

Robert Sorby Tools - Thrills, spills and VAT free tool sales - 15th May 2002

Reviewed by Tony Pett (photos Gregory Moreton)

Chris Pouncey of Robert Sorby Tools gave a demonstration of new and old products, discussing first the sharpening of tools. Their Universal Sharpening System, for use with grinding machines to produce fingernail profiles was shown, but not demonstrated as the machine turned at 3000 revs, whereas the recommended speed was no more than 1500 rpm. Chris also recommended the white Aloxite grinding wheels and showed a fingernail gouge "prepared earlier" on a slower grinder. Questioned on the Tormec System, he agreed that it produced excellent results extremely slowly – watching paint dry was mentioned.



Continuing with tool sharpening, Chris demonstrated their Multi Purpose Sharpening Table – a lathe attachment for straight grind of skew chisels and can also produce a fine finish on bowl gouges. A Beading & Parting tool was handed round for examination – one Club member was kind enough to mention that the grinding was not quite straight – Chris promised to correct this before his next demonstration. The author bought the system – the enclosed sharpening instructions consists of 4 photos of the system in use – the main purpose to show how clean the demonstrators' finger nails are. However the stem can be used for the Modular Tool Rest with various lengths of hardened steel Crossbars and internal and external bowl turning bars.

The first tool to be shown was the Spindlemaster, which provided skew-like finishes on spindles without fighting a skew chisel. A turning of soft pine was handed round to show the results gained, also demonstrating that very fine work can be produced from a 3/4 inch Spindlemaster. Sizes of 1/2", 1" & now a Micro tool are also available.

Next the Sandmaster tool, a rotating velcro spongepad accepting any velcro sanding discs was shown and a bowl sanded on the lathe was handed round for examination. The Sorby Spiralling System was shown – one member confessing difficulty in its use, but Chris was able to instruct and use the very tool for a spiral on the spindle on the lathe. He also demonstrated their Texturing Tool to good effect on a bowl, which was also handed round for examination. Finally, the Chattertool scraper for internal hollowform cutting – only one Club member confessed to having one and when asked



how he was getting on with it, also confessed that it was still in the packet. After some hesitation, Chris demonstrated its ease of use – flying saucer shaped hollowform, earlier cut with the tool, was particularly impressive.



Altogether an interesting and instructive demonstration.

Today's members table