



# San Diego<sup>1</sup> Ship Modelers' Guild

The San Diego Ship Modelers' Guild is affiliated with  
and supports the Maritime Museum of San Diego.



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As the last meeting was the guild's birthday party, there was no official Guild Meeting Report. However, in celebration of the Guild's birthday, there is a new newsletter design! Any feedback is more than welcome (you can contact me at <redacted>), I hope you all like it!

Your Editor,  
Katherine

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~

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*Established in 1972*

*by Bob Wright  
& Russ Merrill*



# THROUGH THE LUBBER'S HOLE

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*Miniature Turnings* ~ by Robert Hewitt

A few meetings ago, Mike Lonnecker asked me how I made my cannons for the model of Agamemnon. Mike needed to turn spokes for a ship's wheel. He came up with the idea to use his drill press instead of my method of using a moto tool. Perhaps Mike will give us his rendition at a future meeting. In this article I will explain my method which I have used over the past fifteen years.

The tool I use at this time is called "We Cheer". It was purchased for me by my friend Gus Agustin in Chicago. He purchased it at an art store. The collets are the same as used on the Dremel Moto Tool. I have not been able to find one for sale locally. It is much slimmer than the Dremel, but a Dremel works just as well for this application. The wood I use is pear and have had the best success with it. Apple and boxwood were tried but have a tendency to split when thinner diameters are turned. The blanks are limited to the largest collet which accepts .09 square stock (3/32"). The pieces are cut to 1 3/4" long. (Picture # 1.)

I am left-handed and hold the moto tool in my right hand. I would assume that a right handed person would do the opposite. The first operation is to sand the diameter. It is important to wear safety goggles when using any motorized tool. The wood stick is chucked in the moto tool as close as possible to the length of the item you are turning. The speed of the "We Cheer" is limited to 5000 rpm and if you are using a Dremel, set it to the slowest speed. To sand, I use a mahogany block with 80 grit sandpaper glued to it. The flat surface gives a very even diameter along the length of stick being sanded. The diameter at this point is turned oversize. (Picture #2)

The final diameter desired is turned using 220 grit sandpaper glued to a mahogany strip. When the diameter starts getting smaller, the index finger is used to support the opposite side of the surface being sanded. (Picture #3)

The bore of the barrel is now drilled. I chuck a 79 drill in a pin vice. The hand holding the moto tool is rested on the work bench and the forefinger is placed on the tip of the turning. The pin vice, held in the other hand, is aligned parallel to the turning also nested in the finger at the tip of the turning. With the tool turned on, the pin vice is pushed into the turning to a depth of about 1/8". This will give a concentric bore, but larger than the diameter of the drill. (Picture #4)



# THROUGH THE LUBBER'S HOLE

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*Miniature Turnings* ~ by Robert Hewitt



The muzzle swelling is next cut in the end of the diameter. The moto tool hand is again placed firmly on the workbench. The other hand grips a single edge razor blade as close to the edge as possible. Holding the blade at a 45 degree angle to the length of the stick and resting on the work bench, small cuts are made on the diameter to obtain the cut desired. (Picture # 5)



The taper is now cut on the barrel. I use a narrow mahogany stick with 220 paper glued to it. (Picture # 6)



The pommelion or cascabel is now turned on the opposite end of the stick. The length is first marked with a pencil. I use a piece of card stock cut to the length needed. The same method is used in picture # 5. When the final shape is obtained, the piece is cut off with the razor blade set at 90 degrees to the barrel. The part has a tendency to go flying so caution is needed along with a clean workbench. (Picture # 7)

Some example of turnings in picture # 8 from the top; a ball used for sheets and tack on an Arab Dhow, a portion of a railing, .04 long, finished gun barrel, the swelling, and the first turning.





# San Diego<sup>4</sup> Ship Modelers' Guild

The next meeting will be  
Wednesday, 8 September 2010  
on the *Berkeley* at 7:00pm



Star of India