

Your Mileage May Vary (Gary Guenther)

Tips

Hints

Ideas

Clues

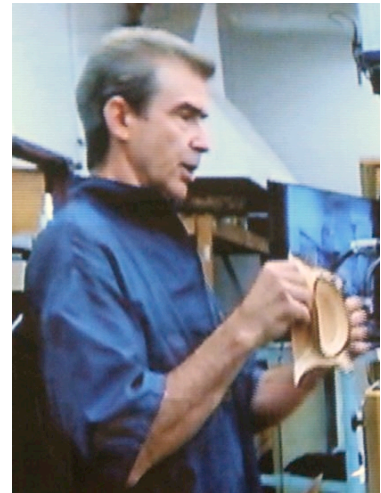
Tips garnered from a Rudy Lopez demo

Rudy Lopez is a Florida turner who has recently gained national acclaim for his excellent demonstrations that are very practical and full of great tips. He is an “invited demonstrator” for the next AAW Symposium, in Kansas City in 2017. That’s a big accomplishment and a compliment that others have recognized his talents. I enjoyed seeing him at CAW and took notes that I annotated when I got home because there were things I wanted to make sure to remember. I decided these would be good to share with you.

Here’s Rudy’s Gallery: <http://www.rudolphlopez.com/gallery.html>

and here’s his list of project handouts:

<http://www.rudolphlopez.com/handouts.html>



This is the list I created when I saw him; I hope you find these ideas valuable, as well:

- 1) When using a spur center with wood in “crossgrain” (“faceplate”) orientation, rotate the wood so the spurs enter at a 45-degree angle to the grain all the way around. It is not good to have two entering with the grain and two across the grain.
- 2) Use lighting from the side to create shadows to show the smoothness (or problems) of your cuts – particularly when using gouges.
- 3) Rudy grinds a parting tool on an angle (to create a bit of a point) and uses it to make tenons with very sharp corners at the proper angle for the chuck jaws. He emphasizes that it is critical to have a shoulder of wood adjacent to the tenon that mates perfectly with the outside of the chuck jaws.
- 4) He made a negative-rake scraper from a repurposed skew chisel by grinding a slightly larger-than-usual included angle (say 55°). The cutting burr can be put on alternating sides to maintain the basic shape over many sharpenings.
- 5) He’s a big Stuart Batty fan. He recommends listening to what Stuart preaches... things like “float the bevel”.
- 6) Wet wood dries and warps very quickly spinning on the lathe. If you’re turning wet wood thin, keep it wet by spritzing, as needed.
- 7) He makes homemade sanding mandrels and sticks on Morse #2 tapers so they can be used directly in the lathe spindle and interchanged very quickly by just popping them in and out.

*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***