

Tennessee Association of Woodturners Fractal Etching Policy Statement

From the TAW bylaws:

Section E: Any policy recommended by the board of directors must be passed by a majority vote of the entire membership before it can be published as an official policy or endorsement of the Tennessee Association of Woodturners. The vote may be accomplished at a regular monthly meeting or by electronic ballot through e-mail.

Per the TAW Board of Directors this vote will take place during the October 3, 2017 regular scheduled meeting of the Tennessee Association of Woodturners. Members who can't be present at the October 3, 2017 meeting may vote by sending an email to Cathy Sanders TAW Secretary – secretary@tnwoodturners.org by midnight October 3, 2017. A yea vote would be acceptance of the policy and nay vote would be denial of the policy. Please note that this policy is not a ban on the practice of fractal etching but a safety statement regarding the use of fractal etching.

2 September 2017

To: Board of Directors

Tennessee Association of Woodturners (TAW)

From: Phil Roberts

Subject: Best Safety Practices

Educating the TAW Membership on safe turning is at the core of TAW's mission. The AAW (American Association of Woodturners) and other organizations have established firm policies on Fractal Burning (Lichtenberg technique). As a continuance of TAW's commitment to Safety and to bring TAW into alignment with AAW's policy, it is proposed that the Board of Directors adopt the following policy:

"There have been a number of fatalities worldwide due to the use of improvised, homemade, equipment to carry out the process known as Fractal Burning/Etching. The Board of Directors recognizes that wood turning is dangerous but feel that the deliberate use of unregulated equipment, that is not covered by any safety standard and which can cause death by electrocution, is irresponsible. Additionally, TAW does not have the expertise nor the legal standing to provide guidance in the construction or use of high voltage equipment. In line with AAW and other organizations the Board of Directors proposes the following:

- 1) That the display of works produced using Fractal Burning will be permitted in TAW Instant Galleries.
- 2) That items produced using Fractal Burning will not be accepted as donations to TAW for display or sale.
- 3) That instruction for using Fractal Burning will not be displayed or offered at any TAW sanctioned event/activity. Nor will they be given in any publication or on any internet site owned or produced by TAW.
- 4) That instruction for producing equipment for Fractal Burning will not be displayed or offered at any TAW sanctioned event/activity. Nor will they be given in any publication or on any internet site owned or produced by TAW.
- 5) That equipment for producing Fractal Burning will not be displayed or offered at any TAW sanctioned event/activity. Nor will they be offered or pictured in any publication or on any internet site owned or produced by TAW.
- 6) That Members are discouraged from building equipment for, or performing Fractal Burning until such time as safety standards for this have been produced and accepted for adoption by the woodturning community."