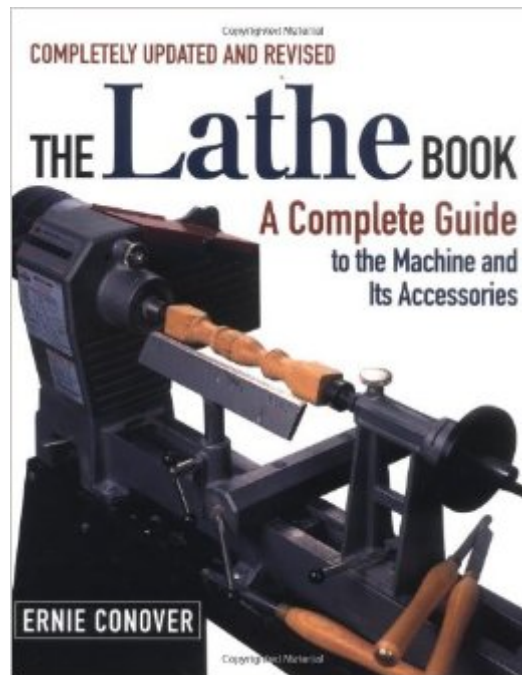


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# The Lathe Book: A Complete Guide To The Machine And Its Accessories



## Synopsis

This is the only book of its kind -- dedicated to every aspect of the lathe. Completely revised and updated, it includes information on how to choose a lathe, how to maintain and repair a lathe, and basic techniques.

## Book Information

Paperback: 188 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (41 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #70,574 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Power Tools](#) #88 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Woodworking > Projects](#) #195 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Industrial, Manufacturing & Operational Systems](#)

## Customer Reviews

I actually used this book to help me become more informed before I made a lathe purchase. It gives a great overall overview of many sizes and options. Quote from the book, "New entry level lathes cost from \$500 to \$1000 dollars. Also gives positive comments to mini lathes @ \$300-\$400. That would include bed extension with which you could turn countless spindles. \$575 Delta/Jet 12 inch, nice start as well. Great overall picture of turning, tools, sharpening and accessories. Speaking of pictures what's shown is fine for what's being illustrated. ie; size and content.

This book covers all the basic's. Topics like Selecting, Repairing, maintaining and using a lathe (including some handy jigs). There is also chapter on sharpening techniques. It would make a handy reference for any turner, especially for people about to start in this great hobby.

Hey...before I read this book I was quite uncertain which way to approach the lathe. After having read it...I consider it "The Bible of Lathe Use". I still may not LOOK like I know what I'm doing....but

this book sure helps me along and safely. I am still making big sticks into little sticks on the lathe...and yet I think that with this book's guidance there may just be potential for a bowl or spindle in my future.

As an advanced woodworker I decided to try my hand at turning so I purchased this book based upon the other reviews. The book is written in a confusing, disjointed, and rather condescending manner. Conover seems to want to impress with his "expertise" at the expense of clearly disseminating information. Additionally, photos are extremely small, poorly cropped, and show no worthwhile detail. He states that a minimum entry level lathe will cost you over \$1,000. That must be Canadian dollars since he recommends equipment as if he's employed by the Canadian Department of Commerce. There are numerous run-on sentences in the book that will leave you scratching your head and asking "what the hell is this guy talking about?" If you want to get started in turning, this is not your book.

This book is just the thing for anyone interested in learning how to run or lathe or in sharpening lathe operation skills. The illustrations are good and clear. It has served to help me correct some bad habits picked up during a period of self-instruction. It's a progressive instruction and very easy to follow. Highly recommended for the hobbyist and the amateur. I think the professionals could use it to a degree, but they probably know it already.

I have just ordered a small wood-working lathe and wanted a reference on how to set it up, sharpen tools and the basics of using the lathe. This book covers that and a good deal more. The author describes different types of lathes and some pluses and minuses of each style for specific uses. Several approaches to sharpening tools and even making your own are covered. The use of chucks, faceplates and other workholding devices and examples of shop made versions of many of them are included. I am looking forward to starting to turn some wood when my new lathe arrives!

At the age of 65 I have learned that I am not the brightest light bulb on the planet. Having said this; I have benefited greatly from Ernie Conover's book "The Lathe Book." My experience began in High School many years ago when our shop instructor told me I could watch but not use the lathe. Only 45 years later I got my first lathe and soon after bought this book. I am NOT an expert woodturner but between this book and membership in a local woodturners club I'm improving my turning skills as time goes by. And I love it, both the turning and the book!

I bought this book before getting into the rest of the hobby just to get a feel for what I'd need and what it's all about. Ernie does a good job of educating you about all the essentials including lathe features, types of chisels, shaping & sharpening, chucks, and a few techniques. Some areas do feel opinionated and could have been better written to include more viewpoints but those are minor quibbles. For example on skew sharpening he strictly talks about not doing a hollow grind on them and instead advocates sharpening them on the side of your wheel. I've given my skews a hollow grind on an 8" wheel and they work fine. I'd give the book a 7.5/10.

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