

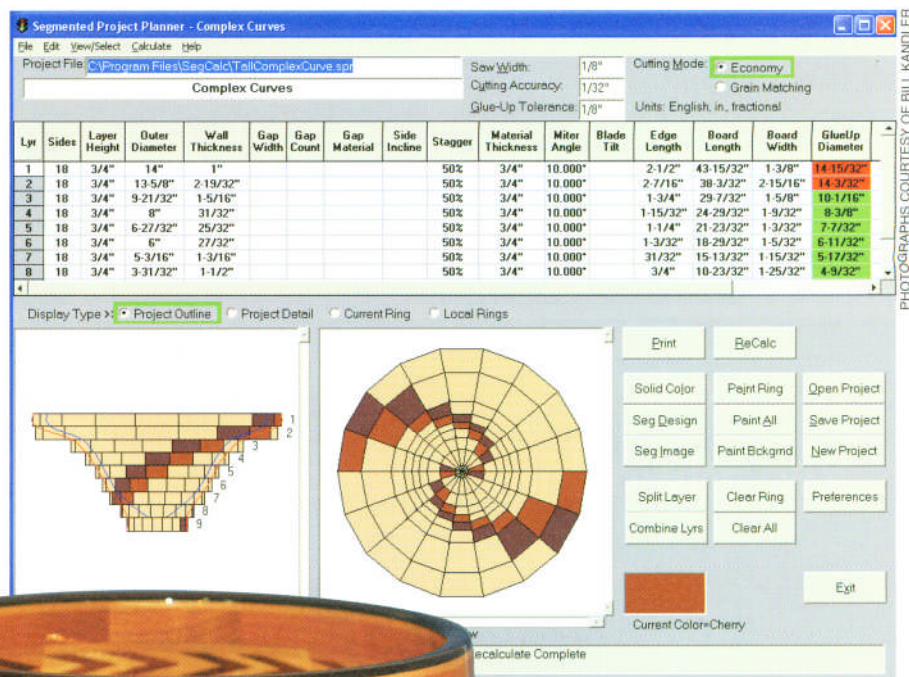
# Segmented Project Planner

**Brian Ash** powers up his PC to deliver his verdict on CAD software, Segmented Project Planner

**S**egmented Project Planner is a Computer-Aided Design (CAD) program created by American woodturner Bill Kandler. It is designed to aid those who wish to design and make segmented pieces; making the job easier, faster and more accurate. The software achieves this by providing a comprehensive level of support for both the design and construction processes.

You may consider that there are three phases to segmented turning: first the concept and outline shape design, then the planning of the project, calculations of the segments sizes angles etc, and finally the practical work of cutting, gluing, turning and finishing. This program assists with the first stage and can perform all of the second, leaving the turner to spend most of the time where the real fun is at the lathe.

The program helps support the beginning of the design activity by providing the sketch mechanism for developing an initial shape for your object. Starting from a simple shape, you manipulate the outline of the object until it looks just right. Then save the shape as a project file with a specified height, diameter and layer thickness. If you develop a particularly good-looking object, a simple click will transform



it into a new starter shape for later use.

## How it works

*Segmented Project Planner* further supports the design process by

giving you hands-on manipulation and the ability to fine-tune each layer of the given project, showing you what it will ultimately look like. You then have the option of painting individual segments with wood colours and designing complex segments, mosaics or graphic images. You can also establish open segments or vertical spacers. All of these features combine to create a clear representation of what the finished piece will look like before you even start work on it.

Throughout the entire planning process, the software performs all the calculations required to design



your segmented piece. Simply print out a copy of the report and take it straight to the workshop. You can then start cutting your timber to get all the angles, dimensions and wood types for each segment of every layer. The program also enables you to print out angle templates to help make setting up your mitre cuts easier, as well as segment and ring templates. In addition, the turner has a hard printed copy of the project should the need arise to reproduce the item at a later date.

## Other features

There are many more features included with the software, including wood types and colours and 17 pre-designed projects in the gallery. These can be built as designed or used as starter shapes to gain experience in using the system.

For the evaluation I used the program to do all the necessary planning and calculating needed to produce two new simple segmented projects. The pictures on these pages show some of the pieces that developer, Bill Kandler created with *Segmented Project Planner*. The software is easy to use but does require some experience and a good knowledge of segmented woodturning, though there is a useful help file included. Like most software, the more you use it the easier it becomes to operate and



manipulate. The final project provides what I would call a 'worksheet' showing the various sizes, angles etc, which can be displayed in imperial or metric

measurements and also shows a costing of the individual layers of the wood.

In the version evaluated, the costing had been converted to GB pounds, but I could not find any correlation to the prices shown and the actual costs of the wood in the UK. However, the advanced planning and accurate measurements associated with the worksheet will reduce the waste of wood in cutting the segments and show cost savings.

Overall at the cost of \$36.95 for the software download or \$39.95 for the CD – around £20 at the conversion rate at the time of writing – is very good value. Also there is a 30-day free trial download from the website. The software runs on most recent versions of Microsoft Windows, including 98/Me/XP/NT/2000. ■



## Price and contacts

Download: \$36.95

Disc: \$39.95

Website:

[www.segmentedturning.com](http://www.segmentedturning.com)