# Woodworking Tips

In response to some questions raised about using a metal tap in wood, here is a simple tip that is handy to most turners. A bowl gauge is used to identify how far you have gone in a bowl or vase. Cut a piece of wood as long as you plan on turning a bowl diameter plus a couple of inches. I.e. A gauge for ten inch maximum bowls will use a twelve inch long piece of wood. Drill a 7/32" hole at centre, rotate the wood 90 degrees and drill a 1/4" hole. Use a 1/4" x 20 tap to thread the 7/32" hole. Insert a piece of 1/4" dowel through the unthreaded hole and a 1/4" bolt or thumbscrew through the threaded hole. The dowel is set to desired depth and the wood piece serves as a stop at the bowl's edges. A hint I learned from Jacques Vessery is to replace the dowel with an antenna from a portable radio when doing long vases. It is light and easily retractable for storage. If you cannot find an antenna, I find a magnetic pickup from the dollar store to work.

**A simple marking gauge**

I like to use a pencil in a marking gauge but this is as easily made by driving a nail through the end of the dowel and sharpening the tip with a file. Cut a piece of wood to desired shape and drill a hole for a 1/2" dowel. Drill a 7/32" hole at right angles into the first hole through the edge of the wood piece. Tap the 7/32" hole 1/4" x 20 for a standard 1/4"bolt. Drill a hole in the end of the dowel large enough for a pencil to fit comfortably and a 7/32" hole at right angles. Tap the 7/32" hole 1/4" x 20 for a set screw or short bolt. Insert the bolts, dowels and pencil.

**Make a Burning Wire**

A simple decorative line can be made on a piece by holding a wire to it while it turns. Holding both ends of the wire in your bare hands can be hot and cutting. A quick solution is to go to the sports store or the sports section of the hardware and buy a few wire leaders from the fishing section. One is sufficient but they are usually carded so make a few for friends. Take or make a couple of dowels and insert screw eyes in the centres. Clip one end of the leader to one eye and open the other eye with pliers. Inert the loop on the leader and close the eye. To try it out first cut a small groove in a spindle. Holding one handle of the wire in each hand, press the wire into the spinning wood until the smoke comes up. Done.

Hint: I find the leaders come with a wire braid that quickly heats off but the core lasts for ages.

## Pivot Point for Deep Hollowing

As I was clearing the inside of a 10" diameter by 7" deep flower pot I found that I was wrestling a bit with a hook to clear the wood. Not surprising when reaching that far over the rest and cutting at 90 degrees to the angle of the shaft. I needed a pivot support to work against so I took a galvanized nipple and tee
fitting I had and made one. I drilled a hole in the tee, tapped it for a 1/4x 20 bolts, inserted the bolt so it bottomed out in the tee and fitted the nipple into the tee and into the banjo. Works great.

## Ways you can adapted your scrollsaw to pin less blades.

Method one; Here I used pieces of 10mm square steel, with a hole drilled for fastening them to the machine, and a second hole drilled at right angles and tapped right through to fasten the blade. I screwed the Allen screw into the threaded hole, with some lock-tight to hold it in place, cut the slot with a hacksaw when the lock-tight is set, then screwed the cut-off part of screw out. Make certain that the screw is completely cut through, otherwise you will screw the part out, that must stay in the other side of the slot.

Method two; is what Jacob von Holzen made, and can be made the same way. Jacob cut the slot first and screwed a wing nut into one side, and a grub-screw into the other side.

Method three; Roy Tregilgas made this one using part of a door hinge, knocking out the pin, and threaded the hole. After cutting the slot for the blade, he screwed a wing nut in one side, and a grub screw in the other side. A hole was drilled at right angles to fasten it to the machine. Instead of having a grub-screw you could have one screw from the side that is easy to get at, that goes right through the hinge with some lock-tight on one end, and when set cut your slot right through the screw.