

## Platters by Ian Elliott

I have turned two platters this past week about 3 or 4 days apart. The first one was from a Beech blank about 235mm diameter x 40mm thick with a small section of bark still on one edge, it looked as though it could have a nice bit of figuring. I have had it for a few years, I think it was in a sack full I purchased from Tony Wilson for £20.00 last time he demonstrated at the club, so that will give you some idea how long ago that was. The bark inclusion determined which face was to be the bottom of the platter. It did have genuinely nice figuring with a couple of small inclusions to add to the character, it finished up 230mm diameter x 25mm high, just a nice simple platter with no added embellishments letting the grain do the talking. I finished it with Danish Oil.



The second platter was from the end of a Sapele board that I acquired from a furniture manufacturers factory again a few years ago. It was about 280mm long x 260 wide x 45 thick; this time I could quite clearly see that it had some lovely figuring as one face had been planed. So again, I turned a simple platter, finishing 260mm diameter x 25 thick. This time I finished with two coats Sanding Sealer, Yorkshire Grit fine and Hampshire Sheen high gloss. Sapele's grain reflects the light in different ways depending on how you rotate the piece, you can get an almost gold colour in places as in this piece, I hope the photographs do it justice.



I turned both platters using a face plate ring in 50mm jaws (I prefer a face plate ring to a screw chuck) then on a 50mm spigot in 50mm jaws. With the Beech platter I removed the spigot using my Coles jaws. But, when it came to the Sapele one even though I checked in the Record booklet which said “272mm maximum diameter achievable with the round buffers and 250mm with the square buffers” my jaw would only open to about 240mm with the round buffers. The penny eventually dropped as my Coles jaws are Nova not Record! When I purchased my first chuck and jaws from Record, they were Nova, Record later dropped Nova and started selling chucks and jaws under their own name but looked identical and the jaws are interchangeable. But as I have discovered they are not identical!

As I said last week now that I have upgraded my lathe, I am running on one chuck. So, when I started the Sapele platter I still had the Coles jaws in the chuck from the Beech platter. I changed them for 50mm jaws which did for both the face plate ring and the spigot. Then I changed back to the Coles jaws just to find they were too small, so had to change back to the 50mm jaws (I used my sanding disc on a face plate ring, sandpaper removed replaced with router matting to act as a friction chuck, tailstock in place to remove the spigot) By now you have probably guessed I was fed up with changing jaws, so it was time to purchase another chuck! My current chuck is a Record SC4 which you can get as a package with 50mm jaws, wood screw, chuck key, wrench and 87mm face plate for £125.00. As I have all the extras so I just wanted the chuck body which is £99.99, but you have to purchase the threaded insert for £14.99 and the chuck key for £19.99 if you do not already have one, more expensive than the package! I did a bit of research and found that I could purchase a Super Nova2 body complete with the right thread and chuck key for £99.99 delivered, no brainer! as the jaws are compatible and so are all my other sets of **jaws**.