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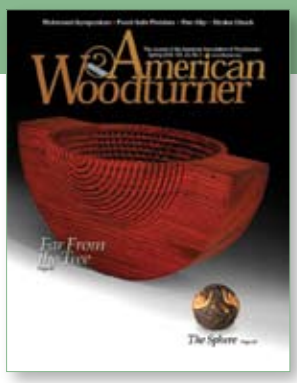

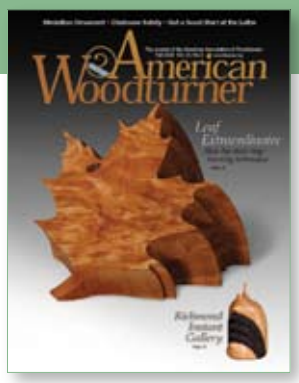

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- New one-of-a-kind projects
- Big, beautiful color photos throughout
- Time-and money-saving shop tips and techniques
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- Calendar of events, seminars, and exhibitions
- Inspiration and insider secrets

aaw resource directory

With over 250 pages, the directory is jam-packed with complete contact information of AAW members, local chapters by state, turning resources, demonstrators, books, DVDs, videos—everything you need to be a successful turner and have more fun!

savings

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expert advice

Looking for expert help in improving your skills? Many of our members get great advice when they participate in local woodturning chapters. There are now nearly 300 chapters across the United States and Canada. Most meet on a monthly basis. The members-only portion of the AAW website provides more helpful information.

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- Free bodily injury liability insurance for all members involved in AAW activities
- Commercial and personal liability insurance available for professional woodturners

Check out our official website!

woodturner.org

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American Association of Woodturners

Go beyond round

Circles to Ovals

By Alan Lacer

In a previous issue of *American Woodturner* I wrote about a historic turning shop, the Old Schwamb Mill near Boston, renowned for more than 150 years for its oval picture and mirror frames.

An oval-turning device made the process possible. I also mentioned that a modern version was being developed. A sophisticated oval chuck is now available, and it offers a different geometric dimension to woodturning.

German professor Johannes Volmer (volmer---ovaldrehen.de) and the Vicmarc Company of Australia developed the chuck based on oval devices used in Europe for at least 300 years. The modern version, the Vicmarc OD (oval device), offers some significant improvements. One key advancement is an internal balancing system to oppose the out-of-balance forces encountered in oval turning. There are also adjustments for easily varying the width and length of the oval.

Turning an oval is a change in thinking and execution from traditional lathe work. First, there is no identifiable center of the piece. The "center" is spread out across a horizontal plane. For turners, this change involves getting accustomed to cutting along this plane, and not going above or below it. If you turn outside of the horizontal plane that serves as the center, you will be working on a different elliptical shape.

Some turners find a trapped tool (as used in hollow turning) works well to stay in this plane. A few turners have used lasers that shoot a horizontal beam to guide them along the correct path. I have excellent luck just staying in that plane freehand; I can feel the difference when I get above or below the line.

***Above*: The inside of the Vicmarc VO1343 includes belts, adjustable counterweights, and adjustments for the proportions of the oval. *Right*: Turning stock attaches to the device with a standard 4-jaw chuck or faceplate.**

What are the design possibilities? Platters, plates, and bowls are well-suited for this type of turning. A natural-edge oval bowl is next on my list to explore.

For me, boxes have proved to be a little more challenging.

In the hands of contemporary turners, I expect to see some amazing applications. Chapters may want to consider purchasing an oval chuck and making it available through their tool library.

The VO1343 chuck retails for around $2,000 and is available in four thread sizes (1" × 8 tpi, 1¼" × 8 tpi, M33 × 3.5, and M40 × 2) at Craft Supplies USA (craftusa.com) and Woodworkers Emporium (woodworkersemporium.com).

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