



Wood Turners Worldwide

worldwidewoodturners.org and the art of making shavings

Newsletter

APRIL 9, 2025

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 8



Sheila White



Jon Moore



Billy Burt



Dale Slaughter

Clockwise from top left: Maple vase with texture and paint embellishment; Spalted ash bowl with dye and gold embellishing wax; Box elder urn; Purple resin and blackjack oak burl box.



Al Dawson



Dane Chandler



Shay Maher



Jayson Cote

This page, clockwise from top left: Maple multi-axis goblet; Memorial cat turning from Sassafras, with iron acetate. Chilean Mesquite ears & tail; Cherry box with black walnut lid with a spalted maple knob; Yew bowl. **Facing page, clockwise from top left:** Spalted oak live edge bowl; Elm vase; FOG wood bowl, exterior ebonized with iron acetate, inside colored with water based colors; Birch and walnut egg cups; Apple wood crotch figure bowl.



Howard King



Leonard Davis



Victor Todd



Doug Miller



Jadee Huff

Your art belongs in our newsletter! Email hi-res images to editor@worldwidewoodturners.org. Include a brief description and make sure you identify yourself so I can give you credit!

Laser Engraving for Wood Turners Pt. 3

... Continued from Volume 2, Issue 7

Choosing Safe Materials for Engraving: Wood and Beyond

Selecting the right material for laser engraving is just as important as choosing the correct machine settings. While wood is the most commonly used material for woodturners, laser engraving can also be applied to leather, acrylic, metal, glass, and more. However, not all materials are safe to engrave, and some may release toxic fumes, excessive smoke, or fine particulates that can be harmful to your health and damage your engraver.

Understanding which materials are safe, engrave well, and provide high-quality results will ensure a clean, precise, and safe engraving experience. Engraving the wrong material can lead to poor-quality results, excess charring, or even fire hazards. In some cases, burning the wrong type of material can release dangerous gases like chlorine, cyanide, or formaldehyde,

which require professional-grade ventilation to handle safely.

Best Woods for Laser Engraving

Wood remains one of the most popular and versatile materials for laser engraving, offering natural beauty, rich contrast, and a timeless aesthetic. However, not all woods perform the same under a laser. The best engraving results come from woods that are dry, have a consistent grain, and burn cleanly without excessive charring or smoke. Hardwoods generally produce sharper details, while some softwoods can engrave well but may burn unevenly due to their resin content.

Here are some of the best woods for laser engraving and what makes them great choices:

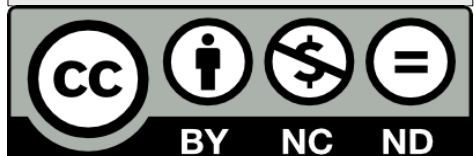
- **Maple – Crisp, Clean Engraving:** Maple is widely regarded as one of the best woods for laser engraving due to its fine grain and light color, which provides excellent contrast when burned. It's ideal for engraving highly detailed patterns, logos, and text without excessive scorching.
 - Produces sharp, high-resolution engravings.
 - Minimal smoke and charring.
 - Light wood color enhances contrast in the engraved areas.

- **Cherry – Warm Tones & Rich Contrast:** Cherry wood engraves beautifully, developing a deep, warm brown burn that makes designs stand out. It's an excellent choice for decorative bowls, platters, and plaques.
 - Provides darker burn marks that naturally contrast with the wood.
 - Smooth grain allows for clean, detailed engraving.
 - Slightly softer than maple, making it easier to engrave deeply.
- **Walnut – Deep Contrast on a Dark Wood:** Walnut is one of the darker hardwoods, and while it doesn't offer the same light-to-dark contrast as maple or cherry, it provides a bold and elegant engraving effect.
 - Naturally dark color means engravings appear more subtle and sophisticated.
 - Best for logos, text, and bold patterns.
 - Works well for engraved inlays when paired with lighter woods.
- **Birch – Affordable and Versatile:** Birch is a budget-friendly choice that still produces high-quality engravings. It's often used in signs, coasters, and decorative items.
 - Engraves cleanly with moderate contrast.
 - Less expensive than other hardwoods.
 - Good for both deep engraving and light surface etching.
- **Oak – Traditional & Durable:** Oak is a dense hardwood with a distinct grain pattern, making it a classic choice for

Wood Turners Worldwide

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woodturners. It can handle deep engraving without losing detail, though its strong grain pattern may slightly affect intricate designs.

- Great for large-scale designs and bold lettering.
- Works well for engraved textures and deep reliefs.
- Best for rustic or traditional-style engravings.

To be continued in Volume 2, Issue 9 ...



The Woodturners of Polk County and the Lakeland Woodworkers Club made more than 200 pens to be passed out to the Veterans on the Flight from Lakeland to Washington DC.

Above right: Bottle stoppers, embedded in the top of each stopper is a State Quarter; **Bottom right:** White oak whiskey barrel shot glasses, charred on the inside.



Ron Pollman



Rick Barnes

Demoitus

By Doug Miller

We talk about demoitus from time to time. Often we misplace a tool or a piece of equipment doesn't function as we expect. I've had those issues so many times. One thing we can never count on with no thought of miscue is the wood we are using. The saying goes something like, "There's too much good wood around to waste time on crappy wood." The idea is so very true. But most of us know that there is often a great treasure hidden inside some of the most unlikely chunks that are available to us, those hidden veins of color or grain that runs along or out from a crack, split, or other defect. For some of us, myself included, the gamble is worth the risk in order to achieve the reward of these hidden treasures.

Two things I want to share from this.

1. Don't discard a piece of firewood just because it's not perfect. You may have to treat the wood in some way to increase your chances of success. But you may be rewarded with some spectacular grain and/or color in the completed piece. Just thinking about it, you will probably have a greater sense of accomplishment for getting through the challenges that the less than optimal blank presented.

2. (Safety Sue is going to love this) With every piece of wood we bring to the lathe, we need to take a GOOD look at it. Is there any loose bark, cracks, splits, inclusions, rot that need to be

Carl Jacobson demonstrated his process for turning these charming figures during our March 26, 2025 meeting. You can watch the entire meeting, or just the demonstration segment on our YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/@worldwidewoodturners1>.

World Wide Woodturners meets every via Zoom Wednesday at 7:00 PM EST. Meetings feature demonstrations, tips and tricks, member's gallery, and more! Free woodturning demonstrations weekly! Go to worldwidewoodturners.org and click "Go to meeting!"



addressed before we begin turning? Do we have the skill set needed to address any issues we are finding? Will our lathe handle it? Will our tools handle it? Are we prepared to trash it 3/4's of the way to completion? Are we ready for the accolades when we do get the piece completed? These are questions I often ask myself and should with every piece of wood. Even when I do check it out very well there can be hidden flaws that are not clearly visible or discerned.

We can never be 100% sure of wood. It's a natural material after all said and done. We can, however, take any and all precautions to not only increase our chances of success, but our safety throughout the process as well.

Be careful boys and girls.

Worldwide Woodturners meets every Wednesday at 7 PM EST via Zoom! Go to worldwidewoodturners.org and click "Go to meeting." Weekly demonstrations!

Camera Setup for filming or live demonstration

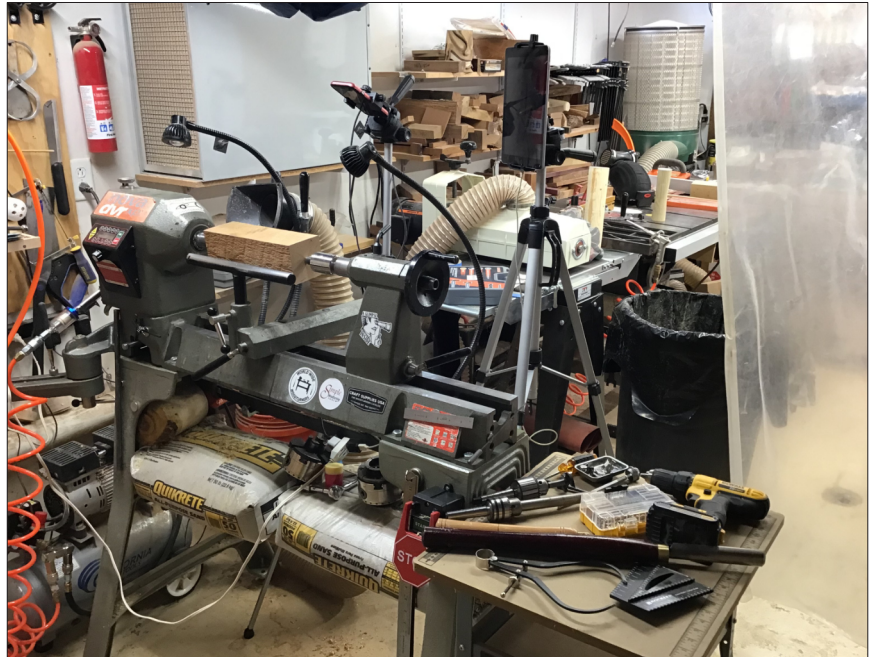
By Jeff Walters

There is this myth that if you want to do an online demo or make a YouTube video, that you need lots of expensive camera and computer gear. Well that is simply not true. Many of us that have done online demos for Worldwide Woodturners or for our respective clubs and groups have done so with just a phone. Nothing more. Some of us also have tablets that we can use as a main screen when talking to the viewers. You just have to have each device logged into the Zoom meeting.

Here is a picture of my setup for my demos. While it may look complicated, it is actually very simple. I have two camera tripods. One with my phone attached and aimed down on my project. I also have my earbuds connected to talk and listen. The other tripod has my tablet attached (with volume turned all the way down) and this is what I use to talk to the audience before and after the demo. During the demo the phone is highlighted so the audience can see me making the project.

You can even go with a more simple setup of the phone only. So it would be upright facing you as you talk to the audience and then faced down while you are working on the project.

The tripods I have are Amazon Basics and were about \$20 each and the mounts were about \$10



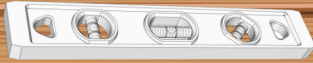
each. If you do not want to purchase anything, then you can use the wood you have laying around to build mounts. It doesn't have to be fancy as no one will see it anyway.



Level-up



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Instructors

Dean Grimes	Jeff Walters
Kade Bolger	Brent Sobotka
Billy Burt	Roger Wollam
Tim Hatch	Dan Smith
Paul Hannaby	Dave Rhodes
Martin Clarkson	Sue Jilek
Gary Hales	Jim Duxbury
Matt Harber	Rita Duxury
Joaquin Juatai	

September 17-20 2026
Wisconsin Rapids Wisconsin

Tuition Cost \$160

Includes all training &
Evening Meal

Hotel Accomodations are now available.



levelup@worldwidewoodturners.org

More details to come!!!

Avoiding Barrel Distortion in Photographs

If you've ever been bothered by your camera changing the shape of a piece, you may be experiencing barrel distortion. Barrel distortion is caused by the shape of the camera lens, which compresses light waves in order to focus them on the image capturing plane.

Below, I intentionally held the camera very close to the subject. The result? Finials on the outer two pieces appear to bend away from the center (vertical lines added to illustrate):



To correct this problem, increase the focal length: move your camera farther away from the subject and zoom in. This causes the light to bend less radically, and "straightens" the distortion.



There will almost always be some degree of distortion in your photos, it is lessened, and your images appear closer to their actual form.

There are other factors that effect this distortion, but this simple tip can improve photographs of

your art.



Bob Moffett

Left: Offset maple platter. The rim is textured with a carving bur and painted emerald green. The red portion was dyed yellow, then red and sanded through the red. The center is dyed putty with crushed eggshell.