



# CALGARY WOODTURNERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

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## FINISHES ON WOODTURNINGS

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From the Editor

Last meeting was packed with information. I took lots of notes, and then forwarded my writeup to each of the presenters for corrections and clarifications. What you have in this newsletter are the "instructions" from each of the presenters on how they achieve the finishes they do on their pieces. Our thanks go out to each of the presenters for sharing their techniques, and for everyone that contributed (presenters and watchers). It is through the collective sharing of knowledge that each of us become better turners. Happy reading, turning and finishing everyone!

Doug Drury



At precisely 7:02 PM CWT time Norm called the meeting to order.

First order of business was of course to welcome our guests, Bill, Carcy, George, Carl, and Matt.

Greg Hahl informed the members that he now has the forms for those members who wish to be covered for teaching under the guild's insurance policy. See Greg for further information.

John Penner informed the guild that he is stepping down as co-ordinator of the Spruce Meadows sale. Thank you John for all of your hard work over the past years in making the sale a success.

\*\*\* VOLUNTEER NEEDED \*\*\*

With John stepping down as co-ordinator of the Spruce Meadows sale, we need someone to take his place. John will mentor the new co-ordinator to ensure there is a smooth transition. While the sale is the last 2 weekends of November and the first weekend of December, we need a co-ordinator NOW to book the booth for next year and start the planning. It may look like the sale is a long ways off, but it will creep up on us very quickly.

FINISHES ON WOODTURNINGS

### George Samaha – CA Glue and Epoxy

George finishes on the lathe starting with the speed at about 1,100 RMP. For the CA glue he starts with the thin CA glue. To apply George uses a nylon stocking backed by blue shop towel. With the piece turning he drizzles the CA glue on the top, and holds the stocking/shop towel underneath to smooth out the finish (You will only have two passes back and forth before it will cure). He puts on one coat at a time and sands each coat with 320 grit, build additional coats slowly after each coat has fully cured (additional coats take longer to dry as they build up). He usually does at least 5 coats and up to 10 depending on the desired look. George buffs/sands between coats working up to

8,000 grit. George found that buffing/sanding to any finer grit turns the coating white, as does using the instant-cure sprays.

For epoxy George uses a 5 minute epoxy. He mixes the epoxy in a dish and then applies it to his piece on the lathe with the lathe spinning at about 300 RPM. George puts the epoxy on with a spatula/glue spreader and gets it as smooth as he can, and then uses heat to even out any ridges and get it really smooth. For heat George uses a heat gun or alcohol burner. After the epoxy has set up, George sands/buffs to 8,000 grit the same as he does with his CA glue finishes.

## **Bob Beckwith – BLO/Alcohol/Shellac Mixture**

Bob demonstrated his mixture of BLO (boiled linseed oil), Alcohol and Shellac. Bob's mixture is 1/3 of each ingredient. The alcohol that Bob uses is Isopropyl Alcohol (Rubbing alcohol 99%), purchased at Cost CO \$2.00 a litre. and the shellac used is a 2 LB cut with the same Alcohol.

Bob first sands his piece to 320 Grit, and then puts on a thin layer using a pad of paper towel while the lathe is running at about 300 RPM. Do not use blue shop towels as the alcohol will dissolve the blue dye in the

shop towel and transfer the blue to your piece. After the first coat has dried (20-30 minutes) Bob applies a second coat with the lathe running at about 700 RPM, and then a third coat with the lathe running at 1,100 RPM. Repeat the process until you build up as many coats as you want.

Bob put two coats of his mixture on his piece while doing his presentation and then passed the piece around. No sanding or buffing was done after the mixture had been applied and was dry.

## **Garry Goddard – Shellac**

Shellac is a substance excreted by the female Lac insect, thus the name, Shellac. Shellac comes in a solid form as buttons, sheets or flakes. The shellac is then dissolved in a carrier (most commonly ethanol) and the dissolved mixture is then applied to a piece to be finished. Shellac dries within minutes which means that pieces can be recoated within a short period of time. It is buffable and rubs out so a very high gloss shine can be achieved.

Shellac is not water or heat resistant (white spots or rings will be left on the piece if it comes into contact with water or heat), but it is easily repairable by sanding and reapplying.

Shellac is food safe.

Shellac can be easily dyed, and comes in a variety of colours from ultra blonde (almost clear) to blond, amber, orange, and through to dark garnet.

Shellac comes both waxed and de-waxed. No other finish can be put over waxed shellac, while de-waxed shellac can be used as a sealer and another finish applied over top if desired (such as Polyurethane).

Dry Shellac is readily available. Garry gets his shellac from Wood Essence in Saskatoon ([www.woodessence.com](http://www.woodessence.com)) and has found their prices and quality to be very good.

Garry uses either 95% Ethanol or 99% Isopropyl alcohol to make his shellac. The mixtures are determined by

volume and weight, and charts of how much shellac to what volume of alcohol are readily available so you know how much of each to use. The difference between using Ethanol or Isopropyl alcohol is that the Ethanol will dissolve the shellac flakes faster and also dries quicker than Isopropyl alcohol.

Garry purchases his alcohol at the Co-op pharmacy, and said if you ask the pharmacist they will bring in larger bottles than the 250ml bottles found on the shelf, but warned that if you are purchasing large volumes be prepared to answer questions to assure the pharmacist that you are not using it to make illicit drugs.

Garry also warned that when using shellac make sure you are doing so in a well ventilated area, using breathing protection, and no pilot lights or equipment that can generate sparks nearby. The fumes coming from shellac are alcohol, and a pilot light from a furnace or hot water heater can cause the vapours to flash (ignite) causing explosions and fires. Garry mixed up some shellac for us to show how easy it is to mix, and passed around two different colors of shellac that were already mixed. Garry found that once mixed it can be stored for 3-4 months.

Garry passed around a number of pieces that he had finished with two coats of a 2 lb cut of shellac. The shellac was applied with a brush, and Garry warned that when applying shellac with a brush to always apply with the grain or else ridges will be left behind in the shellac. Also, always use a natural fibre bristle brush as the alcohol will attack and melt most other kinds of bristle brushes leaving you with a gooey mess.

## **A Note About Alcohols**

### **Do not use methyl hydrate! Methyl hydrate is highly toxic.**

Terry Golbeck related a story of a customer of Black Forest Wood that poisoned himself (he died) by using Methyl Hydrate.

While Ethanol is easily available to find in the United States, it is a little harder to come by in Canada. One of our members (sorry I didn't get your name) informed the group that Canadian Tire and Home Hardware sell Ventless Furnace Fuel that is essentially denatured alcohol or Ethanol. I could find no record of ventless furnace fuel on either the Home Hardware or Canadian Tire web sites.

I would just caution everyone to read the labels carefully and make sure you know what you are really getting. Fondue Fuel is actually Methyl Hydrate.

No matter what alcohol you use, precautions should still be taken (even with Ethanol or Isopropyl alcohol) to keep it being absorbed through your skin. All alcohol is poisonous, and a lethal dosage can be absorbed through your skin.

BREAK TIME!
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After the break Carl reminded everyone about our Guild Library. It is full of great books and DVD's that can be signed out by all members of the guild.

### **Vern Steinbrecker – Wood Turners Finish**

With the Salad Bowl Finish Vern will use up to 3-4 coats of mineral oil depending on the type of wood and color. Let it soak in until its dry to touch, put on a the first coat of salad bowl finish and sand with 320. The next coat of salad bowl finish is put on and sanded to 400. A third coat of finish is put on and let dry. If it looks good Vern will leave it, but sometimes it needs a few more coats just buffing in between.

With the General Turners Finish Vern will sand up to 400, then put a coat on, sometimes 2 coats before sanding to 320. Vern will then put on another coat and sand to 400. After the next coat dries, which doesn't take too long, Vern will buff it. If it looks good Vern

will leave it, but it will usually need another coat depending on the wood. Next Vern will use the Triple E, which is a cut and polish, then 1-2 coats of liquid Shellawax. Vern usually uses paper towel to put finish on and shop towels for buffing.

General Finishes Salad Bowl Finish is heavy duty oil and urethane oil based top coat and comes in semi-gloss sheen. General Finishes Wood Turners Finish is a water/oil urethane hybrid. Shellawax is a shellac based friction polish which has a hardener that is activated by the heat generated through the friction when it is applied. All are food safe once cured and are available at Black Forest Wood Products.

Terry Golbeck passed around a beer tap handle that he had finished with General Finishes Wood Turners Finish. Terry first dyed the tab handle, and then put on the Wood Turners Finish with a paper towel. The Wood Turners Finish activated the dye and some of it came off. Terry re-dyed the piece, and then applied the Wood Turners Finish with an air brush. Once the first coat was dry he was able to sand with 320 grit paper and applied successive coats with paper towel.

## **Terry Golbeck – OSMO**

Terry introduced a hard wax oil finish with the brand name OSMO, to the group. The finish does not yellow and was originally designed for use on hardwood floors. Osmo is manufactured in Germany and is entirely made from plant based waxes and oils is food safe. It is approved in Europe for a finish on toys. It is a very hard finish, so hard that after it has dried buffing does nothing to it. Water just beads up on it, and it will not flake, blister, or peel. There are several formulations of this product for different applications: Topoil for food work surfaces, Polyx-oil for furniture and floors and Polyx-oil Professional which has no thinners. Terry demonstrated the Polyx-oil Professional but any OSMO product would work on a turning. OSMO products are also available in a variety of tints and colours.

Terry mounted a small bowl to the chuck in the lathe and informed the group the bowl had been sanded to

220 grit. He then put on a thin coat with a non-abrasive 3m pad. Terry put a small dab on the pad and rubbed the finish into the piece, starting with the interior of the bowl and then the outside. There was no need for additional finish to be applied to the pad, the small dab did both the interior and exterior. Terry waited a few minutes, and then rubbed the bowl with a dry pad to remove the excess. If a second coat is desired it can be applied in an hour. On the internet people are saying that after the second coat has been applied, you can sand to 400 grit and then apply a third coat to achieve a high gloss. Normally no sanding is required after applying, and each coat will give a higher gloss.

There was a great deal of interest from the group regarding this product due to its durability, ease of application (no sanding or buffing required) and great results.

## **Jim Osenton – Watco Danish Oil and Buffing**

Jim gave a demonstration on how he finishes pieces using a combination of Watco Danish Oil and buffing. Jim first sands the piece to be finished to 400 grit on the lathe, and then with the lathe running at 200 to 300 RPM brushes on a thin coat of Watco Danish Oil. He then wipes off the excess Danish oil with a paper towel. (Take care to dispose of the paper towel properly as a wet paper towel or rag, if left wadded up, can self ignite and start a fire as it cures.) Sometimes Jim will apply multiple coats of oil, sanding with 400 grit paper between applications. After the last coat of oil has been applied, Jim will let the piece cure to two days or more.

For buffing Jim has two buffing wheels mounted to a grinder, and a third wheel that can be mounted to his lathe. The first wheel is a very stiff yellow wheel, the second a softer linen wheel, and the third wheel that he mounts on the lathe is a very soft flannel polishing wheel. The first wheel Jim charges with a brown Tripoli buffing compound. To charge the wheel, Jim turns on the grinder, and then holds the buffing compound against the wheel for a few seconds. Then Jim buffed his piece against the wheel. Jim warned about having a firm grip on your piece, as the spinning wheel can easily pull the piece from your hands and

send it crashing to the floor. The first wheel can buff out sanding scratches and puts a very smooth finish on the piece.

After buffing the whole piece with the Tripoli buffing compound, Jim then moves to the second white linen wheel. This wheel Jim charges with white diamond buffing compound, and then proceeds to buff the whole piece once again. The white diamond further smooths the piece and starts to give the piece a shine. If a higher shine is desired, Jim then moves to the third flannel wheel, and using Carnauba wax (use the wax sparingly as it is easy to put a thick wax buildup on a piece) does a final buffing and polishing. [Editor's note: mice like Carnauba wax. Don't leave the wax where a mouse can get to it. Don't ask me how I know this. Just take my word for it that my big piece of Carnauba wax isn't as large as it used to be due to one of those pesky rodents!]

For the inside of a bowl or piece where the wheels mounted on the grinder or lathe cannot reach, Jim uses a buffing ball on an electric drill.

Jim passed around several pieces that he had finished using the buffer, and did some buffing of some pieces to show everyone how it is done.



## A Newsletter Extra! - Doug Drury and his CA Glue Finish

I have had several people ask me how I get my finish on the little vases I have brought to the meetings. I use a CA glue finish, but use a slightly different method from the one shown by Geroge Samaha. Here is my method.

First I sand the finished piece to 400 grit. Then I remove all of the sanding dust first with a damp rag, and then after putting on a pair of protective gloves, with a piece of paper towel that has been dampened with 99% isopropyl alcohol. I use the alcohol to help pick up ALL of the dust. Any dust left behind will show up as white specks or a white haze in the finish.

With the lathe turning at about 300 RMP and using a small piece of blue shop towel as a pad, I drizzle a thin coat of CA glue on the top, smoothing it out with the shop towel pad on the bottom. When you are using CA glue as a finish you are really encasing your project in a thin layer of plastic. The thin CA glue gets into all of the pores of the wood and seals it in preparation for later coats. Put on the thin coat as smoothly as possible and let it cure. (Good idea to wear a respirator or have very good ventelation as the glue curing can give off a lot of fumes.)

Check the piece and make sure that it is sealed everywhere. If not, put on a second coat of thin CA glue.

After the thin coat(s) of CA glue have cured, I switch to the medium CA glue and put on 3 or 4 coats, making

sure each coat is fully cured before going onto the next coat. All you are doing at this point is building up the thickness of the plastic finish. Too much and it will look like a bar table top. Too thin and you could sand through the finish in the next step.

I will often use one of the instant cure sprays to help the coats cure quickly, but this is not required. You could just wait for it to cure if you are more patient than I am.

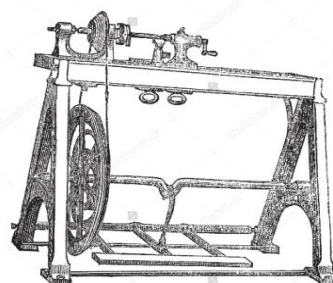
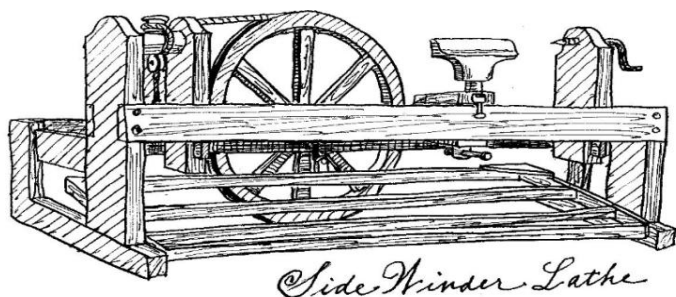
Once I have my 3 to 4 coats of medium CA glue on the piece, I start wet sanding, starting with 600 grit, then 800 grit, 1,500 grit, 2,400 grit, 4,000 grit, and finishing with 12,000 grit. As you go up each grit it will initially sound very scratchy, but that will quickly dissappear. Once the scratchy sound is gone, it's time to move to the next grit. Wipe off the piece between each grit so you don't leave behind any pieces that will scratch what you just finished smoothing. I still have the lathe turning at about 300 RMP.

I will now take a clean dry piece of paper towel and will put a small amount of Hut Ultra Gloss Plastic Polish on the paper towel and give the entire piece a very thin coat of the pastic polish. Then I turn up the speed of the lathe to about 1,000 RMP, and with a dry paper towel work the polish in and buff it with the paper towel.

Final step is a buff with a piece of flannel and the lathe running at about 2,500 RPM.

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Dave Beeman did his raffle and numerous pieces of wood went with excited members to their new home. The 50/50 draw was won by Jim Osenton. Congratulations Jim on winning \$123.00

## **The End of the Meeting**



## Instant Gallery

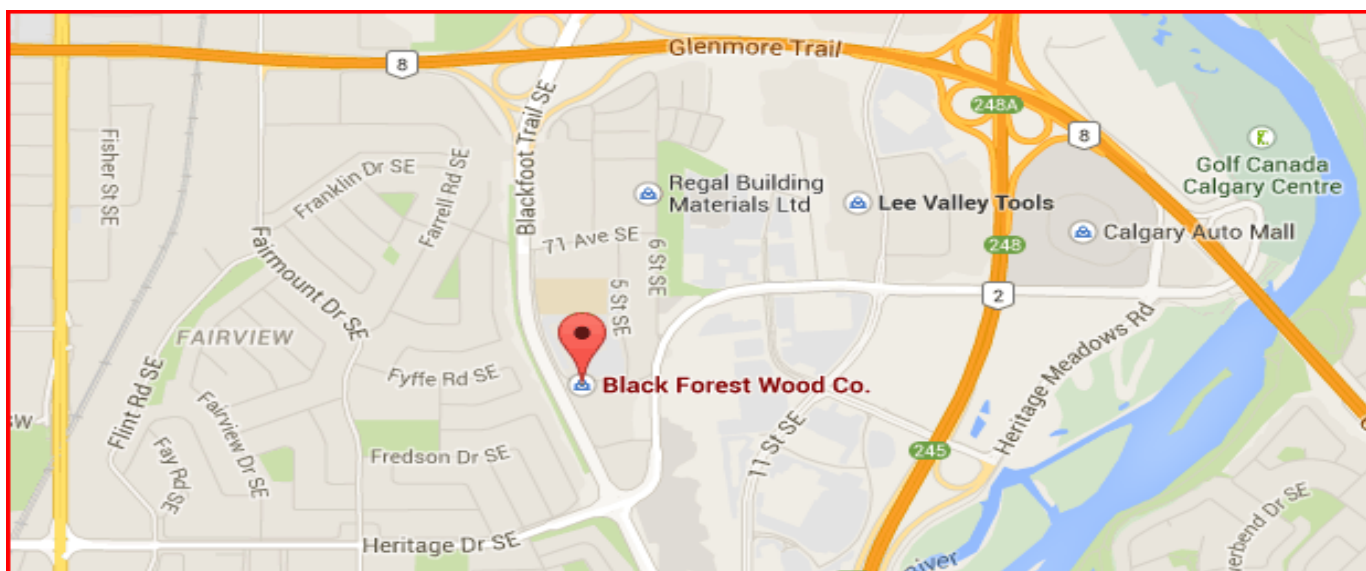




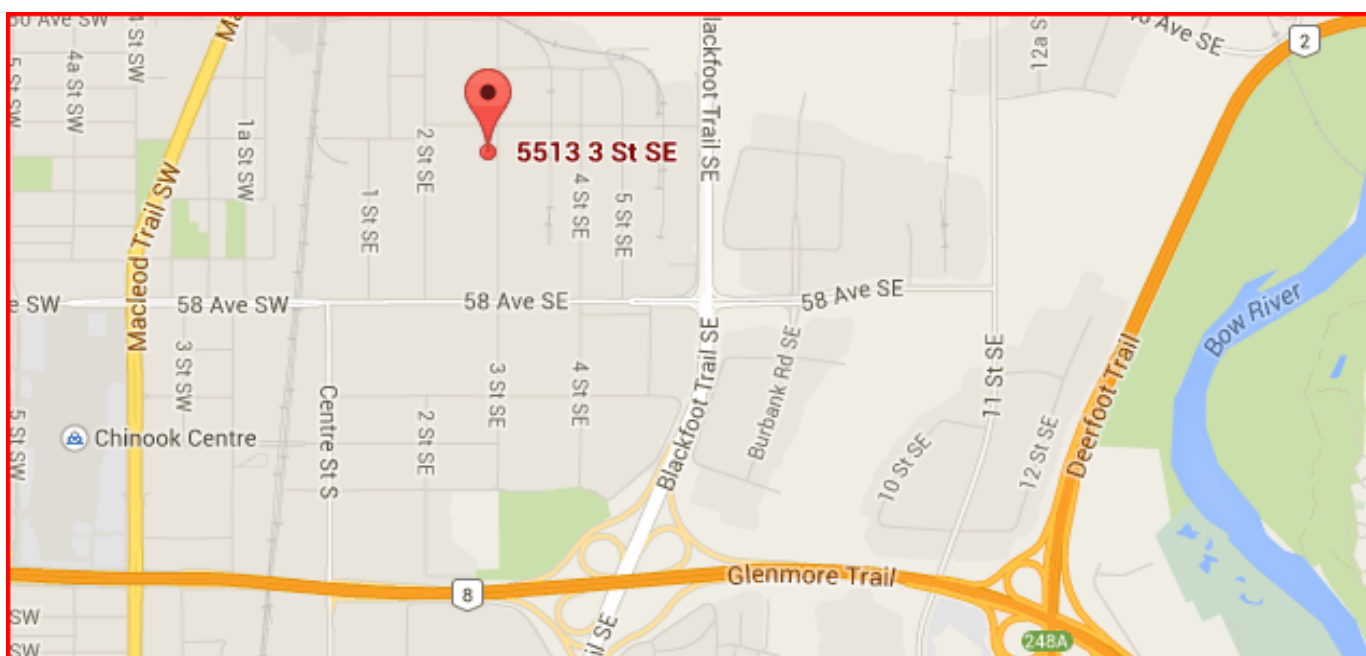




The Calgary Woodturners Guild meets at Black Forest Wood Company (603, 77 Ave SE, Calgary) the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM except for July and August. Visitors are always welcome.



Sawdust sessions are held at the Calgary Drop-In Woodwork Shop (5513 3 Street SE). Come turn and talk wood with your fellow guild members, learn or try something new. There are always people available to answer questions and give help, and lathes to turn projects on. Vistors are always welcome, and lunch is available for \$5.00 for those who work up an appetite and want to stay.



About the Guild...

### **GUILD PURPOSE**

To promote the art and craft of Woodturning in a way that expands the knowledge, safe practice, and enjoyment of woodturning, thereby benefitting both members and also the community

### **FOR THE MEMBERS:**

- To provide all emembers with a method of regularly exchanging ideas and experience in woodturning
- To promote safety in woodturning
- To benefit from group size in acquiring published resources & materials

### **FOR THE COMMUNITY**

- To bring an awareness of woodturning to the general public
- To provide charitable benefits to the community

### **MEETINGS**

The guild meets on the first Tuesday each month (except July and August) at 7:00 PM at Black Forest Wood Co., Bay 7, 603 - 77 Avenue SE, Calgary, AB. Visitors are welcome

### **MAILING ADDRESS**

Calgary Woodturners Guild  
c/o Black Forest Wood Company  
Bay 7, 603 - 77th Avenue SE  
Calgary, AB, Canada  
T2H 2B9

### **MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Annual Dues - \$30.00 with Email, otherwise \$35.00  
Dues paid on a calendar year basis

**WEBSITE**    [www.calgarywoodturners.com](http://www.calgarywoodturners.com)

### **CLUB OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

President:	Norm Olsen
Vice President:	Garry Goddard
Treasurer:	Greg Dahl
Secretary:	Doug Drury
Director - Website Administrator:	Sherry Willetts
Director - Program Manager:	Terry Gobeck
Director - Sawdust Session coordinator:	Ken Kindjerski
Director - Sawdust Session coordinator:	Albert Daniels
Auditors:	
Bar-B-Que (Annual):	Albert Daniels
Charitable Co-ordinator	Dwayne Sims
Librarian:	Carl Smith
Membership Records:	Carl Smith
Newsletter	Doug Drury
Photographer:	Vacant
Programs:	Terry Gobeck
Public Displays:	Joe Van Keulen
Raffles:	Dave Beeman
School Liason:	Jim Jones
Spruce Meadows Sale:	John Penner
Webmaster:	Sherry Willetts
Members at Large:	Jim Leslie, Vern Steinbrecker