

# Southern Turners Project Sheet

## Chatter Tool – Making Your Own



A chatter tool for woodturning (not to be confused with one made for ceramics) is made of 2 parts, a blade and a handle. The blade of a chatter tool needs to be flexible enough to bend when it strikes your project, but rigid enough to flex back into its original position. Commercially available chatter tool blades are made from spring steel and are approximately 10mm wide, 1.5mm thick and around 70mm long. High Speed Steel bandsaw blades, jigsaw & reciprocating saw blades and even old butter knives can also be used.

The ends of the blades can be shaped to produce different patterns and are sharpened as you would a standard woodturning scraper, with a burr on the top edge.

The handle must be able to hold the blade securely and resist being forced against the timber and the vibration that the chattering will produce. Below is a quick, cheap version of a chatter tool handle that is easy to make yourself.

1. Begin with a timber blank, approx. 40mm square and 250mm long. Mount between centres and turn to round.



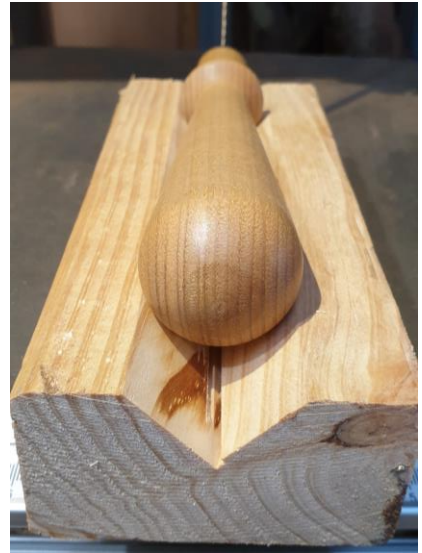
2. Turn a tenon 50mm long and about 25mm in diameter on one end, this will be the section that holds the blade.



3. Shape your handle as desired, sand and apply a finish if you would like. Once completed part off.



4. Cut down the centre of the tenon section of your handle with a bandsaw if available. Using a simple “V” block to hold your handle will make cutting safer. If you do not have a bandsaw available use a thin handsaw to make the cut.



5. Finally, insert the blade into the cut, place a hose clamp around the tenon with the bolt on the top and tighten. Your chatter tool is now ready to use.



As stated above this is a very quick and cheap version of a chatter tool, there are more elaborate/robust versions with instructions on their construction available on the internet if you so desire.

For a general guide on how to use your new chatter tool refer to the Southern Turners “Chatter Tool – Use” project sheet