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STILL THE ORIGINAL AND BEST

August 2008

The Woodworker

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& Woodturner



PROJECTS FOR YOU TO MAKE

- TV stand
- Tudor stool
- Turned lamp stand
- Strawberry planter
- Oak chest of drawers

Devil's

Authorized reprint from issue August 2008

In the Dovetail

Simple shelves? Look closer...

PROJECTS

TUDOR STOOL



TURNING

BEGINNER'S GUIDE



ON TEST

TORMEK TNT TEST



£3.40



RETAILER DISPLAY UNTIL 7 AUGUST 2008

PLUS: PLANER THICKNESSER TOP TIPS ■ SATURDAY PROJECT

Tormek TNT 708 Woodturner's Kit



Start by setting the tool projection using the TTS-100



Set the distance of the tool support from the grindstone



Slide the jig and roll the tool from side to side

For over 35 years I've sharpened my turning tools on a standard dry grinder. I've also got a Tormek wet grinding system and it's superb for sharpening chisels and plane irons. I've never been keen on it for sharpening turning tools, though, because of the time taken to set up the necessary jigs, and also the issue of uneven wear on the stone. But that's all set to change.



TESTED BY ALAN HOLTHAM

Tormek's claims for the TNT708 should see any reservations about time and jigs overcome. The kit provides all the extra jigs and accessories needed, and is supplied in a permanent storage box. The key to the whole process is the TTS-100 tool setter, which allows you to set the correct tool angle in seconds. This is used in conjunction with the SVD-185 jig, and the whole process is explained in great detail on the enclosed DVD.

The challenge

For me, the real test was to sharpen a standard bowl turning gouge with the side wings ground back in the classic fingernail profile. To do this, you first set the SVD-185 with the correct amount of offset, depending how far back you want the wings to be ground. Then you use the TTS-100 to set the tool projection and the distance of the universal support from the grindstone.

The process

Sharpening simply involves sliding the jig onto the universal support and rolling the tool from side to side, moving it across the width of the wheel as you do so to even out any wear. The initial grinding to reform the correct profile is not particularly fast, but a consistent bevel soon starts to develop. It took me eight minutes of gentle grinding to restore a perfectly even fingernail profile with a constant bevel angle all the way round, but this is a one-off operation. Once the tool is shaped, you then re-sharpen it by removing a minimal amount of steel, just touching up the edge as required.

The process of picking up the tool, fitting it in the jig, setting the universal support and making several passes across the stone took precisely 65 seconds – impressive, and far faster than my expectations.

Finishing touches

To perfect the reshaped gouge even further, the next stage is to grade the grindstone, which means reducing its cutting strength from 200 grit to 1000 grit using the stone grader. In normal circumstances a quick wipe over the stone at 1000 grit is all you need to touch up a tired edge, so you can see there is very little actual wear going on.

Final polishing is achieved on the leather honing wheel, again using the TTS-100 to set the universal support position, and then honing the edge with the tool still held in the SVD-185 jig. Finally, the inside flute can be polished on the profiled leather honing wheel supplied with the kit, and you end up with an immaculate polished edge of superb quality.



A dry-ground blade looks ragged



Tormek-ground edge is immaculate

KIT CONTENTS

- SVD-185 gouge and turning cutter jig
- SVS-50 multi jig
- TTS-100 turning tool setter
- SVD-110 tool rest with Torlock
- LA-120 profiled leather turning wheel
- MH-380 machine cover
- TNT-300 instruction box with DVD

VERDICT

I have yet to find anything that cannot be sharpened on the Tormek. The honed edge is incredibly fine, and coupled to this dramatic improvement in edge quality is the not insignificant fact that the tools will last far longer, as the sharpening process is so much less aggressive.

I am now a total convert to the wet grinding system. It really is Touch and Turn, but you touch far less often and turn far more!

- PROS** ■ Quick set-up ■ Accurate repeatable results
 ■ Prolonged tool life
- CONS** ■ The price of perfection!

VALUE FOR MONEY ■■■■■■
PERFORMANCE ■■■■■■

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Brimarc
- 0845 330 9100
- www.brimarc.com



Polish the edge on the flat leather honing wheel



Finish the inside of the flute on the profiled wheel



The pen and set of labels (included) mean you can label each tool with its sharpening 'recipe'