

Thameside Woodturners

Club Night 12th September 2024

Paul Howard making a 'Graduation' owl with mortar board and tassel



Paul is famed for being a master of jigs for lath turning and in less than two hours made the owl and a stand complete with mortar board. He showed the speed and accuracy of tuning a perfect sphere with his special jig followed by the marking out of the eyes, turning the sockets and then cutting 30 flutes into each eye socket using his indexing system and router fluting jig. These jigs enable very accurate cutting of flutes not only on owls but bowls, plates, vases and spindle work especially table legs. If you are interested in these jigs then talk to Derek Brightwell first.

If the cost of these very special jigs is out of reach for your pocket, Paul made the point that you do not have to create the flutes around the eye socket as you can simply make the socket and either texture or colour and I'm sure you will be able to turn a decent sphere without a jig with a bit of practice.

The eyes Paul uses come from BuddyCrafts.com and he uses 3 different sizes to suit the size of owl so 100mm = 21mm eye, 80mm = 18mm eye and 60mm = 12mm eye.

You can find tassels on Amazon and I suggest keyring tassels are the best length and Sulives is the company that seem to have the best option as most of the others are leather. Search for 'keyring tassels ' as just tassels gives unexpected results!

Rather than post lots of pictures of Paul on the lathe, there are two articles that Paul has produced especially for his demos and these can be found by clicking on the links on the event page.

There is also a link to his three part 'You Tube' presentation so you can see the owl being made to refresh your memory. Copy and paste the link into your browser or just search You Tube for Paul Howard.

You Tube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPiL09y7pWmeJ32KqmfEBzQ/videos>

Ted Higgs – September 2024