

Scott Francis, Woodcraft manager, asked me to let you know about the Woodcraft pen designer. Just go to the [www.woodcraft.org](http://www.woodcraft.org) website and click on the Pen Designer link on the left side under the "Shop" label. You can experiment with different pen blanks, pen styles, and pen kit plating options.

Harold

## Turning Lace Bobbins

Demonstrations by Bruce and Marie Bassett at our July meeting.

- . Bruce Bassett has been making lace bobbins for several years and has made and given away or sold more than 1,000 bobbins.
- . Marie Bassett has been making bobbin lace since 1989.
- . Lace bobbins are used to hold and manipulate the threads used in producing bobbin lace and to act as weights for the threads.
- . It is not unusual for a single project to use 55 to 60 pairs of bobbins, and some laces require several hundred pairs.
- . The most common bobbins fall into two classes: the Midland or English bobbins, and continental or Belgian/Flemish bobbins.
- . The Midland bobbin has both a long and a short neck for handling the threads, and a loop of beads, or spangles, attached to the end of the handle. The spangles prevent the bobbin from rolling as well as adding weight and decoration. Midland bobbins are typically about 4" long and about 1/4" in diameter with the necks approximately 1/8" in diameter.
- . Continental style bobbins have a bulb at the end of the handle that is approximately 3/8" diameter to provide weight with one neck slightly larger than 1/8" diameter with.
- . It takes Bruce about 15-20 minutes to turn a bobbin.
- . Bruce said that you can learn the basics of bobbin turning in a short time and spend the rest of your life mastering them. Marie said the same is true about making bobbin lace.
- . Bruce said that he would save us 7 years in learning how to turn bobbins. That's how long it took to work out the most effective and efficient way for him to turn bobbins.
- . The bobbins are small, so you can work with exotic and beautiful woods without breaking the budget.
- . It is important for bobbin turners to work with a lace maker who can critique the designs for functionality, since the bobbin is first and foremost a tool.

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