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October 2007

OCTOBER MEETING

The October meeting will be held on October 29th, the last Monday of the month. The meeting will be at Coleman Cabinets in Watkinsville, Georgia, from 6:00 – 9:00 PM. Directions to Coleman Cabinets are available on the club website at www.classiccitywoodturners.com/meeting.html.

Our demonstrator will be Joe Gettys who will illustrate turning Christmas ornaments. This is an especially timely topic given the fast approaching holiday season and the appeal of hand made ornaments as gifts. Joe is a very accomplished woodturner, especially when creating small and ornate objects. He is also a very entertaining presenter. Joe is the southeastern representative for Jet and Powermatic tools and regularly demonstrates their lathe products at shows and store openings throughout the region. He has also been the featured demonstrator at numerous woodturning clubs and symposia. He began his career in woodworking in production furniture making and started turning as a hobby in 1975. He has been working for Jet for about eleven years.



As usual, club members are invited to gather at the Catcus Café in the Oconee Plaza Shopping Center on Hog Mountain Road at 5 PM prior to the meeting for dining and fellowship.

SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from the business portion of the September meeting are as follows:

After calling the meeting to order and introducing four guests, President Kudon called on Jim Talley to distribute a questionnaire to the members present and to report on the status of nominations received for club officers for the next year.

The questionnaire was designed to capture basic information about the turning experience and interests of the members and to solicit their preferences with respect to future demonstration topics and other possible club activities. Members were urged to complete the questionnaire and return them by the end of the meeting. With respect to nominations, volunteers or nominees had been identified for two of the club officer positions as of the meeting date. Positions for which nominations were still needed included newsletter editor, librarian, secretary and treasurer.

Members were again reminded of the club's participation in the Lyndon House Harvest Festival scheduled for Friday, October 19. Volunteers to participate in demonstrating use of a treadle lathe and to exhibit spindle turnings were solicited.

There was a brief discussion of the annual club Christmas party, scheduled for Monday, December 17. Members were reminded that the activities would include a potluck dinner, gift exchange of turner objects, silent auction and music.

Volunteers to serve as members of a facilities committee to setup, take down and clean up at meetings were solicited. Several persons agreed to serve in this capacity.

Submitted by Walter McRae

PRESIDENT'S TURN

I'm a guy. I don't cry. Ok, I usually don't cry. I admit I shed some tears when Herschel Walker was declared ineligible. But I usually don't cry. As you might have guessed this column is about a time a few tears escaped my usually dry eyes. You are right again if you thought it had to do with woodturning. Almost every May 25th I have a birthday (except that year I turned 25 and somehow I lost track). When you have had as many birthdays as I, they tend to become less important and less eagerly anticipated. I do not make a big deal of my birthdays and consequently no one else does. That is fine by me.

It was about 7 years ago and I had been married about 2 years. It was my birthday and I was at my shop turning a beautiful piece of wood into ribbons and sawdust. I was happy. My shop's only entrance is a roll-up door. Whenever someone comes over, the first indication I have of a visitor is the barking of Zoey (my late dog, may she rest in peace). That is always followed by the jarring noise of the door being lifted. With all the commotion, it attracts your attention. I stopped my turning and was surprised to see my wife, Rebecca. Beck seldom visits the shop as she is usually involved with classes or work or her own projects. This time she came bearing gifts. It was a rather large box, neatly and attractively wrapped. In common with most people, I enjoy receiving gifts. Although, I was not expecting a gift I opened it with enthusiasm anyway. The box contained a complete set of Sorby turning tools. It was here that my eyes began to dampen. It was not that the tools were so beautiful, although they were, but that was not what choked me up. It was that Rebecca knew exactly what I needed and what I wanted.

We often forget how important spousal and significant other support can be. It is only with my wife's support that I can find the time to turn on weekends and without Rebecca I would never have had a shop at all. I feel certain that this applies to most of us turners, be we men or women. Our significant others can encourage, praise and facilitate our involvement in woodturning. It is usually our spouses who make space for our objects, puts up with sawdust and shavings, shares our triumphs and disasters and even arranges shows, book rooms for symposiums or keeps the woodturning related accounting books. Turning and life are both easier when you have someone on your side lending support.

Classic City Woodturners is not as important as your spouse, friend or best buddy but we also want to play a supporting role. We will lend you guidance on purchasing items, point out ways to improve skills and outcomes and listen to your turning problems and successes with a sympathetic ear. All we ask is that you help us to help you by becoming a member. Membership renewal time is coming up and if you are not a member we would like you to become one and if you are a member please renew. We have plans for even more exciting demonstrations and events but none of them will see the light of day without your help. And remember: turn, turn, turn.

By Lou Kudon

EDITOR'S SKEW

We're closing in on the holiday season. And the holiday season means family gatherings, food, and gift giving. Speaking of gift giving, turning provides a natural means of supplying gifts for most everyone on your list – unless of course, you've done it so often that your relatives run when they see you coming!

This past year, I've been pleased to give many of my turnings to friends as surprise gifts, or "pick-me-up" gifts, as well as to almost all members of my family last year for Christmas. This avocation has enabled me to give gifts to those I've always wanted to give to, but could never afford to. These gifts do not necessarily have to be expensive. Consider, if you will, the gift of a pen, small box, key ring, or small kaleidoscope. Craft Supplies has come out with their 25th anniversary catalog, and its chock full of kits for making gifts. Of course I'd be remiss not to mention that it's also full of gifts for the turner in your life!

Does your significant other like jewelry? One can make a pendant, earrings, or bangles, or perhaps a small ring box, beads, earring stand, or a ring post. One could also make a magnifying glass, a back scratcher, or a cane, for those who are, shall we say, feeling the effects of passing seasons.

If you know your friend makes a hobby of such an activity such as gardening, cooking, knitting, crocheting, quilting, spinning, or sewing, there are always items to be made for those people. Dibbles, Spurtles, spoons, rolling pins, knitting needles, crochet hooks, seam presses, drop spindles, and needle cases are among the gifts one can make.

Do you know people who like to play? You can make yo-yos, whistles, spin and throw tops, or even a set of Spilikins. If you really get ambitious, you could turn a chess set, and challenge your recipient to a game! And who could turn down the gift of a hand turned natural edge bowl, a vase, a turned wall hanging, or a hollow form?

And lest I forget to mention the upcoming season... (And did I mention the holidays are coming 'round?) I've been busy making ornaments as the tree decorating season rolls around. You can make miniature birdhouses, icicle ornaments, snowmen, angels, and Christmas trees.

Think of the impact of a hand made wooden item... An item made by a turner, from a tree which once grew from the land can mean so much more than a piece of plastic or metal from a store. If it is made from wood on the recipient's property, or a reworking of some formerly treasured, but demolished or broken wooden item, it will mean so much more as a handmade item from you. The personal touch adds a value that cannot be purchased by money. Gift a gift of wood this season.

By Jim Underwood

LIBRARY SCROLL

To begin this month's note, I would be remiss if I did not begin with an apology to anyone who may have inquired about the book I raved about in last month's column, [Creating Small Wood Objects as Functional Sculpture](#). Any and all can throw darts at me at the next meeting, but please don't. When I returned from giving away my youngest daughter in marriage in Colorado, I found the book lying on my computer desk, right where it was when I wrote the raving review. And I thought I was being calm about the entire marriage ordeal. Well, I guarantee that the book is still as functional this month as it was last month, and, it will be available. I'm sorry I led you astray.

Soon I hope we will have many more current books and videos by leading turners from which to choose. I have been compiling a list, and at our October Executive Committee Meeting President Kudon suggested that it is time for the library to get some money. He asked for a list of materials needed to bring the library to the point of meeting the needs of our members. A while back I suggested that looking through the journals we have in the library would benefit any who dare glance through them seeking new ideas, and many have taken advantage of the medium. Also, many have taken advantage of the DVDs we have accumulated already, including all of the demonstrations at our regular meetings and many more. Fewer members have taken advantage of the books, and we are slowly getting some good ones. So, take time to browse through our holdings to see what is there in order to broaden your perspectives. At each meeting there is a folding easel set up and on it are lists of all our library holdings in the three categories we have so far—DVDs, Journals, and Books.

Now, since the Executive Committee is asking for a list of our needs, I challenge each member to submit to me in writing the names of videos and books that you think would help meet your needs at this point in time to enhance your turning skills. I will ask for help prioritizing the list and the Executive Committee will approve spending in that order as money becomes available. Let's go for it!

By Roy Grant

SEPTEMBER DEMONSTRATION

Our September demonstrator was Mark Kauder of Phenix City, Alabama. He is a founding member of the Bi-City Woodturners club which serves west central Georgia and east central Alabama. Mark began turning in 1998 on a JET mini-lathe making pens and other gift items but soon moved onto turning bowls and a larger lathe. In his own words, he “fell in love with segmented turning. It gives me lots of options and two bowls are the same. I just try to make bowls with attractive shapes, using nice combinations of wood and design features that do not over power the shape.” Mark is retired from the U. S. Army and now works when he is not turning as a computer networking engineer in Columbus. He has created a very attractive and informative personal website at www.markauder.com. He is a member of the AAW.



He gave a very informative presentation on the methods he uses to design, build and turn segmented bowls. He focused on seven different topics in his discussion. These were (1) bowl shape considerations including segmenting measurement definitions and design methods, (2) wood selection and preparation, (3) cutting segments, (4) gluing segments, (5) bowl assembly, (6) turning and (7) finishing. He had planned to discuss designing and building feature rings in segmented bowls but time did not permit him to address this topic.

With respect to segmented bowl shapes he indicated that he felt segmented turners, on average, turn the worst shapes with no good reason. He believes a contributing factor to these poor shapes is the perceived difficulty many believe that turning segmented bowls represents so that they are reluctant to constructively critique the results produced by the few that undertake the hobby. A common problem is that segmented turners allow foot shapes to be dictated by the chucking methods they use with the result that they are often too large. To avoid this problem he recommends using a face plate with a waste block on which the bowl is built. Another problem is not using complimentary wood colors or using too many colors and segments in each layer. He does not recommend using museum pottery pieces as a reference because quite often these were made to be functional and not works of art.

The segmenting measurement definitions he introduced were:

Segment Edge Length which determines the bowl circumference.

Board Width which determines the wall thickness.

Board Thickness which determines the height of a ring less sanding.

Segment Angle which is 360 degrees divided by the number of segments in the ring.

Miter Angle which is $\frac{1}{2}$ the segment angle or the angle which each side of a segment is cut.

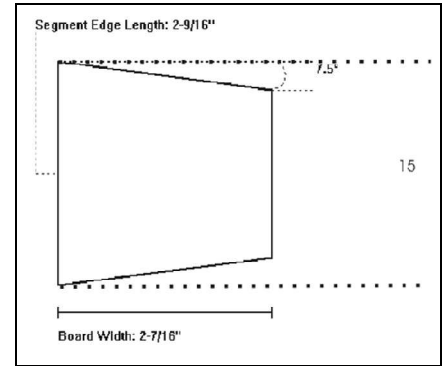
The diagram at the right illustrates some of these definitions.

The initial method he recommends for designing a segmented bowl is to draw an outline to scale of one half of the bowl on a piece of graph paper. If each layer is drawn on this graph then the dimensions and angles for the segments can be determined using the definitions above. He indicated that a number of software tools are also available to assist in this process. Some of these even allow for estimating the materials cost for the bowl knowing the expense of the lumber used. His preferred program is Woodturner Pro. Two other design tools he mentioned are Woodturner's Studio and Segmented Project Planner.

The primary considerations in wood selection he emphasized were to select woods with complimentary colors and similar densities. Combining very soft wood with hardwood can make smoothly sanding the finished bowl very difficult. When preparing the wood for segment cutting he recommends jointing one edge, ripping to width and then resawing or planing to the appropriate thickness.

Mark indicated that a variety of methods can be used for actually cutting the segments. These include a band saw, compound miter saw or table saw. Many segmented turners also use a sander to smooth the edges of segments to insure a tight joint. He uses a table saw for which he has built a sled with a fence set at the appropriate miter angle. He has built a different sled with the miter fence set for each of the different bowls he turns depending upon the number of segments in a ring. Although he uses a saw blade especially designed to provide polished end grain cuts, he indicated that any cut off blade with more than 80 TPI is satisfactory to begin cutting segments. He stressed the importance of measuring accurately when setting stops for cutting segments and being consistent in the way sleds and jigs are used.

Several methods are popular for gluing segments into rings. Some involve clamps while others use no clamps. Regardless of the method used, Mark recommends using yellow carpenters glue for this purpose. The most basic approach is to glue the segments together as pairs where only hand pressure is applied to form a tight joint. These pairs are then joined with another glued pair to build up to the final ring. The approach which he uses is to place all the segments upright and together on a stretched piece of duct tape placed on a flat gluing board. The duct tape which he recommends is that made by Gorilla Glue. This technique allows him to wrap and hold the segments together



without glue so that they can be inspected for fit. When satisfied with the segment edges, he then applies glue between the segments which he spreads to the bottom of the crevices between them using a putty knife. He then wraps the segments together again in a circle using the duct tape to hold them in place while he positions a metal strap clamp around them that is firmly tightened. The segment layer can now be placed on a flat surface and tapped with a rubber mallet to insure that the bottom face is smooth. He suggests placing a weighted flat board over the segment layer while the glue dries. He separates the board from the segment layer with a plastic garbage bag to prevent the layer from adhering to the board.

The first step in bowl assembly is to insure that the rings which have been glued up have one side that is perfectly flat and are of uniform thickness. For this purpose a belt/drum sander or a belt/disk sander can be used . Mark uses a Perfomax drum sander now although he originally sanded the layers flat by hand using a sanding board. Another technique is to hold the ring on a lathe with Cole or Jumbo jaws and first smooth the faces with a scraper or gouge. This is then followed by sanding with sandpaper held flat on board pressed uniformly against the rotating ring.

The next step is gluing the segmented layers together to form the bowl. In this process it is vital that the layers be aligned carefully so that they form concentric rings. The first layer glued to the solid base is the most important because the position of each subsequent ring will depend upon the accuracy of its location. Several methods are available to insure correct positioning. One is to precisely measure and mark from the outer circumference of the base where the first ring should be positioned. Another is to mark concentric circles on the base while it is turning on the lathe. Once the position has been determined Mark glues small stop blocks on the ring with CA glue to hold it in place for final gluing. He uses either weights or a glue press to hold the layers together while they dry. The stop blocks are turned off when the outside of the bowl is finished. When gluing layer to layer, he offsets the segment joints an arbitrary but consistent amount to insure stronger interlayer bonding and because maintaining an entirely vertical glue joint is almost impossible.

When turning a glued up segmented bowl, Mark stressed the importance of taking light cuts at first because of the many protruding edges that have to be smoothed. He indicated that you can rough turn the bowl as it is being built, even finish turning the interior, depending upon the ultimate shape and assembly strategy. He recommends leaving the wall thick for bowl strength. He suggests checking the shape of the bowl curves by sight and by feel.

The most important step in finishing a segmented bowl is the sanding process. Mark stated that the ultimate finish is only as good as surface to which it is applied. He begins sanding with a rough grit which he uses to refine the bowl shape. An advantage in sanding the outside of a segmented bowl is that only side grain is exposed so that the surface being sanded is of uniform texture. He stressed that you should use sandpaper as if someone else was paying for it, i.e., keep it fresh. You should never skip a grit. The rule of thumb he uses is that the next grit to use should not be more than the previous grit number increased by 50 percent.



Depending on the grit scales for the sandpaper you are using this translates to 60, 100, 150, 220, 320, 400, 600, 1000 or 80, 120, 180, 240, 360 and so forth. You should not let the sand paper overheat and the bowl should be cleaned of dust between grits.

As far as the final finish to use, Mark prefers multiple coats of clear lacquer because each coat fuses to that below it so that a single layer of finish results. This property is advantageous when sanding out blemishes. He typically sands the piece between every several coats of lacquer. He does not recommend using Deft as a lacquer, either the liquid or spray, because of the retardants this product incorporates to allow for the smoothing of brush strokes. These slow the drying process which can result in cracks in the finish if multiple coats are used and insufficient drying time is allowed. The lacquer which he suggests is Behlens String Instrument lacquer which is available from several Internet suppliers as well as Highland Woodworking. He recommends using a spray gun to apply the finish.

A video of the Mark's presentation is available through the club library. He encouraged any members wishing to discuss segmented bowl turning further to contact him at mkauder@wcb Bradley.com. If you do so, he requested that you include "Segmented Turning" in the subject line of the email message.

TURNING TALK

This month's article is for those of you who may be thinking of turning pens for gifts or for pleasure but are distressed by what appears to be the variety of different tools needed for this activity. Amongst these is the press used in final assembly of the pen. Although pen presses are sold by all the major crafts supply houses, they may cost more than you wish to invest simply to turn your first pen. The instructions for building a press from wood in this article are considered a classic by most pen turners. It was written by Al Faul who is a member of the Central New England Woodturners. The article is reproduced from the Woodturning Online website. Those of you who may not be familiar with this web resource are encouraged to browse it for the many useful suggestions and articles provided. A link to the website is available from the Useful Links page of our club website.

Building a Pen Assembly Press

by Al Faul

There are many ways to assemble a turned pen. I wanted a way to assemble my pens which was easy and portable. You can buy assembly presses in the stores and catalogs but I wanted to make my own using my years of experience. This is my second generation effort. Building the first generation prototype allowed me to work out all the bugs and to arrive at such a strong final unit.

Here are all the parts that I cut to make the unit. They are mostly 3/4" stock with the exception of the joiner board (connects the handle to the slide) and the top to the slide guide.

All of this wood was scraps in the shop. You can pick your own sizes for all the pieces. I've layout out the pieces basically in the way that you would use them. The top piece is the base. In the second row, from the left to the right, you have the bottom lever blocks, the joiner board, the slide sandwiched by the



bottom slide guides, to the right of the slide (and guides) is the top to the slide guide and finally the press board. The last piece on the bottom is the press handle. Aproximately 1/2 of the handle has been rounded over to make holding it more comfortable.

The first step was to cut the base. I cut it ~4 inches wide and 24 inches long. Then I made a handle that was 3/4 inch square and 14 inches long. I used the router to round over the edges on the first 7 inches. I placed the two bottom lever blocks on each side of the handle and screwed them to the base.



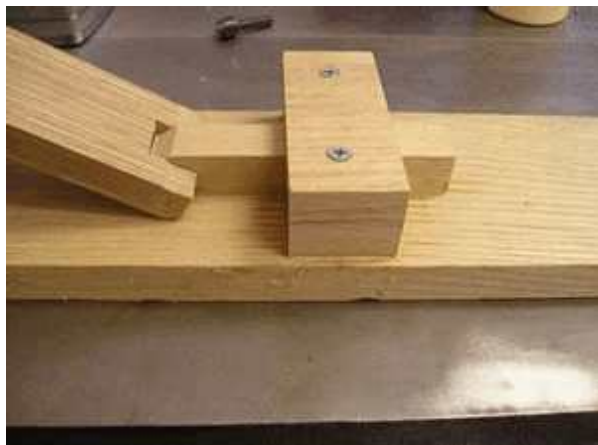
Once the bottom lever blocks were installed, I used the drill press to drill a hole through the blocks and the handle. I planned to use 3/16 inc steel rod as my lever pin. I bought 3 feet of it from the local hardware store.

Next I took my 3/4 inch square slide and attached it to the slide joiner board by drilling it and inserting a length of the steel pin. I used a hacksaw to cut the steel pin. You can also see that I've rounded over the end of the joiner board with a belt sander.



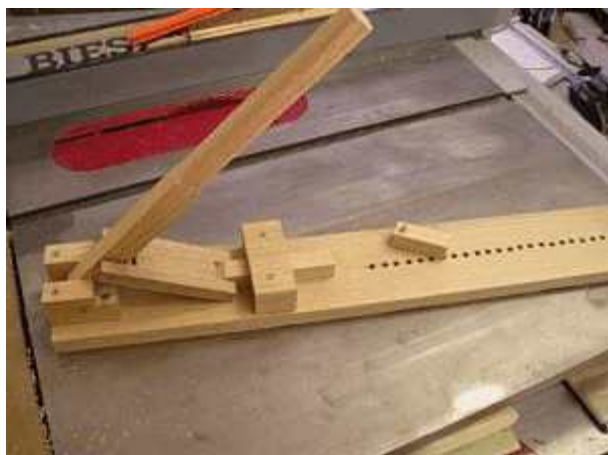
Now I've attached the joiner board to the handle with another steel pin. You can also see that I've decided to notch the bottom lever blocks to give me more clearance. The key to the entire jig is that the distance from the bottom to top pins on the handle is equivalent (or close enough) to the throw of the slide.

To ensure that the slide runs parallel to the base, I've added a slide guide. It's just two blocks (one on either side of the slide) and a top. The screws go all the way into the base. I made the length of the slide guide so that the joiner board barely hits it when the handle is completely down and the slide sits slightly proud of the guide when the handle is up.



Here is a side view of the slide guide.

To work, the slide must press against something, so I've created a stop using a peg and a set of holes set 1/2" apart. I've seen stepped stops but I like the ability to move the press board in small increments.



Here is the finished unit. The last thing that I did was to use CA glue to attach a piece of thin (1/16") plexiglass to both the end of the slide and the end of the stop. This way, the sharp point of the pen tips will not damage the wood.

Best of luck in making yours!!

MEMBERS GALLERY

Here are a few pictures from our last Show and Tell exhibition which you might enjoy. This particular showing featured weed pots which the members were to turn specifically for this meeting. The contributions of members to this regular meeting activity are very much appreciated. It provides an excellent means to illustrate and share their turning interests with others.



An interesting natural edge bowl turned by Ken Johnson from an Australian red mallee burl



A nicely shaped bowl turned from camphor by Ken Johnson



A beautiful bowl by Bob Nix turned from alder and walnut



A gorgeous lidded vessel turned by Michael Hollies from a maple burl and rosewood



A very nice segmented hollow form turned by Ridley Glover incorporating maple, purple heart, birch, cherry and walnut



A pair of very nice cedar bowls and nectarine candle stick holders turned by Bill Gohdes



A stylish bowl turned by Lou Kudon



An attractive natural edge bowl turn by Roy Holmes from white oak



A classic lidded box turned by Jim Underwood from ornamental plum with a spalted dogwood and crepe myrtle inlay



A very nice mahogany miniature goblet turned by Jim Underwood



A hollowing tool and gouge made by Michael Hollis



A pretty bird house turned from mahogany and crepe myrtle by Jim Underwood



A stylish bird house turned from mesquite and ash by Jim Underwood



Another birdhouse by Jim Underwood turned from osage orange and crepe myrtle



A beautiful birdhouse turned from walnut and crepe myrtle by Jim Underwood

Pictures courtesy of Jim Underwood

MEETING/DEMO SCHEDULE

Club meetings are normally held on the last Monday of the month. Changes in schedule will be announced via the club website at www.classiccitywoodturners.com The schedule of demonstrations for the past several meetings and coming months is as follows:

January Frank Bowers, bowl turning techniques
February Jim Talley, Pen Turning
March Exploring Finishing Methods
April Bruce Bell, Turning Hollow Forms
May Jim Duxbury, Kaleidoscope Turning
June Principles of Critiquing
July Gary Gardner, Displaying and Selling Your Work
August Turning Day with Dick Sing, August 11
 Hal Simmons, Turning a Square Edge Bowl, August 27
September Mark Kauder, Turning Segmented Bowls
October Joe Gettys, Turning Christmas Ornaments
November Nick Cook, Turning a Pepper Mill
December 17 Christmas Party

CLASSIFIED ADS

AAW Classifieds: <http://www.woodturner.org/vbforum/forumdisplay.php?f=3>

Plywood Mini-Lathe Stands

Available in various heights. Will fit Jet Mini and Delta Midi lathes. \$60 assembled. \$20 of proceeds donated to Classic City Woodturners. Call Jim at 706-296-9620 or email at jimunder@colemancabinets.com



Used Band Saw

14" Walker Turner band saw on enclosed stand. Solid, heavy construction, runs well. Max depth of cut: 6.5". Table: 16" X 16". Wheels: 14" with good tires. Motor: 1/2 hp. Comes with a number of blades in various widths. \$200. Contact Abraham Tesser at (706) 543-4332 or email at atesser@uga.edu



Tools for Sale

Contractors' Small Delta Table Saw, \$75, Delta Dust Collecting System, 110Volt, \$375. For more information, please phone or e-mail Jim Talley, 706-353-7675, 4talley@bellsouth.net

Kaleidoscope DVD

Jim Duxbury has released a comprehensive video detailing each step in the construction of his award winning Intermediate Kaleidoscope. With this DVD and his detailed Plans, you too can make unique kaleidoscopes. DVD filmed and edited by Phil Pratt. For further details: www.resp-o-rator.com/dvd/

