

# SHAVINGS

The Mid Minnesota Association of Woodturners (MMAW) is a member based not for profit organization, providing an environment of interest and activities dedicated to the enjoyment of woodturning activities and to promote woodturning to the local community through education and charitable events.

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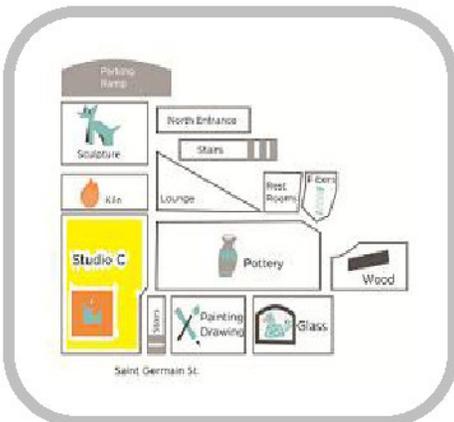


**MMAW** membership meetings are held the second Saturday of each month. Located in Studio C. (see map)

**Socializing** with fellow members starts at 9:30AM, coffee and treats available.

Meetings are held in the **Paramount Visual Arts Center (VAC)** which is located in the basement of the Paramount Theatre, downtown St. Cloud, MN. All city parking is free on Saturdays; this includes the ramp near the Paramount as well as metered street parking.

The membership meeting starts at 10:00AM (most meetings are about 1.5-2 hours long including the social time) and include announcements, members sharing their turned creations, a demo or presentation related to turning, and occasionally other activities such as a holiday celebration or wood exchange. (Click on the above Paramount marquee for a link to their website.) The MMAW is an affiliate of the AAW. (Click on the above AAW marquee for a link to their website.)



Next Meeting Saturday May 12, 2018

**SHAVINGS**

## Presidents letter

Presidents Letter  
May 2018

Greetings MMAW Members'

Our time at the Tech Center was made interesting considering the weather. Bill Larson was ill and Lenny was justifiably concerned about slipping and causing damage to his new hip so their demo on segmented turning was off the agenda. We would rather see an agenda changed than have anyone hurt. We will catch you guys on another date.

I do want to thank all that stepped up and shared their experiences with segmented turning. Thank you.

The discussion about tee shirts was lively and positive in its results. We're going to have tee shirts.

I do want to remind everyone there is a President's Challenge "Lidded Box" for the May meeting. Also, there will be a tool sale table. Bring a tool you would like to sell with your name and a price you would like. The Club **is not** asking for consideration.

We will continue with the Instant Gallery as it was conducted during April's meeting. Be sure to visit with all contributors.

Neil Robinette from the Minneapolis Woodturners Association will demo "How to Sharpen Your Tools" during the May meeting.

Denny Myers  
President

## SHAVINGS

MMAW Regular Monthly Meeting minutes from April 14, 2018

Ben Johnson and Luke Salbury were visitors at today's meeting.

Guy Schafer had a poster of the 4 options for a possible MMAW t-shirt. After some discussion Dale Field moved and John Caye seconded that we use the design labeled #2 as the preferred one. The motion passed. The executive board will continue the discussion at their meeting today to pick colors and other design options. They will bring back options at the May meeting.

Denny Myers has decided to bring back the President's challenge starting at the May meeting. His challenge to the club is to make and bring a **lidded box**.

There will be a "tools for sale" table at the monthly meetings. Bring any tools you would like to sell. Be sure to label the tool with the name of the owner and the price you would like to get for the tool.

Denny Myers is looking for someone who may be interested in the AAW's Women in Turning initiative. If anyone has interest please contact Denny Myers.

Guy Schafer reported that the MMAW turned in 121 bowls for the Empty Bowls activity. The event was canceled and rescheduled for April 14 (today).

We also need someone to take over the coordination of the Empty Bowls activity for the MMAW. Guy Schafer has done it for the past three years and feels it is time for someone new to coordinate the event. Guy will help you get started and explain what is needed to do it. Give Denny Myers or Guy Schafer a call if you are interested.

It was announced that there were still a few openings for some Trent Bosch classes through the MAW.

Neil Robinette from the MAW club will be doing a demo on tool sharpening at the May meeting.

Denny wondered if anyone interested in doing a club demo would like the MMAW to offer a hands on class to help you prepare for doing a demo. Let him know if you are interested as there are lots of resources available to assist you.

Because of the weather Lenny Merdan and Bill Larson could not make it to the meeting to share their skills on segmented turning. In their place there was a general sharing time from members who do segmented turning with lots of questions and answers provided. Thanks to everyone who shared.

Gary Mrozek and Guy Schafer will be representing the MMAW at the American Craft Council show in St. Paul on April 21. They will be turning tops at the AAW booth. It is a wonderful show with several woodturners and many other crafts (arts).

Meeting adjourned.

## SHAVINGS

# Woodworm Screws

Mike Peace

Many turners do not take advantage of one of the easiest and quickest ways to mount some projects on a lathe—the woodworm screw. This is basically a large screw chuck.

While you can buy a dedicated screw chuck, most scroll chucks come with a woodworm screw. This is a machined screw held within the jaws (Photo 1). A woodworm screw is cylindrical rather than tapered like a typical wood screw and has sharp, deep threads. These threads are designed to bite into the workpiece with a minimum of damage to wood fibers. The screw has a base that fits beneath and against the underside of the jaws to prevent it from being pulled from the chuck.

Woodworm screws also have four grooves or flat areas for the jaw slides or chuck jaws (or both) to fit against, to prevent the screw from twisting and coming loose. Some, like the one that came with my Super Nova 2, have a channel that the jaws close around.

The woodworm can speed up the process of getting the exterior of small bowls formed and a tenon turned for a chuck to grab onto. Another advantage is that you can remove and remount the piece with a good chance of it running true.

### How to use

Insert the screw into the #2 jaws and start to tighten the jaws. Pull the screw forward so the base fits against the back of the jaws, and then finish tightening. This will prevent any tendency for the screw to creep forward when it is being used.

Ensure that the workpiece has a flat surface where it will touch the top of the chuck jaws. Pre-drill a hole into your workpiece slightly smaller in diameter than the screw size, and about  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (20mm) deep. Teknatool says drill a  $\frac{5}{16}$ "- (8mm-) diameter hole for their woodworm screws. Oneway specifies a 9mm- or  $1\frac{1}{32}$ "-diameter hole for their Stronghold and Talon chucks. Check the instructions that came with your chuck for hole diameter.

A woodworm screw has its best hold in face-work such as a platter or small bowl, but can do well with small endgrain projects. Most of the holding strength comes from the large jaw surface that is pulled against the wood. One way to strengthen the grip even more is to make a large-diameter hardwood washer of side-grain flat stock that fits around the jaws when closed and is even with the top of the jaws (Photo 2).

Woodworm screws are not suitable for hollowing projects or other work where the workpiece tends to project out from the chuck toward the tailstock more than about 4" (100mm). Longer projects tend to cause leverage problems that require a stronger holding method than a screw chuck.

### Tips

- Use tailstock support as long as possible.
- Keep the rpm at a safe speed for the size of the piece, but probably no more than 600 rpm.
- Do not use this chucking technique with punky or otherwise unsound wood.
- When using on softer woods or green wood, you can strengthen the wood fibers by adding thin CA glue to the walls of the drilled hole.

- Do not leave green wood on a screw chuck overnight. Rust can make it extremely difficult to remove.
- If you cannot remove the piece with two hands, remove the screw from the chuck with the piece attached and try unthreading the screw with a wrench.
- After threading on the blank, try rocking it side to side to ensure there is no movement.
- Rub a little candle wax on the screw threads to make it easier to remove the work. Keep in mind that when turning, the workpiece can actually get tighter.
- Sometimes the standard hole is too deep for the wood. An example would be when turning a plate from  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (20mm) stock. Simply add a spacer made of MDF or plywood,  $\frac{1}{8}$ " to  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (3mm to 6mm) thick, to shorten the amount of screw that is exposed (Photo 3). The woodworm for the Super Nova2 or Nova G3 projects about  $\frac{5}{8}$ " (16mm) while the one for the larger Titan chuck projects  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (20mm) beyond the jaw surface. A hole only  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (10mm) deep can securely hold a 12"- (300mm-) diameter platter.



**Photo 1**



**Photo 2**

*The screw in photo 1 projects  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (20mm) beyond the jaws. The one in photo 2 projects  $\frac{5}{8}$ " (16mm).*

=====Sidebar=====

## Small projects

Sometimes a woodworm screw is just too big or long for your project. You can easily make a screw chuck for small projects of a production nature. Mount a scrap of wood onto a faceplate (or use a threaded glue block screwed onto a woodworm screw).

A #10 machine screw will hold well for small projects where you are only taking light cuts. With the faceplate and wood scrap mounted onto the lathe, drill a center hole for the screw. The hole should be small enough in diameter for the threads to hold the screw firmly in place. Remove from the lathe and screw the screw in from the back.

Remount and turn a taper to match the bottom of the project. You can use this taper as a visual reference to size your project without the need for calipers. This is a great technique for small production-style projects like knobs or chessmen.

A small amount of thin CA glue applied to the screw threads before screwing the workpiece onto the screw will provide additional holding, yet the piece can still be removed easily.



*Smaller-size shopmade screw chucks provide fast and easy mounting of small projects such as chessmen (right). Use a lag bolt if more support is needed, as shown in the example on the left that uses a faceplate and a scrap of plywood.*

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*Mike Peace started turning shortly after retiring and enjoys a wide variety of turning from ornaments to hollow forms. He is active in three woodturning chapters in the Atlanta area. You can see pictures of Mike's work and read his published articles on his website, [mikepeacewoodturning.blogspot.com](http://mikepeacewoodturning.blogspot.com).*

*American Woodturner August 2013  
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# SHAVINGS

## DUST COLLECTOR SYSTEM AT THE PARAMOUNT

*Fred, Jerry, Mark and I put the dust collector up Thursday. Here are some pics of what it looks like.*



