

Jason makes pagodas



Pagoda style boxes were the subject of Jason Breach's presentation at our June club meeting. But, some may ask, what is a pagoda? According to Wikipedia, it is a tiered tower with multiple eaves common in Nepal, India, China, Japan and other parts of Asia. Most pagodas had a religious function, most commonly Buddhist, and were often located in or near viharas or monasteries. Here endeth the culture bit.

Jason's website (www.jasonbreach.co.uk), says he was introduced to woodturning at the age of 12. School and parental support nurtured this interest and, at 15, he attended a woodturning course which introduced him to the simple art of the turned wooden box.

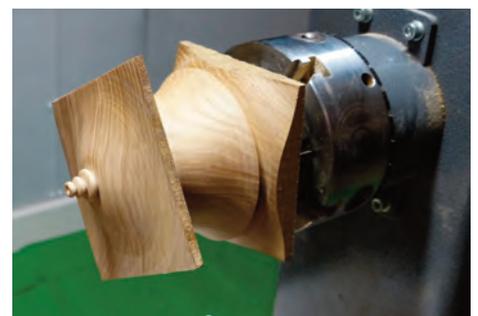
This was to be the start of a lifelong fascination with the form. Today, one of Jason's main creative flairs lies in making and



Jason makes the chips fly as the box lid takes shape



With the lid firmly jammed in place, the finial is formed



The finished box about to come off the lathe

Bob Higgins wrote....

Jason took three seconds to make a jig on which to jamb the base to turn down the wings. He left the winged box for one of us to finish and I think it will be on display next session.

To escape the heat on Sunday I turned a Jason Breach look-alike but mine looks rather like an urn suitable for a hamsters' ashes! And my jamb chuck seems to be a bit eccentric. If still in one piece it will be on the table with Jason's finished example next month!

developing ideas for turned wooden boxes. It was demonstrated with skill and humour to an attentive audience.

Members were encouraged to discover that, while the design of the pagoda box might be exotic, the turning techniques required were fairly straightforward. But, as Bob Higgins reports, it would take a lot of practice to achieve results of Jason's standard.

Among the time-saving tips that Jason passed on were to use a bandsaw and handsaw to shape the basic spigot ready for holding in the lathe. He advised cutting one-third of the way through the square piece of timber with the bandsaw, then cutting off the top with the handsaw.

This is quicker than using a parting tool.

A valuable safety tip when making items with squares was to keep a lookout for the shadow as the work spins. Failure could result in a very painful contact with the fingers.

Jason stressed the importance of getting a good fit between the lid and the body. During turning, the two parts were held together by a friction joint, but at one point the joint failed and the lid took off — not planned! Once the two halves were reunited Jason then turned his attention to the finial.

His attractive finished box had a distinctive eastern feel. Maybe when he is not constrained by the time limits of an evening demonstration, Jason is able to add more "tiers and multiple eaves" to his pagodas.



Another example of Jason's box-making art