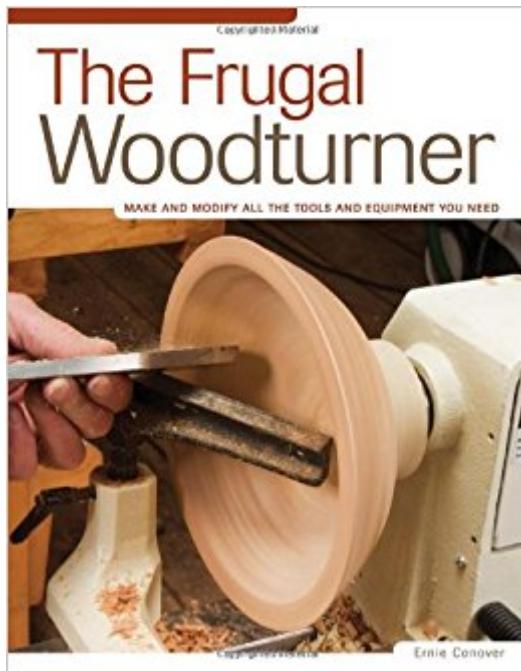


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# Frugal Woodturner, The: Make And Modify All The Tools And Equipment You Need



## Synopsis

Practical Ideas for a fun, affordable hobby This comprehensive guide covers all the elements needed for setting up and maintaining a personal woodturning shop on a budget.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The subtitle of this book is "Make and Modify All the Tools and Equipment You Need." That is NOT what most of the book is about. There are pages and pages and pages of general information that any but the most novice woodturner has already learned. (The book is not billed as an introduction to woodturning!) If you need to know the names of your lathe's parts -- the spindle, the tool rest, the banjo, etc. -- then this book might be for you. If you don't know the difference between a gouge, a scraper, a skew, and a parting tool, then this book might be for you. If you haven't purchased a lathe yet, you will get a couple of pages of things to consider when buying a lathe -- but it is a very shallow and opinionated treatment. If you are into old fashioned, there are 7 pages of plans for making your own (ricketty) spindle lathe out of wood (and rope) -- complete with a treadle foot pump to turn your wood spindle stock. If, however, you already own a lathe, and you are a bit beyond novice, and wish to make a lot of your own tools to cut down on expenses, this book really doesn't offer you very much at all. You will find plans for a wooden lathe bench, a screwdriver scraper, scrapers made out of old files, and a few other tidbits of questionable usefulness to many readers. You can find more and better information on making your own tools -- really useful information -- by

searching the Internet using Google. The publisher's proofreader was asleep for the first few pages, as all the punctuation is in superscript -- a comma becomes an apostrophe, a period sits at the top of letters instead of at the bottom. The book has loads of good pictures, and is a quick read -- one evening should do it. I got it on sale, and don't think it was worth the sale price. Check it out from your library, or better yet, just spend an hour at the library and look through it. I doubt you'll spring for the purchase price unless you are a wannabe or a novice seeking a brief and disjointed introduction to woodturning tools. Don't expect any actual instruction in woodturning, however.

In *The Frugal Woodturner*, author Ernie Conover goes over some basic information on tool selection and making your own tools and various mounts and holders. Lots of very good photos and illustrations are included to help you along as well. It shows lots of traditional and perfectly good (and cheap) options for holding wood on the lathe that won't break the budget like many of the fancy new chucks, tools and gizmos in the stores these days can. There are some areas where I wished he'd dove into a little more detail but, after all, we're being frugal in this endeavor. Right?

I have been a woodturner for about 3 years. I have lots of different equipment, but I've always tried to make my own. This book gave me ideas, suggestions, hints as to how to enhance what I have by not having to buy tooling. It is well worth the price of the book because if you take just one idea from it, you will get your money back. For example, the different types of chucks shown to make, you can't go out and buy....great time saver instead of having to reinvent the wheel. In my opinion, this book will benefit those just starting out in turning, but if you have just a little bit of experience and are wanting to enhance your turning experience by having just the right tool for a specific job, then this book should be in your library.

I tend to go all out when I try something new. When I started woodturning I bought a lot of well recommended crap I never really used. I wish this book was around then. It shows lots of perfectly good and cheap options for holding wood on the lathe. Lots of very good photos as well,

This is a hard book to rate. The subtitle is how to make and modify tools. On making chisels he spends about 2 pages on heating and bending screwdrivers without a mention why one would need bent. Lots of discussion on why a bunch of equipment is not needed other than an expensive lathe. It is enjoyable read since it is written well, but it is short on actual info to make much for the lathe. All in all, I would say the book is worth the ~\$20 it cost, but it contains nothing of use to an experienced

woodturner.

I agree 100% with everything Marvin Fretwell said in his review. I have been turning for about 3 years, and this book is 99% useless to me. It is very elementary. Much more extensive and accurate information can easily be found on the internet for free. I was expecting what the title implies - that it would tell me how to "make and modify all the tools and equipment you need", which is totally false advertising. The only turning tool making information is on making a small scraper out of a screwdriver, which could be used as an elementary hollowing tool. There is a little information on making lathe accessories, but the quality of the items is low; for example, the "steady rest" in the book is merely a piece of wood held so that it is pressing against a turning spindle. But maybe that's what the author means by "Frugal"...I will donate the book to our club library. Maybe it will be of some (limited) value to a new turner - although a couple of hours with any volunteer mentor would be much more valuable. I would suggest using the purchase price of the book toward joining the American Association of Woodturners (AAW) instead, which will also give you access to all issues of their excellent magazine with expert advice, how-to articles on all levels of work, tips and techniques, and up-to-date information for woodturners.

For any wood turner who is tired of spending \$100s on jigs and tools, this is the book for you! Ernie Conover has written an enjoyable book that provides valuable tips on creating jigs and tools for the cost-conscious woodworker. Making just one of the aids described by Conover will more than pay for this book!

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