February 2015 Meeting - Terry Smart

Terry started his demo with a cylindrical shaped piece mounted in the lathe which he sanded through the grits and then used four Nyweb pads (silicon carbide and aluminium oxide grits) Green 400 grit, Red 600 grit, Orange1000 grit and White - virtually non-abrasive. The order of use can be remembered by the acronym "GROW". He stressed that before applying the finish you should always remove the dust and for this he recommended their tack cloth. To keep it "tacky" he kept it in a sealed jar.

Before applying the finish he suggests sealing the wood with a sanding sealer - cellulose is the most common and it contains some sanding agent so the tin should be shaken well before use. The sanding agent fills the pore in the wood and acts as a lubricant for the sanding process. The sealer was applied with a safety cloth. **TIP:** Put the lid on the sealer container immediately after use, also wipe the neck of the container (it makes it easier to open next time!!).

He then cut back the surface with the Orange Nyweb. Terry stated that there should be no need to dilute the sanding sealer. He also said that Acrylic sanding sealer could be used but it takes longer to dry—touch dry in 20mins but ideally left for 2 hours.

He applied some Woodwax 22 with a cloth to the surface while the lathe was stationery and rubbed it in well. He said that when you feel it "dragging" it is ready to buff with the lathe running. It only needs a thin coating of wax.
For a harder finish he suggests using Microcrystalline Wax which is more resistant to moisture. It needs about 15 - 20 mins drying time.

He then showed various lacquers, especially Melamine lacquer. Before a second thin coat was applied he cut back the surface with the White Nyweb and brought up the gloss with burnishing cream.

To finish he put a vase shaped piece of Ash on the lathe and prepared it by sanding with the grain and then opened the grain by use of a liming brush (one with brass wire bristles). He then applied ebonising lacquer from a spray can using light dusting coats (it dries faster this way!). He applied several coats to build up the colour, shaking the can between each application. The sheen could be improved by using burnishing cream but if further treatment was to be used then care has to be taken not to leave any burnishing cream residue on the surface.

To highlight the grain in the Ash he applied some of their Copper Gilt cream using a piece of their safety cloth. He applied the cream sparingly and removed as much of the excess as possible with a dry cloth. To remove the last residue he applied their Hard Wax Oil, this served two purposes - to clean off the residue and to provide a protective coating for the finish.

He next demonstrated their Buffing Kit which consists of three mops (all unstitched), a mandrel that fits into the chuck and two buffing compounds (brown and white). The mops screw into the mandrel and with the mop rotating a small amount of the brown compound was applied. The item to be buffed was held lightly against the rotating mop at between the 7 and 8 o'clock position.

The second mop was mounted in the mandrel and the white compound applied and the piece buffed as before. On woods with an open grain the white compound should be avoided as it would get into the grain. The third mop was used to apply carnauba wax and buff to a hard wearing finish.

Terry stated that ALL Chestnut Finishes are Toy Safe, complying with European Standards.