

## Rick Urban - Woodturner

Help Desk

### Do It Now!

Last month I told you about the new sign in my shop that reads "Don't do it!" I now have another one. This one reads "Do it now!"

I was hollowing half of a sphere, and as the point of gouge past the end of the cut (the center of rotation) it touched the opposite side. I was turning at my mustard monster's maximum speed, so without hesitation it took the end of the gouge on a small semi-circular path from the right side of center, up and over to the left side of center, and thrust it against the tool rest. "Clunk!" No big deal. I made a few more cuts, it happened again, and again it was no big deal, because nobody would ever see the inside surface of the sphere, where the surface was marred by the catch. I continue toward finishing the inside of this half. On that famous "last cut" things got interesting.

Because the tool was even more dull, I was using more pressure, and pushed the end of the gouge further past center. The other side of the concave half sphere grabbed the end of the gouge, took it on a bigger counterclockwise semi circular trip to the place where the cut began, and, at maximum Powermatic speed, slammed it into the tool rest. The gouge took a really big bite and the sphere could not hold it together. Part of it hit the wall to the left. Part of it hit the ceiling above. A small piece of the tenon stayed in the chuck. I have no idea where a chunk of my knuckle ended up. Fortunately I am in the habit of staying out of the "kill zone," and I WAS wearing my face shield, or the incident might have had an unhappier ending.

Had I sharpened the tool when I should have, I would not have this story to tell you. That brings me to a starter list of things one should do without procrastinating.

- Sharpen the tool when you notice it is getting dull.
- Move the object you've been working around to avoid tripping.
- Put things away to leave an uncrowded place to work.
- Change your loose clothing. Remove rings and watches.
- Find your safety glasses.
- Put on your dust mask.
- Clean your face shield so you can see where you are sticking your gouge.
- Move the tool rest closer. Bring up the tailstock.
- Stop and determine the cause if the sound of your turning changes.
- Check for nails and other foreign objects and that chunk of wood.
- Take the bark off.
- Add three more items to this list.
- Make a sign that reads "Do it now!"

For more information visit my website

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Changing the way you think about wood... one piece at a time.