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STUFF EVERY SHOP SHOULD HAVE

This is a list of common items every woodturner should have on hand. All these items are inexpensive and easily obtained. Believe me, all these things will come in handy and you'll be glad you have them on hand when the need arises.

Toothpicks

Cotton swabs

Dental picks

Craft sticks AKA popsicle sticks- available in boxes of several hundred for a few dollars at places like Hobby Lobby, Michaels, etc.

Center zero ruler- find the exact center of something without having to divide by 2; for example, find the center of a blank that's 5 27/64" wide.

Vernier caliper- use with chuck to determine size of tenon on blank, measure depth of hole, measure diameter of object, match tenon on finial to hole in vessel, verify drill bit size, the list is endless

Homemade white glue wood filler- CA glue is often used with sanding dust to fill cracks in turnings, but it is hard to sand off as it gets deep into the pores and is not good for your lungs. Or getting your fingers stuck together. Instead, mix 1 part white glue, like Elmer's, with 1 part water. Add a small drop of liquid detergent and shake well in a small squeeze bottle. To use, dribble a little of the glue mixture onto a scrap board and stir in sanding dust from the turning with a toothpick. Aim for a mixture the consistency of wood filler. The detergent breaks down the surface tension of the water so it'll flow into the sawdust easier. Fill in the cracks, let dry and sand smooth. The glue dries clear so it essentially disappears.

Magnets- Use magnets to hold tools and other accessories on your lathe. Rare earth magnets stick like glue but even hardware store magnets can hold things close at hand. Magnets can also be used in the construction of turnings to hold things together instead of glue.

Paper towels- use to apply finishes rather than cloth. Cloth can get caught on a turning and maybe take a finger or two with it.

Vinyl or nitrile gloves- Protect your hands from nasty chemicals

Hemostats or locking scissors- Clamp sandpaper in them to sand the inside of small openings without getting your fingers caught. Clamp folded up paper towels to apply finish to inside of vessels. Note- do not put your fingers in the holes in the handles when you use the scissors inside a vessel- unpleasant things can happen!

Tweezers

X-acto knife

Mineral Spirits- Wipe on a turning to give the effect of a finish. It evaporates completely and leaves no residue.

2 part epoxy- use to glue dissimilar objects, such as metal to wood

Wood glue- how can any shop not have this? (You'd be surprised!!!)

MORE STUFF THAT COSTS MORE (but could save your life)

Full face shield- safety first and always. Get the best you can afford. It only takes one time.....

First aid kit- see above

Task lighting- all machines, including the lathe will benefit greatly from having task lighting at hand. General shop lighting isn't enough when you really need to see what you're doing

Telephone close by- just in case. Plus you never know when a customer will call.

Tool sharpening system- don't assume your tools are sharp when you buy them. Plus, dull tools are very dangerous.

Hearing protection- what? What'd you say????

Dust collector- a biggie expense wise, but your lungs cost more to replace. A complicated subject that should be addressed with professionals. Don't forget an air scrubber. Lots of airborne dust is created when turning and it gets everywhere- your tools, your cabinets, your lungs.....

Fire extinguisher- no explanation necessary

Disposal system for used applicator rags. If you use an oil based finish like linseed oil, tung oil, etc., dispose of the applicator rags properly. A pile of oil soaked rags can generate heat and combust. A friend of ours lost his entire business from oil soaked rags catching fire so it's a very real possibility.