

Shavings No 51- April 2019

by Brendan McAreavy and Peter Lyons

The Ulster Chapter was very fortunate to have Charlie Ryan, IWG President, as the demonstrator for April 2019. His theme



was sewing and so made a tape holder, a pin cushion and a thimble.

A Tape Holder

Charlie mounted a Laburnum blank on a step drive held in a chuck using an Axminster Morse Taper Carrier ([MT Carrier](#)) because he says the carrier gives a more secure and centred hold than just closing the jaws on the taper. He cut a tenon and mounted the blank in the chuck to allow him to cut the shape of the bowl of the tape holder. With the shape established Charlie drilled a 35mm hole with a Forstner bit to the width of the tape being used. He advised us to roll the tape on a dowel to ensure it would fit in the hole plus the width of a washer that would be fitted above the tape. In this instance the depth hollowed was 22mm. Having satisfied himself with the internal measurements Charlie cut a spigot for the lid, approximately 3mm, and cut the final shape on the outside of the bowl.

The next task was to drill a 6mm hole, 5mm deep, in the base of the bowl to accept a spindle. This will vary depending on the spindle diameter you use. Then

Charlie cut a slot for the tape to feed from the inside of the bowl. He selected the least attractive part of the wood and drew a line on the bowl the same length as the width of the tape. He cut the line with a hacksaw on the lathe and then sanded the slot to relieve the fit to suit the tape. The piece was then parted off and a recess cut in the waste block to fit the tenon on the bowl to allow access to the base for cleaning it up. With the bowl finished it was ready to sand, seal and finish.

The lid is made from the waste block in the chuck. Charlie cleaned up the recess and drilled a 6mm hole through the blank for the spindle. He advised us that the lid should be in proportion to the base so decide where you are going to part off taking that into consideration. Charlie finished shaping the lid and parted it off. At this stage you can either make a jam



chuck to finish the top of the lid or hold it in a small chuck. Remember to expose the drilled hole in the lid if you are using a bigger piece of wood and didn't want to drill the whole way through. Once satisfied with the shape sand, seal, finish.

With the top and bottom done it is time to fit the tape. Ream the lid with the spindle to get a smooth fit and mark a line on the dowel to cut a slot in the bottom of it to accept the end of the tape. When fitting

the tape in the box adjust the slot in the side to make for a neat fit without slop or binding.

To make the washer and knob for the top Charlie mounted a long blank, like a pen blank, and rounded it off. He drilled a 6mm hole and cut washers by parting most of the way with a parting tool and then finishing with a saw to prevent a ragged edge on the inside of the washer. He usually makes a few washers at a time to save time later when making other tape boxes. The knob for the top of the spindle



is made by drilling a 6mm hole in the blank and shaping the knob to whatever style you wish. It can be parted off and finished by hand or you could make a 6mm tenon and mount the knob on that to do the tidy-up work and sanding etc.

Assembly - glue the tape into the dowel AFTER making sure everything fits. Cut the spindle to length to make sure there isn't a big gap to the box from the knob (or handle, if you prefer). Glue the washer on

the spindle on the underside of the lid. This prevents the spindle coming out.

If you prefer, you could make the knob and spindle from one piece of wood instead of using a dowel and making a separate knob. Just cut the spindle slightly longer than needed to allow for adjustments.

Pin Cushion

Once again Charlie used a Laburnum blank and hollowed it using a Forstner bit and a Simon Hope Hollowing Tool ([Lots here](#)). He advised us that keeping the same grinds on gouges keeps things simple and means you don't have to adjust for different grinds. He also recommended the Reg Sherwin 1/2" Roughing Gough by Ashley Isles ([Here](#)) as an excellent tool.

Charlie cut a tenon for use later fitting the lid and hollowed the inside of the blank. When he was finished with the inside he sanded, sealed, and finished it before moving to the outside and shaping it after measuring and marking the depth of the inside. When the outside was shaped it was sanded, sealed and finished before being reversed onto the chuck jaws to finish the bottom. We were advised to leave the inside bottom of the box round to make it easy to extract the contents, like we would do with a pill box.

The lid was made by mounting a blank in the chuck and cutting a recess to take a foam pad. When sized to fit the pad the lid was parted off and held using that recess to make a recess for the bottom of the box. Charlie advised making an easy fit to allow access to the contents with one hand so cut a recess on the lid to take the tenon on the base and forget about 'Pop-fits'. When satisfied with the fit shape the lid to suit the base then sand, seal and finish. Glue the pad (covered with cloth) into the recess and it's 'job done'.

While making this piece Charlie talked about the Axminster 'Gripper Jaws' he uses on an Evolution chuck and told us he

has found they have replaced almost every other set of jaws he has ([Gripper Jaws](#)).

Thimble

Charlie mounted a small Yew blank in a chuck and set the length he wanted. He hollowed the inside while continually testing the fit with his finger (LATHE OFF please). Once satisfied with the depth and width Charlie decorated the rim on the thimble with a bead before using a skew to remove the thimble from the blank. The thimble could be mounted on a tenon for finishing or finished by hand.

This was a very interesting demo and we thank Charlie for coming to visit, teach, and entertain us with his many anecdotes.

May Demo, Saturday 11th, 2.00pm,
Seamus Cassidy

Competitions: Cat 1 - A kitchen item
Cat 2 - A One-piece Scoop

Competition Results For April

Cat 1, Needle holder and thimble.
1st Francie McHugh



2nd Gerry Leddy



Cat 2, A Sundial.
1st Paul Finlay

