

## Three Safety Observations from our May Meeting Conversations

May, 2022

President Morgan conducted a clever sidewalk meeting when we found the gate locked!  
Donuts taste good outdoors, too!

Three safety points caught my attention and may be helpful to our members.

1. **Roy Holmberg's bandsaw demo** is going to be one for the Ages! It's postponed to June 18, which is not too far away.



Roy's way-larger-than-life model needs to be in the Museum of Science and Industry!

I know that Roy is going to emphasize safety throughout his presentation!

These comments may serve as food for thought before you come.

Roy will expand on those persuasively!

*Having spent a few thousand hours in the ER on the "provider" side of the doctor-patient relationship, I think the bandsaw is the most dangerous tool in the amateur shop.*

- *It's dangerous even when everything is set up just right, but it's way worse when the blade is dull or out of alignment. Roy's going to help us eliminate that problem! **Don't miss this meeting!***
- *Heavy, awkward, unbalanced pieces of wood on a small platform can cause injuries incredibly fast. Our primitive reflexes can jerk a finger into harm's way before a human brain can intercept the error.*
- *It's dangerous when the object being cut isn't riding flat or otherwise secured, which is a constant liability with irregular bowl and spindle blanks. Learn how!*
- *Any tool is dangerous when people are in a hurry...or distracted...or tipsy.*
- *Like a chainsaw or table saw, the bandsaw is not a tool you want to learn by trial and error...emphasis on error.*

***If you are new to a bandsaw, please ask one of our experienced members for a hands-on lesson before you go into harm's way. Fifteen minutes can spare you a wheelbarrow full of woe!***

2. **Footing.** As I think many of us observed, one of our members and spent the meeting bravely sitting in the seat of a car while we did Provo stories, Show and Tell, and donuts. She had slipped on the stairs on the way to the meeting Saturday... painfully jamming her foot. She soldiered on to the entire club meeting anyway. The X-rays could teach medical students about multiple comminuted fractures (three were obvious, but that wasn't the whole story). Ten months ago, another one of our members stumbled and completely tore the big quadriceps tendon off the kneecap, leading to a major surgery and protracted rehab. Both of those injuries occurred at home. We spend less time in the shop, but the liabilities are probably worse!

*Most of our shops are cluttered (not yours, Joe!). Next to any machine with a moving, edged tool, a slip or a stumble can lead to horrific injuries. Let's clear tripping hazards from our workspaces...cords on the floor, fine sawdust on linoleum, pads with wrinkles or curled up corners, protruding nail heads, shavings underfoot, and general "stuff" in the way. Put railings on all stairs and use them.*

3. **Tape to secure blanks.** Larry Dubia described the way he secured that gorgeous, 22" redwood burl blank to a backboard in order to finish turning the foot. He used gaffer's tape successfully. *Nice move!* Not only is gaffer's tape really strong, but it claims to leave no residue, as Larry mentioned. When we set up our club's AV equipment, we discovered that a roll also costs close to \$50. I have a few comments to add...which also relate to the dreaded "Unintended Flying Object." <sup>i</sup> <sup>ii</sup>

The kind of tape matters!

- **Blue painters tape is worse than worthless** for any task where strength matters. *It's designed specifically NOT to bond tightly. Any tape you can easily tear can't be trusted to hold that Macedonian War Frisbee in place at 500 RPM. Many layers are stronger...but still not the safest solution.*
- **2"-3" Duct tape is stronger and better**, but brands vary. *It does leave residue, which can be a nuisance if you've finish sanded your blank.*
- **2" Gorilla Tape is better still.** *It has a very strong adhesive and very tough, trauma-resistant material. Less residue, too, but not assured. It's more expensive than duct tape, but you can score a roll for \$10-15.*
- **Roller of stretchy plastic.** *In one of Roy's demos (December, 2020 <sup>iii</sup>), he used box sealing tape to keep the demo blank from flying off a jam chuck. He used a lot of it—and that was on a shallow, perfectly balanced blank less than 12" across with a professionally precise jam fit.*

Roy mentioned at the time using the stretchy plastic wrap on a roller which is used to secure heavily loaded pallets. That's what they use at Craft Supply's courses, too. This stuff is very strong, and, unlike the adhesive tapes, it stretches to conform to unusual contours. 5-6 wraps offer good security. It's available in multiple widths...6" works for most of turners' needs. It's available in most hardware stores, and lifetime supply for a turner costs \$20-25.

See next page for illustrations:



Roller Wrap



Large blank on "jumbo jaws" ready to finish bottom  
Tailstock would be smart! Questionable security  
otherwise.



Start the wrap. (Hard to do holding a camera!)  
Stretch it a bit to make it conform



5-6 wraps → good security  
"Criss-cross" layers to engage  
both blank and back support  
or jam chuck

See you all in June!

Remember you can't cross your fingers if you're missing one of them.

Wells



Wells Shoemaker MD  
Past President, Santa Cruz Woodturners

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<sup>i</sup> [securing\\_deep\\_bowls\\_3-21.pdf \(scwoodturners.org\)](#)

<sup>ii</sup> [Microsoft Word - Unintended Flying Objects in the Shop 12-20.docx \(scwoodturners.org\)](#)

<sup>iii</sup> [www.scwoodturners.org/uploads/4/8/2/3/4823810/roy\\_demo\\_12-20\\_multimedia\\_bowl\\_compress.pdf](#)