

# TURNING Threads

January  
2025



Dan Brandner gave a demonstration on how to make live center cones using Baltic Birch Glue-Ups and the how to use the live center cones for different turning situations.

## THIS MONTH IN TURNING THREADS

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**Dan Brandner**

I hope everyone had a happy holiday season. There seems to be less time to relax and more things to do.

We have made some changes and upgraded our Rikon lathe. We sold the old lathe and purchased a new Jet 1221vs lathe. We now have 3 Jet 1221vs lathes and 3 Delta Midi lathes and a Powermatic 20" lathe.

We also upgraded our power sanding equipment and added a couple new bowl scrapers.

The advanced class for January will be held on Saturday, January 18 starting at 8:00 am. The subject will be sharpening equipment for tools. We will cover grinders, jigs and setups. We will have some hands on time and everyone will have a chance to see and do a few things involving sharpening.

January turnout for the open house was down this month. I think everyone was just trying to catch up from the holidays.

Dan Brandner demonstrated how to turn revolving center adapters for a revolving center. Dan did a great job! This type of adapter is very helpful when turning a piece that has been finished and returned without damage to the finish.

Our first class for beginners will be Thursday, January 16th starting at 6:00 at night. The first 5 week session is full. If you would like to attend please come to our next club meeting and sign up.



### **Monthly Meetings**

First Wednesday of the month

Board Meeting at 6:00 pm

Social Hour at 6:00 pm

Meeting and  
Demonstration

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

### **Open House**

Second Saturday of the month

8:00 am to 12:00 pm

**Members and interested persons may contact the Chippewa Valley Woodturners Guild by email at: [woodturnercvwg@gmail.com](mailto:woodturnercvwg@gmail.com)**

## A Twist On Instruction Reading

Usually, pen assembly is straight forward. Usually. Now and then I get a pen kit that defies straight forwardness. For instance, a recent kit I got from Wood World of Texas. I can't remember ever getting anything from this company before. Their web site has pictures of a large operation from bowl blanks to domestic wood and exotic wood lumber. But there is more than wood. This company also has power tools, finishes, projects and even classes.

In a series of pictures of this company's products there seem to be very few pen kits. Although if one scrolls down the main web page to a pen kit selection, there is a picture of a wall with a wide array of kits. Clicking on the selection then shows the pen kit selection. The offerings are similar to other pen vendors with some changed names for the same pen kit. The only one that caught my eye was called Pocket Pen. Not exactly an original name, but I guess they had to call it something to differentiate from other similar pen kits.

My usual procedure (which is how I get into problems) is to take out the tube, select a blank, drill the blank and glue in the tube. What can go wrong in this step? Usually nothing except if the tube may come loose during turning and I have to re-glue in the tube. If nothing happens and I am successful in turning the blank down to the bushings, I finish the blank and prepare to assemble the pen.

However, I discovered that the Pocket Pen blank was bigger than the hardware. The bushings were too big for this pen. I thought of re-turning but re-turning below the bushings is not recommended due to contact with the bushings and it would not be known how much further to turn without having to constantly taking blank off the lathe comparing it with the hardware and putting it back on the lathe. Instead I found a set of bushings for 8mm tubes that were smaller and used those to turn the blanks to the correct size.

Now, here is the point where I should have probably retired from pen turning. I took the nib for the pen and discovered that it was for a 7mm tube. The tube for the Pocket Pen was 8mm. And all three kits had 7mm nibs. So, I assumed (you know the problem with assuming) that the wrong size nib was put in the kit and the bushings were also the wrong size. I informed Wood World of Texas in an email about my problem. I did not get an answer. In retrospect they were probably laughing and thought I was too stupid to get a response. So much for any future business with Wood World of Texas.

What to do with 7mm nibs and 8mm tubes? I searched my discard box and found 3-8mm nibs. Problem was these three nibs were all gold and had a chrome, gunmetal and a gold kits. But they fit and I proceeded to begin the assembly of the pen kits. But first, since I had mismatched colored nibs I checked to see which color mismatch was minimally acceptable. While looking at putting on these 8mm nibs, it occurred to me that there would not be anyway to replace the refill.

It dawned on me that I could not use the 8mm nibs. This is the point where I actually looked at and read the assembly instructions. I referred earlier to what I usually do when receiving a pen kit and begin the process of prepping, turning, and finishing. Apparently, I need to check the instructions first. What I found was that the pen kit had an extra short tube. I was aware of this but thought I could deal with it when assembling. It turned out that the nib had a tip coupler to be inserted into the mysterious extra tube which was a 7mm tube. The 7mm tube was to be inserted in the 8mm blank tube so the refill could be replaced.





The refill was a short cross type that went into a regular sized twister. Before inserting the twister in the 7mm tube one, had to measure 25mm (1 inch equals 25.4mm) from the end where the refill is inserted and mark the spot which would be as far as the twister could be pressed in the 7mm tube. With the assembled twister in the tube with the pen in the twister and the tip coupler pressed into the other end of the 7mm tube and the nib screwed on the tip connector, all was ready to assemble by pushing the assembly into the 8mm tube.

Most people do not like twister pens. This particular pen will be disliked even more than a regular twist pen. Why? Because you have to hold the nib to twist the refill in and out. Holding the top of the pen when twisting is most common.

## Dark Side of Pen Turning

In the May 2024 issue, I wrote an article with the title above. Since then, I have been wondering if anyone read it. I did get one comment from a member who said he enjoyed that issue but didn't mention what part.

Since then, I sent out a request to members asking if they prefer the newsletter on the web site or sent directly to each member. I got six responses and all favored getting it directly sent. No votes for the web site, so directly sent won out. It got me to wondering about that article as to whether anyone had read it. I think now very few.

At the June meeting I presented several examples of the dark side of pen turning. I was met with total silence. Did I offend members with my dark humor? Or did no one read it and therefore didn't know what I was talking about? My wife read it and found it amusing but spooky. That was just the effect I was writing to get. She tells me that my humor is often dry or dark and many people either don't get it or find it disgusting.

Dan Brandner is the newsletter re-write editor and did not comment on the article except for a couple of typing errors or grammatical errors.

There is a reason why I bring up this subject. Having to write a monthly column for a woodturning newsletter can be limiting in what I write. I started Editor Musings in November 2019 and I have since learned a lot about writing and I have extended my writings to fictional stories. But when writing on fictional subjects a writer should be descriptive in character reactions, character physical and emotional descriptions, descriptive scenery and the mood of the scene. In one sense the article Dark Side of Pen Turning was an attempt at creating a descriptive spooky and amusing atmosphere in an area not noted for spookiness but amusing is accepted.

So, here is the reason for this. I would like for members to read the Dark Side of Pen Turning and let me know whether this type writing is amusing or disgusting or not appropriate for a woodturning group. I may be tempted to write another one that is a bit different.

The May 2024 issue is on the web site.

Thanks,

**Tom Leonard**





Mark Palma demonstrated sand paper types, sanding techniques and the subject of scraping.

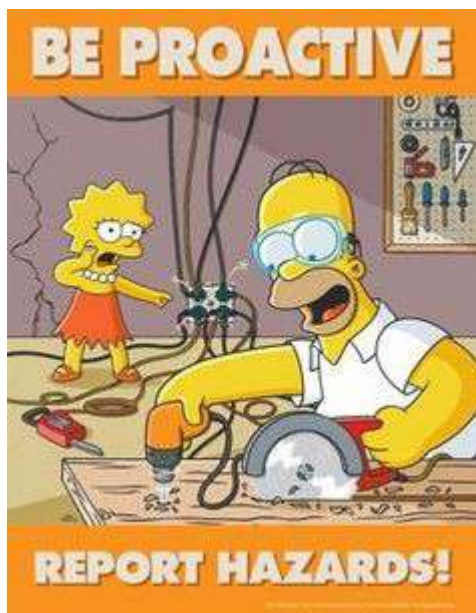
Mark wrote an excellent and lengthy article on sanding and scraping. It is available on the CVWG website under the Articles tab.



## Turning With A Twist



# Safety Tips



# FUTURE DEMONSTRATIONS

Meetings are first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm.  
Open house is the second Saturday of the month from  
8 am to 12 pm

## Meeting Dates and Demonstrations

February 5—John Layde — Segmented Round Frames

March 5 - Brent English—Lathe Maintenance

March 22—Phil Holtan—Cherry Burls—Grain Orientation and Multiple Cuts

April 2—Dan Wold—Lidded Bowl

May 7— Not Yet Determined

June 4—Not Yet determined

July 2—Not Yet determined

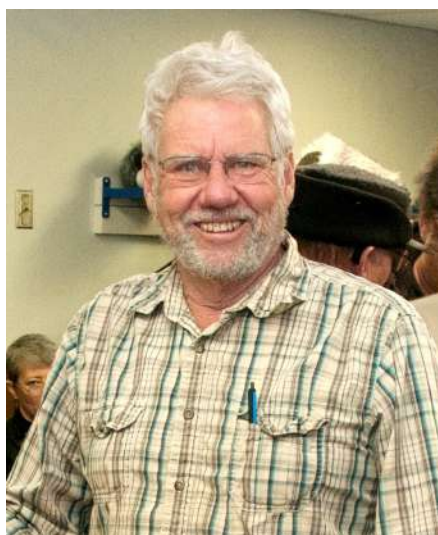
## February Open House Date

February 8 from 8:00 am to 12:00pm. If coming after 10:00, please inform us through the web site the night before at: [woodturnercvvg@gmail.com](mailto:woodturnercvvg@gmail.com). Meetings and Open House are held in the Eau Claire Insulation building at 1125 Starr Ave on the northeast side of Eau Claire,

Next Month

John Layde

Segmented Round Frames



Sadly, we lost two members from the Chippewa Valley Woodturner's Guild.

Dean Brockmeier and John Ryberg.

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## Dean Brockmeier

Even though Dean was no longer in woodturning, he continued to be a member and attended monthly meetings.

Tom Leonard

Dean Brockmeier was a retired Lutheran pastor who served in Elk Mound for 35 years. He enjoyed all kinds of woodworking and started turning about 10 years ago. Like all of us, he always seemed to be too busy to do as much as he would have liked.

He passed on December 15, and his funeral was January 4th.

Jerry Lilly



Thanks Jerry! He was a wonderful member for many years. I always enjoyed our little visits at our meetings. Thanks for bringing him each month! Bob Eberhardt

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## John Ryberg

John was a long time member and could only come to Saturday sessions. He worked in Madison during the week. He had a number of Robust lathes in Madison and Eau Claire. He loved turning but also enjoyed chip carving. He gave me a gift of a strop that he made and chip carved the top part. I still use it. Rich Thelen

John Ryberg was among the first members of the group. In the last few years he would come to Open House Saturdays and talk with others about many topics. Tom Leonard





# FOCUS ON COCOBOLO

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By far, Cocobolo is one of the most beautiful of woods or maybe even the most beautiful of woods. It belongs in the Rosewood family which has many a varieties of wood beauties of it's own. Cocobolo seems to have a special place in color and grain.

[More on Cocobolo Wood](#)







## Previous Demonstrations

January 2025 Making a Live Center Cone

By Dan Brandner

December 2024 Antler Pens

Tom Leonard

November 2024 Ringed Christmas Tree

by Dan Brandner

October 2024 Turning a Sphere

by Ron Bartz

September 2024 Vacuum

by Joe Nycz

August 2024 Duplicating Spindles

By Ron Bartz

July 2024 Tops

by Dan Brandner

June 2024 Hollowing

by Bob Eberhardt

May 2024 Plywood Turning

by John Layde

April 2024 Chasing Threads

by Tom Spielmann

March 2024 Shaker Pegs

by Dan Brandner

February 2024 Wet/Dry Wood Tips

by Barry Grill

## Previous Pen Kits and Woods

January 2025 Pistaccio

for Zephyr

December 2024 Silver Wattle

No Pen Kit

November 2024 Madrone Burl

for EDC Kole Click Pen

October 2024 Zambezi Teak

for Fiber Tip Ink Pen

September 2024 Cerejeire

For Aquilo

August 2024 Thuya Burl

For Diplomat

July 2024 Texas Ebony

for Sketch Pencils

June 2024 Kirandy

for Jazz bolt

May 2024 Lacebark Elm

for Exemplar/Professor

April 2024 Hard Rock Maple

for Dura Click Slim

March 2024 Black Chacate

for Cyclone pen

February 2024 Honduran Rosewood

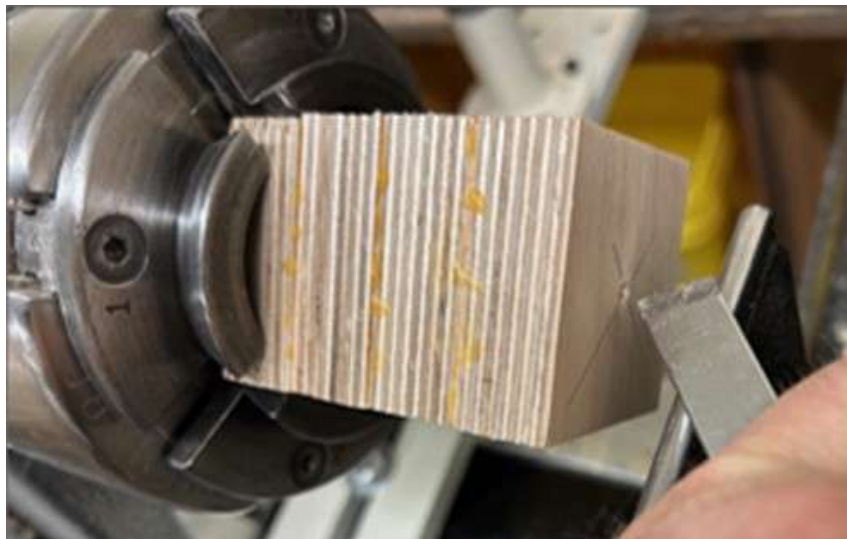
for Medical pen

# Live center cone from Baltic Birch Glue-up

## Dan Brandner



These are 2" squares glued up with Titebond II. If sized appropriately, you can mount the corners between the jaws of a scroll chuck.



Begin by creating a guiding point for the drill bit with your skew.

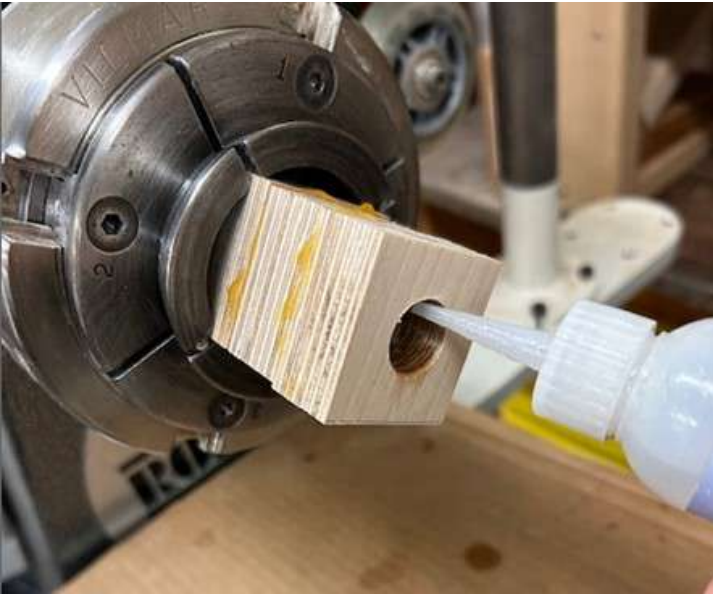




Slow down the lathe and advance the drill bit into the piece to a depth of about 1.5". For the tap for threads on a live tail stock that is  $3/4"$  x 10 TPI, a drill bit of  $21/32$ nds inch is required.



After drilling, clean out any chips with compressed air or by blowing out with a straw.



Next, begin the process of hardening the wood fibers with thin CA glue followed by an accelerant.



Lock the lathe spindle, then begin tapping the hole using a wrench and a Point in the tail stock to keep the tap square to the hole. Tap by hand only, advancing the tailstock quill to keep slight pressure on the tap. (Note, I missed this picture, so had to stage it with the already turned piece.)

Tap only about half way the first time, and then removed the tap and blow out the chips.



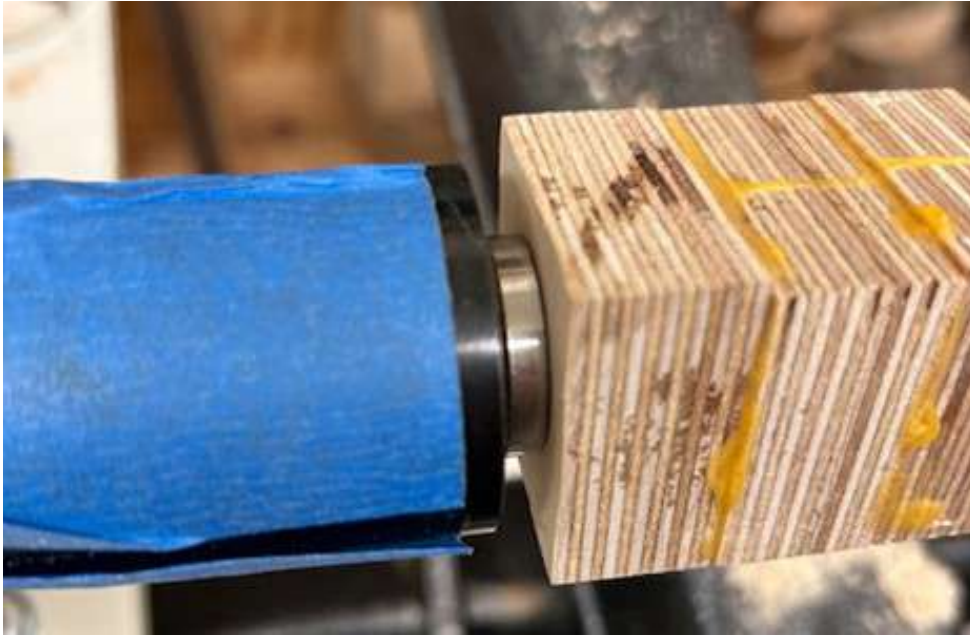
Then tap the rest of the way. Extract the tap and blow out the chips again. The Repeat the CA glue and accelerator one last time. Finally, Run the tap back in to clear and smooth out any residual CA residue, and blow out one last time.



Next square off the face around the tapped hole before putting it on the live center.



The live center was transformed to a dead center with a suitably sized nail held in place with the blue tape. Placed in the headstock, the workpiece could now be threaded onto the center.



Make sure the piece rests tightly on the shoulder of the center.



Once mounted, turn and shape to the desired profile. Use a bowl gouge because of all the different grains in the piece. Start with the rough square piece between centers, but once rounded, you can remove the tailstock.





Dropping the bowl gouge handle down low, use the side of the bevel to create a fairly smooth surface despite all the cross grains. The gouge sure seemed to dull quickly on this Baltic birch.

When you are done on the sides, shape the end of the piece to your desired profile.

### **How a live center cone can be used**



In the photo above, the live center has a VERY small cone and a drilled hole that can support the end of a finial for final sanding and shaping with minimal flexing. In this case you wouldn't drive it in tight to spin the live center, just surround the point of the finial to restrict the flexing.

It could be an inward cone to support the end of a handle you are remounting on the lathe as shown below.



Another use case is to leave the end flat and add a felt pad, that could hold a bowl tight against a padded jam chuck for reworking or refinishing without risking damage from a point on a live center



Here are some assorted shapes that I have made.



**Bob Eberhardt**



**Above Left: Bob showed the membership his brand which he tried out on a Walnut bowl.**

**Bottom: Several bowls of various woods.**





## Dan Brandner



**Dan made a baby rattle and a finial.**





**Upper: Joe made two hot plate trivets.**

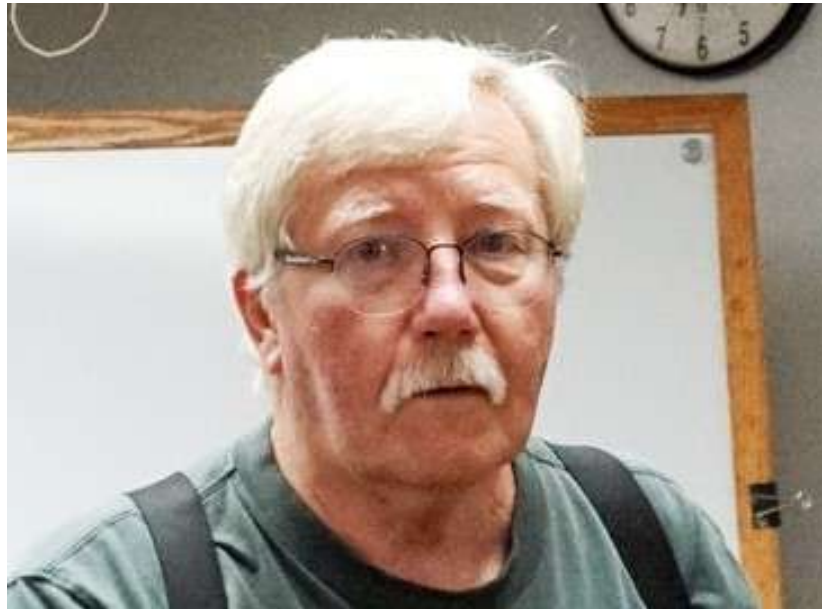
**Below Right: Joe made some ringed Christmas tree decorations.**

## Joe Nycz





**Ron Bartz**



**Photos for Show and Tell / Gallery and Demonstration  
provided by Dan Brandner**

## Pistachio

### History of the Tree

The Famosa Pistachio Tree, scientifically known as *Pistacia vera* 'Famosa,' is a revered variety of pistachio tree with a fascinating history. It traces its origins to the Middle East, where pistachios have been cultivated for thousands of years. The Famosa variety, known for its superior characteristics, has gained popularity among growers and consumers alike.

### Detailed Description of the Tree

The Famosa Pistachio Tree is a deciduous tree known for its medium to large size and its ability to produce an abundance of high-quality nuts. It typically reaches a height of 20 to 30 feet (6 to 9 meters) with a spread of 15 to 25 feet (4.5 to 7.5 meters). The tree has a rounded canopy with attractive, pinnate leaves that provide a lush, green backdrop.

The Famosa pistachio nuts are medium-sized and exhibit a distinctive, elongated shape. They have a thin, beige-colored shell that encases the flavorful, pale green kernel inside. The nuts are prized for their exceptional taste and texture.

### Types of This Tree

The Famosa Pistachio Tree belongs to the *Pistacia vera* species, which encompasses various cultivars and varieties of pistachio trees. Each variety may have unique characteristics in terms of nut size, flavor, and shell color. The Famosa variety stands out for its remarkable attributes, making it a favored choice among pistachio enthusiasts.

### Importance of This Tree

The Famosa Pistachio Tree holds several important qualities:

- **High-Quality Nuts:** The Famosa pistachio nuts are renowned for their superior quality. They have a rich, nutty flavor and a slightly sweet taste,

making them a delight to eat on their own or as an ingredient in various culinary creations.

- **Abundant Yield:** This variety is known for its high productivity, producing a generous quantity of pistachio nuts each year. Its reliable and substantial harvests make it an attractive option for both home gardeners and commercial growers.

- **Environmental Benefits:** Pistachio trees, including the Famosa variety, contribute to environmental sustainability. They have deep roots that help prevent soil erosion, and their leafy canopies provide shade, reducing evaporation and conserving water in the surrounding

### How to Care for This Tree

Proper care is crucial for the health and productivity of the Famosa Pistachio Tree:

- Plant the tree in a location that receives full sunlight, as pistachios require direct sun exposure for optimal growth and nut production.

- Ensure the soil is well-drained and moderately fertile. Pistachio trees can tolerate a variety of soil types but thrive in deep, loamy soil.

- Water the tree regularly, especially during dry periods, to keep the soil consistently moist but not waterlogged. Adequate irrigation is essential during the nut development stage.

- Apply a layer of organic mulch around the base of the tree to conserve soil moisture, suppress weed growth, and regulate soil temperature.

- Prune the tree during the dormant season to remove dead or diseased branches, improve air circulation, and maintain a desirable shape.

- Fertilize the tree annually with a balanced fertilizer specifically formulated for pistachios. Follow the manufacturer's instructions and apply the fertilizer in early spring before new growth begins.



## Benefits of the Tree

The Famosa Pistachio Tree offers several benefits:

- **Delicious and Nutritious Nuts:** The pistachio nuts from the Famosa variety are not only tasty but also packed with essential nutrients. They are a good source of protein, healthy fats, dietary fiber, vitamins, and minerals, making them a nutritious snack option.
- **Diverse Culinary Applications:** Famosa pistachios are highly versatile in the kitchen. They can be enjoyed roasted, salted, or incorporated into both sweet and savory dishes. From salads and pastries to ice creams and pesto sauces, the possibilities are endless.
- **Health Benefits:** Pistachios have been associated with various health benefits, including heart health, weight management, and improved digestion. Their high content of antioxidants and beneficial nutrients contributes to these positive effects.

## How to Plant This Tree

Follow these steps to successfully plant a Famosa Pistachio Tree:

1. Choose a planting location that provides full sunlight and has well-drained soil.
2. Dig a hole that is wider and slightly deeper than the tree's root ball.
3. Place the tree in the hole, ensuring that the bud union or graft union is above the soil line.
4. Backfill the hole with soil, gently firming it around the roots to remove air pockets.
5. Water the tree thoroughly after planting and continue to water regularly, especially during the first year, to promote root establishment.

## Different Types of Wood Products That Can Be Made From

The wood of the Famosa Pistachio Tree is highly valued for its durability and attractive grain patterns. While not commonly used for large-scale

woodworking projects, the wood can be utilized for smaller items such as decorative crafts, turned bowls, and small furniture pieces. The unique characteristics of the wood make it a prized material for woodworking enthusiasts.

## Cons

While the Famosa Pistachio Tree offers numerous advantages, there are a few considerations to keep in mind:

- **Cross-Pollination Requirement:** Pistachio trees, including the Famosa variety, are dioecious, meaning they have separate male and female trees. To ensure proper pollination and nut production, it's necessary to have both male and female trees in proximity.
- **Patience for Harvest:** Pistachio trees typically take several years to begin producing substantial nut crops. It requires patience and proper care during the establishment period before enjoying a bountiful harvest.
- **Pest and Disease Management:** Like other fruit trees, pistachios are susceptible to pests and diseases. Regular monitoring, proper orchard management, and timely pest control measures are essential to prevent and manage issues such as aphids, mites, fungal infections, and more.

## Source: [Famosa Pistachio Tree](#)

**Editor's Note: I took some liberty in selecting the Famosa Pistachio for the text of Pistachio wood. I'm attempting to get away from the Wood database versions of tree descriptions. As far as I can tell there is little difference in the standard Pistachio Tree. However, for those who wish to extend their knowledge of Pistachio trees there is a web site with 15 different types.**



# PEN KIT OF THE MONTH

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Pen Kit of the Month is the Zephyr. This kit like the previous Aguillo is from the U.K. Specifically Beaufortink. This kit was purchased from Turner Warehouse in Gilbert Arizona. I got a starter set of 3 kits with bushings for \$39.95. Apiece in the U.K. the kits would be £ 8.85. Kit requires a drill bit size of 27/64.





# Pistachio Tree



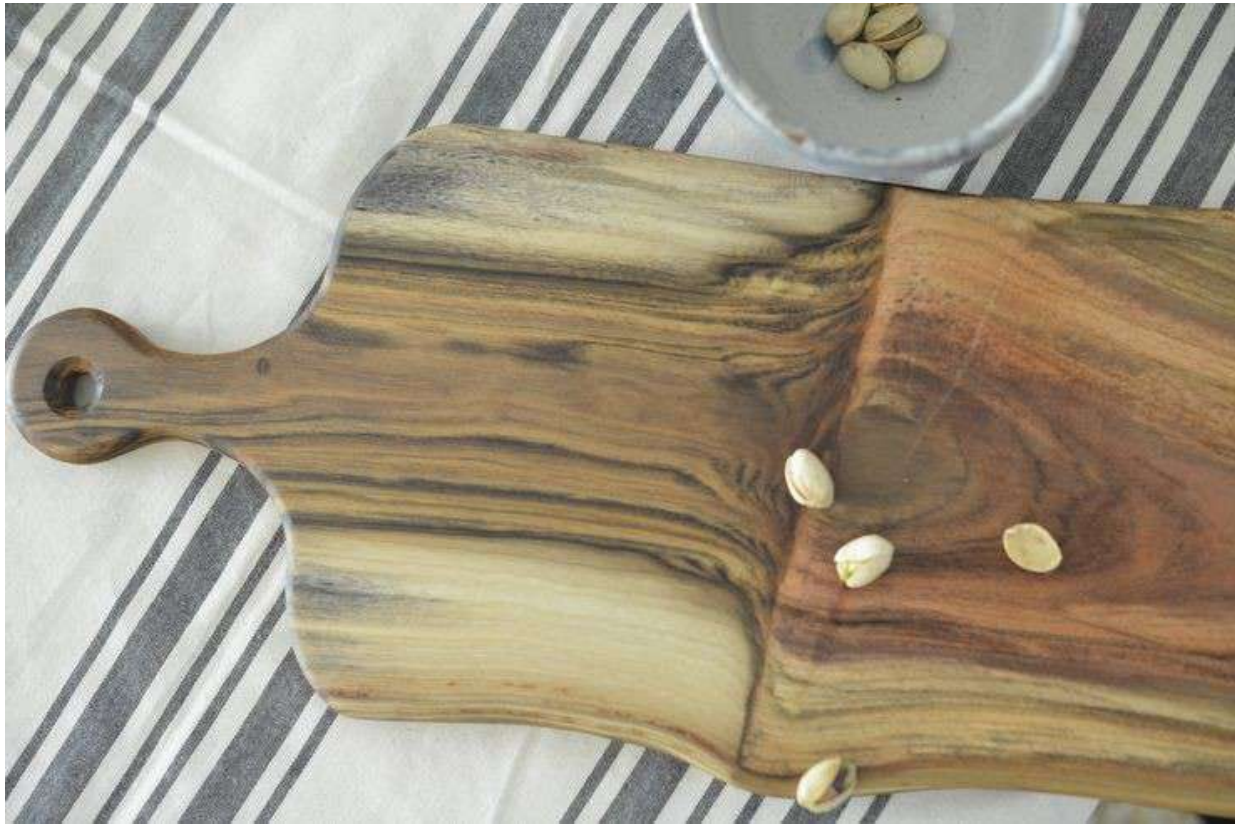


# Large Uses for Pistachio Wood



# Small Uses for Pistachio Wood

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## Ways to Save on AAW Symposium Registration

Registration is open for the 2025 AAW International Woodturning Symposium! Join nearly 2,000 other woodturning enthusiasts June 12-15 in Saint Paul, Minnesota at the best rate possible by registering now with these great ways to save:

- Register by April 11 to get the early bird rate and save up to \$120 -
- AAW Members get an exclusive discount of \$70 off -
- Request a Chapter Group discount to save \$40 -

**[REGISTER FOR EARLY RATE](#)**



**TAW 36th Annual  
Woodturning  
Symposium**

**January 31 - February 1, 2025  
Marriott Hotel and Convention  
Center  
Franklin, TN**



**Florida Woodturning  
Symposium**

**February 14-16, 2025  
RP Funding Center  
Lakeland, FL**



**Totally Turning**

**March 29-30, 2025  
Saratoga Springs City Center  
Saratoga Springs, NY**



**Idaho Artistry in Wood**

**March 29-30, 2025  
Boise, ID**

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