

## *AUGUST 2018 10 MINUTES SAFETY PRESENTATION*

### *CHUCKS AND FACEPLATES*

*In the July presentation we discussed taking risks with unsafe wood and wood flaws.*

*The next logical topic is chucks and faceplates, which hold the wood in place.*

*Quoting in part from an AAW article by Hilda V. Carpenter.*

*Chuck failure can be a creeping, hidden disaster waiting to happen.*

*This seems so simple, yet danger can be avoided.*

*Chucks need to be used properly and regularly maintained.*

*Ensure that the chuck is securely screwed unto the lathe spindle, and tightened. Tighten the set screw if available both on the chuck and face plates.*

*With the lathe in reverse while sanding, a chuck (or a faceplate) can unwind and fly off the lathe all too quickly.*

*Chuck jaws do come loose, occasionally check the screws that hold jaws in place.*

*These screws, even slightly loose, will create shimmies or wobbles in the turnings that can cause an out of balance piece of wood to fly loose at high speeds.*

*Turn at slow to moderate speeds and if a wobble is detected, determine the source and fix the problem before turning up the speed dial.*

*The design of the tenon that holds the blank into a four-jaw chuck should be such that the tenon does not bottom out in the chuck.*

*The shoulder of the chuck squarely paired with the shoulder of the tenon will provide a safe hold when combined with the tenon diameter that closely matches the diameter of the chuck jaws.*

*Chucks that are not cleaned often and regularly lubricated will pack with dust and shavings. This condition will prevent the jaws from clamping down on the tenon giving a false sense of security.*

*Remember green wood requires you to tighten the jaws of the chuck repeatedly as moisture is forced out of the blank.  
Use the tail stock with a live center, whenever possible, for assistance.  
Invest in a quality chuck; a properly maintained chuck will provide literally thousands of hours of dependable service.*

*Faceplates can be a dependable alternative with a blank with no tenon, or with larger blanks.*

*It is important to use NEW sheet metal screws with each installation  
Don't skip faceplate holes, use a screw per each hole you will be glad you did.*

*Use screws to go as deep in the wood as the blank allows.*

*For securing turning stock, one size does not fit all, match the size of the screw to the size of the blank.*

*You must also consider the material you will be putting the screws into.  
End grain requires larger and longer screws. Beware of punky or spalted woods; once the wood has started to decay, it is extremely difficult to get screws to hold.*

*Do not use drywall screws as they snap off easily giving you a weak connection.*

*It is worth repeating remember to bring up the tailstock with the live center to give added security.*

*Turn safely and have fun. But by all means, think about what you are doing and consider the risks involved.*

*If you are unsure , ask someone with more experience.*

***IF IT LOOKS DANGEROUS IT PROBABLY IS..... STOP, DON'T DO THAT!***

*Some of these last tidbits were hijacked from Twenty Ways Not TO Turn A Bowl by Nick Cook, written for the AAW SAFETY FOR WOODTURNERS.*

*Our next 10 minutes safety presentation will deal with," Sharp Tools Are Safe".*

*August 2018 safety presentation.*

*Frank P. Safety Officer*

