

# Kurt's clinic

Kurt Hertzog gives some answers to readers' questions

## Glue chuck

**Question:** Someone here talked about a glue that would hold well enough for light turning but could be released in the microwave. Is this so?



**Answer:** The short answer is that there are adhesives you can heat in the microwave. The two heat-released adhesives that immediately jump out to me are epoxy and hot-melt. That said, I don't think I'd venture down that path. By the time you provide sufficient heating for the adhesive to release, you'll probably have put enough heat into your finished turning to cause some damage. I suggest you use an adhesive that will hold well and that you will turn away to release your workpiece. You'll need to clean up the bonding site of a heat-released adhesive anyway, so why add another step? Bond your turning block to the sacrificial work-holding block with an intended 'permanent' bond. When its service is completed, cut away the necessary material of the work-holding block to release your finished piece. If your cutaway technique provides an acceptable surface on the finished piece, you are done. If not, you'll need to reverse-mount it to remove stock there to create the finished surface.

There are many choices for adhesives you can use to bond your workpiece to a scrap block or other mounting system. Depending on the species and whether your turning block and scrap block are the same species, you can use several different adhesives. Dissimilar species may require a different adhesive. Techniques that I use for mounting work to a scrap block include double-sided mounting tape, cyanoacrylate adhesives, hot-melt glue, epoxies, and various woodworker's glues.

My selection depends on the species, strength of the bond required, and the time available to create a cured bond. Always be certain that your chosen adhesive, cross-sectional gluing area,

and surface preparation will provide a safe bond that is strong enough for your planned turning. The most common mistakes I've seen are not having the interface surfaces truly flat and prepped for a good bond and insufficient time for the adhesive to cure to strength. There is a big world of methods to fasten your workpiece to scrap blocks along with other holding methods. You can find more information on this topic in *Woodturning* 239 – spring 2012 in the *Workholding* series part 2.



A selection of the products for work-mounting methods I use, from adhesives to double-sided tapes and more

## Personal protective equipment

**Question:** What do you use for eye protection? Do you use a facemask? Do you wear a dusk mask? Which kind? Other protections?



Some of my commonly used PPE & RPE gear for eye and lung protection including dust and chemical

**Answer:** The key aspect to turning is doing so as safely as possible and protecting yourself as best you can from potential mishaps and items that can be harmful. Having spent 30 years in the industrial environment, I own and buy eyeglasses that are ANSI spec impact-resistant safety glasses and have the side shields for them as well. When I am turning something larger, or green wood, wood containing bark, or suspect wood, I will always supplement my safety glasses with a face shield. It is vital that you protect the eyes and face. Since I live in the US, my glasses and face shield are rated to the correct US impact safety standards. It is a full-face shield that has a complete rim supporting the clear shield. This provides a much stronger protective device than the more flimsy, clipped-in-at-the-top shields.

For people living in other countries there will be different safety standards and ratings for protective eye wear and

personal protective safety kit should be used that is appropriately rated for the job people intend to use it for.

I also use a powered respirator safety helmet if I am turning larger items than pens and such like, and this can be used in conjunction with my safety-rated glasses. This helmet not only provides head and face protection but also pumps in clean HEPA filtered air. The helmet is a positive pressured device, so you are always breathing the filtered air.

To protect my lungs when not using the powered respirator, I use dust masks and manual respirators when using face shield and protective glasses. I have several that I use that are rated to the best safety standards for use with dust and I have others that are used to deal with vapours from chemicals and such as those I encounter when finishing work in the workshop.

I also have a shop air dust filter located

overhead at the tailstock end of my lathe. I run that whenever I am turning, but I don't count on that for filtering my breathing air. It really filters the dust after it has been strewn into the air that is missed by the at-source extractor. It is also worth noting that, when using chemicals such as finishes and so on, you should wear appropriately rated gloves in addition to the item protecting the eyes, face and lungs. ●



Turning with full protective equipment in place

Send in your questions to Kurt's email: [kurt@kurthertzog.com](mailto:kurt@kurthertzog.com)