

# Reader's showcase



Woodturner and furniture maker **Ron Gellatly** shows us around his garage-cum-workshop in Canada

**M**y father gave me a pocket knife and taught me how to care for it on the event of my joining the Wolf Cubs at eight years old, and I've had a passion for shaping wood with sharp tools ever since. I've built two small boats and repaired several others. Most of my woodworking up to three years ago, however, has mainly involved furniture or carvings.

I was employed for 30 years as a general manager for DHL and one of their Canadian acquisitions. I was restructured out of that career in their reorganisation to divest of Canadian domestic operations and used my severance to embark on a second career, this time in woodworking. I enrolled in a local college for a course in joinery/cabinetmaking and furniture design. This gave me my first year towards my joinery apprenticeship and a very enthusiastic start in the trade. I have been working in the trade at a local cabinet shop since.

About the time I signed up for the course I bought a small General lathe. My first project was turning a 4.5m mast for my day-sailer. I set the lathe up next to my work bench and built a couple of steadies using the wheels off my rollerblades. I went on to produce bowls, vases and urns and boxes. With all my friends and relatives exhausted as recipients of my new found passion I found a local craft store willing to front my wares. **Email:** ron.gellatly@gmail.com



The readers' gallery is your opportunity to display your work to a worldwide audience.

**1** Turning tools caddy – this is placed close to the lathe so I can always find the right tool

**2** Bosch 305mm compound sliding mitre saw – an essential tool in my segmented work, as is the table saw

**3** Tormek T3 Sharpening System – this system from Tormek ensures that my tools are always kept as sharp as possible. I find it a vast improvement over dry grinding

**4** Bosch 255mm contractor table saw – this is not used for any of my turning tasks but it ensures that I can still complete any furniture and general woodworking tasks (not pictured)

**5** General 3/4hp Maxi lathe with variable speed and rotating headstock and 840mm bed extension – this is a great lathe and can handle a variety of turning tasks. It is quite versatile in use and I am very pleased with its overall performance

**6** Pillar drill – a useful machine to have in the workshop and especially useful for drilling holes in blanks prior to mounting them on the lathe. This is purposefully kept just behind my lathe, and mounted on the work surface

**7** Face-shield – I take my health seriously and therefore always wear this full-face dust mask/face-shield when I am turning to ensure that I am protected from any dust and harmful debris. I hook it on the side of the lathe to make sure I never forget to put it on before I start turning

**8** Craftsman 305mm tilting head bandsaw – another essential piece of machinery to have in the workshop and definitely a piece that is used extensively, both for cutting up blanks as well as for general woodworking tasks (not pictured)

**9** Offcut and wood storage – I keep a lot of offcuts in an area behind the lathe – these come in handy for a variety of different tasks. I also keep any woodturning blanks in this area

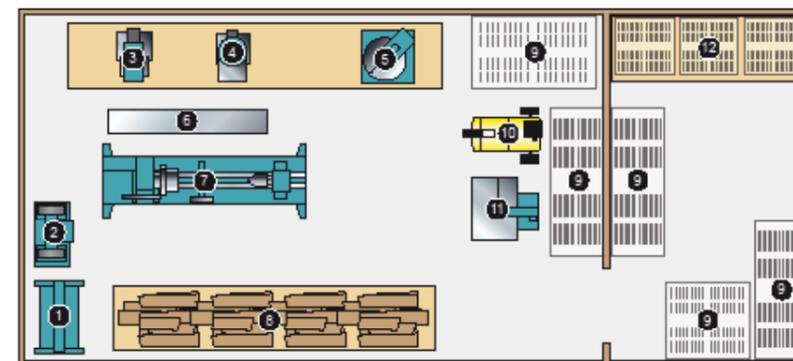
## 4 THINGS THAT I HAVE LEARNT WITH MY WOODTURNING

**1** Sharp is everything. This is true of all woodwork, but I have found it more evident in woodturning

**2** PPE is a must. I've had a couple of near misses when not behind my shield and they were a little bit scary

**3** The skew chisel is a beautiful tool and incredibly dangerous at the twitch of a wrist, both to the piece being worked and any body parts that get in the way

**4** Every mentor's 'right way' to do things should be tried, but not accepted as the only right way. There are often many paths to the same destination, and experience will allow an individual to find their own way to achieve a result



Total length = 8.22m long x 3.65m high

Key:

- 1. Bosch 255mm contractor table saw
- 2. Turning tool caddy
- 3. Drill press
- 4. Tormek grinder
- 5. Bosch 305mm compound mitre saw
- 6. Acrylic chip deflector

- 7. 3/4hp General Maxi lathe with variable speed and rotating head
- 8. Wood storage
- 9. Storage
- 10. 6hp Devilbess compressor on 140 litre tank
- 11. 305mm tilting head bandsaw
- 12. Finishing counter and storage

## Gallery

Below are some examples of Ron's turnings:



1. Walnut (*Juglans nigra*) and cherry (*Prunus serotina*) salad bowl, 180mm deep x and 370mm wide. Ron's first segmented turning



2. 'Cubish', figured and spalted Western maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), 255mm wide x 200mm tall



3. 'After Tunbridge', a Dennis Keeling inspired piece consisting of more than 2,460 segments

## HOMEMADE JIG



This is the jig which I recently constructed to help me turn a bowl of fruit. It helps me to finish the tops and bottoms of the pieces