

June 2011

Announcements

- **Recent Wood Additions**

Some of the most recent woods we've cut and put up for sale have included: [black walnut](#), [cherry](#), [silver poplar](#) and [staghorn sumac](#). We currently have some really great thick pieces of cherry (4", 5" and 6" thick), as well as some of the largest staghorn sumac pieces we've had to date.

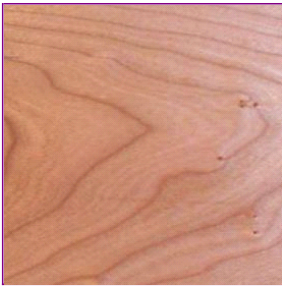
- **Upcoming Woods**

Today (June 15th), we milled eastern red cedar, eucalyptus, a small amount of magnolia and some additional silver poplar. We will have these listed for sale within the next few days. Over the next few weeks we will be cutting more pecan, hickory, red gum, rainbow poplar, ash and sycamore. The redwood burl which we have been expecting for two months now has not arrived, and we may be looking into other sources which can provide this wood for us in a more timely manner.

- **Kiln Dried Woods**

Added 3" thick kiln dried select maple, ambrosia maple and spalted ambrosia maple to the web site a couple of weeks ago, shortly after last month's newsletter was sent out. Currently we are drying 3" thick rainbow poplar in the kiln. It should be ready within a week or so! After that, we will be cutting and drying some 2" thick silver poplar, 2" thick magnolia and 2" thick rainbow poplar.

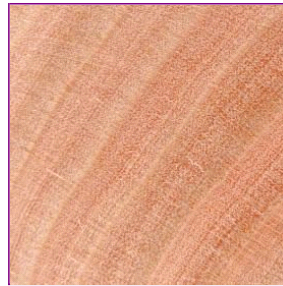
Focus on Wood - Cherry



Flat Sawn Grain



Quartersawn Grain



End Grain

- **General Information:** Cherry is a wonderful wood for turning. It has beautiful color and grain, and is very easy to work with. Excellent choice for beginner and expert turners alike. The cherry that we sell typically is somewhat darker than most cherry lumber found on the market. Many business carry cherry trees of different varieties which are found in the northern US. The cherry trees which we get here in South Carolina are typically much smaller, but the wood has a much darker, richer color that develops because of the specific growing conditions found in our area.
- **Common Names:** American black cherry, black cherry, chokecherry, rum cherry, wild cherry
- **Color:** Sapwood is a light white or yellowish-white color. Heartwood is a medium to dark reddish-pink color. Occasionally black streaks of color will occur within the heartwood, which are known as "gum streaks".
- **Density:** 34 lbs/ft³ - Moderately dense
- **Hardness:** 950 lbf - Moderately hard
- **Specific Gravity:** ~0.50
- **Drying:** Dries well, but somewhat slowly. Has a relatively low initial moisture content, so drying times are not extended. Little tendency to warp, and only a slight tendency to develop checks or cracks.
- **Turning:** Turns wonderfully, with very little tearout occurring along end grain sections. Produces a pleasant cherry aroma while being worked.
- **Sanding:** Sands very well. For removing tool marks, 120 grit sandpaper is recommended. Will sand to a medium high luster, usually requiring grits no higher than 600 to achieve satisfactory results.
- **Finishing:** Readily accepts most stains and finishes without need for any special pre-treatment of the wood surface.

Photo of the Month Contest



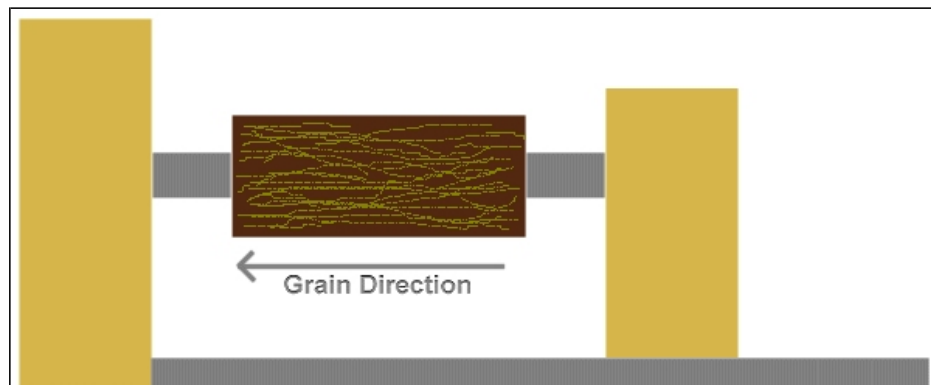
Staghorn Sumac Bowl by Bryan Nelson (www.NelsonWood.com)

Would you like to get some free wood? Each month we give away a \$25 to the winner of our photo contest. Everyone is eligible...don't be shy! We love seeing what our wood gets "turned" in to!

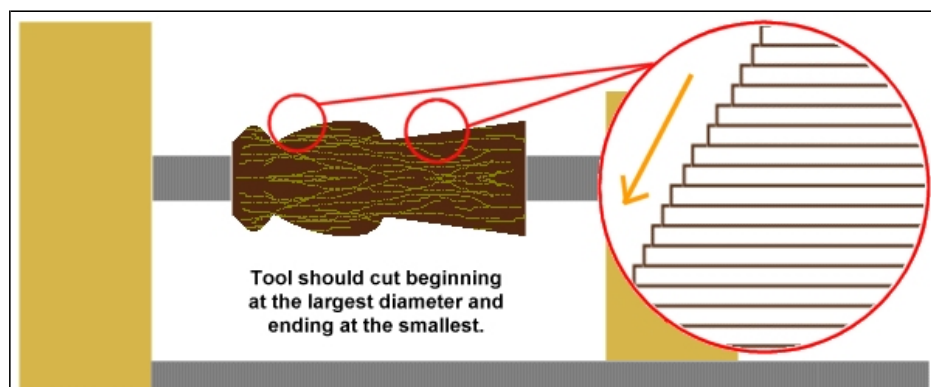
Interested in making a submission...or even several? All you need to do is [e-mail](#) your photo(s) to us, or upload directly through our [Facebook page](#) to be eligible. Please include your name in any emails, and let us know the size and type of wood in each picture that you submit.

Turning Tutorials - Proper Cutting Technique for Spindle Projects

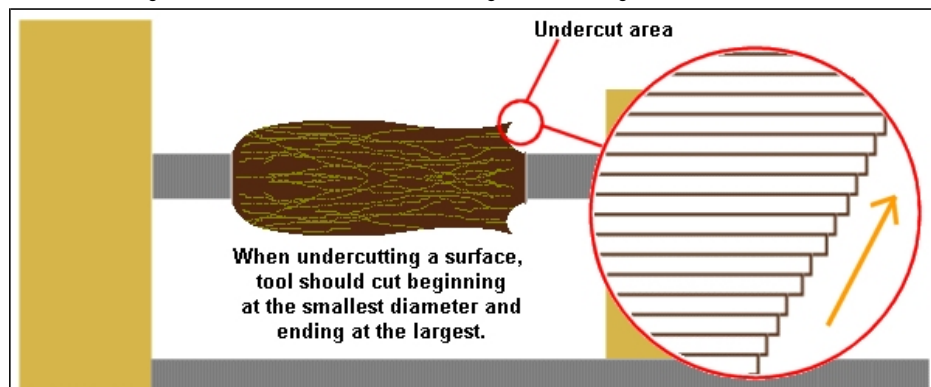
Over the next few months we will be covering proper cutting techniques for a variety of different types of turning projects. Last month we covered proper techniques for turning side-grain bowls. This month we're covering spindle projects, in which the grain of the wood runs parallel to the bed of the lathe, as shown in the photo below.



With spindle turning projects, the grain of the wood runs parallel to the bed of the lathe, as shown in the photo above. What many turners do not realize is that they may or may not be cutting the wood in the proper direction in order to improve the quality of the surface produced by their tools. Let's take a look at how it should be done.



The most important thing to remember is that wood fibers need to be supported from behind in order for them to be cut cleanly, rather than broken off. When cutting the outside of a spindle, the tool should begin its cut at the largest diameter, and end at the piece's smallest diameter. The inset red circle shows an example of what the wood fibers would look like if greatly enlarged. By cutting in the direction indicated by the orange arrow, each wood fiber is supported by another longer fiber directly behind it. This will produce a smooth cut. If the cut is made in the opposite direction, then each wood fiber is not supported by another fiber directly behind it, causing the fibers to be broken or torn, resulting in a much rougher surface.



When undercutting the surface of a spindle project, the tool should begin its cut at the smallest diameter, and end at the piece's largest diameter. Again, by cutting in the direction indicated by the orange arrow, each wood fiber is supported by another longer fiber directly behind it. This will produce a smooth cut. If the cut is made in the opposite direction, then each wood fiber is not supported by another fiber directly behind it, causing the fibers to be broken or torn, resulting in a much rougher surface.

Learning to cut wood properly, by making cuts where each wood fiber is supported to facilitate cutting rather than tearing or breaking, will greatly improve the quality of your wood's finish directly from the tool and reduce the time you'll spend later in sanding. Over the next few months we will be covering the proper methods for turning hollow forms (both end and side grain), and will also cover more advanced techniques for heavily figured and/or twisted grain patterns (special case situations).

Links of Interest

This month we've decided to include some links for our subscribers which we think you might find interesting or useful. This month we have some additional links to web sites where you can find out more about the woods of the world, as we did last month.

- [The Wood Database](#) - Collection of photos of domestic and exotic woods with detailed descriptions for each. This is a growing site, which we support by sending out sample blocks of some of the rare and unusual domestic woods we frequently come across.
- [WOOD Magazine's Wood Species Guide](#) - Useful information for a variety of different types of wood
- [Woodworker's Source](#) - Huge database of wood species. Very few pictures but more detailed technical data.

I believe that is all we have for now, folks! As always...we want to hear your feedback, comments, complaints and concerns...anything to help us make our services better for you. Drop us a line anytime!

Regards,
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