

# Echos From the “BAT” Cave

Baltimore Area Turners

**BALTIMORE AREA**  
  
**TURNERS**

December, 2011

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## PARTY TIME!



In December BAT hosted the annual holiday party: Good food, contests, and a gift exchange. Yaakov Bar Am (*above*) inspects the Christmas Tree ornaments he won in the gift exchange. Wayne Kuhn (*below left*) explains the BAT Trivia Contest. Pete Johnson and Don Keefer (*below right*) enjoy the cuisine and the company.

### MORE INSIDE



### Inside this issue:

Holiday Party	2
DVD Review	4
Other Stuff	5

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## HOLIDAY PARTY



There were lots of eats of all sorts at the BAT party, including sandwiches, Amish potato and macaroni salad, chips, pretzels, salsa, home-made brownies, hand-made chocolates and more. **Don Bonsall** won the BAT trivia contest, **Bob West** won the Finishing Facts contest, and **Pete Johnson** scored a perfect 10 on the Size That Grit contest. Congrats to all!



(Top) A few of the delectables. (Above) Wayne Kuhn displays the Size That Grit contest board. (Below) Hungry BAT men wait for the party to start.







All the ingredients for a gift exchange



The first gift recipient is drawn.

## HOLIDAY PARTY

*(Continued from Page 2)*



A small sampling of the 21 gifts exchanged. Gifts included tools, vases, ornaments, pens, bowls, hand-turned gift cards, and more. Thanks to all who participated.



*(More on Page 5)*

# DVD REVIEW -STONE TURNING

*by Richard Dietrich*

## Stone Turning

by Steve "Spike" Finch

Bat Library #052

16:9 widescreen

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This is a wide-screen format DVD. Steve "Spike" Finch demonstrates turning an alabaster vase with segmented ebony rings on top and bottom. He starts up by epoxying a cylinder of Alabaster to plywood plug. He takes great pains to thoroughly mix the epoxy and rotating the plug to get all the bubbles out. He mounts the plug in a chuck, brings up the tailstock and proceeds work the stone. With the lathe running at 250-300 RPM, he uses a carbide tipped tool (sort of a beefed up EZ Rougher) to do initial shaping.

He makes an ebony segmented ring for the top of the vase, going through all the calculations, assembly and truing up. The trued up ring is glued to the trued up face of the stone with water-clear marine grade epoxy, which he prepares by weighing the components on a food scale. The ring is shaped with a skew chisel used as a negative rake scraper. Finally, the outside is sanded with 60 and 150 grit paper. Dust collection runs continuously.

Hollowing is done with a very stout laser-guided articulated hollowing rig. Thankfully, only a few of the 15 minutes it takes to hollow the vase is shown. Wall thickness is said to be 3/16". The interior is also dry sanded with 60, then 150 grit paper. Next the interior and exterior are wet sanded on the lathe (over a trough made to fit on the bed) from 400 to 12000 micromesh. After allowing it to dry, the stone and wood are sealed with gel varnish.

To avoid jarring the stone, the plywood faceplate is sanded away with a 60 grit disc sander, which goes remarkably fast. Finally, the vase is reverse mounted on a vacuum faceplate, the base trued up, and another segmented ring is applied, turned, sanded and varnished. The completed vase is finished with paste wax and signed with a vibrating engraver.

The production, like many turning DVDs, appears to have been done as a solo operation. All the camera work is static and a few of the shots are not well framed. The turning sequences are accompanied by background music which obscures some of the sounds of turning. Overall, though, it is very well done. Every step is well explained and the commentary is interesting and relevant.

The DVD also has a Gallery of turned stone items, including some segmented stone pieces, as well as a list of Suppliers of stone and equipment and a Quick Reference which has a vacuum chuck chart and the formulas for computation of segment size and angles.

A better source for the latter is [Finch's website](#) which has PDFs of a list of stone suppliers with hyperlinks and the faceplate vacuum chart.

Though I doubt that I'll be turning much stone, I found this DVD very informative and enjoyable. I would recommend it as well worth viewing.



# HOLIDAY PARTY

(Continued from Page 3)



A few more pictures from the Holiday Party.

## BALTIMORE AREA TURNERS

Baltimore Area Turners meets every month on the second Wednesday of the month at the Greater Baltimore Woodcraft Store at:

1125 Cromwell Bridge Road  
Towson, MD 21286

Next meeting:  
January 11, 2012 at 6:30 PM

Agenda:  
Show and Tell.



## RAFFLE NEWS

There was no raffle at the December meeting. Please bring raffle items to the January meeting.

## COMING UP

The January meeting will be Show and Tell.

Don't forget - BAT Annual dues of \$20 are due in January.

There is no election this year - the Board of Directors will continue their 2-year term of office.

The BAT Board is planning an exciting year for 2012.