

WOODTURNERS OF ST. LOUIS

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

WTSTL.com
July 2024



Jeff Nasser was our July demonstrator on turning baby rattles. He starts with a blank $\sim 6'' \times 1 \frac{9}{16}'' \times 1 \frac{9}{16}''$. A hole is drilled in both ends to hold the popcorn (rattle). The hole is $\sim 1''$ in diameter.



A mark is made on the outside of the blank to indicate the depth of the hole. Then another mark $\sim \frac{5}{16}''$ further down to indicate where the shaping can start.

End caps are turned to plug the hole and glued into the blank sealing in the popcorn (or whatever you want to use).



The blank is rounded and shaped into a barbell. The center shaft

is $\sim \frac{1}{4}''$ at the ends and $\frac{5}{16}''$ in the middle. Make it larger if you are concerned with breakage.



Sandpaper is wetted with Danish oil for sanding.

And after going through the grits a CA finish is applied.



Thanks to Jeff Nasser for a great demonstration on turning a baby rattle.

[A video of this demonstration is available on our YouTube channel.](#) To find this and other videos – go to YouTube.com and search on *Woodturner St Louis*.

<https://www.youtube.com/@woodturnersstlouis2950/videos>

Editor's Note: The government has a document on requirements for baby rattles: [16 CFR Part 1510](#). There is a jig to check rattles for size and even a bite test. The referenced regulation has a minimum diameter that is slightly larger than what Jeff used. There may be later regulations so do your own due diligence. The article on "baby choke tester" was published by Nick Cook in the Fall 2004 American Woodturner by the AAW.

Baby Choke Tester

Also known as a Small Object Tester, a choke tester should be a part of every home to verify if toys and other objects are safe for infants. I have discovered that choke testers are challenging to locate. After visiting several baby and toy stores, I finally found one at www.homesafetysolutions.com and ordered several for \$2.85.

I also located helpful information at the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission at www.cpsc.gov. There I found a two-page document titled *Small Parts Regulation, Toys and Products Intended for Use by Children Under 3 Years Old*. It contains the specifications for a small-parts test fixture. Details about additional rattle requirement (16 CFR Part 1510), also are available at the same website. This states that a rattle diameter must be $1\frac{1}{16}$ " or larger as shown at right.

Too small! This rattle fails the U.S. Consumer Product guidelines for a $1\frac{1}{16}$ " diameter or larger parts. The hole shown was drilled with a $1\frac{3}{4}$ " Forstner bit.



—Nick Cook



Pre – Meeting Demo ● Thanks to Scott Eiswirth for presenting tools and accessories offered by Easy Wood Tools. Scott also had several handouts for those participating in the discussion.



WTSTL Tool Boxes and Turning Tools ● Each of our Comet lathes has a number and there is a tool box with tools with the same number in the movable/lockable cabinets. When setting up the pre-meeting area get the numbered box that goes with that Comet. This helps us identify any missing items and which box to replenish.

It is also very important to put the tools from a specific box back into that same box for inventory control. And, be sure that the tool boxes are taken back to the meeting room and stored in the locked mobile cabinets. The chuck and all loose items (spurs, knock out bar, ...) should be removed from the lathe and put back in the tool box for secure storage.

Mentoring ● The Board recognizes the value of hands-on and one-on-one instruction. **Check the website for information on the mentoring program.** It will be one turner at a time; you must provide your project, tools, and face shield; a mask must also be worn. Make arrangements with the mentors to participate. Several of our members have taken advantage of this opportunity and provided very positive feedback on the mentors knowledge and instruction.

WTSTL Hybrid Meetings ● Each meeting lets us improve and address new issues with our hybrid system. In person meetings will continue to be open to visitors (except when a paid demonstrator is scheduled); remote participation will be available via Zoom. We are discussing the possibility of exchanging Zoom demonstrations with other clubs around the world. More to follow as details are defined.

We need your help too. Please give us feedback on the good and bad with the A/V system so we can make your online participation a great experience.

If you do not see video at the start of the meeting (~1pm CT) let us know via the Zoom Chat window.

If the video drops offline or there are other issues let us know via the Zoom Chat window

Please mute yourself during the meeting as any background noise overpowers the demonstrator and puts you in the demo screen.

Please send Steve Botkin and Charlie an email with any suggestions. **We monitor the chat but texts, email, calls, and voice feedback is difficult during the meeting as the AV team is quite occupied with operation of the equipment.**

Website ● Electronic membership to the WTSTL is available via the club website. After entering your contact information and selecting your plan, log on to your PayPal account to complete your application and enter the amount to pay. When PayPal asks for our organization, enter **Woodturners of St. Louis**. You will receive a follow up email with your membership card. If you are not contacted within a couple of weeks, email the club Treasurer.



President's Spin ● Well, another great meeting, but first I would like to thank the board for covering for me during the last two months. Thank you to Scott for the Easy Wood Tools pre-meeting demo and to Jeff for showing us how to make a baby rattle.

Over the next couple of months, I would ask everyone to try to create at least one community support item. Pens for the Troops is November. Last month we had 185 + 6 (I made) and pens from other members brings us to 217. We are closing in on our new goal of 250. Small turning projects for local nursing homes are appreciated. And lastly, a Beads of Courage lidded box is a great project. Our next month's pre-meeting demo will be around staves for building large bowls and turning a Beads of Courage box. Thank you all for working on these programs. Until next month, keep turning! - **Rob Conaway**

President's Challenge ● Members select their choice of winner for the PC. During the break, review the items on the challenge table. Separate your ticket and write your selection (the number in front of each entry) on the back of the one marked "TICKET". Place it in the PC bowl. Your voting ticket will enter you in the door prize drawing. One PC entry per member; must be turned following the challenge.

Congratulations to the July PC winner: Art Staden for his upside down salt and pepper shakers.

President's Challenge for August – Turn a baby rattle.



Vice President ● Thanks to our excellent demonstrators at this month's meeting, Scott Eiswirth and Jeff Nasser. While all demonstration slots are filled for this year, please consider demonstrating next year. I challenge everyone to turn 1 item this coming month for community service, such as a Beads of Courage box or a Pen for Troops. – **Becky Blankenship**



Treasurer Report ● **Dues are due for 2024 membership.** Electronic membership applications and payments can be made on the website. We are now at 96 members! If you prefer to complete and mail a paper [application](#), it is available and can be down loaded from the club website. Renewing and new members are asked to complete the new application form. Club patches are available from the Treasurer for \$5. – **Charles Sapp**



Secretary Report ● Valerie Botkin has accepted the role of Secretary. Our thanks to Linda Osterwise for her service to the club as secretary.

We had 30 members present at the meeting on 7/28 and 2 members attending via Zoom. Scott Eiswirth was the pre-meeting demonstrator showing attendees a variety of Easy Wood tools. During the main meeting Jeff Nasser demonstrated how to turn a baby rattle.

Rich Hinkebein announced that he needs to find a replacement to care for the club's library. Anyone interested in the position should contact him and attend the August meeting for instructions.

Meeting time and day will change in January 2025. We will still be meeting at CTF but the day and time will change to the 4th TUESDAY at 500pm. - **Valerie Botkin**



Library News ● Our library is only open on Sunday at our club meetings and is open to all our paid members for checking out books, videos, and DVD's.

Our library is a great source of inspiration and knowledge. Members can access a complete listing content on the club website. Please take advantage of this wonderful club benefit and return items in a timely manner. The large meeting space allows me to spread out the material so you can review and check it out. Please let me know if you have any suggestions to improve our library. All of the magazines have been moved into storage, due to

space limitations, with the exception of American Woodturner. Magazines are available upon request.

Older magazines and books were made available to members. Books will be donated to a high school for their shop class. Seldom used material will be available at a great price to members at the August meeting.

Rich needs assistance with the library. Consider serving as a club librarian or assistant. - **Rich Hinkebein**

Club News:

[Beads of Courage](#): The Beads of Courage is a program for kids in need. BOC is a not-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for children and teens coping with serious illness. The program integrates the use of beads as visible, tangible symbols of their experiences and treatment. Children receive a bead for every test, procedure, or treatment they undergo. Woodturners donate boxes to hold the beads they earn. Details on requirements for the boxes can be found on the club web site. Suggestions for BOC bags can be found [here](#). Ceramic beads to attach to the boxes are \$1.25 (13/16" in diameter) and available from Charlie. Bring your boxes (or bags) to the meeting and give them to Becky. – **Becky Blankenship**



Community Programs ●

Please continue to work on these items and bring them to the meeting. For more information on these programs check the club web site.



Nursing Home Turnings – small boxes or bowls, ornaments, bird houses, feathered creatures – all are great items for this program – give your items to Charles Sapp.

Beads of Courage – boxes for storage of the patient's beads (see article in the NL) – give your items to Becky Blankenship.

Pens for the Troops – Kits are available from the club Treasurer for a \$3 deposit which is returned to you when a completed pen is returned for the program – get your kits and return completed pens to Charles Sapp. *Our goal for 2024 is 150 250 pens and we are currently at 217!*

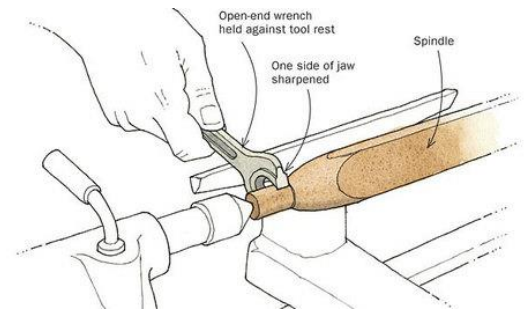


Video Resources ●

- The Woodturners of St. Louis have a YouTube channel. On it you will find many of our demonstrations. To find the videos – go to YouTube.com and search on *Woodturner St Louis*. <https://www.youtube.com/@woodturnersstlouis2950/videos>

Note – Not a member of the AAW. They have a guest membership that provides FREE sixty day access to AAW resources and full online access to all published content. Check out their website: [AAW Guest Member](#).

Tech Tip ● An open end wrench of the desired diameter can be used to cut tenons with ease. Once the wood is near the desired diameter the open end wrench, with a cutting edge ground on one side can cut a precise tenon. [Check out this YouTube video.](#)



Turning event at Wood Hat Spirits ● JoHannes Michelsen will be demonstrating wood hat turning all day at Gary Hinegardner's birthday bash. Please call ahead of time if you would like to attend 573-219-0696 to give them a head count. Food truck for dining and barrel



tastings will be available. August 10th from 10am to 5pm. Several club members will also be doing turning demos during the day! The event is at: Wood Hat Spirits, 489 Booneslick Rd, New Florence, MO 63363.



Frank Lloyd Wright House● If you are interested in turning and or painting ornaments to help support the preservation of the house at Ebsworth Park in Kirkwood contact Rob. Details on the program were emailed to all members.



Positions to Fill ●

- Newsletter Editor – The editor is responsible for collecting articles, editing, and assembling the club newsletter.
- Demonstrators– Your help is needed to provide a demonstration at each of our meetings. The demo subject is your choice, whatever you enjoy doing – bowls, hollow forms, plates, boxes, pyrography, resins, stabilizing, tips and tricks, tops, Contact Becky Blankenship to volunteer.
- Audio / Visual Team – Additional support is needed to help set up, monitor and understand the system for backup. Talk to Steve Botkin to volunteer.
- Pre-Meeting Mentor – Set up the Comets and be available to mentor members and visitors
- We appreciate all the help with set up and clean up. Contact Rob Conaway for more opportunities.

Tax Deductions • The Woodturners of St. Louis is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization. Donations may be tax deductible. Donate up to \$100,000 annually from your IRA directly to a qualified charity through a [qualified charitable distribution](#). (As long as certain rules are met-such as you're at least 70½ when making the gift, and the check is payable directly to the qualified charity-then the distribution shouldn't be taxable income.)



ZOOM Streaming Links • Our meetings will be streamed via ZOOM unless noted in the meeting information on the web page. All members should receive a reminder and the ZOOM link during the week prior to the meeting. If you do not receive the link by the Thursday prior to the meeting, [send an email to CWSAPP@CHARTER.NET](mailto:CWSAPP@CHARTER.NET) requesting the link.

Vendor / Sponsor Discounts • Check the website for vendors that offer discounts to club members. *When shopping at Rockler in Bridgeton, ask them to register your purchase with the WTSTL as they provide gift cards to the club for door prizes after a number of purchases.*



Calendar of Upcoming Events

Date	Pre-Meeting 11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Meeting 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
August 25, 2024	Bird mouth Staves – Rob Conaway	Beads of Courage box – Ken Bald
September 22, 2024	Pen turning for the troops on Comet lathes before/after lunch	Bell ornament – Michael Blankenship
October 27, 2024	Hook tool – Fred Groves	TBD – Tom Zeller

Facebook site • Check out the club Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Woodturners-of-St-Louis/292734664135601>

and “Like” the page (click on the “Like” icon) to receive updates. You can also post your pictures on this site.



Facebook Group • **Our club has a Facebook group that is a great way to post pictures of your work, provide tech tips, and share ideas.** When you go to the site:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1157348070957128/?fref=nf> click on “Join” and your

request will be processed by our Facebook administrator. It is a closed group and only seen by members.

July Hybrid Show and Tell



Charles Sapp



Charles Sapp



Karl Ernst



Art Staden





Art Staden



Art Staden

July President's Challenge Winner



Bob Goulding



Rich
Hinkebein





Wayne Iehl



Wayne Iehl





Rob Conaway



Tom Heusler





Becky Blankenship



Tom Zeller





Tom Zeller

Show and Tell items are featured on a slide show on the club website home page. Check it out!

www.WTSTL.com

Our URL is WTSTL.com. If you have issues or questions, contact the web master. **Items submitted for the Show and Tell are now being displayed on the home page of the web.** Provide Charlie Sapp with good quality pictures (640 x 480) of your turnings for Show and Tell!

If you enjoy turning wood, making things on your lathe or want to learn more about woodturning then join the Woodturners of St. Louis. Learn and share ideas with like-minded Woodturners of St. Louis. Our chapter normally meets from 1:00pm to 4:00 pm on the fourth Sunday of every month at 8300 Valcour Avenue, St. Louis, MO with a pre-meeting at 1130am.

American Association of Woodturners • WTSTL is one of 350+ worldwide chapters of the American Association of Woodturners. We encourage you to join this organization. The AAW is dedicated to providing education, information, and organization to those interested in woodturning. You can join the AAW at their site: <http://woodturner.org/member/MemberLogOn.asp>.

Membership comes with access to on-line training information and includes a subscription to the *American Woodturner* magazine. Our club is a chapter of the AAW and we encourage all club members to join the AAW. They have been publishing a great series of on-line woodturning training articles for members that are worth the price of membership by themselves. They have also indexed all of the past AAW magazine articles so you can search and find help with most any issue you have or ideas on your next project.

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