

# Turn North



The Monthly Newsletter of the Northland Woodturners

[www.northlandwoodturners-kc.com](http://www.northlandwoodturners-kc.com)

February 2026

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## Chapter Meetings:

First Thursday of every month, 7-9 pm.  
**Our ADDRESS: 7305 NW Prairie View Road** in Platte Woods. We are across the street from the Platte Woods Methodist Church who has allowed us to park there when our regular parking is taken up (only about 7 cars/trucks can park in back).

## Coming Attractions

Newsletters on the Chapter Website:  
<http://northlandwoodturners-kc.com>  
 Event Information:  
**NEEDED: Fund raising Ideas.**

**Remember—2026 dues are \$30 for the year.**  
**Due beginning January 1 2026**

**Next Meeting:  
 February 5, 2026**

Note: Due to need the Club Dues have increased to \$30.00 per year. This is still lower than other clubs in the KC Metro area and still offers you access to everything the Club has done in the past. This will allow the club to afford rent and other miscellaneous expenses through the year.



2026 Symposium Sponsored By:



# Setting up a Woodturning Lathe



By **Joshua Farnsworth** | Updated Mar 01, 2022 © 2013 - 2025 Wood and Shop Productions & Joshua T. Farnsworth

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The *Table of Contents* above will allow you to go where you need to go for good background in case you are obtaining a lathe new to you. Each listing above is keyed to a particular website location that allows you to go directly there without reading the entire article.

There's some "meat" for seasoned woodturners in the article too. You may have to search to find it but there's several good descriptions and discussions contained therein.

About Joshua Farnsworth:

Joshua grew up as the youngest of ten children on a very rural farm in the mountains of Utah. He now lives on a small farm in Earlysville, Virginia with his wife and four children. His passion for woodworking began when he was a small child as he watched his brother-in-law's woodworking business grown and thrive. He started real woodworking in high school, and became very interested in hand tools and traditional woodworking after college. Joshua loves most types of furniture, but gravitates toward Shaker furniture. He builds furniture, films woodworking videos & DVDs, and teaches classes in his brick workshop (a former RV garage), which he remodeled in 2016.

## SHOW AND TELL



Mikeal Jones brought a custom storage item that he made for his wife's earrings. Mikeal mentioned he needed to get it back home right away since she was "really needing to put the earrings back on it."

The two top tiers are about 5" in diameter and the bottom stand is about 4" in diameter.

It is made with Cherry wood and Finished with lacquer

This is a great idea for someone to make for Valentine's Day.

Great Idea, Mikeal.



Andy Brundage brought a small lidded box. The body is Walnut and the lid is Maple. Finished with sprayed lacquer the assembly is nice.

About 4" in diameter and about 2 inches deep, the lid is about 1-1/4" tall.

Nice job, Andy.





Carl Severing brought another example of his signature Star bottom bowls. This one is a combination of segmented and spaced segment as shown above.

Made with what appears to be 5 kinds of wood, including Walnut, Maple, Cherry, Padauk and Purpleheart the Star bottom includes Walnut, Cherry and Maple. Finish is Lacquer.

This was made for a neighbor of Carl's who has admired his previous bowls and indicated a desire to have one of her own. Carl mentioned that he might have to make one more for his wife also.

Nice color combinations and placement Carl.



Carl also brought a plate made with the same wood combinations and with a Light color Star in the center instead of a Walnut color Star. The segments in this piece are not open-spaced, however.

It also is finished with Lacquer.

One more piece Carl brought is the finished French rolling pin which he demonstrated at a previous meeting. There are two distinct designs included in this piece depending on which part you are observing. As shown below, a separated and variegated pattern shows up. Turning the rolling pin one-quarter turn a totally different pattern in the assemblage shows up. Finish is a food-grade mineral oil.



## Program Notes

The presenter for the January 2026 meeting was Chip Siskey. His topic was sharpening tools and what kind of abrasive wheels to use to do it. A previous presentation by Chip on the same topic is included in another newsletter.



To begin with, Chip displayed what he considers the “Cadillac” of sharpening devices, a CBN wheel combo, a Sorby belt sharpening system, and the Club grinder with Aluminum Oxide and Ceramic grinding wheels.

Chip mentioned the advantages he sees with each type. CBN stands for **Cubic boron nitride**. This abrasive is bonded to a steel wheel. Use it only for hard steel alloys and carbide tools; carbon steel will damage the abrasive. Sold in multiple grits, it costs 4–5 times that of aluminum-oxide wheels.

Another kind is **Aluminum oxide**. Priced at 20–30 percent more than silicon-carbide, these general-purpose wheels come in two grades. The lower-cost version, usually gray or brown, works best with carbon-steel tools (the most common steel, usually associated with low-cost tools). The white version typically sells at a slightly higher price, but cuts faster while heating the tool less. It breaks down quicker than “regular” aluminum oxide to continually expose a fresh cutting surface, which means replacing it more frequently. This premium blend also works with carbon steel, but it's best with harder steel alloys.

A third kind is **Ceramic/aluminum oxide**. Most often pale blue, this abrasive has a fast cutting action with the least amount of tool burn. It's more durable than the white blends (and about 25 percent higher in price), and it's ideal for hard steel alloys, such as high-speed steel (HSS).

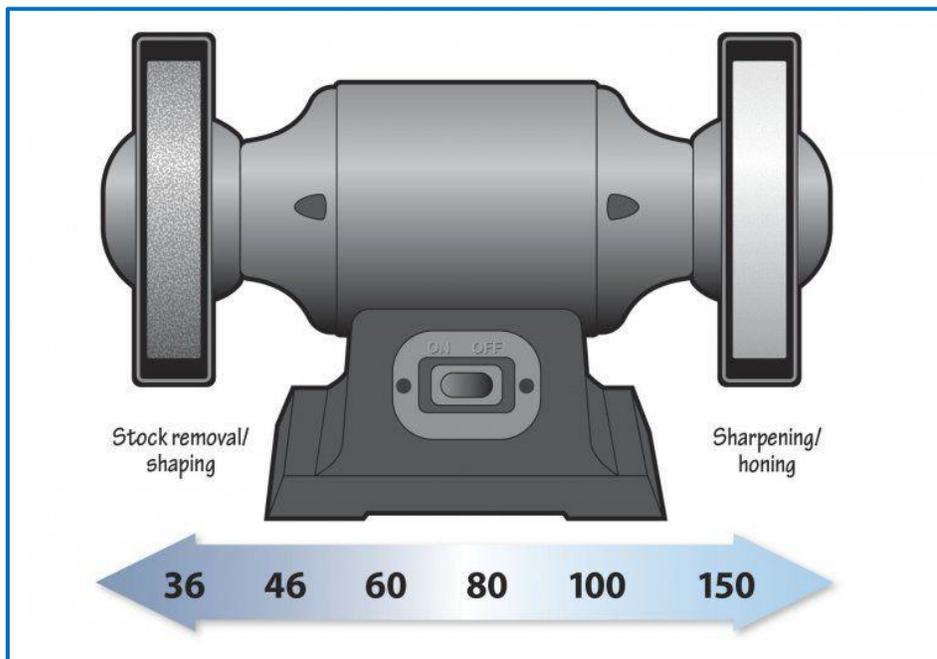
It's time to replace a wheel on your grinder if any of the following apply:

- \* the gap between the wheel and tool rest (*below*) cannot be closed to  $\frac{1}{8}$  " or less;
- \* the gap between the wheel and spark arrestors cannot be closed to  $\frac{1}{4}$  ";
- \* the wheel shows any indications of damage (*below*).

To check any grinding wheel (NOT CBN) just lightly let it rest on your finger in the mounting hole and tap lightly with the plastic handle of a screwdriver. If there is a “ringing” sound, the wheel is OK. IF it has a dull sound or sounds too solid, there is a problem internally and could explode when used. REPLACE any wheel with this condition.

### How to get the right grit

A grinder with two abrasive wheels (versus one with a single abrasive wheel and a wire wheel) allows you to use a coarse wheel for shaping and a finer one for honing.



Note the grit sizes above in the picture. Typical grinding wheels for tool sharpening would be 80 Grit for rough grinding and 120 or 150 grit for honing or touchup.



One disadvantage of abrasive grinding wheels with Aluminum Oxide and Ceramic is the need to maintain the correct wheel surface shape. Using the wheel tends to wear the surface down and may cause grooves in the surface.

To counteract this a variety of wheel dressing devices exist. At the left two are shown. At the far left a diamond point tool is used to renew the “edge” on the wheel, at center is another device using coated diamond grit on a metal block.

With both devices it is imperative that the “sharpening” device be held in such a position to produce a straight, flat surface on the wheel.

Various devices, some home-made, some purchased, can be used to mount the wheel dressing device.



A third wheel-dressing device exists called a Star-wheel dresser. It uses hardened wheels and spacer washers to cause the wheel dresser to tend to maintain a flat surface. The star wheels inside the device are replaceable in sets. This kind of dresser is usually not used for sharpening Turning Tools since it is difficult to maintain the right wheel surface.



One item installed on the Club’s grinder is a balancing device. This one is from OneWay and is used to remove any imperfections that would cause a wheel to “bounce” or wobble when in use. These can be purchased from several sources and will help make sharpening much more controlled by making the grinding wheel stable.



Oneway 2272 5/8" Grinding Wheel Balancing System

4.0 ★★★★★ (61)

\$94<sup>95</sup>

Amazon pricing

One advantage to the CBN wheels is the lack of need to “dress” the wheel. Since abrasive is bonded to a metal disk or frame the only thing needed is to clean the metal particles from the wheel periodically.

Chip originally thought buying wheels of the same grit he had on the regular grinder would work. He soon found out that they were much too coarse and he has since moved to much finer grit.

Another advantage to the CBN wheels: You can grind all types of magnetic hardened steel using CBN wheels. This includes any type of powdered metal or carbon steel. There is some discussion that carbon steel tools will ‘load up’ CBN wheels. One user mentioned “...that has not been my experience. I have been sharpening carbon steel tools on CBN wheels for several years without any problems...” Although not many carbon steel woodturning tools are made today, many are still in use. Some made as much as 100 years ago are still around and surprisingly still quite usable. It may even be a lucky find for a good tool.

One difficulty in using any grinding system is holding the tool steady to produce the correct angle and shape to the edge. Several systems are available with jigs and fixtures to position the tool correctly.



Pictured above is the OneWay Wolverine system. There are additional attachments to be used with this system that allow additional sharpening processes for other tools. Shown below are two additional attachments for the OneWay system that allow sharpening of gouges and skew chisels to provide the optimal edge and shape. Naturally, they come with a price and are not included in the basic package.

In the left hand picture is the OneWay VariGrind.

At right is the Skew Chisel attachment. Both are a real necessity for serious turners.

The Club has these and they can be used at the Club site.

Just bring your tools and “touch up your edges.”



Oneway Vari-Grind Fingernail Side Grinding Jig



\$64<sup>99</sup>



Left Pocket: Place skew in this pocket with the short point to the left and the long point to the right.



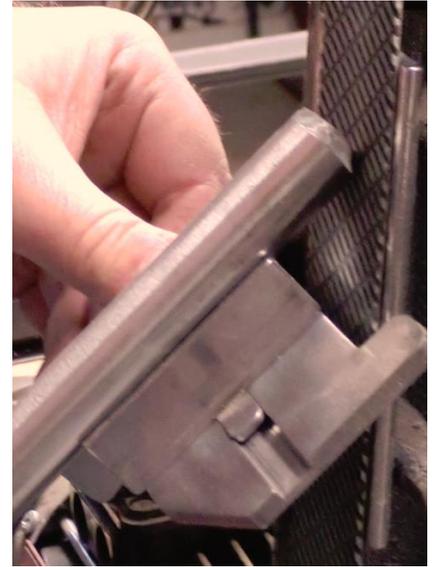
\$34.50

Wolverine Skew Attachment



Chip also demonstrated his Robert Sorby belt-sanding sharpening system. Attachments that slide on the tool support help hold the tool at the right angle and allow the edge to be touched up. One disadvantage of this system is the cost of the replacement belts and the limited life if not carefully maintained.

At left is the fixture to hold a skew chisel. It is already shaped to the correct angle to produce the right taper to the blade. It cannot be used if the skew doesn't have a straight-line edge. At right is the fixture to hold a gouge and maintain the angle. Shown is a roughing gouge being touched up.



If tools are 1" or less in width at the cutting edge, no movement is needed when



using CBN wheels.

OneWay attachments are not "wheel specific" meaning only to be used on non-CBN wheels. At right is the **VariGrind OneWay Wolverine** attachment holding a gouge while sharpening on the CBN wheel.



Unless one has a really steady hand, some type of accessory should be used to sharpen woodturning tools. Only after much use and practice could one become skilled in free-handing the sharpening process on any kind of grinding wheel.

The more accurate the edge the better the tool works and cuts and the better and easier the job becomes when turning wood.

Thanks Chip for an informative evening and demo showing various kinds of sharpening wheels and systems.

An interesting program is lined up for the February meeting. Don't Miss It!!

Thanks to everyone who has helped with our plug orders in the past. We will be asking for help getting other projects to raise funds. All ideas are welcome along with samples.

The CLUB NEWSLETTER tab of the club website is at  
<http://www.northlandwoodturners-kc.com/>

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**REMINDER:**

The annual dues for 2026  
**are \$30.00.**

Checks can be made payable to  
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