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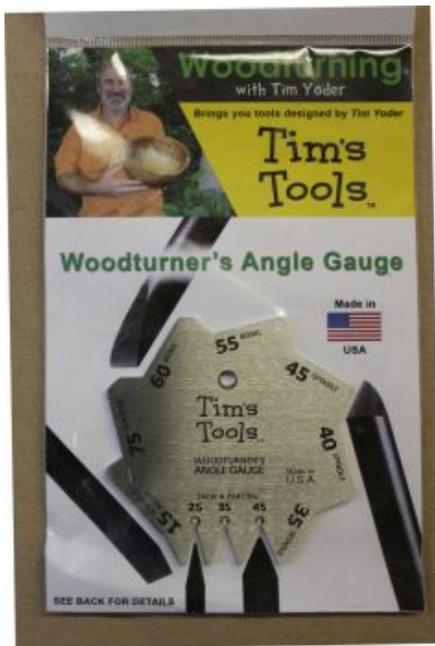
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Product Reviews

January 2017



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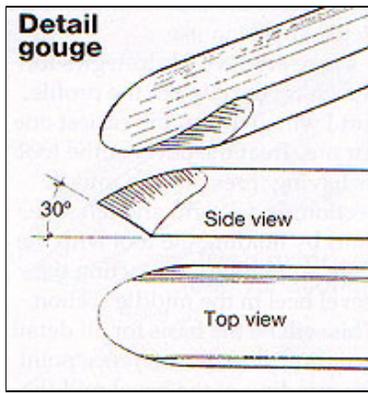
Woodturner's Angle Gauge

Product by Tim Yoder

Review by Bill Blasic

As wood turners, when we want to learn tool sharpening, we can take a class, watch a DVD, check out a YouTube video, or even ask a fellow wood turner. And we'll often hear things like, "I grind my tools with a 60 degree angle".

Well, let's start off agreeing on what this means. Below is a photo from an Alan Lacer article on sharpening ([click here to read the article](#)). In this photo, you will see the side view of a detail gouge and Alan shows how to measure the sharpening angle.



Now that we know how to determine a sharpening angle, how do we know when we have achieved this angle? One way would be to use an old-fashioned protractor but few of us have these any longer. And it's not the easiest tool to use.

So, let me introduce you to a new, useful useful tool from Tim Yoder. It is called the Woodturner's Angle Gauge. It is made in the USA made from stainless steel.

The Angle Gauge is laser cut and the lettering on its face has been laser bonded for lasting life in everyday use. The Angle Gauge weighs in at only 4 ounces and it is approximately 1/8" thick. Great care has been taken to make sure there are no burrs and edges are crisp and clean.

The Angle Gauge is very versatile since it can help you to measure ten different bevel angles on some of the more popular turning tools. You can measure:

- bowl gouges at both 55 and 60 degrees
- spindle and spindle roughing gouges at 35, 40 and 45 degrees
- scrapers at 75 degrees
- scraper relief at 15 degrees (for negative rake scrapers)
- parting tool and skewers which have two-sided angles of 25, 35 and 45 degrees.

To tell the truth, I was quite impressed with all the different tools and angles that I could measure.

In addition, as we sharpen our tools over time, even with fancy turning jigs, our turning angle may change. It's not always obvious as it's occurring but sometimes it just feels like the tool is not cutting the same and we're not sure why. The Angle Gauge will help you to know if the angle is correct or not. As Tim states, never again suffer from "Bevel Creep".

When I got the Angle Gauge to review, I was very surprised at the wide variance of angles on my personal set of tools. I've included some pictures below and you can see the angles and near angles. It's obvious that not all my tools were at the angles that I expected them to be. This is good evidence of "why does this tool seem to be cutting differently?"

As I checked my tools, this light-weight gauge felt good in my hand and was easy to hold and use. I am sure it will help me grind my turning tools to more consistent angles and will help me keep them there.

I highly recommend this tool to not only to give you information and feedback on your grinding but to make you a more consistent turner. This tool is worthy of every woodturner's tool box.

This tool is available from Tim Yoder for \$24.95 on his website: www.woodturningwithtim.com



Photo 1: 1/2" V Bowl Gouge



Photo 2: 5/8" V Bowl Gouge



Photo 3: 1/2" Long Grind Bowl Gouge



Photo 4: Skew



Photo 5: 3/8" Spindle Gouge Variation 1



Photo 6: 3/8" Spindle Gouge Variation 2



Photo 7 Scraper

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