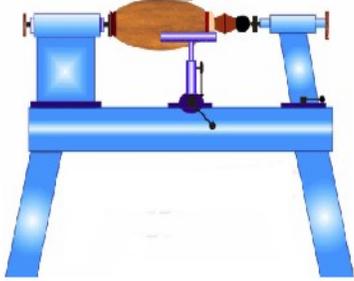


# GTW TURNINGS



## NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE WOODTURNERS

<http://www.goldentrianglewoodturners.org/>

Center for the Visual Arts 400 E. Hickory, Denton, TX

September 2009

*Our next meeting is 7:00pm September 7th*

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## Neal's NEWS

## This Month's Demo is...

### PIERCING ON THE CHEAP PRESENTED BY OUR OWN GLYNN COX



My name is Glynn Cox and I am member of the Golden Triangle Woodturners and Woodturners of North Texas clubs. I retired 5 years ago from a 37 year career with Bell Helicopter where I was in charge of Customizing Engineering.

Several years ago I did a little wood gouging but not until I retired and told myself that I was going to truly learn to "turn" did I actually produce anything to be proud of. I have specialized in turning bowls and prefer using rough, figured or burl wood. I generally like to keep my turnings in their natural state without any surface color embellishments.

While looking at the Instant Gallery at SWAT in 2007 I saw some pieces that had been pierced. Some were quite well done and others no so well but I thought I might like to try my hand at it. I used my Dremel tool with some success then checked out the available information on the internet. I found that there were some very expensive tool systems available in the form of high speed dental handpieces and straight craft handpieces all in the \$400+ range. Being the frugal engineer and consummate experimenter I built a system from surplus parts for about \$100.

I use this system to produce pierced areas on my turnings, some of which I have brought to the club meetings.

Neal has asked me to do a demonstration on piercing. Watching someone do piercing for an hour is like watching paint dry or grass grow so I thought it would be beneficial to demonstrate the construction of a piercing tool setup using low cost components and talk about how each works within the system. I will then attempt to do a little basic piercing leaving the fine details to Binh Pho next month.

[Download handout here](#) → [Link to Piercing Handout](#)



# THIS MONTH'S BIO



Chris Morgan has had a lifelong interest in woodworking. But only in the last few years has this interest been matched with the space and the tools to really pursue the dream. After buying his first house in 1977, one of Chris' first priorities was to put together a shop in the basement. The first tool was a Sears radial arm saw, followed by a 6" jointer and a Shopsmith. With these tools and a corner of the basement, a few projects followed, after taking a course in woodworking from a local community college. Then, many years later, in 2000, he moved to a new home that had the space to put up a shop building. Pretty quickly the shop filled up with a variety of tools, including a Delta 16" lathe (similar to the Jet lathe the club owns for demos). More advanced training has come from courses taken at the Marc Adams woodworking school in Indiana. Marc taught a 2-day class at the annual December woodworking show held in Mesquite which Chris attended. He decided he wanted more. So, over the course of a few years he made the trek up to Indiana for a variety of one-week courses in everything from carving to veneering to furniture design to turning to finishing.

Chris has been a member of the Golden Triangle Woodturners since it's inception in 2003. The last three years he has been on the board as club Treasurer. He also pursues his interest in photography by taking pictures at each meeting for the newsletter and the club's web site, managed by John Solberg's wife C J. Chris currently works as a contract computer programmer, plying his trade at United Healthcare Insurance Co. He works in the Student Resources division that provides health insurance to college students across the country.

He is also an active member of the North Texas PC Users Group, where he is on the board of directors and recently was President.

He has been married to his wife, Alice, for 35 years, and they have two married daughters and two grandsons. They have been active members of Crossroads Bible Church in Double Oak for 20 years, where Chris served as a Deacon.



You really need to checkout this month's Articles of Interest on page 7. It is written by our own Dave Gelnett about converting a PC power supply to a wood burner. Dave did an excellent job and this is exactly the type of article that I was talking about in the club meeting last month. If you have developed a special technique, designed a new tool or found new sources of information let us know. Yes, it takes some time and effort, but you never know who you could influence into becoming a woodturner or even enhance an old hands knowledge.

John Solberg sent me an email with the following information on a competition through WoodCentral called Craftmanship Awards for turning "Elegant Forms". The awards are from \$25 to \$500 and the competition is sponsored by Craft Supply, Klingspore and Bad Dogs Burls. Entry deadline is September 15th. Click on this link <http://www.woodcentral.com/contests/turning5/> for more information and application. There are several turners in our club that could easily win this.

If you haven't noticed it is **HOT** in Texas and if you have a **COOL** shop why not get a couple of turner friends together and do a marathon **BOWL-TURN** for Empty Bowls. Three people could turn 20+ bowls in one day (less drying time) by distributing the effort. Two buddies and I have plans to do just that. You may think 20 is a lot of bowls for one day, but I have turned 7 by myself in about 6 hours. We can't let Woodturners of North Texas outdo us.

Here is an interesting video I ran across. This is a neat way to rough turn the outside of a vessel. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydDQQQww1AA>

*Glynn Cox* Editor

# President's Patter

The end of Summer 2009 is rapidly approaching and with it many changes start to happen. Vacations end for most of us, school is about to start, cooler weather is just around the corner and Fall activities start to ramp up. If your shop is like mine, without air conditioning, the cooler weather means more time in the shop without the sweltering heat, making for a much more enjoyable time. Speaking of activities, in the next couple of months GTW will be involved in several community events including, Arts, Antiques, and Autos in September on the square in Denton, SWAT in Wichita Falls, The Woodworking Show in Mesquite, Empty Bowls in Denton, and the Roanoke Festival in Roanoke.

With Empty Bowls only two months away it means we need to ramp up our bowl turning as well. So far we have about 45 to 50 bowls with a goal of 150 minimum. Again this year the GTW Board is going to host a special raffle in October. For each bowl donated to this special event the participant will be awarded a raffle ticket for a drawing held at the October meeting. The raffle winner will receive a \$50.00 gift certificate from Craft Supply. Your chances of winning depends upon the number of bowls you donate and are much better than the Texas Lottery. Bowls previously turned in will be awarded tickets as well.

The WoodWorking Show will be in Mesquite this year, October 23rd - 25th. The woodturning clubs of North Texas have been invited to participate. GTW is working with Dallas Area Woodturners and The Hunt County Woodturners to share booth space and manpower for the show. By participating we will be supplied with many free passes to the show. This is in the early planning stages so more information will be forthcoming

We have been working hard to update our audio and video equipment. Our goal is to make our demonstrations easier for everyone to see as well as make good recordings of them for those that want to see them again. The sound system is in need of serious upgrading. The Board has approved the expenditure of a new portable microphone system to assist in the recording and enable everyone a better opportunity to hear. We need the club approval to spend the approximately \$500.00 for this equipment. We will have a discussion of this along with a vote at the next meeting.

See you at our next meeting on September 7th. Don't forget something for show and tell along with your bring backs. September is the end of the third quarter so we will be having the quarterly raffle as well; a couple of very nice large wood clamps from Jet. You never have too many clamps!

*John Solberg*

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## Welcome New Members

**Cory Whittaker - Corinth**  
**Dean Brown - Howe**

**F. Boyd Boler - Denton**  
**Jon Lundgren - Prosper**

**Please give our new members a warm welcome and introduce yourselves to them at the next meeting.**

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## *Denton Art, Antiques and Autos Extravaganza*

*September 12 10am to 4pm Downtown Square*

*Again this year we are planning on turning tops and cars for the kids so plan to join in and support your club's community activities. This is also a great opportunity to meet and work with other club members.*



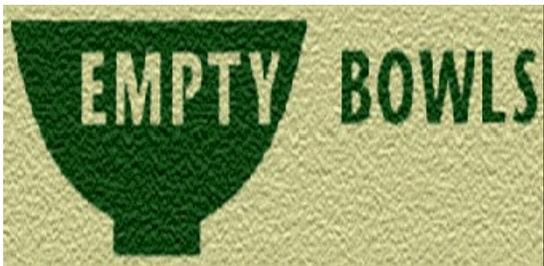
Southwest Association of Turners Symposium is being held in Wichita Falls on October 16<sup>th</sup> through October 18<sup>th</sup>.

Several outstanding demonstrators are being featured including Stuart Batty, Mike Mahoney, Jimmy Clews and others.

You really need to attend this one. It is close, inexpensive and has great events. Go to <http://www.swaturners.org/welcome/welcome.shtml> for more information.

It is time to make hotel reservations. This link will take you to the sponsoring hotel and other nearby hotels with special SWAT rates. <http://www.swaturners.org/info/hotels.shtml>

Online registration is now available at <http://www.swaturners.org/registration/registration.shtml>



It is not too early to start turning bowls for the October Empty Bowls program. Our goal this year is 150 bowls. Last year we donated 179. They are counting on our support again this year.

Empty Bowls of Denton is a community ministry of Christ The Servant Lutheran Church, where people of the church work in ecumenical-civic partnership with members of the Denton community to support [Our Daily Bread](#) soup kitchen and the Denton Community Food Center, enabling them to feed nutritious meals to the hungry of Denton.

Christ The Servant Lutheran Church will host the 10th Annual Empty Bowls Soup Luncheon and Silent Auction from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on "Make A Difference Day," Saturday, October 24, 2009, at Our Daily Bread soup kitchen, located at [St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church](#). Handcrafted clay ware and wooden bowls donated by local and regional fine artists, student artists, and the [Golden Triangle Woodturners](#), as well as bowls designed by church members throughout the year, are offered at the luncheon. All proceeds are donated to [Our Daily Bread](#) soup kitchen and the [Denton Community Food Center](#).

# CLUB EVENTS CALENDAR

September 7	7:00pm GTW Meeting
September 12	Denton Arts, Antiques and Autos 10am to 4pm
September 15	WoodCentral Contest Deadline
October 5	7:00pm GTW Meeting Last easy collection of Empty Bowls
October 16 through 18	SWAT, Wichita Falls
October 24	Empty Bowls Luncheon & Auction
November 2	7:00pm GTW Meeting

## Bring Back Winners

Gene Colley (x2)  
 Terri Sargent (x2)  
 Glynn Cox (x2)  
 Harold Gomez (x2)  
 Neal Brand

Dean Stewart  
 Scott Wyatt  
 Peter Tkacs  
 John Easterling (x2)

*Bring back winners remember to bring a wood turning related item, preferably one you turned, back next meeting.*

## Photo Highlights of last meeting







## ***ARTICLES OF INTEREST***

### ***PC Power Supply Burner***

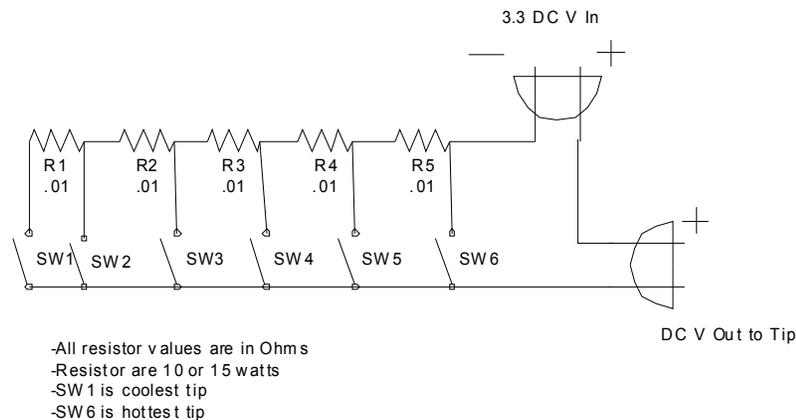
**By David Gelnett**

If you are interested in trying out a branding/burning pattern on your wood project but not certain you want to spend all the money to buy a set up this is a very inexpensive alternative. All that is required is an old PC power supply from a discarded PC box (make sure power supply is working before taking it out of the box), power resistors, single pole light switches and a three or four gang electrical box. Most of the electronic parts can be obtained at an electronic surplus store for a reduced price. I used Tanner surplus store on I35 and Valwood. Tanners also sells NiCr wire for a good price. The AC switches and the gang box can be bought at your local hardware store or a surplus hardware store.

Several articles describing the power supply conversion process can be found on the internet. There are methods to convert to a non adjustable desktop power supply and a few examples of modifying the power supply for an adjustable voltage output. The amount of current required can be a problem when creating a circuit of components that can vary the voltage. I have also found the specifications for Nickel Chromium (NiCr) wire varies which can impact the effectiveness of the circuit. These parts are available but I wanted cheap and easy and repeatable.

In the past you may have seen the articles on how to make a burner from a car battery charger (“The Vaporizer”). I made this and it worked OK but I had problems trying to adjust the heat to a lower setting. My battery charger had an automatic shut off circuit built into it and it would shut itself off, thinking the battery was already charged, if the setting was too low. This method would work well if you have an old charger without the automatic shut off circuit built in. I thought about taking apart the charger and disabling the circuit but then what would I do if my car battery needed a charge.

The following diagram is how to create a voltage divider circuit with resistors. Each resistor is in series which adds the ohms of each resistor. Depending on which switch is shut thus causes the voltage to be divided across each resistor thus dropping the voltage on the tip which lowers the temperature. SW1 includes the value of resistors R1 through R5 which is .05 ohms. SW5 is only .01 ohms and SW6 excludes all resistors connecting the voltage directly to the tip.



I took a plastic quad (4) gang box and found that 6 single pole AC light switches would fit. Not all of the screw holes would line up but I did not care. I found that enough of the screw holes aligned to hold the switches, but if for some reason they do not align you can drill new holes.

All wiring can be completed before placing the switches and resistors into the box. I mounted my output plug (I used a banana plug) to the right side of the gang box. The input plug is a cable which comes out of the front of the gang box. I used the same style of banana plug here also. (See photo at end of article)

### PC Power Supply Modifications:

Make sure the power supply is unplugged and totally discharged or there will be an unpleasant surprise waiting for you.

Most PC power supplies are similar and the following instructions will work, but some manufacturers such as Dell will do their own thing, especially on the older power supplies.

Normally on the side of the power supply there will be a label describing the color and current rating for each voltage. You will only need the 3.3 V and the 5 V which are normally the orange and red wire. The black wire is ground. You will notice there are several groups of wires tied together. There should be a couple of longer multiple connectors which go to the fans and disks drives. Keep these unmodified so that you can use them in the future for fans. DC fans are less expensive to buy than AC fans in the store so why not use the fan(s) from the same PC box where you have obtained the power supply?

Most power supplies will need some wires tied to ground before the unit will power up. First try to turn on the power supply to see if it will work without any modifications. Most likely it will not. Look on the label for the wire labeled PS OK and PS on. Mine were a green and gray wire. Just short the PS OK and PS On to a black (ground) wire and every thing should power up. If your power supply does not have a label on the side you may need to search the internet for more information on your power supply.

The burner tip will cause the power supply to use lots of power so you will need to group the different 5 V (red) wires together and the same for the 3.3 V (orange) and Ground (black). Clip the connector off and use three to four wires grouped together should be plenty. There are two choices for the next step. If you have room, you may open the power supply and mount a connector to the side of the power supply. This will give a place to mount the two connectors on the box and have most of the wires inside. The other method would be to mount a plug right to the end of the wires and never open the power supply case.

## Tip handle:

On Wood Central there are several articles describing how to make your own handles. Here is the link to one. [http://www.woodcentral.com/articles/turning/articles\\_769.shtml](http://www.woodcentral.com/articles/turning/articles_769.shtml)

My handle is very similar to this one so I will not go into a lot of details. I used some heavy speaker wires with a connector that will match up to the one on the power supply. I took a dowel and drilled down the middle for my handle. I have heard of some people using a 1/2 inch PVC pipe for this. (Just make sure the PVC pipe does not get too hot and smoke)

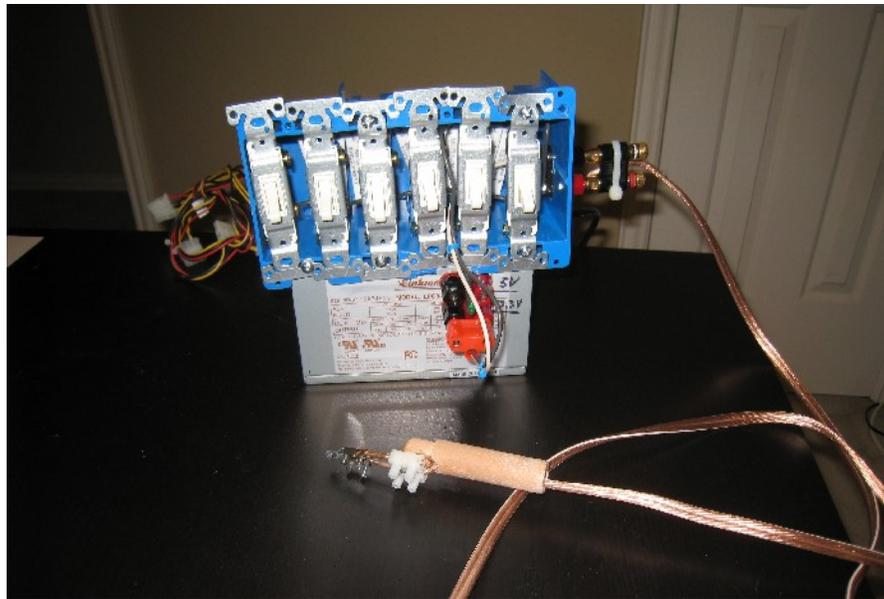
The following picture is a terminal connector you can get at Radio Shack or Tanner. Note it has a plastic coating on the outside that you will need to remove. Inside is all metal which can handle the heat. Also the article at Wood Central has a description of how to use copper nails to make different patterns. The copper nails work great just make sure they are not just copper plated. Solid copper works better and is easier to file into any shape you want.

I use three different gauges of NiCr wire, 18, 20 and 24. The lower the gauge the thicker the wire. The advantage is the different gauge wire will produce a hotter or cooler tip.

Notice on the power supply below I can change from 3.3 V to 5 V if more heat is needed. Be careful if you try 5 V and have your hand on the off button for the first time just in case it is too hot.



**Connector Block  
Detail**



**Completed Burner System**

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## 2009 Club Officers

President	John Solberg	940-387-3089	Membership	Mike Nelson	214-387-9077
Vice President	Neal Brand	940-383-1248	Past President	Peter Tkacs	214-662-2200
Secretary	Mike Nelson	214-387-9077	Librarian	Sharon Ayers	214-707-0776
Treasurer	Chris Morgan	940-321-1151	Newsletter Editor	Glynn Cox	817-337-0210
Activities	John Downs	972-874-0600			

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## CLASSIFIED ADS

**Taunton's Fine Woodworking Magazines** volumes dated from the Summer of 1976 to Fall of October 2007 and I have all of them inclusive. Must take all. \$200 Contact Oren Zehner at [ozehner@att.net](mailto:ozehner@att.net) or 817-785-2558

**Four tool rests** all with 1 inch posts \$20 each:

\* S shaped rest - post 3 inches long, top of rest 4 1/4 inches from bottom of post

\* 6 inch rest - 2 3/8 inch long post, 4 3/4 inches from top of rest to bottom of post

\* 2 16 inch rests - 2 3/8 inch posts, 5 inches from top of rest to bottom of post (If you want a rest shorter than 16 inches, you can cut to desired size)

Technatool threaded insert for 1 inch 8 TPI spindle. If you buy a Nova G3 or SuperNova2 you will need a threaded insert. I have two. \$12 each.

Vacuum chuck plate (maple), vacuum chuck cylinder (MDF base and PVC cylinder) and a 1 inch 8 TPI nut. All for \$5.

Contact Neal Brand at 940-383-1248 or [neal@unt.edu](mailto:neal@unt.edu)