

November 2004

Woodturners Shop of the Month -- Dennis Brown, Sandy, UT

Believe me, this was not my idea. Bob asked me to put my little shop in as the Feature this month, so here goes. I have been involved in woodworking for about 45 years. It all started in junior high wood shop when I tried to take my teachers ear off with a knot out of a piece of Cherry I was trying to turn on a lathe.

About 20 years ago, I bought a Shopsmith with all the stuff to go with it. It has served me well. I have remodeled two houses and built furniture for us and several of my kids. In the last few years I found myself using the lathe more than anything else. After bending the spindle twice and not being able to try larger projects, I decided to retire my Shopsmith to one of my sons homes so I can still use it when needed, and get a lathe that would do all that I could dream up.

I settled on a Powermatic 3520A with an 18" bed extension so I don't have to lift the tail stock. as the best "bang" for my buck. I also added a Jet 14" band saw and a floor stand drill press. Ever since then, I have been hooked on learning all I can about lathe work. The symposium this last summer almost overwhelmed me with the possibilities, but I am going to just keep on learning.

I enjoy making various bowls the most, but am branching out to learn more. My grandkids have kept me busy with requests for Harry Potter wands and personal bowls for them. Between that and wedding and birthday gifts, I doubt I will ever sell anything.

My wife has a great knack for finding impossible pieces of wood for me to try, like a 12" X 6" piece of Cocobolo and recently a piece of Gum Vein Eucalyptus. We have a deal that I get to match in shop stuff for all she spends on clothes and books. Works out just fine for me!

My shop is a 13 X 15 bedroom in our basement. I have installed a 21" exhaust fan to keep the dust outside. That, along with a Dust Collector, keeps most of the shop work in the shop. I know, it's too clean for most of you.

