

Kurt's clinic

Guest editor Kurt Hertzog answers readers' questions

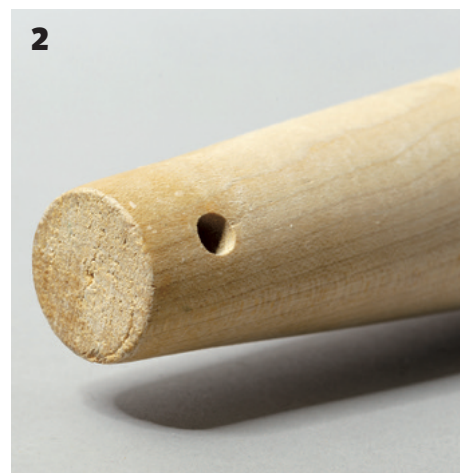
I want to turn rolling pins as gifts for family members who enjoy baking. Any suggestions on what I should watch out for as I tackle this?

You can glue up very decorative blanks to turn from multiple species à la the cutting board glue ups. On or off-axis alignments will lend great visual appeal. I don't usually mess with fancy glue-up blanks, opting for solid maple or cherry. Personally, I enjoy using the French-style rolling pin when I bake (usually homemade pizza, calzones, breads, and the like). The French-style rolling pins are quite easy to turn since there are no end grips or additional pieces. It is a one-piece turning of your chosen length. I favour a 24in-long rolling pin that is about 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ in in the middle tapering to 1in on both ends. Of course, you can size your rolling pins in any dimension that suits you or the recipient's end use. I usually drill a $\frac{3}{16}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$ in hole through the diameter of the finished rolling pin, spaced in about $\frac{3}{4}$ in from one end so it can be stored hanging up if desired. Remember to use a V-block for safety when drilling round objects. Turn to your desired size and shape, sand through the grits to your chosen surface finish, and clean off. I sand through 400 grit and leave the wood bare. With no finish, there is no chemical smell prompting questions about food service safety. I find the raw wood accepts flour dusting readily



PHOTOGRAPHS BY KURT HERTZOG

and cleans easily with a slightly damp cloth. Another advantage is that the pin can be 'repaired' if needed. Since I turn them between centres with a steb centre drive and single point revolving tail centre, I can easily remount the pin since I leave the mounting point centres on any finished pin. Any repairs are usually dents and dings from rough treatment or mishaps in storage if not hung. If you are more ambitious or desire a non-tapered pin, you can easily turn the traditional-style rolling pin in the straight-sided body size you wish by turning the end grips to be attached to the pin. I'll leave it to you to figure out how to make those so they can rotate if you feel they need to.



1 Rolling pins are a great gift idea for the bakers among your family and friends. The tapered French pin is the favourite in our house **2** Unless needed to be removed, leaving centre points makes remounting easy and accurate. A cross hole makes for easy hanging

I'm buying my tools as I can afford them and I am wondering why such a disparity in pricing. Can you help me figure out the best values?

A popular question that is worth covering on occasion for new readers and turners. I've found that the best value tools you can buy aren't always brand new or the latest and greatest 'magic' metals. As with most goods, the highest price is usually for brand new items and at a speciality retailer.

Since there is little to go wrong with modern woodturning tools, you can often get a good value by purchasing used. Learn from and watch your more experienced turning friends for tell-tale signs of poor quality or abuse. If new is what you fancy, look for the tools that are sold singly since you can pick and choose any brand, size, and style that fills your need. Packages of tool kits with their versions of what they think you need are often less than ideal for everyone's situation.

Depending on your type of turnings and materials, you may not find uses for all that is included in the package tool kits. There are some savings to be had by buying the entire kit, but the savings are moot if you only can commonly use three or four of the five or six tools in the kit. Obviously, tools with the higher-cost steels and lower-volume tools may not have the same price competition as others offered. You'll need to make your own value judgement on any specific tool design or steel selection. Buy slowly as needed adding what best fills out your kit. Don't worry about having the same brand name, family, steels, or sizes. Get what will do the job you need done at the price that suits your situation. Do remember that quality woodturning tools can be a lifetime investment for the non-commercial, non-pro since you are unlikely to ever wear them out with reasonable care and correct sharpening techniques. Treated as such, you'll probably get 50% of retail when and if you decide to sell tools.

It seems like there are many repeat questions and answers? Don't you get enough questions to not repeat? How do you choose what to use?

Yes, there are sufficient questions to avoid repeats or repeats too often. However, I do repeat the more popular and repeatedly questions with reason. This issue has some repeats. My methodology for choosing questions to answer is those with the most general interest. Since the Q&A is an educational forum geared for all with the emphasis on the beginning to intermediate turner, I tend to use the repeats to address those questions that seem to come up most often. Especially since there are always new readers who didn't see that Q&A topic in past issues. I try to space any repeats out, so the ongoing reader doesn't get bored or feel like there isn't enough new material. On any repeated questions, I try to answer in a slightly different manner just to avoid it looking like a cut-and-paste operation.

What is the best way to process green wood for storage? Do I need to worry about cold or heat? How do you do it?

There are several ways to store green wood. The simplest and best is to only drop the tree when you are planning on processing it if possible. Having a tree still attached to the ground and growing is certainly the best for its longevity and ultimately your green woodturning. Barring that, drop the tree and leave it in the longest manageable length(s).

Seal any cut locations with an end-grain sealer such as Anchorseal or other similar product. If you don't have ready access to the end-grain sealing products, you can also use unneeded latex paint to seal any open wounds on your wood. The best way to minimise checking or cracking is to keep from drying the wood quickly or unevenly. I've not run into problems with cold, so I leave as much green wood outdoors regardless of the season. I try to avoid any excessive heat and direct sunlight so a water-resistant cover over the wood is

helpful all year round. Not sealed too tightly but loosely fitting over the top to provide some weather protection. Any first turnings in green wood that will need to be turned again after drying are end-grain sealed with Anchorseal, allowing them to continue to dry slowly until time for finish turning. Turnings sealed like this can remain in the cool part of the garage until ready for finishing. Do you lose some green wood from uneven drying damage, cracking, and checking? Sure. Proper care and processing will minimise losses.



3 I buy my Anchorseal from my club. Club bulk buys help with the cost and a big box five-gallon bucket makes for easy storage and use **4** Some Norfolk Island pine, end coated for storage. Notice the wood kept off the ground on patio blocks. Also, a tarp to cover it is wise **5** Coating the end grain is key to minimising drying loss. Household latex paint will also work to slow moisture loss **6** Whenever in doubt, liberally coat any green wood blanks or in-process turnings. It will not hurt anything if not needed

◀ **Being a new turner, I keep hearing much of the vocabulary that is part of the hobby. Is there a glossary of terms that will help me learn?**

Here are some links to some of the sources of woodturning and woodworking terminology. You will learn a lot about the different processes and materials terms in these. There are certainly many

others, but these are the ones that jump out after a quick search. They should give you a pretty good start. By all means, another search will certainly give you more material to read.

https://www.woodcraft.com/blog_entries/dictionary-of-woodworking-terms

<https://www.dmwoodturners.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/glossary-of-common-woodturning-terms.pdf>

<https://uwoodcraft.com/woodturning-glossary/>

<https://www.woodmagazine.com/woodworking-tips/techniques/skills/glossary-of-wood-words>

Why do I see people rubbing wood shavings on a turned piece in some online videos? Should it be done before, during, or after sanding? Does it have to be the same species shavings?

In my experience, wood shavings are often used to 'burnish' the surface on a turning. To accomplish this, the piece should be turned and sanded to completion and then burnished with shavings from that piece. You can grab handfuls from the floor or lathe bed that were turned away from that piece. Be careful you only collect shavings. Any debris mixed in will cause problems. Does it need to be the same species? I've never tried it with something different, but I don't know why you would since you have same species shavings right there from your turning process. Try it with a different species if you like and let me know your results, positive or negative.



7 Nice fresh curls from your turning in process can be used to burnish the surface of your finished piece. Much like a buffing

8 Be certain that you collect 'clean' shavings. Any debris other than clean shavings can cause damage to the surface