

Valley Woodturners
Introduction to Woodturning
Course Outline

Overview:

“Introduction to Woodturning” is a 3-day hands-on course designed to provide students the fundamental skills and knowledge that will make woodturning a fun and creative hobby for years to come.

By the end of this course, students should, be able to turn:

- spindles with both cove and bead designs
- small bowls
- lidded boxes
- small items such as tea lights

Students will also learn:

- how to safely operate a lathe
- how to select, use and care for woodturning tools
- finishes for use on turned objects
- the basics of working with green (recently cut) wood

Course Structure:

Courses normally run over three consecutive Sunday’s from 10am to 4:30pm with a maximum class size of 8 students. Courses planned for fall 2024 and winter 2025 will take place in the demonstration room at Lee Valley Tools located on Morrisson Drive in Ottawa, however, locations and dates are subject to confirmed venue availability.

Most of the course time is allocated to hands on woodturning so students should expect to leave the course each day with one or two finished pieces. Lunch times will be used for lunch and learn discussions on topics such as tool sharpening, what finishes to use, and turning green wood.

Instruction is provided by a lead instructor and two to three assistant instructors, ensuring a student / instructor ratio of not more than two during hands on turning.

Lathes, turning tools and face shields are provided for student use.

Students must be 19 years of age or older.

Sample Course Schedule:

Day 1

1. Introduction
 - a. Safety
 - b. Understanding the lathe
 - c. Introduction to woodturning tools
 - d. wood
2. Turning a basic spindle with beads and coves
 - a. Learn to use the spindle roughing gouge
 - b. Learn to use the spindle gouge for beads and coves
3. Lunch & Learn - Sharpening
4. Turn a mallet
 - a. Use your spindle turning skills to turn a mallet from a plan
 - b. Learn the use measurement tools

Day 2

1. Turn a platter
 - a. Use of flat stock for turning
 - b. Learn to use the bowl gouge
2. Lunch and Learn – green wood processing
3. Turn a bowl
 - a. Learn how to chuck a bowl blank
 - b. Learn techniques for hollowing

Day 3

1. Turn a lidded box
 - a. Practice day 1 and 2 turning skills
 - b. Learn about end grain turning
 - c. Learn how to turn fitted parts (box and lid)
2. Lunch and Learn – Finishes and sanding
3. Turn a pair of tea lights
 - a. Practice day 1 and 2 turning skills
 - b. Learn to turn multiple “identical” items
 - c. Learn the use a drill on the lathe