

Woodturning Tools and their uses

Spindle Roughing Gouge

- sizes $\frac{3}{4}$ " – 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", usually forged from flat strip
- exception is the Ashley Isles gouge; ground from solid round bar.
- ground straight across, 45° bevel
- used initially to convert from square or rough to round
- also useful for tapers and gradual curves
- DO NOT use for face plate work, they are not strong enough.

Spindle Gouge (shallow fluted gouge)

- range of sizes
- UK pattern ground from round bar
- Continental pattern forged from flat strip
- shallow flute
- fingernail grind, 30° - 45° bevel, 45° bevel is easier to use but not as good for complex details
- used for details on spindle work e.g. coves and beads

Skew Chisel

- various patterns – rectangular, rounded, oval, round
- straight or convex cutting edge
- bevel on both sides so tool can cut in either direction, 30° bevel angle
- used for finish planing cuts on straight or curved surfaces, trimming end grain, V-cut, rolling beads
- many other cuts in skilled hands – PRACTISE !
- keep very sharp by honing

Parting Tool

- several types, plain, diamond, fluted, thin
- range of sizes
- designed to cut (part) work from waste
- other uses – sizing cuts, rolling beads, as a small skew chisel.
- Beading and parting tool, made from square bar, useful for cutting chucking spigots on spindle work e.g. vases or hollow forms
- Bedan is big thick parting tool, used by some turners for beads. Also can be used with a sizing tool to cut to a set diameter.

Bowl Gouge (deep fluted gouge)

- the key tool for Faceplate work
- deep u-shaped flute ground from round bar
- range of sizes from $\frac{1}{4}$ " – 1", measuring method varies
- used to be ground straight across
- most turners now use a swept back grind, much more versatile, bevel angle about 45°. Use a gouge with a steep angle to cut across the base of a deep bowl.
- sharpening using a jig gives consistent results which is especially important for new turners
- can also be used on spindle work for roughing and initial shaping e.g. a vase

Scraper

- huge range of sizes and shapes
- bigger the better to absorb vibration
- used for final smoothing to remove ripples left by gouge
- traditional method is flat on the rest, cutting edge pointing down
- more effective to shear scrape at 45° angle
- should cut a fine shaving – not dust
- most people use straight from grinder and cut with the burr, some prefer to hone and remove the burr, bevel angle not important, about 70-80°

Shear Scrapers

- with replaceable cutters in various shapes
- round shaft allows you to vary angle of cut
- hone to sharpen, only grind to re-shape
- from Robert Sorby and others
- Tracy Owen shear scrapers made by Henry Taylor from round bar

Hollowing Tools

- mainly for end grain hollowing in green or wet timber, most not as good in side grain
- Scrapers, Mole
- Pickers, basically a small scraper
- Ring & hook tools, can be hard to control
- Guarded rings – Hamlet Little & Big Brothers, Rolly Munro, Exocet, Woodcut Proforme, Henry Taylor, Sorby Ultima, Crown Revolution etc.
- not cheap but great fun !!

Specials

- Point tool, useful for cutting detail grooves
- bead forming tool, several types from different makers. All will give a consistent bead when used correctly.
- captive ring tools, several patterns available from different suppliers
- Skewchigouge, supposed to replace the Skew Chisel and Spindle Gouge
- Spindle Master, supposed to replace the Skew Chisel
- texturing and spiralling tools, Decorating Elf and many more

Tool Suppliers

- many British made using Sheffield Steel and exported worldwide
- Robert Sorby
- Ashley Isles
- Crown
- Henry Taylor
- Record Power
- Craft Supplies Home of Woodturning brand
- Axminster Perform brand
- avoid cheap rubbish. If on a budget buy good blades and make your own handles to suit.