

Four Tips from Jamie Donaldson

At our September Demo, Jamie showed us how he uses a golf ball as a jam chuck attached to the live tail center. Just hollow out the back a bit to fit your favorite tail center and stick it on when you need it. Simple and effective. Yes, you could make one out of wood, but if you have an old golf ball around, why not? He also wears a golf glove on his left hand. Am I seeing a pattern here? Fore sure.



He recommends wiping face shields, safety glasses, etc., with a rag impregnated with Armor All. (Mist a soft, clean cloth with Armor All Original and allow the propellant to evaporate; or just buy the wipes.) Jamie is a professional photographer, and he also uses this on his expensive camera lenses, so you can be sure it's safe. It cleans without leaving a film. This helps fill fine scratches and will make it harder for CA spots to stick in the future. It can also be used on turnings for removing fingerprints from gallery pieces (you heard it from Jamie, not me). In case you're interested, Armor All Original Shine Protectant contains "water-based silicone emulsions, surfactants, ultraviolet-light inhibitors, humectants, dispersants, and gloss enhancers". Even though Armor All is advertised as being a UV protector, Jamie says it will not stop the red color of box elder from turning brown – nothing will.

I seem to recall that it was Jamie who once noted that the tip of the Oneway Wolverine sharpening system Vari-Grind tool holder will work better if you file or grind off the sharp edges down near the very tip where it rotates in the V-pocket. Makes sense. Mine are now gone -- nice and smooth. He also pointed out that if you have a gouge whose business end is getting so short that the Vari-Grind pressure screw is starting to fall on the round shaft inside the span of the flute (needed for proper alignment), all you have to do is grind a flat spot on your gouge shaft where the flute would be if it extended closer to the handle, and the Vari-Grind will register just fine. Very simple, but very practical. This can extend the useful life of a gouge, as long as you don't intend to use it very far off the tool rest.

Always use common sense. Things that work in one situation may not work in another. Follow all Safety Rules. If it feels wrong, it probably is; stop and rethink.
Your Mileage May Vary