



Dublin Chapter Newsletter

Irish Woodturners Guild

February 2022



February meeting not held due to covid situation.

Please check both your email and the Chapter website (<http://www.dublinwoodturners.com>) regularly for updates.



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Our return to normal has been tripped up for February. It was felt that the risk was too great and that it was better to hold off until things settle down again. Hopefully we will get back to our meetings/workshops in March.

We are lucky in that our hobby allows us to continue working in the shed or, as the yanks call it, 'the shop'. That being said, social interaction is important to all of us, the meetings and workshops are enjoyed by us all and are a great place to pick up information and see how others turn their pieces.

We all may have noticed that Spring is in the air, a bit of growth is evident and nature is waking up. The cold dark winter nights are disappearing and the garden beckons.

The season of spring was called Imbolc by our ancestors the Celts. This festival was associated with the goddess Brigid resulting eventually in the 1st of February becoming St Brigids day after St Patrick took up residence here and brought Christianity.

A poem most of us learned in school,

"Anois teacht an earraigh
beidh an lá dúl chun síneadh,
Is tar éis na féil Bríde
ardóigh mé mo sheol."

In our case we just need to hold the unfurling of the sails for a few weeks but better times are coming!

In the meantime get out there and turn a few pieces for the competition, and bring them along to the Saturday in March.

Keep rubbing the bevel!

John O'Neill

Bowl Gouges The woodturning workhorse by John O'Neill (+Carter and Son)



Bowl gouge size

There are two standards in use, referred to as the British and the American standards. The difference is that British tools measure the flute width and the USA uses the width of the steel shaft.

Sometimes you see the British standard referred to as the European standard but that appears to be incorrect as during lockdown I bought a Stubai and also a Weideman gouge (Austria & Germany), both adhere to the American standard. Both turned out to be useful, even if a bit smaller than expected.

This next section comes from the Carter & Son website and is reproduced with the permission of Carter & Son Toolworks USA.

We all know that if you ask 10 turners for opinions on anything you will get 9 different opinions, the 10th guy is the one tearing his hair out trying to figure out which is actually the best opinion! The article serves as a general guide and comes from an experienced gouge manufacturer.

Choosing a bowl gouge

Step 1: choosing the gouge size

While choosing the right bowl gouge size for your work isn't an exact science, here is a general guideline. Note that our measurements are based on the outside diameter of the gouge.

For small bowls with a diameter of 12" or less, we suggest a 1/2" bowl gouge.

For medium to large bowls with diameters of about 12" to 14", a 5/8" bowl gouge will be more efficient.

For sizable work with a diameter of 14" or larger, a powerful 3/4" bowl gouge will really get the job done.

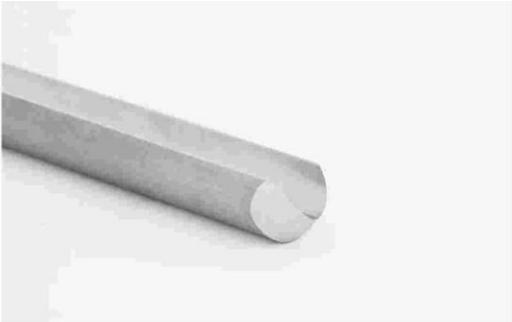


5/8" Bowl gouge

Keep in mind, that while larger tools can be more efficient, bigger doesn't always translate to better! Try different gouges and pay attention to which you are most comfortable with and which best fit your work.

Step 2: choosing grind profile & flute shape

While it's true that every turner has their own grind preference, there are three widely held bowl gouge profiles and flute shapes that are worth exploring.



Traditional Grind

An easy profile to sharpen, the traditional grind is nearly straight across, similar to that of a spindle roughing gouge.

This tool excels at handling end-grain fiber, and other difficult grains. Often referred to as a "bottom feeder", it is popular for finishing the interior bottom of a bowl and creating a smooth finish.



Fingernail Grind

While a slightly more difficult profile to grind than the traditional, mastering the fingernail profile is worthwhile simply because it's extremely versatile.

Roughing, detailing, shear cutting, the fingernail grind can do it all.

The tool on the right has a "v" shaped flute, which takes well to a fingernail profile.



Swept Back Grind

Although a swept back profile is challenging to grind, once mastered it's recognized as the most versatile.

Excellent for roughing, scraping and finishing - it's no wonder this grind is used by many professional and production turners. Grinding the long wings first and finishing with the nose is a helpful technique.

A parabolic flute takes well to the swept back grind.

The spindle gouge by John O'Neill

Richard Raffan is quoted as saying that the half inch spindle gouge was his most used tool, "Throughout my 30 years of teaching I've been saying that if you are limited to just one tool, that's the one. You can turn anything with a half-inch gouge."
He could also have included the half inch bowl gouge as his 'one must have tool'!

The spindle gouge is measured by the diameter of the round rod it is manufactured from, unlike the bowl gouge where we have American/British/European standards. The profile of the cutting edge looks like a crescent moon. The width of the flute is wider, relative to the rod, than for a bowl gouge. It is this rounded portion of the flute that creates the curved cutting edge that allows the wood to be gouged or scooped.

There are 3 main categories of spindle gouge.

1. Spindle roughing gouge.
2. The normal workhorse spindle gouge .
3. The detail spindle gouge.

Very little to say about the spindle roughing gouge except that it is used only for roughing out between-centres spindle work where the grain of the wood runs parallel to the bed of the lathe. Not for end grain work, try it and you'll know what rough means!

The normal & detail spindle gouges are basically similar but the detailed gouge has more pronounced swept back grind



Spindle gouges with 45 degree grinds.

On left is the half inch Hamlet gouge nearing the end of its life as its getting too short.

I have tried various grinds and shapes on these but since purchasing the Sorby proedge have stuck to the sorby recommendations.



Competition Table
continues from where we left it in 2020

Competition Table

	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Totals
Beginners													
John O'Neill	15	15											30
Ronnie Butler			15										15
Experienced													
Brendan Kelly	15	13	15										43
Vincent Whelan		15	13										28
Advanced													
Brendan Phelan	15	15	15										45
Tony Hartney	13	13	7										33
Paddy Finn	11	6	9										26
Tommy Hartnett	9	11	11										31
Willie Edwards	7	5											12
David Sweeney		9	13										22
Cecil Barron		7											7
Frank Maguire		5											5
John Duff		5											5
Artistic													
Colum Murphy	15	13	15										43
Brendan Phelan	13	15	13										41
Cecil Barron	11												11
Seamus O'Reilly	9												9
Tommy Hartnett	7	11	9										27
Frank Maguire	6												6
Rich Varney			11										11

January members creations

Tony Hartney

Photo of the piece Tony had planned on entering for the January competition. It's made from a piece of Asian Padauk. It was 125 x 125 x 50. Sanded to 320 and cellulose sanding sealer. Finished with the chestnut buffing system.



John O'Neill



Been trying out a few bowl shapes over the year in search of the most pleasing form. Here are oak, beech and walnut bowls. They are all around 170mm diameter by 40mm high. Finished with tung oil and hampshire sheen wax.



Still in search of that perfect bowl shape!

Interesting items from the web.....

Young wood worker doing interesting work

<https://www.bearcreation.com/> Brian Tyrell who make bespoke furniture and housewares.

Showcase2022 in RDS from February 27th to March 2nd, arts and crafts expo.

Exhibition, 'What Colour is Metal?' State Apartments, Dublin Castle 14 October 2021 – 6 February 2022

A series on Irish trees <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XCdnjKQNgfs>

Japanese woodworker Jiro Suda making it look so simple

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CaUuPtq3_Rs

note his range of toolrests and minimal sanding

Another Japanese woodturner with spectacular skill

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqYxnDWMqys>



I still need articles for the newsletter. It's difficult to find interesting content every month so I need some help.

Not looking for novels but if you have learned or figured out something or skill that may be useful to others, share it with us!

So can some of you go on Google and research a topic of interest to wood turners.

Woodturners are always interested in how the other guy turns his pieces so if you have something that you think may be unique or novel jot down a few notes, take a few pictures and send them on.

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