

A SAFER Start

During his box-making demonstration at the April meeting, Eliot Feldman quoted an important and easy-to-remember safety mantra, "SAFER", that can be used each time before starting the lathe. This acronym is a valuable tool and bears repeating.

The source for this has been reported to be the original Keith Rowley book "Woodturning: A Foundation Course". The "New Edition", that I have, has similar material, but not the acronym, per se. The associated safety rules are as follow:

Before starting the lathe,

- **Speed** - make sure the lathe Speed is compatible with the size of the blank;
- **Aside** - stand Aside, out of the "firing line" of the blank;
- **Fasten** - Fasten blank securely and confirm all locking handles are tight;
- **Eye** - confirm that Eye and breathing protection are in place;
- **Rotate** - Rotate the wood freehand, one full turn, to be certain that it is unobstructed.