

**Bob Chapman's prompt response to my plea for copy.....**

Hi David, I came upon this posting on an internet forum about woodturning. It was posted by a turner in Delaware, Ohio, who calls himself 'fishlux': I know you are always on the lookout for stuff for the newsletter and thought you might like them. I recently forgot number 6 and went through the bottom of a bowl.....Bob. I've been turning now for about a year (started with a pen on my drill press, but that's another story) and I thought I'd record some observations from my first year of woodworking.....

- 1) Sharp tools are better than dull tools.....
- 2) Fancy woods are for woodworkers. Friends and family don't care if it's Bubinga, burl, firewood, or a scrap 2x4. They only know if they like it or not.....
- 3) There is a fine line between batch production and tedium. That line is different for everyone and moves over time.....
- 4) Softwoods hurt just as much as hardwoods flying off the lathe.....
- 5) There are hardwoods and there are HARD WOODS. HARD WOODS make sharp

- tools into dull tools.
- 6) When making bowls and hollow forms it is very important that the inside is smaller than the outside.....
- 7) There are people who are naturally gifted at working with wood. I am not one of these.....
- 8) Honeylocust smells a bit like cinnamon when you're working it. It also makes you feel like you have a cold for two days afterward. And it is a very HARD WOOD.
- 9) Wood is very forgiving. Even the worst mistakes can be made into a beautiful fire.
- 10) Dull Tools + Sandpaper

- + Time vs. Sharp Tools....
- 11) Highly polished wood looks better, but lightly sanded wood feels better.
- 12) Mahogany is made up of sub-atomic particles (mahoganons) that are carried for miles on the slightest breeze, and stick to everything at the molecular level.
- 13) Cedar dust (flour?) is almost as bad as mahogany.
- 14) You see all the flaws in your work. Friends and family see only the best in it.....

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and then set out to find a bulk supplier. My first order, a trial run, was for 90 assorted bulbs, all delivered in 2 days, shortly after my second was for 320 all delivered by return. I still needed 100 candle bulbs; I ordered these on Wednesday 23rd January, they arrived on the Friday. But they were ordinary bulbs not candle-bulbs, I called the supplier, the telephone was answered on the second ring. I explained my problem to the man who said 'I'll ring you back'. In less than 5 minutes the phone rang it was Jim Bell the owner; 'I'm so sorry' he said 'I see what the problem is; I can deliver Monday or if you prefer tomorrow Saturday morning'. I said I would prefer Saturday morning and asked if he would collect the other 100 bulbs at the same time. After a brief pause he said 'please will you keep them; to compensate you for your trouble'. These days superb customer service is rare but I suspect it is an everyday occurrence at Lampsavers,..... Teletronics Electrical Supplies Ltd, Network 331, Lysons Avenue, Ash Vale, Hampshire GU12 5QF.. telephone 01252 868969..... fax 01252 868960..... email info@lampsavers.com... Web www.lampsavers.com.... I highly recommend them.

**Rage, rage against the dying of the light:  
.....with my apologies to 'Dylan Thomas'.**

Early last year; we completely re-decorated and carpeted the house. My 'better half', had decided that we must change most of the curtains and many of the lamps and ceiling lights. That is why; in late March, I was up my step-ladders trying to hang a very pretty 5 lamp chandelier over the staircase, earlier I had hung a similar one but with 3 lamps, in the hallway. The wireless was on; as usual tuned to radio 4. I was thinking; how well the little hanging crystals reflected the light back from the clear candle-bulbs, when a voice on the radio said, 'Brussels' say incandescent light bulbs will be phased out, over three years. The European Unions 490 million citizens will have to use energy-efficient lighting by the end of the decade. 'EU leaders have decided' said German Chancellor Angela Merkel at a news conference. I was angry; this statement goes against much that I hold dear, I don't want to elaborate on that, and so I will just stay with the subject of light bulbs. I decided to find out more; I read everything in the

papers and also on the world wide web. What I found; did not really surprise me, the government and the pressure groups are all 100% in favour of the change to energy saving bulbs. All sorts of claims are made in their favour; up to 80% saving in electricity, they last 10 times longer etc. Nobody has a good word for the incandescent bulb. And anyway we won't be able to buy any because they'll not let us. Now you can call me a cynic but I have learnt that people who want to persuade often over-egg their argument hiding facts and opinions that are contrary to their often bigoted point of view. So I looked for all provable facts and I found the following. Incandescent bulbs do get hot and so waste some energy but at a modest cost. Incandescent bulbs give off a much more acceptable light, cost far less and when they are finished are not a health hazard. On the other hand; the energy saving bulbs are ugly; in particular those designed to replace the delicate candle-bulbs. They can cost a small fortune. As an exam-

ple; the candle-bulbs in the chandeliers that I mentioned earlier cost me 28p each, the energy saving replacements from £4.99p to £5.99p each. The light from the energy saving is much inferior, it takes them ages to warm up, you only get the full benefit of any energy saving if you don't turn them on and off. They contain mercury and must be disposed of at a hazardous waste centre. If you break a bulb in the house; official advice says the room must be evacuated. Do not use the vacuum cleaner as this will disperse the mercury all over the house; rubber-gloves must be worn and the broken bits swept up, not with a brush but with a damp cloth, both the cloth and the debris to be put in a double layered plastic bag and then taken to a designated collection point for safe disposal. The room should be ventilated for at least 15 minutes! I thought; I'm not having any of that, I'll buy a lifetimes supply. I made a list of all the different bulbs we use, multiplied each of the totals by 10 to establish my need