

Crosscut

Newsletter of the Witwatersrand Woodworkers' Association
PO Box 411346, Craighall, 2024, South Africa

◀ A selection of the exotic woods offered by Etienne.

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Next Meeting on Wednesday, the 8th April 2015 – combined turner's and general meeting from 18h00 at WWA clubhouse at the Living Link Hall. Ken Bullivant will demonstrate how to cut dovetails by hand.

News

March 2015 Turner's meeting.

Etienne Viviers spoke on making pool cues. As a professional snooker player, Etienne understands what constitutes a high quality pool cue. The ones he makes start with carefully selected wood that must be straight grained and highly stable. American Ash and Hard Maple are popular for handles, and the butt is often made from a contrasting wood such as ebony. The body of the cue is shaped by hand in stages to ensure that it remains straight as it ages. Etienne can spend up to 24 months on this process. He explained the process he uses and the finishes to obtain the exceptional finish he achieves, worthy of the R5000- plus prices he charges. Etienne also imports exotic woods for sale and hopes to open a shop soon to showcase his wares. Contact him on 079-487-3469 or exoticwoodonline@gmail.com or see www.exoticwoodsonline.co.za

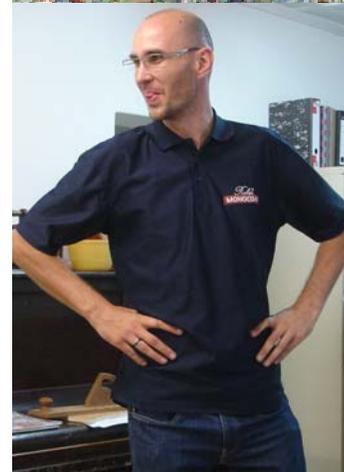


Wood of the Month:

Ulmus Parvifolia – Chinese Elm. Origin is China, Japan, North Korea and Vietnam. Common street tree in Gauteng, with dark brown heart wood. It has a very characteristic bark, which makes it easy to recognise, even when felled. The wood turns well, and has a characteristic musty smell when wet.

March 2015 General Meeting –

Main club meeting. Carel Steenkamp from Rubio Monocoat described their products. The present products have been on the market for about ten years, so they have a track record. The finish is derived from Linseed oil, processed into a drying finish. Carel described the process of application and the variations offered for different applications. Although the product is expensive (R680/litre), coverage is high, at 30m² to 50m² per litre, depending on the wood species. They can be found at No. 3 Indianapolis Rd - Kyalami Business Park (Midrand) or at 011 466 0273 or info@monocoat.co.za See www.monocoat.co.za more information.



Club Notices

New premises – situated on the corner of 6th St and 6th St in Albertskroon on the west side of Johannesburg. A workshop morning scheduled for the Saturday, 11th April - painting. The move is scheduled for the 18th April – if you have a bakkie or small truck to carry benches and machines, please volunteer at the next meeting or contact a member of the committee.

Turner's Jackets – Sponsors have been secured, with four badges to be included. The person's name will be embroidered onto the jacket, as well as the WWA logo. Pockets will not be included; however material offcuts will be made available for those who wish to make their own pockets. This is because agreement could not be reached on designs (front, back, breast, flaps, etc.) so individuals will have to tailor their jackets accordingly. Costs to members is R120-, final orders must be confirmed at the April meeting and paid.

Hobby-X 2015. Thanks to all the WWA members who gave their time to demonstrate and man the stand at Hobby-X 2015. In particular, thanks to Frans Joubert for co-ordinating the stand again. Some members were present on all the days and they also deserve thanks for their contributions in particular.



The picture on the right shows Frans making a spinning top on At Smit's Jet 1221VS lathe.
Below: Ken Mutch explains pen making.
Bottom: John Speedy making a ball on a Nova DVR XP lathe.



Regular Events:

Toymakers. The toymakers meet on the first and third Mondays of every month, at 09h00 till 12h00 at the new clubhouse. Contact Eddie Marchio on 011-678-8062 or [rm22 AT mweb.co.za](mailto:rm22@wweb.co.za) for more information.

Wednesday Workshop. The Wednesday evening workshops are on the first and third Wednesdays of every month at the new clubhouse, from 18h00 till 20h00. Contact Grant Mackay on 082-391-9769 or [mackay.grant AT gmail.com](mailto:mackay.grant@gmail.com) or [gmackay AT worldonline.co.za](http://gmackay.worldonline.co.za) for more information.

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.

Saturday Turning workshop. Schalk van Niekerk conducts Saturday morning turning workshops at his premises in Germiston. (At the old East-African Timbers site) Membership is R400- per year, R30- per meeting. He can accommodate up to 12 people in a session with the lathes he has available for teaching. They meet on the 2nd and 3rd Saturdays of the month from 8h00 to 12h00. Contact Schalk on 082 443 4972 or schalk@onegoodturn.co.za or Johan Kramer on 083 251 0183.

Woodturning lathes on offer for hobbyists and artistic wood-turners in South Africa

(Continued from last month)

Larger lathes

Lathes using a variable speed Reeves drive are offered by Jet and Adendorf. A Reeves drive uses a belt between two cone pulleys – by moving the speed control lever, the relative diameters of the two pulleys are changed, giving a range of speeds. The speeds can only be changed while the lathe is running, which can be a disadvantage.

This design of lathe has been available for many years, offered by various manufacturers.

The **Jet JWL-1236** (above right) has a capacity of 12" x 34" (300mm x 860mm). The swivel head contains a variable-speed Reeves drive that gives a speed range of 550 to 3000 rpm. The minimum speed is perhaps a little high for the largest workpieces when they are out of balance. A ¾ horsepower motor is specified. The spindle thread is 1" x 8tpi and 2 MT is used for the tapers.

Visually similar to the Jet, and also using a Reeves drive for variable speed, is the **Adendorf MC900** (shown left). It offers 305mm diameter by 880mm between centres, with a speed range of 500 to 2000 rpm. It weighs 80 kg. It offers a rotating head stock for greater flexibility. One concern I have is with the rigidity of the tool rest arm shown. Check that the spindle thread is 1" x 8tpi and that 2 MT is used for the tapers, as this is not stated in the specifications.

The Nova lathes are popular in South Africa. The **Nova 3000** was first offered over 20 years ago and has been updated as the **Nova 1624-44** with the same capabilities as the **3000**. It uses the same bed as the redesigned DVR, allowing Teknatool to reduce their inventory. It now has a 1.5 horsepower motor. As sold it has a 16" x 24" (400mm diam x 600mm long) workpiece capability, and bed extensions provide for 20" (500mm) increases in length. (Nick Arnul in the



UK uses one with three bed extensions for turning architectural columns.) Weighing in at 114kg, this is significant step up from the Midi lathes. It has a swivelling headstock, and together with outboard tool rests, it allows large workpieces. It also has a low minimum speed of 180 rpm, which is good for large, out of balance workpieces. It accommodates #2 MT tooling, but you need to check which spindle thread is offered: 1 ¼" x 8 tpi or M33 x 3.5 and ensure that your chucks will fit. If you want variable speed, Teknatool does offer a DVR upgrade motor, but I haven't seen it locally – ask Hardware Centre.

(The **1624-44** is probably the best value for money in the larger lathes, and can be retrofitted later with a 3 phase motor and variable speed drive if you need the convenience. See www.cfptech.co.za for variable speed motor/drive combinations.)

The **Nova DVR XP** has the same physical dimensions as the **1624-44**, and has the same bed and tailstock. The headstock contains an integrated motor and variable speed drive rated at 2 horsepower (1.5kW) with a continuous speed range of 100 to 3500 rpm. No belts or speed changes are required and low speed torque is excellent. With the integrated motor in the headstock, the weight is 82 kg, somewhat lighter than the **1624-44**. Aside from the price, the only significant concern about the **DVR XP** is the membrane keyboard – some people would prefer solid switches and an analogue speed control knob. Fitting a surge plug is apparently a wise precaution, given our high lightning incidence in Gauteng, and the poor power quality experienced by some consumers. This applies to all lathes with electronics, not just the DVR.



Jet lathes are imported by Strand Hardware (www.strandhardware.co.za) and are available from Hardware Centre in Gauteng. (www.hardwarecentre.co.za)

Larger Jet lathes offered are:

- **Jet JWL 1442VS** – Capacity of 14" x 42", swivel head, with variable speed Reeves drive – speed range of 450 to 3000. 1 horsepower motor.
- **Jet JWL-1642EVS** – Capacity of 16" x 42", with a swivel head and electronic variable speed control. Two belt speed ranges – 50 – 1200 and 125 – 3200 rpm, from the 1.5 horsepower motor. Perhaps best compared with the Nova DVR in terms of capability.



SA Machinery does offer some larger lathes including one with a Reeves drive, similar to the ones above, as well as a variable speed drive lathe. Their web site was not operating correctly at the time of writing, so you may need to pay them a visit to check what they are presently offering. Check the spindle threads and tapers supplied are commonly available before making a decision. I would also enquire about spare part availability on items not readily available elsewhere such as variable speed drives.