

# Tips On Doing A Demonstration

By courtesy of Eric Walker

## SWAN GROUP – WAWA

When asked to do a demonstration check:

- What is the item to be demonstrated?
- Does it fit in with the theme of the meeting? Is there any overlap with other demonstrations?
- Is the time allowed sufficient or will the demonstration need to be planned and modified to fit within the time allotted?
- What type of lathe will be available for the demonstration – Enquire about head stock thread, Morse taper, adaptors, etc. **(The rule is don't take anything for granted.)**

Make a drawing of the item to be demonstrated, if required for explanation purposes. Make it large and clear so that it can be seen and understood by all.

Rehearse your presentation in your workshop, going through the sequence and talking out aloud, just as you should do when giving the demo. Make a prompts list if you feel you may need one during the demo.

If appropriate have completed stages of the item to show.

Sort out your timber and ensure that you have sufficient turning blanks on hand.

The day before:

- Sharpen all the tools you will use
- Make a list of all of the equipment you will require, running through your sequence
- Pack all of your gear – pencils, glue, ruler, chuck key, etc
- Take your own equipment as required: centres, knock-out bar, etc
- Pack protective clothing (and a plastic sheet in case it rains, to protect your gear)

On the day:

- Get there in good time.
- Let butterflies settle - you are among friends.
- Show a completed item and say: 'This is what I am going to make'.
- Indicate if you will be using a new method or tool, or showing a new design, or whatever.
- Indicate that what you are doing works for you, but ensure that it is a **safe** method.

Then run through your demo. as practised at home, talking as you go and inviting questions and comments. Always say what tool you are using and what the tool is doing; why you follow a particular sequence and so on. Keep

on talking to the audience as otherwise they will talk amongst themselves. Invite questions from the audience if you feel that you can cope with the interruption.

Tell jokes only if you are really good at telling them and can do so without interrupting the flow of the demo.

At the end of the demo., invite comment and questions. When asked a question repeat it before answering so that everyone hears the question and the answer.

***NB The audience should keep quiet. The best way to ensure this is to present a well thought out interesting demonstration, without boring gaps which encourage disruptive talking.***