

Hello Everyone & Happy Spring!

Well, May has arrived and unfortunately with a lot of precipitation! Our April showers are postponed by a month as if our lives aren't a tad screwy as it is, let Mother Nature throw her hat in the ring ☺

My email of last week garnered some very inquisitive minds thinking of lathe speeds. As most of you know Ivan and I with our whacked out schedules, it doesn't come as any surprise that my digital speed readout is not yet on my machine!

My sincere gratitude does go out to Mark Salusbury who took my email of last week and confirmed that I don't necessarily need a readout and he was kind enough to send to me the below email and has also allowed me to share this pertinent information here:

Your interest in knowing your lathe RPM piqued my curiosity. From my experience, rpm is only relevant when you are A) tuning up a lathe and B) confirming a torque range when changing pulley ratios. I use a little handheld tachometer whenever I need this info.

The important elements are available "torque" at the spindle plus "surface feet per minute" at the point where the tool contacts the revolving work piece. That's all!

Just like driving a car with a manual transmission; select the correct gear to dial in the torque range for the motion you want to put the car through, then dial in the speed so your wheels offer maximum traction, avoiding wheel-spin or bogging down the engine.

At the lathe, select the correct pulley ration to power the cutting edge through the material

efficiently then dial in the surface feet per minute at a given point on the spinning work piece so the cut is clean; neither scary fast nor chunking and gouging the surface of the wood. Allied with this is the speed at which you advance the tool across the work surface so it's exerting less/more surface feet per minute of cutting action at its point of contact. Knowing RPM won't help you here because the grain structure of the material and the diameter of the work piece at the point of contact is continuously changing throughout the shaping process.

I think the article confirms my experiences. I chuckled when I read his recommendation that if a turner had a lathe with an RPM readout it should be covered at one point in his presentation.

The important aspect about turning is practice, practice, practice...pick one scale and style of work and do it over and over and over. It will teach you all you need to know about RPM without ever being really aware of it. Once you've become comfortable with your understanding, change the scale/size/style and reapply what you understand to the fresh format. You should be able to turn blindfolded, using only your senses of touch and hearing.

Of course this all assumes you have a good understanding of creating an efficiently ground bevel and keen cutting edge. That too will come with practice and focussed introspection.

Have fun in the process!

I'm sure many of you will find this as informative as I did and with this inevitable rain we seem to be

May 4, 2021

having, it is pushing me out into the shop instead of gardening! As Mark says, practice, practice, practice.

Furthermore, since our zooming skills night was such a great hit, we are currently coordinating some more skills nights with Richard Pikul. These will span a night for each piece of equipment. Stay tuned and watch for - How to set up, maintain and solve problems with your machinery, individual nights for the following:

- Lathe maintenance
- Chuck maintenance - for Oneway chucks
- Drill press set up and maintenance
- Bandsaw set up and maintenance
- Grinder maintenance
- Table saw (contractor type) maintenance

We would also like to bring your attention to the Wig Stands needed for Sunnybrook. Cam Burrows has been working side by side with Century Mill to provide wig stand kits. These kits will be available to our members through Cam as he is currently coordinating quantities and returns of the finished wig stands, his email is: camburrows72@gmail.com please ensure that if you want to turn a wig stand we would like them back in a timely manner as we are also helping Century Mill build their Instagram account 😊 - so photos are required! Here is the link to the instructions for wig stands on the WGO site: <http://wgo.ca/Documents/Projects/WigStand.pdf>

As well here are a couple of good videos online,

<https://youtu.be/UR9weyfuS0>

<https://youtu.be/Tz9YRMHlsfU>

Thanks to Mark Gordon for the suggestion of a carousel for your lathe tools from Fine Woodworking:

https://images.taunton.com/downloads/FW1124_Carousel.pdf

Watch for Juanita's email concerning our upcoming May 13 Zooming demonstration with Dennis Belcher - ***When Good Wood Cracks - A Challenge to your Creativity***

Should be a good evening with Dennis.

Following up on the skills night with Richard and sandpaper.... I laughed at the comic below.

Until next time – stay safe, healthy, always smile and keep turning!

