

**WOODTURNING**

# FUNdamentals

**AAW**  
EDUCATION

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## **PROJECTS**

**Turning a Bracelet from Wood Scraps**

Dave Buchholz

**Turning Fishing Lures**

Mark Palma

## **VIDEO**

**Safe Use of the Bowl Gouge**

Neil Scobie

**Positioning Your Arm for Smooth Turning**

Lee Sky

## **TECHNIQUES**

## **TIPS**



# Woodturning FUNdamentals

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#### Woodturning Fundamentals

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#### A Note About Safety:

An accident at the lathe can happen with blinding suddenness. Respiratory and other problems can build over years. Take precautions when you turn. Safety guidelines are published online at <http://www.woodturner.org/?page=Safety> Following them will help you continue to enjoy woodturning.



Cover photo: Dave Buchholz

# WELCOME

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## A Note from the Woodturning FUNDamentals Chair

In this edition of *Woodturning FUNDamentals*, we highlight some of the resources available to you as an AAW member, including the AAW Forum and AAW Archives. These resources tie directly to our education mission by offering a means to acquire woodturning skills and techniques. The AAW offers great content and specific relevant resources directed at makers, and presents current perspectives on the art and craft of woodturning.

Another valuable resource is the [AAW Calendar](#) where you can find upcoming events and classes. Attending chapter meetings, classes, and symposia are great learning experiences for woodturners of all levels.

The [AAW's Annual International Symposium](#) has something for you whether you are an experienced turner or are just getting started. It will be three days full of topnotch demonstrations, panel discussions, exhibitions, special events, and camaraderie. Hope to see you in Pittsburgh in June.

### **We welcome you to share your passion for woodturning in the form of questions, tips, and projects!**

We all develop tips and techniques that work. What woodturner does not love a good jig? Do you have a pesky woodturning problem that just won't go away? Or, are you looking for a resource for a tool, finish, or wood? *Woodturning FUNDamentals* may be able to help.

If you have a question or problem, it is very likely that many others have the same question or problem. Sharing your woodturning issues through *Woodturning FUNDamentals* is a great way to help everyone! Please send a description of your problem or question to us at [linda@woodturner.org](mailto:linda@woodturner.org). We will do our best to find a professional who can provide you with an answer.

As always, I welcome your suggestions, questions, or concerns.

Sincerely,  
Denis Delehanty  
[denis@woodturner.org](mailto:denis@woodturner.org)

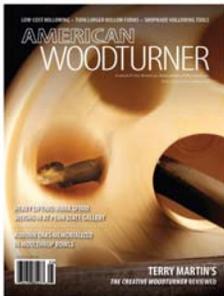


# AAW MEMBERSHIP

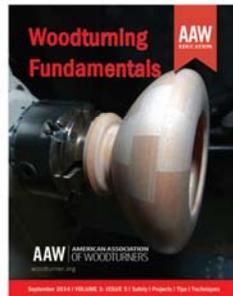
# Membership

Turn to the **AAW** for inspiration, education, and information about woodturning tools, techniques, projects, safety, and more.

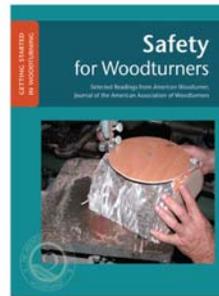
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**Woodturning FUNDamentals** six digital issues annually, filled with projects, tips, videos, and information on tools and techniques to build basic skills. Non-member price: **\$26.94**



**Safety for Woodturners** this 64-page digital book will help you build strong skills at the lathe while helping you learn safe woodturning practices. Non-member price for printed book: **\$14.95**



**Let's Go for a Spin** a digital seven part lesson plan for instructors designed to provide beginning and advanced students with a wellrounded set of turning skills. Non-member price: **\$87.70**



Photo: Andi Wolfe

## Community

Being part of a dynamic community of more than 15,000 enthusiasts worldwide: **Priceless**

**You'll want to join or renew your membership today so that you don't miss a single issue of *American Woodturner* or *Woodturning FUNDamentals*!**

# TURNING A BRACELET

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## Making a Bracelet from Wood Scraps

Making bracelets with wood scraps is relatively easy and does not require advanced turning skills. These are useful for craft shows and gifts. I typically will use hardwoods from the firewood pile as a wood source for making bracelets. You need to make sure that you don't have cracks in the part of the wood that you will be turning. Since a bracelet will be handled a lot and subject to some abuse, cracks will likely cause the bracelet to break and should be avoided. A figured hardwood will polish up nicely but usually firewood is rather plain so I enhance the bracelets with acrylic colors.

Bracelet sizes vary from an inner diameter of  $2 \frac{3}{8}$  inches for a small wrist to  $2 \frac{3}{4}$  inches for a large wrist. The wall thickness should be about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch to be able to stand up to use without breaking, so make the outer diameter  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch larger than the inner diameter. I tried to make several bracelets thinner to make them lighter but had poor luck. Many of them broke.

It is important that the wood you choose has the grain running parallel to the bed of the lathe as you would for any spindle work. If the grain is perpendicular to the lathe bed, you will have very short grain on the edge of the bracelet and it will surely break. Any wood that is at least about 3 inches in diameter and at least 2 inches long will work.

1. Prepare the wood with a tenon for your four-jaw scroll chuck. I make the tenon between centers on the lathe. If your cylinder is 4 inches long, you should be able to make two bracelets with one mounting.



Photo 1: Using a roughing gouge to turn a piece of maple to a cylinder 3 inches in diameter and about 2 inches long.

2. Mount the piece of wood in your chuck and using a roughing gouge turn a smooth cylinder about 1 inch long plus enough spare wood to part off when complete. The diameter of this should be what you want for the inner diameter plus twice  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch for the wall thickness (photo 1).
3. Smooth over the front edge of the bracelet. Just mark the other edge of the bracelet with a detail gouge or a parting tool. The detail gouge allows you to start rounding over the second edge. This should be a very shallow mark since you will be hollowing out the bracelet and you need strength in the wood for now. I make the length of the bracelet from  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 inch.

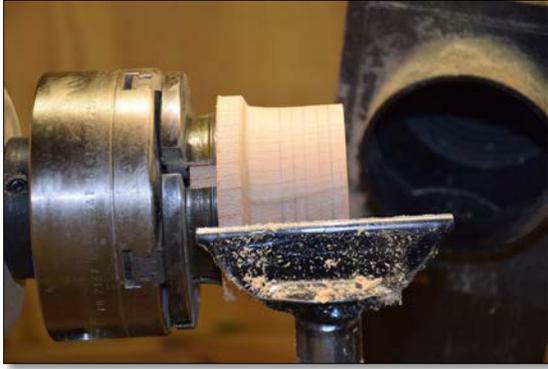


Photo 2: View showing cylinder with pencil markings where the edges will be outlined.



Photo 3: Using a wire to burn boundary markings.



Photo 4: Cylinder with four boundaries with wire-burned edges for three color bands and the two bracelet edges rounded over.

4. Using a pencil, I mark where I intend to woodburn the grooves (photo 2). I make three color bands which means I need four woodburned grooves. After marking the groove with a pencil, use a skew chisel to make a very small groove to guide the woodburning wire. I use a guitar wire to burn the four grooves (photo 3 and 4).



Photo 5: Hollowing the inside of the bracelet using a spindle gouge cutting outward toward the rim.



Photo 6: Using a straight edge scaper parallel to the ways of the lathe to make the inside of the bracelet parallel to the outside of the bracelet.

5. Now hollow out the center. I use a spindle gouge and hollow from the center out since this is endgrain. Make sure you hollow out deeper

than the length of the bracelet you want (photo 5). Using a straight edge scraper parallel to the lathe bed allows me to clean up the inside of the bracelet and make the inside parallel to the outside of the bracelet (photo 6).

6. Sand the bracelet inside and out.



Photo 7: Parting off the bracelet with a skew and preparing to catch the bracelet with one finger inside the bracelet.



Photo 8: Sanding the parted edge using a sanding cylinder on the lathe.

7. Part off the bracelet (photo 7). I use a sanding cylinder on a drill press or in a Jacobs chuck on the lathe to clean up the just-parted edge (photo 8).



Photo 9: Woodburning new boundaries in the three color bands.

8. Rather than have colored bands that have a single color, I make shorter bands by burning a boundary at random places along the band. I place these spots so that they do not line up from one band to the next. The woodburning is done to contain the color on the wood and prevent it from bleeding over (photo 9). To remove the burned pitch marks left by the woodburning, you can either sand the marks off or rub them with denatured alcohol. The alcohol is easier.



Photo 10: Using a small artist brush to apply acrylic paints to the bands on the bracelet.

9. Paint the bands with the colors you like. I use a variety of acrylic paints. Opaque paints make a vibrant color, transparent airbrush paints allow the underlying grain to show through, and iridescent, interference, and pearlescent paints create an interesting effect. You can get these paints at art stores and some hobby shops (photo 10).



Photo 11: Four examples of color banded bracelets.

10. After the paint dries (I wait about an hour), I wipe on a 50-50 mix of gloss urethane spar varnish and paint thinner. I put several coats of this finish on the bracelet to protect the surface. The photo shows four examples of completed bracelets. The two on the left are cherry and the two on the right are maple. The far left is colored with transparent acrylic airbrush paints, the next is colored with opaque acrylic paints, the next is also opaque paints but over regions textured with Sorby's mini texturing tool, and the far right is painted with interference, iridescent, and pearlescent paints (photo 11).

~ Dave Buchholz, Keeseville, NY  
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Dave Buchholz is retired physicist living in the Adirondacks of New York State. He turns mostly local domestic woods in a variety of forms and styles with many types of embellishments.

# WHERE TO TURN FOR WOODTURNING

Selected readings from *American Woodturner*, journal of the American Association of Woodturners

### Getting Started in Woodturning

1. Safety for Woodturners
2. Lathes and Turning Tools
3. Learning at the Lathe
4. Practical Woodturning Projects

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### Elements of Woodturning

1. Turning Holiday Ornaments
2. Making and Using Turning Tools
3. Turning Bowls

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