

Crosscut

Newsletter of the Witwatersrand Woodworkers' Association

◀ Milking stool with wedged round tenons into a solid seat

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Next Turners Meeting on Monday, the 6th June 2016 - Making a “ $\frac{3}{4}$ Ball on a Box” on the lathe – demonstration by John Speedy
Wood of the Month – English Oak

Next Meeting on Wednesday, the 8th June 2016 – General meeting from 18h00 at WWA clubhouse at the Living Link Hall. Cabinet Fittings & Hinges - Rudolph Botha/Gelmar displays

News

11th May 2016 - Club meeting. AGM – A successful AGM saw the re-election of all the office bearers. Clive Stacey, shown at right, will lead the club for another year. All the committee members agreed to serve for another year, with the exception of Bobby Bezuidenhout who is standing down. Jenny Tomlinson has agreed to serve in his place. Jenny is a former chair of the club. The usual structure of “helping hands” The formal proceedings were followed by Show-and-Tell presentations by Matt Hoffman, Clive Stacey and Herman showing some projects that they have made in the past and the problems they solved.



The Ray Magid trophy for the **Wood turner of the year** was awarded to Herman for all his consistent contributions to meetings throughout the year.

Wood of the Month – Red Sandalwood (Chris van Heeswijk) – *Adenanthera pavonina* is a brown/reddish wood native to India that has a variety of common names such as coral wood. It has red edible seeds and leaves and is widely grown throughout the world. The seeds are very uniform in size and weight, so they have been used from ancient times as a standard weight. The wood is valued for furniture and boat building and a red dye can be extracted from it.



Club Notices

Toys for Charity – end of year social responsibility drive. At the AGM, members were reminded of the promise to make 10 toys per member for donation of our charity for use in Crèches. To cater for girls, a wives challenge to make dolls was made by Reinette Potgieter – please contact her for more information if you wish to assist. The picture at the above right shows Eddie and Rose discussing Wiggly-worms at the club house.

Hobby-X – March 2016

The picture on the right shows Eddie and Frans discussing French knitting bobbins (*tolletjies brei*). ▶



John Speedy with a student making a goblet. ►
 Below - general view of the WWA stand during a quiet period. ▼



(Thanks to Rudi for these pictures.)

Thanks to Frans Joubert: who donated a Set of Router Bits to the Club for use with the Triton Router Table. Also to Johan Kramer: who donated 4 boxes of Safety Glasses for use at Albertskroon and some will be included as Raffle Prizes.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS: 2016 / 2017 year

Reminder: As ratified at the 2016 AGM, membership subscriptions for 2016 / 2017 are due on 1 June 2016 for R400- per year (Subject to confirmation at the AGM). Country, spousal and scholar subs are R100- per year. Please pay the Treasurer before the end of April to maintain continuity of your membership. Post cheques to the address in the masthead of this newsletter. Details for direct deposits are on your *personal* invoice below. Thank you.

Alistair Brande Secretary

01 May 2016		INVOICE
AMOUNT	DUE DATE	
R400-00	01 June 2016	SUBSCRIPTION for the Witwatersrand Woodworkers Association - 2016/2017 year
		Direct deposits to: Witwatersrand Woodworkers Association. Nedbank Main St. branch - Code: 190805 . Account No: 1979-321833 – Put your name in the comment line, so that the treasurer can identify the source of the payment. Internet transfers are preferred. If you deposit cash, please increase the amount to include the cash deposit charge.

Turners jackets. These are available for collection at the club meetings. Some of the name tags were not supplied and material for pockets is still outstanding – these will be collected and be available at the next meetings.

Spring Challenge. Set down for Sat, 10th September at Albertskroon. As before, there will be two competitions, a Milking Stool made beforehand and a turning challenge on the day- an egg cup that can be made in a few minutes. (Google “egg cup races”) Last year, it was a honey-dipper. Steven Barrett will co-ordinate. More details to follow.



Regular Events:

Toymakers. The toymakers meet on the first and third Mondays of every month, at 09h00 till 12h00 at the Albertskroon workshop. Meetings will be cancelled if they coincide with a public holiday. Contact Eddie Marchio on 011-678-8062 or [rm22 AT mweb.co.za](mailto:rm22@iweb.co.za) for more information.

Wednesday workshop. 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, from 17h30 to 20h00 at Albertskroon. BY ARRANGEMENT ONLY Contact John Allen on 083 457 4801

Ken’s Saturday Workshop. Ken Bullivant holds a Saturday workshop at his house in Boksburg. The location is 13 Franklin Avenue, Comet, Boksburg on the first Saturday of the month from 09:00 to 12:00. They decide on an annual project and work throughout the year making it. Individual projects are discussed and problems solved. Ken also offers private lessons too. Contact Ken on 082 809 0020 if you wish to take part.

Friday Morning workshop - Winston Klein will be convening a workshop at the Albertskroon work shop on the 1st and 3rd Fridays monthly from 09:00 to 12:00. Contact Winston at 072 553 5045 or [kleins AT iburst.co.za](mailto:kleins@iweb.co.za)

SPIRIT OF THE WOOD - WOODTURNERS

Offering Woodturning lessons, One-on One Training, Classes and Club, Willing to assist persons with limited physical/intellectual abilities. Contact Johan Kramer on 083 251 0183 or Johankramer300@gmail.com

Saturday meetings

1. Second Saturday of month - Eddie will open the workshop – 011 678 8062 [rm22 AT mweb.co.za](mailto:rm22@iweb.co.za)
2. Third Saturday of month – Clive will open the workshop – 083 407 8008 [stacey AT netactive.co.za](mailto:stacey@netactive.co.za) Clive will also open the workshop during the week “BY ARRANGEMENT”
3. Fourth Saturday of month – Graham will open the workshop – 082 900 0242 [grahamcr AT mweb.co.za](mailto:grahamcr@iweb.co.za)

Please can the conveners complete the attendance register on the bar counter, so we can gauge attendance?

From “The Practical Wood Turner” by Frank Pain,

First published by Evans Brothers (the publishers of The Woodworker) in 1957. (Page 69 -) – this was the inspiration for the steady described last month.

Steady. But let us now study the steady which was wanted chiefly for back legs and armchair legs. One is shown in Fig. 5 and is in the High Wycombe museum. These steadies were very crudely made. Wood-turners are notoriously bad at making things. In fact, if no wood-turning was needed, they would have to go plank-stacking in the timber yard. A few lathe manufacturers do make steadies, and although they are ideal for metal, they are of little use for wood. A steady for metal has to retain the work solidly against the thrust of the tool, and metal does not bend one way more than the other as wood does. I’ve yet to see metal burn as wood can.

So for wood we require a gentle thrust to counteract its tendency to bend more easily one way than the other (this is often the start of chatter in wood turning). We want a simple means of relieving this thrust when the wood starts burning; and it must have enough clearance so that a square can revolve before the wood is turned round. It must not be fussy as to size, for when we reduce the wood opposite the steady, it must adjust itself. Then, as only a few jobs require a steady, it must be easily removed from the lathe.

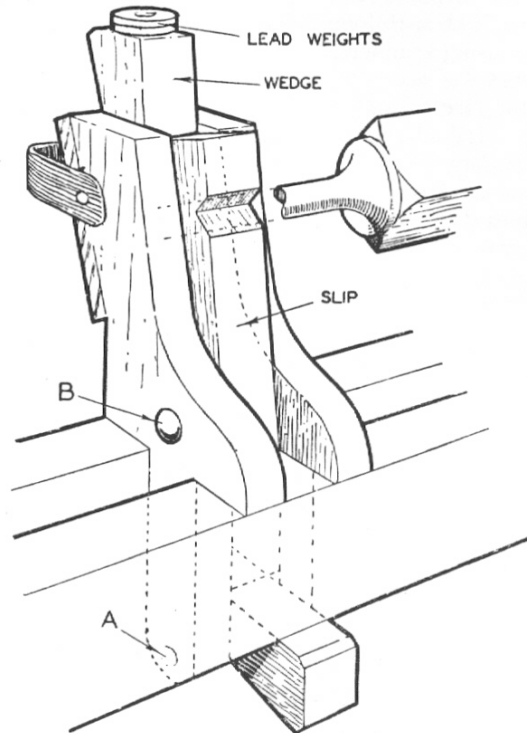


FIG. 6. SIMPLE YET EFFECTIVE STEADY FOR WOOD. The great advantage of this is that it maintains a constant light pressure. At the same time it is positive in that it resists thrust. Furthermore it automatically takes up to the reduced size of the wood when the latter is turned right opposite it.

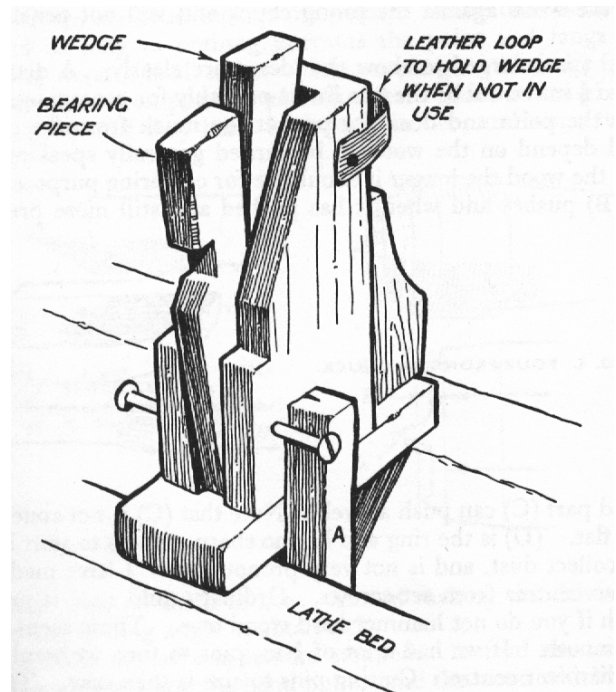


FIG. 5. BACK STEADY USED ON AN OLD LATHE. This apparently crude device is most effective in use. It is sketched from an old lathe in the Museum at High Wycombe, Bucks.

The wood-turner needing a steady would ask the timber-yard foreman for a chunk of throw-out wood. This he would ponder over, and at a suitable moment ask the band sawyer to saw out something as in Fig. 6. There always seemed to be a box of old bolts, and one was fitted at (A) and another (probably $\frac{1}{2}$ in.) with a wing nut at (B). A chairmaker was enlisted to screw a block of wood on the back, and it was tried several times in the lathe to see whether the wood could still revolve with it in place, and whether it would come out with the rest still in. The slip with a notch in it was pivoted at (B), and the width of wedge tried by experiment.

In the end, with the co-operation of the whole factory except the polishing shop, the job was done, a fine museum piece of work, which gladdened the heart, for it worked (that was the only reason it was made). It would help us if manufacturers would give us a start and provide the main part to fit on to the lathe bed, which is invariably round, and less handy than the two oblong sections of wood to fit in to.

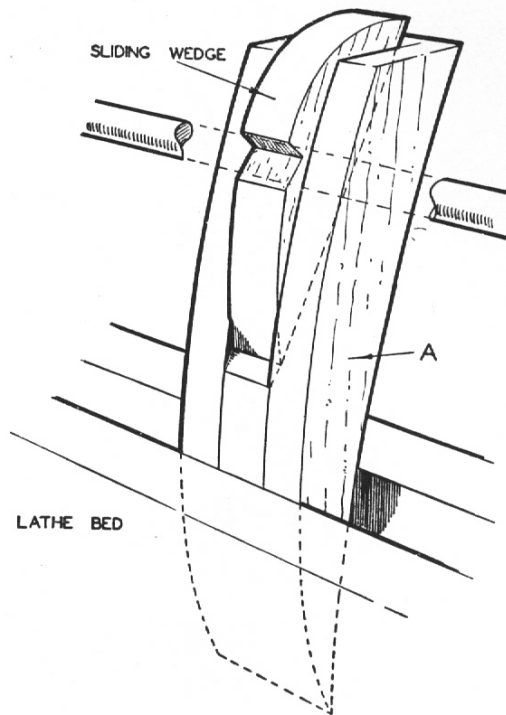


FIG. 7. SIMPLE ALTERNATIVE STEADY. Although not so effective as the steady in Fig. 6, this has its uses for some jobs.

Why the steady works. Let us see why it is so good. Fig. 6 shows a wedge against the underside of the lathe bed, pressing against the bolt, so forming a simple way of holding the steady firmly, yet easily removed by a biff. The wedge can be easily removed, and is to hand at the back of the steady when needed. The wood slip fits the work, and needs no special fitting. Its crudeness in no way hinders its use. If the wood becomes hot, a rub with some candle-grease will cure it. Should the work require more thrust, it can be given by nailing lead onto the wedge; or a rubber band can be passed over the top of the wedge and down beneath.

One man I know has a screw which grips the wedge. He pushes the wedge down and tightens the screw which holds it there. A wing nut exerts enough pressure to prevent the slip from rising or falling, but allows it to swivel by action of the wedge. Some use a wood screw, but the principle is all you need worry about. If you draw a square at centre height at your lathe bed, you can work one out for your lathe. The wedge can be quite wide, as when it is withdrawn the slip goes further back out of the way. If you wish to do long stuff it is an ideal steady, and well worth making.

Alternative steady. If your lathe has twin beds you can make a simpler one which helps to steady the work, but is not as good. Still it has its uses as it can be quickly slipped into the bed where it is needed. Fig. 7 shows its principle. Part (A) slides down and so forces the slip against the work, but it does not prevent the work from moving up and down. Perhaps you want a simpler steady. Well a wedge inserted between the rest and work helps to do some jobs, but it burns easily as it has only a line contact.

Preliminary rounding. These steadies must have the work round, and back legs can be tiresome to turn round. You lightly put your hand around the revolving back leg, and, with a $\frac{3}{8}$ in gouge, turn the part where the steady is to come. For an extremely difficult job you rasp it round first. The hand is around the work, not so much as a steady, but to catch the job if it flies out. Remember that we are thinking of long, springy items or they would not require a steady. If you find that it wears though to the bone, or if you can smell burning pork, try another way. Still, to put your hand around the work is helpful and safe.

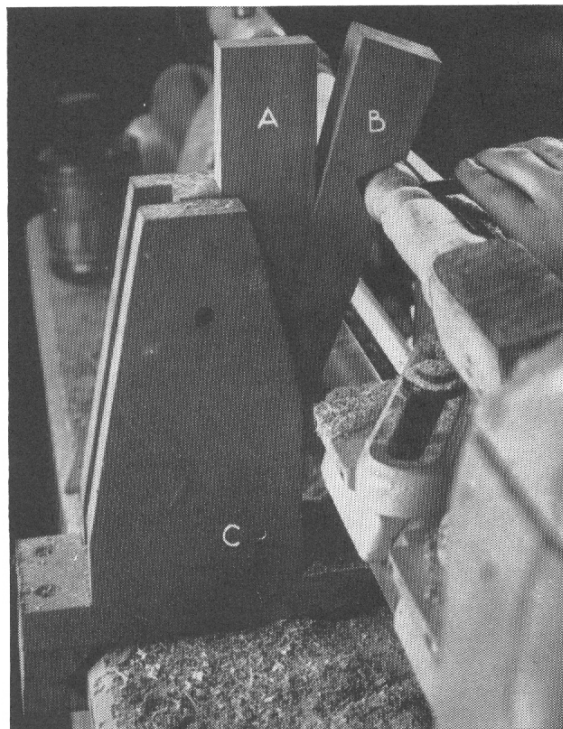


FIG. 8. SIMPLE WOOD STEADY MADE FOR MYFORD LATHE. The idea could be adapted to suit any make of lathe. (A) is the wedge which tends to drop down by gravity and keep the slip (B) up to the work. The slip is pivoted at (C).