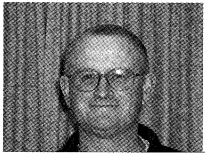


WHY BUY A TEKNATOOL DVR XP??



By Trevor Gillbanks

This is a pretty good question and to get to the answer I need to start at the beginning. When I started wood turning, I investigated all the options for the purchase of a wood lathe on the local market.

I don't want to get into naming different brands and why I did not select others, but sufficient to say I selected a Teknatool 3000 because it was made of cast iron, had a swivel head, was well made and I liked the service and attitude I got from The Woodturning Shop (now at Lindale). The 3000 performed to all the manufacturer's specifications and did everything that I wanted. The only drawback was that I liked to sand at around 400/500 rpm and this required belt changing from turning speed to sanding speed and back again. Not a problem just a bit slow.

As my woodturning increased I found that the belt changing was starting to get a bit frustrating and I heard there was a new lathe coming on the market from Teknatool, the DVR 3000 (Digital Variance Reluctance). I did some looking around and debated long and hard about upgrading to a variable speed system or buy a new DVR. At about this time Ian Fish was demonstrating the DVR at the Woodturning Shop I was very impressed with the smoothness of it plus the advantage of 1.75hp. This smoothness comes about because there are no belts on the DVR as the motor is built around the spindle shaft. I was sold. So in came the DVR and out went the 3000. The new generation of lathe was fantastic and it was like going from a gearshift car to the latest automatic. I was able to increase the speed of my bowl turning from 1200 to 1800rpm with a corresponding decrease in production time. However, as with all technology, the faster it goes the faster you want it to go, and the more you want it to do. Just look at computers.

Then I got to see the New DVR XP. 5 adjustable favourite speeds, increase in horsepower but I couldn't stall my one anyway. The prospect of being able to use it with a remote control (being developed) and the power band has been dropped from 1000rpm to 600rpm to give more bottom end grunt when you want to turn big stuff or do bowl saving. Also, gone was the soft/delayed start system and in came the new instant start. I was sold again.

So out with the old and in with the new XP, and was I in heaven. The favourite speeds are a breeze to set and they can be changed while the lathe is running and it handles that very smoothly. The default speed of #2 is 500rpm, I adjusted that to 400rpm, then I adjusted the #3 speed to 2500rpm and the #4 to 1500rpm. I then put a 200 x 50mm piece of rimu on the lathe to make a clock. Started at #3 (2500) and trued up the back and edge, shift to #4 (1500) to drill the 80mm forsnor bit hole for the mechanism then back to #3 (2500) to finish turning the back, down to #2 (400) to sand the back and edge, not stopping the lathe until sanding and oiling was finished. The transition from one speed to another was seamless and was handled beautifully by the motor. This again reduced my production time considerably. Whilst it is hard to put a figure on the time saved I would estimate that in turning I am saving 20% over the original DVR and probably 50% over the 3000. This would equate to another 2 or more bowls a day. Also, as the cut is so smooth my sanding time has reduced considerably also. This lathe is now a production turners dream and would repay its investment very quickly.

Well, after all this there must be something wrong. And yes I have one little gripe, the DVR XP is supplied with an 80mm face plate and this has a dedicated thread on it to fit the DVR. Not really a biggie, except that I have locked an insert onto my spindle so that I don't have to use an insert in each of my chucks or 150mm face plates. I have since machined out the 80mm face plate to have the same thread as the Nova chucks so that problem has now disappeared.

Well, finally, to answer the question at the top of the page. Turning wood on a DVR XP is about as much fun that someone can have and still remain fully clothed and so quick and smooth...

