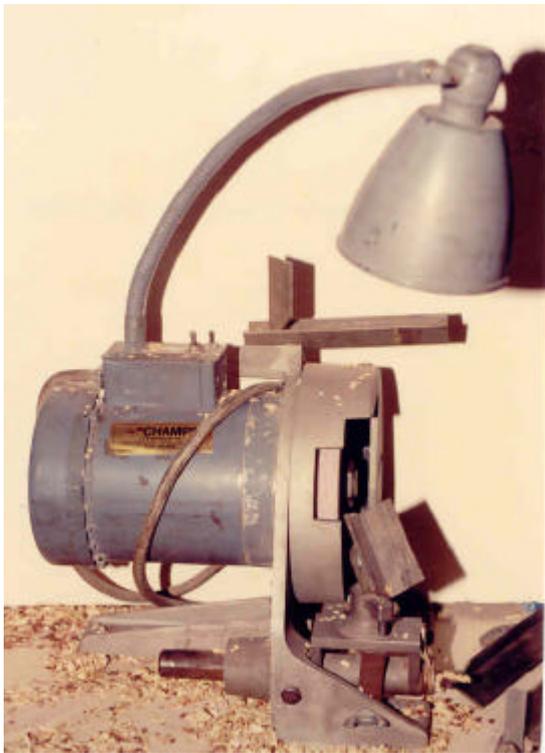


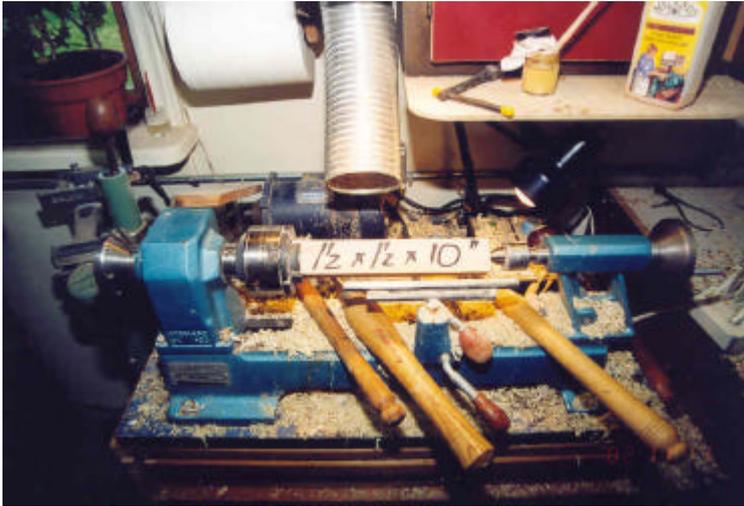


Work area with my Vicmark 100 lathe. Start of turning Snowman Bodies from any soft wood 1 1/2 " sq length to suit your lathe.

Tooling required: Skew large 1" and small 3/8" and 1/8 parting tool.



My older model universal high speed drill grinder "Champ".... still manufactured today and super useful for grinding all sorts of tool with a movable tool holder... great for gouges etc.



Ready for rounding with the 1" skew.

It can be done in between centers with a drive spur... but since I have the Talon Chuck at the lathe I do it this way with a bit support from the tailstock



Round in seconds... the only way to go... and smooth as a babies bottom



**Cutting the top and bottom of the ornament with the 1" skew.... almost no sanding ... a bit of touch-up with 220 grit
Use any speed you are comfortable with ... it works just as good at 300 rpm as it does at 3000 rpm ... it just removes the wood faster..... and the catches happen in 100ths of a seconds :-). So just be careful practice... practice!**



Use a small brush at slow rotation or standstill. My favourite is Mylands Friction Polish. But use whatever you are used to as long as you get a semi-gloss surface to do the "face painting" on. Cover the whole area at once, but work fast before the polish sets. up



Polish with soft paper towelling.. never... never use cloth! Cloth can wrap itself around the turning so fast at high rotation speed that it is highly dangerous ... you do not want to loose this nice turning or even worse!



Three finished.

In this case I used poplar wood - cheap, turns good and takes a good finish from the Polish. Total elapsed time about 10 minutes.

Just practice ... you can do it!



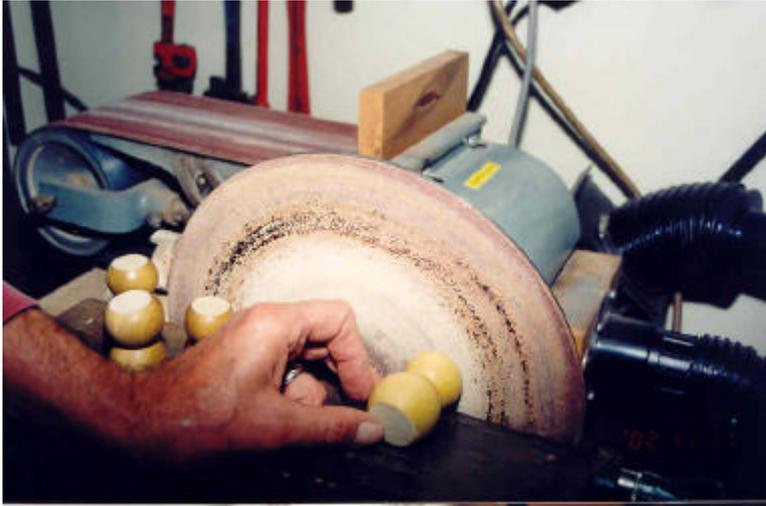
Ready for cutting at the bandsaw



**Separating on the bandsaw....
watch where you fingers are!**



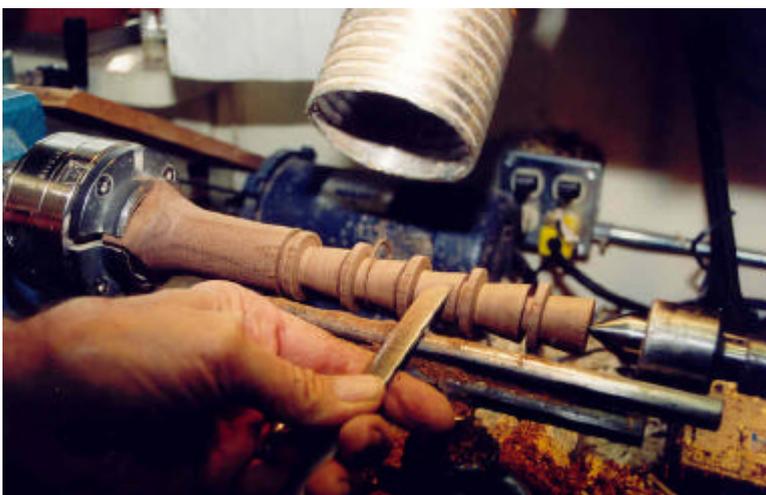
**Self explanatory - 100 grit on my
Disc/Belt sander combo**



Sand the top at a slight angle ...to suit your taste!



Use a piece of Black Walnut ... cuts easy and looks good as a Top Hat



The small skew comes in handy for the details after rounding it with the 1" skew. The slots at the top and bottom are done with the 1/8 Parting tool and a fine clean-up with the skew.

Again as before on the body... minimal sanding.. get the polished surface from the heel of the skew... "Rub the Bevel"... just a reminder when using a skew!



**Polished with friction polish...
lathe work all done.**

**Elapsed time about 15 minutes
for 8 Top Hats.**

Just practice.....Practice!



**Finish sanding hat at the top and
bottom.**

**I use my single disc Sander
because I have a 150 grit disc on
it. The top of the Hat has to be
nice.... without sanding marks**



**Lathe parts ready for assembly..
a bit of glue on the body... "Insta-
Set" to the bottom of the hat...
done in a second... watch the glue
on your fingers.**

**Always have the debonder nearby
..just in case some gets on your
skin ...or worse... your skin bonds
to something you do not want to
be connected to permanently :-)**



Here is the stuff I use regularly until I find something cheaper. I buy the thin and medium CA glue in large bottles and refill the 2 oz bottles when required



Well we are almost finished... the next bit of work you can do watching TV if you so desire.

Screw eyes for the top... do not put them in the center of the Top hat. Put them at the approximate center of gravity. Small ribbon for the top to hang these ornaments on.. wide ribbon to make the scarf.

Knot the scarf and glue the ends to the body. A tiny drop of CA glue to the body and a bit of accelerator to the ribbon... instant bond. Watch your fingers etc.as said before!

With the permanent, medium thickness ink pen, paint the face and the buttons. Use the same type of pen , but with a fine point, and sign your name to the bottom of this ornament.



All done!

This picture was taken with the flash.... because there was only a little bit of natural light left and I wanted to post these pictures today.

Go ahead and make some of these and post a picture! Some of you have already had a go at this and they all look "cute" and better than the ones I make. :-)

You do not have to make a pile of them...just to avoid your friends and relatives saying: Not another one of those "SNOWMAN ORNAMENTS" again, we got one last year!

I personally lost track of who got some of my stuff as gifts or presents... I lost count over the years.

So now it's: "You made so many and I hope you sell them all!"

Enjoy! Eugen