

Wool Spike by Keith Davidson

My wife asked if I could make her a “spike” for her cones of knitting wool, to prevent the wool rolling randomly around the floor. It’s been, for various reasons, a few years since I was last on the lathe, but I managed to find a blank (labeled “Sycamore”) and a branch of what I think is Holly and produced this:



As I was well out of practice, I kept the turning as simple as possible. I recessed the base to take a lead disc which I had cast almost 50 years ago from collected fishing weights and had used for the base of an angle-poise lamp which I made at school from Iroko. The lamp had long since died and I have been trying to up-cycle the lead for decades. Before final finishing, a test run proved that the lead was quite unnecessary, which is probably just as well because at over 1 kg. it would easily have broken a toe if dropped on an unshod foot. Joan didn’t even want a satin finish, insisting on matt, so I left it at 4 coats of Danish oil (Colron is-nearly 100% solvent, I think!) I reckon the base is Beech not Sycamore-What say you? In use this sits on the floor, just behind the knitting machine. Joan is well pleased. Happy Wife-Happy Life!

AND.....I got a new jumper. (Joan did the hand knitting of the neck and waist bands and cuffs and I did the wool-winding for the spike and the machine knitting!)



Lighting in the Workshop

I was very happy with the finish “off the tool,” with nice wood, high revs., sharp tools and fine, wispy, translucent shavings flying. I felt that this only needed light sanding and I duly finished the job with Danish oil. When all done, I proudly presented this to Joan in her sewing room, which of necessity, has bright lights. In this light I could clearly see some slight imperfections which I just did not notice in the workshop. I have three fluorescent strips on the garage ceiling, with a 4ft., 40 Watt, 2800 lumen one above the lathe. I have since replaced this with a 6ft., 60 Watt, “daylight” LED batten which at 7200 lumens puts out over 250% more light than the old tube. What a difference. It is now a much more enjoyable place to be. (And no more excuses for a poor finish.)

Any comments? Either via Stan or directly keith@jandk.uk