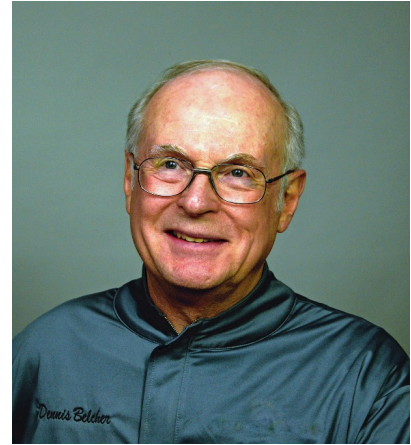




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My goal is to fully engage an audience in a demonstration. A humor, questions to the audience, use of a dry erase board, and projected pictures are just a few of the techniques that are built into each session. A good demonstration is not just about mastery of turning techniques, but also how the techniques are presented. Demonstrations can be in person or a remote interactive demonstration. If it is an IRD, it is important that the club system support interaction with the audience.

IRD's are \$325 US per engagement. In person demonstrations are \$650 per day plus motel lodging and travel.

Demonstrations are:

- When Good Wood Cracks
- MultiAxis Flower Disc
- Board to a Vase
- Before the Wood Spins
- Christmas Time!
- Demonstration Skills for Woodturners

Contact information for program directors that have seen one of my demonstrations will be provided upon request.

April 2025

When Good Wood Cracks

It's a curse and an opportunity when wood cracks. The demonstration presents a series of techniques that take the curse of a crack and turn it into an artistic opportunity.



This demonstration appeals to woodturners of all skill levels.

There are two key themes in the demonstration. The first theme is to demonstrate a safe way to use each technique. The second is unleashing the creativity of each turner to resolve cracks in their own unique way. Members are encouraged to bring in their own cracked blank for discussion.

Techniques will be from the following list:

Splines - This is a repair technique suitable for wider flaws than the Dutchman technique. The creation of a custom spline and matching slot across the flaw will be shown.

Lacing – It sounds simple, but it is not. I will discuss the technical issues and how to solve walking drill bits, misaligned holes and other problems. The key decisions in lacing will be illustrated with a sample board that shows a variety of lacing materials and patterns.

Staples – An alternative to lacing is the use of staples. A staple is created and inserted into the wood so that it is secure. A hand forged staple will also be created and used to “fasten” a crack. This is through the wood repair. Staples can also be used where you do not have access to the inside of a form.

Cut it Out – This is the third choice for flaws. We can leave it, highlight it, or cut it out. I will show how to create a mountain range rim, a wave rim and the wrapped vase. The idea of using common items, such as a zipper, as an insert will be demonstrated.

Brass Plating – Demonstration will include making the template, cutting the plate, and forming the plate to the curved surface, and creating hand formed rivets.

Rope it Up – This technique uses actual rope to bind the crack in a unique way.

Cable it Together - Holding things together with steel cable and springs.

Art Theory - How you can use a repair to make your pieces look more appealing. The point of turning a flaw into a design element is illustrated with actual examples.

Dutchman and Butterflies – How to safely create a butterfly patch in a bowl. Stabilizing the wall with the repair, and the use of contrasting colors are discussed.

This presentation in its entirety will run approximately 1 ½ to 2 1/2 hours of speaking time. The length can be shortened by removing topics or lengthened by adding techniques.

Handouts for the demonstration are under the “Demonstrations” Tab on my website DennisBelcher.com



MultiAxis Flower Disc

There are several themes woven into the presentation.

- Woodturning is a journey, not just making a thing.
- The journey starts with a simple horizontal disc then progresses to a vertical disc that becomes a canvas for a multitude of coloring, texturing, and carving techniques.
- Breaking the pattern of jumping from one form to the next. Doing them all, but not mastering any of them.
- The importance of working out the sequence of operations before you start.
- And oh yes, the bulk of the time is spent actually making a functional multi-axis, vertical flower disc.
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Time permitting, with the disc completed, I walk the audience through a variety of textures, coloring techniques, and carvings that can be used to embellish the basic form. The use of water based dye will be shown. The demonstration can vary in length from 1-1/2 to 3 hours depending upon how many embellishment techniques are discussed.

Handouts can be downloaded from DennisBelcher.com, the Demonstrations Tab. This is supplemented with a Sequence of Operations handout and information on the coloring techniques. My article on Water Soluble Dye published in 2021 will be referenced.



Board to a Vase

All woodturners have limitations. Those constraints can be equipment or our body. An attraction of this project is that it does not require a chain saw, heavy lifting, an extensive shop, deep hollowing tools, a truck, or a strong back. Only a lathe and a basic set of turning tools are required.

The technique is gluing up a vase blank rather than turning it from a solid block of wood. This approach removes the need to hollow. A glass tube insert allows you to use the vase with water.

While the completed vase will be 8", this technique permits scaling up or down. Regardless of the size, no hollowing is required.



Instructions will be given on the proper use of a spindle roughing gouge, a bowl gouge, and drilling in a safe manner. The group will also be exposed to variation in design, and we will work on training the eye to see good form.

Variations in finishing techniques will be explored.

Most woodturners start life as wood workers. This is an excellent transition project for the change. This project was one of the featured articles in the February 2021 issue of the American Woodturner. That article details each step in the creation of the finished vase. Demonstration runs about 1 ½ hours.

Before the Wood Spins

Turning is about more than just cutting wood from a whirling blank, but demonstrations are never long enough to teach turners how to maintain their lathe, sharpen their tools, and safe drilling techniques. The goal is to provide core knowledge on these topics.

Each of these three core topics need to be mastered to achieve the greatest joy in woodturning. Each topic is supported with detailed videos, published articles, and verbal explanation of each topic coming together in a multidimensional demonstration. The intent is to provide a go-to resource for topics that are critical, but frequently omitted in woodturning demonstrations and instructions.

Tuning your Lathe Module

The module will address:

- Which parts of the ways should not be lubricated?
- What is a dry lubricant and where should it be used?
- Slipping tailstock
- Caring for your quill.
- What is galling and why do we care.
- What you should do if your drill chuck slips in the tailstock
- How to have your banjo strum musically (just joking really it is the proper care of a banjo).
- Why is the locking plate so important.
- Sources of vibration and wobble and their cure.
-



This topic is one of the black holes of woodturning. It is of critical importance, but one that is never talked about. The handout is my articles in Woodturning FUNdamentals “Ten Steps to a Smooth Lathe” and “Finding and Fixing the Causes of Vibration and Wobble”. This topic is also covered on my YouTube Channel. https://youtu.be/cJ_6L-iHe5E&t=0

A Primer for Drilling on the Lathe

Drilling on the lathe is a basic operation that is ignored in woodturning training. Much has been written about the use of a bowl gouge or a spindle gouge, but little information is available about how to drill safely.



This demonstration covers why turners experience “nasties” when drilling and what steps need to be taken to prevent them. Information about a Morse-Taper is presented, how to repair a damaged arbor, how to change out an arbor for a new one, the importance of cleaning the quills, and how to repair a damaged quill. Once the groundwork is laid, various drilling techniques are demonstrated with a discussion of the pros and cons of each.

Hand out is my article, “A Primer for Drilling on the Lathe”, and a video that covers techniques not covered in the article are available on my website. The videos can be found here: <https://youtu.be/DgWd2elmvf8&t=0>

The typical comment I hear from people who have heard this demonstration is “I wish I had heard this years back”.

An Introduction to Sharpening

An overall approach to sharpening will be introduced that focuses on the improvements in sharpening systems that have followed the introduction of CBN wheels. Time permitting, techniques of sharpening off the grinder will be shown. Supporting this topic is my article in the American Woodturner and a comprehensive review of sharpening techniques and systems cover in “Sharpening Woodturning Tools” on my YouTube channel. <https://youtu.be/eLiWaM-nBiM&t=0>

Christmas Time!

Christmas ornaments are an excellent teaching project for woodturners. In this session up to four different ornaments will be shown, depending on the time available. The demo flows from articles written for the American Woodturner and is supported by the step by step instructions in the article. The articles can be found on my website, DennisBelcher.com



Demonstration Skills for Woodturners

We spend a great deal of time and energy teaching people how to turn. But no time is spent on teaching how to give a worthwhile demonstration. This lack of training is addressed by this clinic.

Some of the topics covered are: Two elements of a good demonstration – Competency and Engagement; finding our own demonstration style; the four passes necessary in planning a demonstration, scripting, camera awareness, blocking, and engagement; preparing for mishaps; the boring parts; talking while turning, or not?; filling the void; ending on time; and more.

The goal is to allow a club to identify the members that could give a club demonstration, train the new demonstrators in techniques to make their demonstration work, and to improve the presentation of those club members have historically have given demonstrations.

This topic can be covered is a 90 minute, a half day clinic, or a full day clinic. It is best given in person. For an example of this clinic, please see my YouTube Channel @DennisBelcherWoodturner