ABOVE: Hollowing tool shaft into handle collet

ABOVE: The side handle

ABOVE: The links can be adjusted to suit your needs

for longer periods.

The Revolution handle has a 16mm (⅝in) collet built in, with two grub screws that tighten onto a 16mm (⅝in) tool shaft or onto various collets available to fit this handle. I did find that the grub screws tended to loosen gradually with vibration in the tool, and I needed to re-tighten them a few times.

The handle is threaded to accept the brass side handle at the front. To me, this was useful when I needed to use larger articulation on the tool, for example, for an undercut rim, making it easier to counteract the rotational forces caused by the tool tip being so far off-centre.

An optional handle extension is also available that screws into the end of the handle to give extra leverage when turning very deep work. The 12mm (½in) shaft included was perfect for the 150-175mm (6-7in) deep vessels that I turned with it, and could probably be used for at least another 50-75mm (2-3in) depth. I found at the deepest point that I needed to keep the cuts light to avoid vibration.

There is an articulated 'knuckle' at the end of the shaft that allows rotation of the cutting tip for better access into hard-to-reach areas. There is an Extender included as standard that allows further rotation of the cutting tip for maximum flexibility. I felt these 'knuckles' allowed very good access to all areas inside the hollow forms I was turning, thus allowing me to achieve the best finish possible from the tool. Without the 'knuckles' I may have been able to access the same areas, but not at the optimum angle, most likely resulting in a poorer finish.

Super Ring cutter

This cutter is similar to a traditional ring tool, but it is fitted with a tapered brass adjuster to make it much easier to control. The brass adjuster creates a small 'micro-bevel' on the inside of the ring, thus limiting the depth of cut and preventing dig-ins. It also deflects the shavings so they don't go through the ring, thus avoiding clogging. The adjuster allows variation of the size of the 'micro-bevel'; there is a mark machined into the underside that indicates the position of maximum depth-of-cut. Simply loosening the Allen screw and rotating the adjuster makes adjusting the depth-of-cut easy.

The instructions suggest rotating the tool to about 45° so that a shear cut is produced. I found this relatively easy to achieve and found the angle wasn't critical. At the maximum depth-of-cut the tool quickly removed the bulk material. By adjusting to a smaller depth-of-cut, I found I could then refine the profile more slowly and with much more control. Therefore I feel the cutter gives the best of both worlds. The Super Ring tool works best on end-grain work, but I also used it for bulk removal on cross-grain work. For cross-grain work it left too much torn grain to be suitable as a finished surface, but by switching to a scraper tip, I was able to improve the finish with little effort. This tool held its edge very well, only requiring sharpening after completing two vessels. Sharpening is done by honing the bevel with a diamond file.

Scraper tips

There are four scraper tips, of varying shapes and sizes, included as standard. The suggested uses for each tip are described in the instructions. In general the scraper tips can

ABOVE: Super Ring Cutter in use with the cutter tilted to achieve a shearing cut

ABOVE: The Fat Key cutter in use

ABOVE: Side handle being used when rough shaping. This brass section can also be used in the end of the handle as an extension piece