

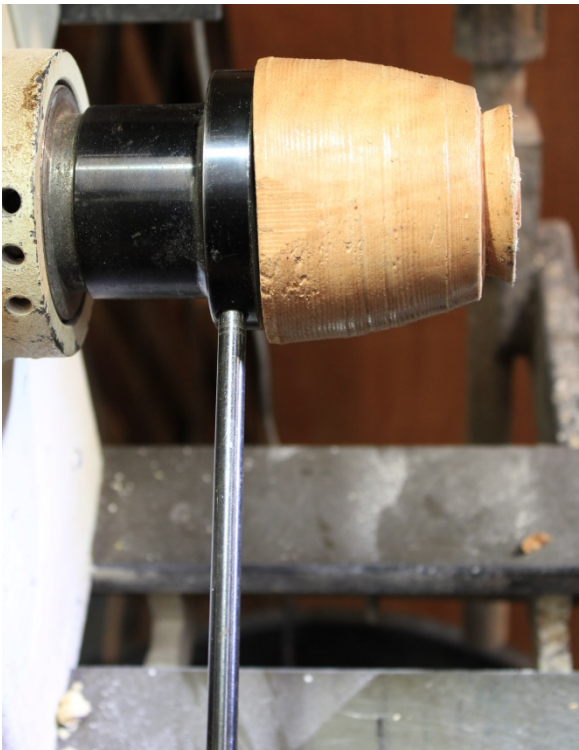
Removing a Stuck Screw Chuck *A Turner's Shop Hack*

Screw chucks shouldn't be desperately hard to remove, but remember that the pilot hole may need to be larger diameter for dry, hard wood than soft or wet wood. Also, if the pilot hole was not deep enough, the leading edge may have lodged deep into wood with a lag screw vengeance. Often, instead of unscrewing the wood, you'll unscrew the chuck from the spindle. Do NOT try to get it out by reversing your motor. ER awaits.

Here's one solution:



Note that the rod (a broken 5/16" drill bit) is long enough to reach from the screw chuck and bind upon the ways. Any *hardened* steel rod should work. Also note the handle is rectilinear, not round, to better bind against the ways.



Tool inserted in hole in screw chuck



Screw chuck fixed against the ways

Normally, with two hands, a turner can now grip the wood and unscrew. Grippy gloves or a cast off piece of inner tube may help if your grip isn't secure. If it's still stubborn, then use a strap wrench. In hundreds of tests, zero failure rate. Yeah...gremlins listen.



Because the screw chuck is securely wedged by the tool gripping the ways, you can do this with only 2 hands. It was a little trickier doing that with a camera, too. If I had to do that more often, I'd embed a strong magnet in the handle to keep it from wandering.

Wells Shoemaker, May 30, 2020