

Cindy Drozda

"The Fine Art of Woodturning"

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Safety First

1 - Eye Protection

Should be worn whenever machines are running! You are only given one pair of eyes.... This is the only rule that should NEVER be broken! No excuses will restore your sight if you are blinded!

2 – Hands Off

The spinning workpiece. Fingers can get caught between the toolrest and the spinning work. Not worth the risk!

3 – Stop the Lathe

Before making any adjustments to the tool rest, tailstock, etc. Just good sense. Fingers can be caught in dangerous places, and/or you could easily lose that piece that you spent hours working on.

4 – Loose clothing and/or jewelry

....are a bad idea around any power equipment.

5 – Listen

For any unusual sounds. It might mean the workpiece is about to fly apart, or the machine is damaged. Be aware of your surroundings!

The Woodturners Check List

1 – Fixing

....the workpiece to the lathe. – Check if Secure -

2 – Toolrest

Standard toolrest height is about ¼" below center. Adjust the toolrest for comfort and personal preference. – Clear -

3 – Speed

Generally, higher turning speeds give smoother easier cuts. – But - If there is excessive vibration, or if you're not comfortable, slow the machine down. – Check before turning machine on –

5 – Sharp

The cleanest cuts start with sharp tools. Develop a sharpening system that gives you consistent results and sharpen often. If the cut is not happening like you think it should, the tool is probably dull.

4 – Grain

Be aware of the grain direction in the workpiece. Grain direction affects design and technique decisions.

6 – Technique

Choose the correct type of cut for the job. The easiest cuts have the cutting edge presented to the side grain (rather than the endgrain). Precise technique makes crisp, precise turnings.

7 – Stance

Start in a position to finish comfortable. Weight should be evenly distributed over both feet. Shift body weight to move the tool through the cut.

Resources for Woodturners:

Local Woodturning clubs - the ultimate sharing of woodturning knowledge. Mentor programs, live demonstrations at meetings, local sources for wood and supplies.

American Association of Woodturners – www.woodturner.org - Our national organization, and our most extensive resource. Club and Instructor directory, quarterly magazine, education grants, annual symposium.

AAW woodturning forums - www.aawforum.org – A great resource for sharing ideas with other woodturners, asking questions, and seeing what the community is about.

My website - www.cindydrozda.com. - copies of my handout sheets, sources of supply, links, classes, etc.