

Vacuum System for Wood Turners

Vacuum systems used by wood turners have been around for a number of years. An unofficial survey of local turners as to why they did not use a vacuum system turned up two primary reasons. The first was that they had their own procedures for finishing the bottom of bowls that worked for them and saw no need to change. The other reason was by newer wood turners that said that they did not know much about vacuum systems, never used a vacuum system or never watched one being used. This demonstration will address both of these reasons.

A wood turner vacuum system consists of three major components. The first is the pump which provides the vacuum. The second is the adapter that connects the pump to the lathe and the third is the chuck that holds the piece of work to the lathe via vacuum.

An explanation of the three components, pump, adapter and chuck will describe each followed by approximate costs of each. The cost depends on whether you build it yourself or buy commercially made parts. This will be followed by a demo of reverse chucking a bowl with the vacuum system so that the bottom of the bowl can be finished. Other methods of holding a bowl to finish the bottom will be discussed followed by a question and answer session.

