

# got wood?

online @ turningblanks.net

## Store Newsletter

October 2011

### Announcements

- **Recent Wood Additions**

Some of the most recent woods we've cut and put up for sale have included: [ambrosia maple](#), [black walnut](#), [bradford pear](#), [catalpa](#), [cherry](#), [chinaberry](#), [eastern red cedar](#), [honey locust](#), [mimosa](#), [rainbow poplar](#), [red elm](#), and [red gum](#)

- **Upcoming Woods**

Over the next few weeks we will be working overtime to cut as much wood as we possibly can to make sure we are well stocked up over the upcoming holiday season. Here are some of the things you can expect to see very soon. Mulberry, mulberry burl (which we have been unable to get cut since last month), red oak burl, American elm, honey locust, birch, hickory, pecan, rainbow poplar, red gum, ambrosia maple, hackberry, cherry and black walnut. Yes...we will be very busy cutting turning stock!

- **Kiln Dried Woods**

As a follow up to last month's newsletter, we wanted to remind everyone that we will not be resume kiln drying operations anytime in the near future due to repeated problems with our vacuum kiln's operation.

- **Other News**

Next month we will have our hugely popular annual Thanksgiving Day weekend sale. We will notify all newsletter recipients via email with full details early next month.

### Focus on Wood - Catalpa



Flat Sawn Grain



Quartersawn Grain



End Grain

- **General Information:** Catalpa trees are native to regions adjacent to the Mississippi river basin, but have spread well beyond this area over the last century due to their popularity both as an ornamental tree, and to fishermen who plant the trees to attract catalpa worms which feed semi-annually on these trees and are a popular type of bait. The wood is usually a medium brown color, but also frequently contains differing shades of green through the tree's heartwood.
- **Common Names:** Catalpa, catawba, cigar tree, Indian cigar tree
- **Density:** 30 lbs/ft<sup>3</sup> - Moderately dense, similar to most soft maples
- **Hardness:** 550 lbft - One of the softer hardwoods...very similar to tulip poplar
- **Specific Gravity:** ~0.35
- **Drying:** This wood is very stable through the drying process. Distortion is only slight, and the wood dries quickly due in part to its lower density. End grain does have some tendency to check if left unprotected, though, so rough turned pieces should not be left exposed to circulating air for extended periods of time prior to sealing or being placed into a container for drying.
- **Turning:** Turns very easily with very little dulling effect on tools. The softness of this wood does make it susceptible to end grain tearout. Using freshly sharpened tools for making final cuts, and cutting the wood in the proper direction will minimize this issue.
- **Sanding:** Sands well, but care must be taken in order to provide a defect free surface. This wood, as well as any other soft hardwood, needs more attention during the sanding process. Always make sure to wipe a freshly sanded surface with a clean cloth when switching sanding grits, and use a bright light source near the wood's surface to make sure all scratches from the prior sanding step have been removed
- **Finishing:** Readily accepts most stains and finishes without need for any special pre-treatment of the wood surface.

### Photo of the Month Contest



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



10 ft. Long Alpine Horn (Maple Wood) by Paul Shefsiek

name in any emails, and let us know the size and type of wood in each picture that you submit.

## Turning Tutorials - Reducing Lathe Vibration, Part 2 of 2

### Problems caused by improper technique:

Most of us, especially those with smaller lathes, have experienced the frustrations caused by vibrations when turning with our wood lathes. There are a wide variety of factors that can cause vibration...here are some tips for reducing the problem. In this second part of our two part series about lathe vibration, we're going to cover problems that are caused by the lathe itself, rather than the user.

- **Improper mounting**

For smaller lathes that must be mounted to a workbench or stand, care should be taken to effectively immobilize the lathe. Always make sure to bolt (not screw or nail) down the lathe to your bench. Screws and nails are notorious for working their way out of the surface they've been put into over time due to the vibrations produced during turning. Bolts will typically stay put, and using nylon lock nuts to secure the bolts will help ensure the best long-term results.

- **Low quality or inexpensive lathe stands**

All lathes, whether they come with their own stand, or have been attached to a bench or shop-made stand, must be setup up correctly. Most smaller and less expensive lathes that come with stands have stamped steel legs. These stands are somewhat flimsy by nature, and need additional stabilization. It's a good idea to permanently attach these stands to the floor, and to add additional cross-bracing between the legs of the stand to reduce swaying during turning. Adding weight to the stand will also help. Building a container between the legs of the stand and adding sand or concrete will help reduce vibrations, as the additional weight requires more vibrating force to cause it to move.

- **Improperly leveled stands**

Whether you have a heavy cast iron stand, or something smaller with less weight, the base of your stand needs to be properly leveled. Most factory built stands will have leveling legs pre-installed. If your stand does not have leveling legs, then shims should be used. If even one leg is not properly resting on the floor, the lathe will produce a rocking motion. Even if this is slight, it can still cause issues with vibration, whether your stand is heavy-duty or relatively lightweight. If you haven't made sure that your lathe stand is properly leveled, then it is worth the time to make it right. If your lathe was properly leveled, make sure to check it at least once per year (or more, depending upon how frequently it is used).

- **Worn bearings**

Over time, the bearings in a lathe's headstock will become worn. As the bearings wear down, the portion of the headstock to which your wood is mounted will begin to move around slightly from side to side. Once this begins to happen, you'll find that it becomes more difficult to properly re-center pieces on your lathe (for example, when your switch from cutting the inside of a bowl to the outside, or vice-versa). Really heavily worn bearings will usually begin producing a loud squealing noise and are easy to detect, but partially worn bearings require manual inspection. Check your bearings by grabbing the threaded screw coming out of the headstock. Move this part from side to side. If there is any movement, then your bearings are most likely worn and will need replacing. Bearing replacement is usually not a simple procedure, so you may want to check with the manufacturer to see what recommendations they have for replacing worn bearings.

- **Improperly tightened drive belts**

Drive belts do not usually cause major problems with lathe vibration, but they can cause some minor issues. Over tightened belts can put excessive force against the shaft which turns the moving portion of the headstock, which eventually will cause premature failure of the bearings. Under tightened belts can cause more of an issue. If the belt starts to slip during turning, this can cause the lathe to speed up and slow down, which can cause excessive vibration especially at higher RPMs. Check your lathe owner's manual for specs on belt tightening. If none are available, tighten your belt until it can be deflected in or out by about 1/8"-1/4" with moderate pressure from your fingers.

## Links of Interest

This month we wanted to share a link to another popular woodturning newsletter that we have been subscribed to for some time....[Steve Russell's Lathe Talk](#). We have been thoroughly impressed by the quality and usefulness of this newsletter. Steve covers a wide variety of topics in his newsletters, and he has even [more information available](#) on his web site to view. If that's not enough, he also sells DVDs and books at a reasonable cost!

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,  
Mike Leigher & Brad Leigher  
Co-Owners, Got Wood? Domestic Wood Turning Supply, LLC.  
<http://www.turningblanks.net>  
80 Winn Rd  
Donalds, SC 29638  
Phone: (864) 723-2765 (Brad)  
Phone: (864) 378-5200 (Mike)

