Turned Whistle

A whistle is something easy to make that can be decorated to make it even more appealing, can be turned with a minimal tools and that will be appreciated by children of all ages.

I have to thank Claude St-Marseille for the input of this tutorial. Claude gave us a course in 1911 here at the West Island Woodturners and I taught that with all the new members we have, it would be an interesting project.

What a nice and noisy present it will be to any kid when you give them away at outings when representing the club.

So let's start.

You'll need a block of wood ± 1" X 1" X 4" and a 3/8" dowel (or you can turn your own).

Mark the centers on both end of the block.

Drill a 3/8'' X 2'' hole at one end.

At 5/8" from that end make a vertical cut that is half of the block (½"). From a 30° angle make a second cut that will meet the first one at the center. Clean these cuts.

Slide the block on a wooden mandrel or a 3/8" metallic one held in a Jacob chuck.

Turn it round to 7/8".

Mark the lines on this round piece: The first on at 1 ½", a second one at 3 ¼" and the amount of lines that you want to mark the beads that you want.

Reduce the diameter of the first 1 ½" to 5/8".

With the skew, mark the lines that will determine the position and width of the decorations and round them to form beads.

With a peace of wire, burn the wood to separate the beads.

Sand to smooth finish.

With color markers, color the beads.

At the end of what in now a whistle turn a sphere ¾".

Cut a piece of a 3/8" dowel, 1 " long.

Remove 1/8" from the diameter of that 1" dowel. (Band saw; table saw or chisel)

Insert the dowel in your whistle and try it before you glue it in. It might need some minor adjustments.

If you like the sound, glue it in the hole.

Cut the excess length of the pin.

Using a sanding disk shape the mouth piece with an angle of ± 45°.

Apply a wax finish to the whistle.

Congratulations, you've turn a whistle. Let's make noise.

Pierre Cyr