also rounded. The vessel will find where its own level to rest on. This creates more significance in the art object. Art is not made for use it's for show.

Before starting to hollow your vessel – use a drill bit or sharp object to drill a hole to the desired depth. Measure by placing the drill bit from the face toward the bottom until you get to the desired depth. Leaving a slight divot in the center helps to start your drill in the correct place – very seldom will this move off-center in your drilling, so it is fairly reliable.

Start cutting to the desired thickness at the top and work in to the drilled center – then move down and clean out as necessary. Keep going down in your vessel until you run out of drilled out center always working to the desired thickness as you go down. You can use a light on the outside on green madrone to tell what your thickness is.

CB sandblasts most of his vessels to texture them. Then put in a paper bag, inside a plastic bag – then changes the paper bag daily to dry more thoroughly. This prevents the vessel from molding.

Coloring of vessels should normally be darker on the bottom and lighter on the top.

Shaping of a vessel – avoid straight lines. Should probably have a larger center if possible and smaller top end.

When tinting – use the 95% alcohol rather than the 70%.

Polimerized tongue oil turns hard immediately when it hits air. Great for finishing salad bowls.

Critiques – What do you like about your project – what do you not like about it. This opens up the discussion and help make improvements for the future. Always finish the bottom because people turn objects over when they pick them up to inspect before purchasing. The outside finish on vessels is the most important. The inside is the least important. Wherever one can touch the object with their hand is very important.

In making a ball there are 3 axis. Put piece of wood between centers then round so that so that the size around is equal to the size along the axis. Draw line along length of the axis. Make a jam chuck to fit the six of the round ball you have created so far. Move the ball to 90 degrees across the axis you created on the length and draw a line for this axis. Take small cuts until ball is nearly round by removing small amounts of high spots. Turn ball around so that you utilize the other side of the ball next to the drive spur. Continue to remove high spots. Repeat axis 1, 2 & 3 until all high spots are gone. Cut off ends and finish. Probably I will not make balls in the future – so my notes are minimal.