

Hunter #1 Taper Tools

by Kurt Hertzog



Fig. 1

The Hunter #1 Taper Tool Set is comprised of three carbide cutter tipped tools with no handles.

I recently had the opportunity to try out the new Hunter #1 Taper Tool Set. This new set consists of three tools: the Tapered Straight Tool, the Tapered Hook Tool, and the Tapered Shoulder or Back Tool (see Fig. 1). A Torx Driver (which is needed to adjust or replace the cutter) and a helpful set of instructions are also included in the package. Each tool sports the same cutter, but the shaft bend and cutter orientation is shaped and bent for its own specific purpose (see Fig. 2). The tools are sold with no handles, allowing you to use any handle you wish—you can either permanently install them or use interchangeable handles. I found that a small, weighted interchangeable handle provided great control and balance. If you have a set screw to allow varying depths of shaft engagement in the handle, the balance point could be tuned for a very comfortable feel. Depending on the amount of tool overhang and the finesse of the cut, I found that different balance points aided with the tool control. This was especially important, depending on which type of cut I was making.

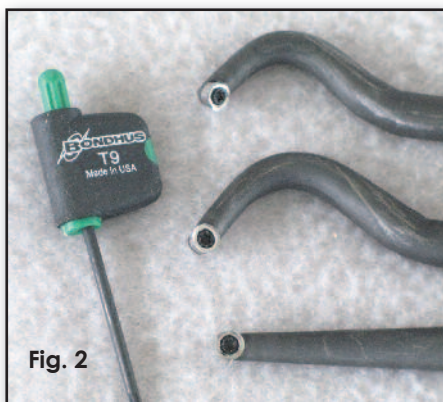


Fig. 2

Each of the tools has its own special design shaft bend and cutter bedding to provide proper cutter to wood interface.

The three tools are designed for the various needs of hollowing. The straight tool quite readily can hollow open forms, such as a lidded box. The tool rotation and presentation allows for cuts varying from aggressive stock removal to the lightest sheer cuts, creating a finish that didn't require sanding.

The other tools are designed to use for hollowing where you don't have straight-on access. You can do anything from slight undercuts to fairly severe angles and undercuts. A look at the cutter orientation shows how the presentation to the wood is controlled without having to extensively manipulate the handle. This is a great advantage when you are working through a small hole and have limited tool manipulation (see Fig. 3).



Fig. 3

The bedding of the cutter is precise and supported well.

The tools were tested on several different turnings. A few cherry-lidded boxes provided straight-on hollowing cuts, and a simple madrone hollowform furnished a way to evaluate the limited access and undercutting performance (see Figs. 4–6). All the tools performed superbly and were easily controlled. With a light touch and sharp edge, the finish cuts left a surface requiring little further attention.

The tools are well made and the cutters are bedded well, both by design and manufacture (see Fig. 3). As with other carbide cutter tools, keeping the proper cutter orientation to present the best edge for any particular cut is key. Using a razor sharp fresh edge for the finish cuts and rotating the cutter back to a different part of the edge (with a bit more previously spent edge) for any heavy lifting will let you maximize the functional life of each cutter.

The Hunter #1 Taper Tool Set would be a valuable addition to your tool repertoire. The set of three tools retails for \$250.00 and the individual tools are available for \$90.00 each. The tools are available directly from the manufacturer at www.hunterwoodturningtool.com, as well as from many local retailers.

Fig. 4



The straight shaft tool makes easy work of open-hollowing tasks.

Fig. 5



The surface finish right off the tool leaves a surface that requires very little attention, even in a fussy wood like cherry.

Fig. 6



The hollowing and undercutting is easily accomplished through a small opening using the two angled tools in the set.

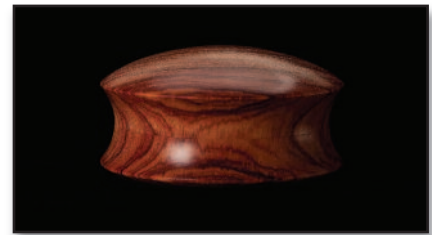
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