

My Woodturning Journey So Far

By Ian Elliott

Two weeks ago, I received delivery of a new Record Coronet Herald Lathe. I have had and used a Record CL/3B for the last 6 years.

The first thing I did when considering taking up woodturning was to purchase a book. WOODTURNING A Foundation Course by the late Keith Rowley, I read that book cover to cover before I purchased anything. I have since recommended this book to several new turners. I based my bench on Keith's design though I used 50mm MDF for the top and gables. Prior to reading the book I had no idea about splaying the gables both out over and down over to stop the vibrations bouncing back up. The book is a little outdated now, but as the title says it is a foundation. The mistake I did make was to wait 6 months or so before joining a club; with hindsight I should have done that first I could at least get the book out of the library, that's apart from all the other benefits and knowledge I have gained by being a member.

The next thing I did was research Lathes. Based on robustness, build quality, reputation and value for money I decided on a Record CL/3 with the added option of the outrigger as it's a swivel head model (that's where the B comes in the name). As I have the smallest of sheds 2mts x 1.5mts it had to be bench mounted. Over the last 6 years the lathe has served me well even though it is a 5-speed belt driven lathe. I once timed how long it took to change pullies, even with a few fumbles with the Allan key to access the pullies it only took about 20 seconds. It is a hobby! I am not a production turner.

However, after 6 years I thought it was time to upgrade, I have had my eye on the Record Coronet Herald for a while. I have been reluctant because my old lathe is a 1MT with a $\frac{3}{4}$ x 16TPI thread, all my gear suits that. Then I discovered that you could get 2MT to 1MT sleeves and I thought my 3 chucks were M33 x 3.5 with thread adaptors for $\frac{3}{4}$ x 16TPI, all I would have to do was remove the adaptors. So, I bit the bullet and ordered the lathe along with the outrigger, bench feet, inline stop, the two additional sizes of toolrests, two 2MT to 1MT sleeves and a couple of face plate rings. I did not go for the bed extension, my CL3 had about 1mt between

centres the Coronet is only 508mm max, but I have never turned anything over about 450mm long. I can always add it later if I have the need but now that little extra bench top space is welcome in such a small shed.

It did not take long to install the lathe, fortunately I read up on what was supplied with the lathe etc. and ordered some longer bolts as my bench top is 50mm thick and the bolts supplied with the mounting feet are only 32mm, so I had those before the lathe arrived. I am well pleased with the lathe; however, I was disappointed with the manual. The kit comes with both UK and continental leads, but it also has this inline electrical box connection which is not on the list of components supplied or mentioned in the manual. I thought it might be part of the continental set up, but I made a phone call to check before I plugged anything in. Just as well as it was to be used and apparently, I was not the first person to question this. Another thing that is not mentioned in the manual is if you want to be able slide the tailstock off you must permanently remove a small Allan keyed grub screw from under the tailstock. As it is a short bed it is essential to take off the tailstock, even if you had the extension the grub screw would stop you sliding between the two sections of the bed. Again, fortunately I spotted this before I bolted the lathe down, as the grub screw would be difficult to remove once bolted down. The third thing missing from the manual was how to select/set the electronic control for the pulleys you are using. I had however looked at some online reviews prior to ordering and one covered setting the controls, the only thing the manual covers is how to set reverse.

As I have already said apart from the manual, I am over the moon with the lathe itself. I was however a bit naive regarding using some of my existing kit with the new lathe. The 2MT to 1MT sleeves worked but first time I used them with my Seb centres I could not get them off again. So, I ordered 3 more (I will probably need another 4) they only cost £5.00 each, but a new pen mandrel on its own with 2MT would cost £50.00 so not a big disaster. When I tried the chucks on the new lathe, I discovered that when the adaptors are removed the tread is M38 not M33 as I thought. Adaptors from M38 to M33 are not available, so a new chuck was ordered. So, for the time being I am back to having to change jaws rather than

having three chucks with different jaws fitted. Oh, the delights of woodturning!



CL3/B



Coronet Herald



**Coronet
Herald**



CL3/B



**Coronet
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**Bench Top
Drilled to
Take Stems
of Toolrests
For Storage**