

Harbor Freight Stuff for Woodturners

By Mike Peace

I get no financial incentives from this endorsement but find HF has some great bargains that seem a good match for woodturners. Don't go to the store without coupons found in most magazines. Pricing is sometimes bizarre they way they put stuff on sale in the store which might be higher or lower than their web pricing. I have not bought any of their large power tools like a lathe or bandsaw. There is a lot to be said for buying the best tool you can afford.

Product	Item #	Remarks	Price
3/8" Close Quarters Drill with Keyless Chuck	95877	Bowl sander. There is also a cheaper one with a keyed chuck.	45
8 Piece High Speed Steel Wood Lathe Chisel Set	47066	Ash handled set. Not a bad starter set but you still need a bowl gouge. Many of the 1/2" tools are a cheap resource for regrinding into special purpose tools like a hooked scraper, recess dovetail tool or box scraper when you start moving on to better tools. Large skew could become a negative rake scraper. I have some Sheffield HSS tools and Thompson tools but still use a lot of the HF tools as well.	43
8 Piece High Speed Steel Professional Wood Turning Set	35444	Red handled set. Good value if on sale; otherwise I would recommend a Benjamin Best set for about the same price with a bowl gouge for the value conscious. This set has two continental (wide) spindle gouges instead of a true spindle roughing gouges like the cheaper ash handled set	70
Japanese Flush Cut Saw	39273	Great for the final cut when parting off certain spindle projects	10
12" Hardwood Handscrew Clamp	4854	Use as safe way to hold cylinders for cutting on the bandsaw. Makes a good pen vice. Frequently on sale for close to half their list price	12
10" Hardwood Handscrew Clamp	4853	I did not list the 6" or 8" sizes but they are great for safely holding small pieces on the bandsaw.	10
Multi Pack Abrasive Rolls	96777	4 rolls of varied abrasives similar to that sold by Peachtree and WC	10
12" Stainless Steel Ruler	66199	Very handy around the lathe when	2

		measuring	
6" Stainless Steel Pocket Ruler	93684	Handy to keep in top pocket of your turning smock or offsite turning bag.	2
Automatic Center Punch with Brass Handle	621	Great tool for marking centers and frequently on sale. I prefer the brass to the black handled one.	3
6" Contour Gauge	907	Good if you need to measure profiles on turnings for drawings.	5
Pack of 100 Black Nitrile Gloves, Size Large	68497	I like these for finishing my pieces with Antique Oil and got a lot of uses out of one pair. I had used latex but discovered it gets destroyed by some finishes and nitrile is so much stronger.	10
Nonwoven Dust Masks, 50 Pack	93482	Handy when I don't feel the need for a respirator but want some protection when sanding.	4
Pack of 36 1" Industrial Grade Chip Brushes	4181	Great throwaway brushes frequently on sale	6
5 Pc M2 HSS Mini Tool Bits	40641	From some of the bits I have made a pyramid tool, hollowing tups for my oland boring bar, and a thin parting tool and still have bits left over.	5
36 Piece 1/2" Horsehair Bristle Acid Shop Brushes	41338	Cheap throwaway brushes I sometimes use for finishing when there are lots of crevasses or surface embellishments	3
Industrial Ear Muffs	43768	Cheap. I have a couple of sets so can offer one to a visitor or leave with my chainsaw.	3
6" Utility Caliper	7914	Sure they are plastic but they work great and I don't have to worry about dropping them like my better vernier caliper. I use them a lot for smaller projects like ornaments and such.	3
Rare Earth Magnets	67488	I use these to make refrigerator magnets from whatever spindle scrap I have left in my 50mm jaws after parting off. Add a little chatter and drill a 1/8" deep hole with a 21/64" bit. You will likely find other uses.	1.49

16" Super Wide Steel Shop Dust Pan	67068	big and wide for easy seeping of shavings	4.5
7" Bench Brush	1072	I use for sweeping off around the lathe and with the dust pan	2
Sawmillcreek.org Posters offered the following in response to my 9/28/11 post http://www.sawmillcreek.org/showthread.php?173253-List-of-Useful-Turning-Accessories-I-have-Found-from-HF&p=1781962			
cloth buffing wheels			
"1/2" MT2 Mini-Lathe Drill Chuck"	42340	They are not drilled and threaded like the more expensive ones but I did that myself on one of the two I have.	\$15
recipricating body saw		for cutting away stock before shaping a carved portion	
Cen-Tech 6- piece measuring set. Item for	94447	The set includes: 5" non-digital caliper 6" spring inside caliper 6" spring divider 6" spring outside caliper 6" depth gauge 6" pocket ruler	\$10.
The chainsaw sharpener		works OK. A bit of fussing to get it set right but after that it works fairly well. No more often that I have to sharpen a chain it works for me.	
Flex Shaft Grinder	40432	This is a Foredom/Wheecher knockoff, but works very well. I was able to buy a Wheecher handpiece and adapt to the supplied flex shaft that uses the 'universal' flex shaft quick connect system. Add to this a set of #35453 rotary rasps and you are in business for some decent rough carving.	
Oscillating Spindle Sander	95088	Great for all sorts of stuff, like contoured sanding.	< \$100
Dust Collector	97869	Frequently on sale for much less or use the 20% off coupon.	\$189
Magnetic tray	90566	works great for keeping small tools, chuck parts in (I keep extra jaws in these, as well as allen keys)	\$3

Magnetic tool holder	65489	uperb for upper keeper for turning tools, or as I use mine, mounted to wall to hold things like rulers, saw, calipers/dividers,	\$5
1"-8 RH Screw Chuck	98757		