The wood turning accessories are somewhat of an afterthought. A machine designed to cut metal can easily cut wood using the same methods as cutting metal. The machine can become a little cumbersome when used as a wood turning lathe. The tool support is mounted on the crosslide, and if you try to use it like a standard wood turning lathe, the crosslide and handwheel would be in your way. Work with your tool angled above center rather than below center as shown in most instructions on wood turning.

FIGURE 1—Holding the wood cutting tool.

This can eliminate the problems of long handled wood turning tools hitting the table.

Success will be determined by having good turning tools and good hardwoods, such as maple, to work with as the Sherline has a superior spindle to that on wood turning lathes. There isn’t any reason you can’t cut wood with lathe tools, but they have to be very sharp. If you have a lot to cut you may have more success with more rake on your tools. Again, the harder the wood the better it will cut.

We also manufacture a spur driver (P/N 3035) to work between centers. A live center (P/N 1191) is also a must for this. When working with small diameters you have the advantage of holding work with the 3- or 4-jaw chucks or even with the collets.

We added this accessory to our production line because we were constantly asked for something to make very small wooden parts. It was visualized that these attachments would make small parts, like doll house furniture, when it was designed, which is the reason for an offset support. This design allows you to work with the tailstock spindle close to the spindle and still get a support in between them. The lathe has also become very popular recently with makers of wooden pens.

We made a trial run of parts and the first call we received was that the support arm was too short. The part the customer was making was a fishing rod handle, which is why there are now two support arms included. The second one is for working on longer parts.

The next call was for an extended tool support shaft to be used with our riser blocks (P/N 1291 and 1292). A lamp was the project this time. An extended wood tool rest is now available as Part Number 3047.

For additional information on wood turning techniques, there are many fine books written for reference, so we recommend that you research any questions you may have on techniques.

We hope you find these to be useful accessories for your Sherline lathe.

Thank you,
Sherline Products Inc.