

The Kelton ER Handle System

Mike Mahoney's Endorsement

“The new Kelton ER handles are superior to any of the auxiliary handles on the market. The new material is very effective on dampening vibration (often an overlooked quality in handles). The new Collet system is simple and variable. All in all, a pleasure to use. For the turner who really wants to enjoy wood turning, these brilliant Kelton ER Handles are a must have item.”

Mike Mahoney
www.bowlmakerinc.com

Alby Hall's Handle Review and Endorsement

“The Kelton ER Handles have been part of my every day professional turning kit for over a year. I find these handles a pleasure to use, with a comfortable hand grip and the ability to be used for all types of turning. I have the small handle set up for 10 mm. gouge work, but can be quickly change to , 6, 8 and 10mm. for small hollowing work and it performs very well. With the ER25 Handle, I use 12 and 16mm. gouges; once again the tools can be quickly changed over. The Medium Handle I also use for 10 and 12 mm. hollowing. For this, I add the small handle via the well designed and manufactured system provided. This gives a very good length to the handle, to deal with counter leverage while hollowing and working long over the tool wrist. While to deal with excess torque, this handle has an anti-torque arrestor handle, that screws into place when needed. This is a good addition for hollowing. The third and largest handle, is good for heavier bowl work and hollowing work, for 12, 16, and 19mm. gouges and hollowers. The small handle can be added to this one as well. Also lead can be added in the same way as the medium handle, this makes the large handle a formidable piece of equipment that is so good to use. The anti-torque handle can be added to the big handle as well. If extra weight is needed for hollowing or roughing out, there is a great system for adding lead shot into the hollow handle .This extra weight takes most of the tension out of the arm muscles, reduces vibrations and saves wear on the wrists, elbows and shoulders joints. This is a great feature for those of us who have worn joints. Of course it also helps to prevent joint wear.

This set of Kelton handles, is the best I have used in my 20 year professional career as Woodturner Artist, making a wide range of bowls and hollow forms of all sizes. Also, many series of Art pieces.

The Kelton handles, are very well designed and very well made,
I love using them.

I fully endorse the Kelton Handles.”

By Alby Hall 21/4/2010
Woodturner and Artist at Ancient Kauri Kingdom
New Zealand.
www.ancientkauri.co.nz

Steven Russell's Handle Endorsement

"I wanted to share with you my initial impressions of your new ER handle system. I have been using your ER16 and ER25 handles for several weeks. These handles are without a doubt the best multi-functional woodturning tool handles I have ever used in my woodturning studio! The comfort grip on the handle offers a superb tactile feedback and is very comfortable to use, even for extended periods of time. When working on larger projects or during the initial roughing of a blank, I like to use tool handles that contain shot to help reduce vibration in the handle. Your design allows the user to easily add or remove shot as necessary, which allows one handle to morph into multiple configurations that are specifically outfitted for the task at hand. Having the ability to screw the handles together is another great benefit, especially when working with hollowing bars, or working long distances off the tool rest. The auxiliary side handle adds another layer of functionality to the handle when hollowing freehand, or when working with larger gouges. In addition, your design allows the tool to be stored in the handle for transportation with a sharpened edge, which is a great benefit for those of us who demonstrate and travel with our tools regularly.

I've been a big fan of using woodturning handles that utilise collets for securing the tool shaft for years. They offer many advantages over traditional grub screw based handles and provide a superior precision grip on the tool shaft. When sharpening, the tool shaft can be easily removed from the collet with a simple twist, which makes it easier to sharpen the tool without a long handle getting in the way.

I also like the fact that the collets are offered in industry standard sizes, that can be easily replaced by the user if necessary. Your ER woodturning tool handles have raised the bar yet again for functionality and ease of use and have become my favourite handle for woodturning tools. '

Steven D. Russell
Eurowood Werks Woodturning Studio
The Woodlands, Texas.
www.woodturningvideosplus.com

Terry Scott's Handle Review

Well I've been spoilt a bit as I've been having fun with the New Kelton Mk 2 Hollowing Rig. This has enabled me to push the boundaries of my turning even further than I had ever dreamed.

However at times I just wish I could hold the hollowers in a handle so I could get into spots that are inhibitive with the Rig. This is brought about not because of faults with the rig but because I tend to find places I want to stick a chisel in that I haven't attempted before. Or as some would say "No man has gone before"

My recent pieces are all credit to Kelton's tools as they have enabled me to work my ideas and inspiration into reality. Recently I was asked to trail the new Collet handles these have yet again allowed me to think out side the square. This is how I found them.

1/ On arriving by Courier Of course I just had to open the red package
As I new they were coming but I was still surprised on opening the box as when I picked them up they just felt right in my hand so first impressions got the big tick

2/ I was also impressed with the feel and balance of the handle and instantly thought how the rubber would be a great shock absorber as it was firm but had spring

3/ Next the collet nut was taken off and I put in the 5/8 tool ,I wanted to see if after I did the nut up by hand and I really lent on the hollower if it would hold ,not turning in the socket or getting shorter . All good

4/ Having a side handle was an added bonus as this also took a lot of stress out of the tool and didnt transfer to the turner

As Goldilocks said "Ahhh, this handle is just right,"

I think I will get so much use out of my set of my Kelton Hollowers as I now have a go to handle that fits all.

Since getting my handles I now realize that for turners handles are their most important tool. These Kelton handles are the best I have used.

If you are wanting a reference for these handles and tools feel free to contact me any time

Yours in Turning
Terry Scott
www.timberly.co.nz

Rosanna Coyne's Endorsement

“At first glance it wasn’t immediately apparent how versatile the Kelton ER Handles are. After spending some time turning, I realized these are truly universal tools that work well in any situation. They performed extremely well in both the roughing and finishing cut stages. I found the handles to be quite comfortable enabling me to hollow a vessel in one session. The foam that covers the metal handle is not too soft, just right. It allows me to have a firm grip on the handle. A definite plus when hollowing. A nice feature that is not obvious is the handle can be filled with lead shot reducing vibration and removed easily removed. Another feature is the handles (ER16 and EE25) screw into each other creating a much larger handle necessary when working on deeper forms. These handles also give you the ability to expose as much or as little of tool as needed.

The greatest advantage these handles have over others on the market is its ability to accommodate any size round shaft tool from any manufacturer within the range of the collet (i.e. smaller tools in the ER16 and larger ones in the ER 25). I found the collets to be readily available in a number of sizes. This enables me to buy unhandled tools at discount to handled tools. Less space is needed when storing tools without handles making travel with your tools a breeze. Changing out tools is very fast and efficient without the use of a tool, just hand tighten. When making my own tools I can test the tool without turning a dedicated handle. Another advantage is the ability to remove the tool from the handle and sharpen it without the handle getting in the way.

With further use I believe I will discover more advantages this system has to offer. However, what IS apparent to me is that a great deal of thought has been put into the design of these high quality handles. Yet another quality Kelton product. For the value that they offer turners they are very reasonably priced.”

Rosanna Coyne
Woodturner/Woodcarver
www.rosannacoyne.com

Carole Valentine's Endorsement

Never again will I think of a tool handle as “just a handle”. These Kelton ER handles have brought me to the realization that a handle is a tool in and of itself. It is what connects us to the cutting tool - and really good ones make our jobs as turners much easier.

I was pleasantly surprised at how effective the torque arresting handle is in controlling torque when hollowing, especially during the initial stages of hogging waste out of a hollow form. With the handles combined, I have plenty of length to tuck against my body for even more stability and control when hollowing larger pieces.

These are well balanced and well-designed tools with a good heft and excellent vibration dampening. Changing cutting tools is a breeze - no more grub screws or hex keys! The collets are so well made that simple hand tightening of the collet nut is all that is required to lock the tool in. To change tools is about a 5 second process - simply loosen the nut a half turn, tap the tool in the palm of your hand and it slides out. The handles are not limited to turning tools. With a selection of collets, they can be used to hold just about anything with a round shank. I use mine to hold a drill for depth holes or to hold a sanding mandrel for the bottom of deep pieces.

The grip material on the ERs is the perfect combination of firm but non-slip. I have some arthritis in my hands, and I have found that I am able to use a lighter grip than I can with either wood or vinyl coated handles, which translates to little or no pain in my hands at the end of a long turning day. The Kelton ERs are simply the best handles I have ever used. My other existing interchangeable handles, as well as a couple of my wooden handles, have all been relegated to the “spares” drawer.

Carole Valentine
Woodturner, USA
www.carolevalentine.com

Dennis Devendra's Endorsement

US Blind Woodturner

“I have been hollowing for about 2 years now. I started with small forms about 3 inches tall and 2 inches in diameter. As I became more confident in my work, I progressed to larger forms up to 9 inches tall. For hollowed forms taller than 3 inches, I’ve used several hollowing tool handles. The most common being the handle with a hole on each end to hold 5/8 and 1/2 inch tools. The tools are the type held by 2 set screws that are adjusted using a hex wrench.

I started using the trialing the ER handle for Kelton a year ago and have been pleased with the results. The handle is covered with a firm and comfortable grip. I find the weight of the handle is sufficient although I've added lead birdshot into the chamber.

With the Kelton ER Handle the tool change is very fast and I do not need to find the hex wrench.

There is an optional torque arrestor handle for the standard ER Handle that I have which allows for great stability while cutting. As I move the tip of the hollowing tool into the wood I have 3 points of control. First my right hand is on the handle shaft, second my forearm rests across the top of the handle, and the third point is my left hand holding the side handle. As the tip of the tool comes in contact with the wood, I have maximum control resulting in cleaner and smoother cutting with a smooth finish. Another benefit to the side handle is that I always know exactly where the tip of the tool is pointing. As I insert the tool into the handle, I align the cutting tip with the side handle. With a straight handle, I would not always know where the point of the tool is, sometimes resulting in a catch or at least stopping more often to make sure I know where the cutting tip is pointing. . With the side handle it is almost like I am using my left hand to point the tip towards the wood.

During the summer I work in my shop without air conditioning. As I work my hands will get sweaty. The firm cushioned handle prevents my hand from slipping. The handle also reduces fatigue because of the added weight and I do not need to grip the handle very tight for maximum control.

Summary

I have been using my Kelton ER handle for about a year. I like the features of this handle for my hollowing work. The comfortable handle and weight provide maximum control and comfort. The collet makes the job go quicker since swapping tools is very fast. I also do not need to worry about misplacing the hex wrench or losing a set screw. The quality of construction indicates to me this will be a tool I'll have in my shop for many years.

I recommend this handle for anyone who is working on hollowing pieces up to 11 inches in height."

US Blind turner
Dennis Devendra.
blindwoodturner.com