

## Sammy Thomason Bio

### Bio

My first project was a plastic model of either the Santa Maria or the Mayflower. It had about 10 or 12 pieces and became a complete mess. But I was on my way. Six years old and my parents would not let me burn it?

In that neighborhood, was a group of about four kids who built models: plastic, wood and stick and paper. Cars, boats, planes, rockets, anything that would move and later explode or burn. Powered by rubber bands, co2 cartridges, jetex rockets, small gas airplane engines and when ruined beyond repair, sky rockets, fire crackers and cherry bombs. Surprisingly none of us were never injured. One rooster did die an early death when a black powder rocket exploded near him. Supposed to go up but went sideways. In today's world, we would probably just play computer games.

However, we experienced something today's kids miss. Failure. Lots of discussions about why a model did not fly, float, roll, skid, crash or go where we wanted it to go. Trial and error or better, trial and failure. Life moved on and in junior high there was wood shop, metal shop and electric shop. New set of priorities. Mostly flat wood work and wonderful new tools. All of this time I was acquiring tools. My dad had tools but they were HIS tools. Even if I could use his, it was better to have my own.

Then came high school, college, draft, marriage, family and yes: more tools. My wife joked that the sales people at Sears knew me by my first name as I always had something in layaway.

Behind each of the three homes we've had I built a shop. Growing up my parents never had a garage. Needless to say the area behind my bed was always a mess. Today my dining table has a stainless steel top so kids can build stuff. I was always building stuff. Then I retired and a lathe was needed to make round ? ? things. A neighbor had sold me an old shopsmith that did ok, but something better was needed. On a trip to Beaumont, while my wife was not looking, I bought a Jet 10-14. After a couple more years I attended a wood turning demo at a Garden Expo. Explain that! It was very impressive and I went to my first meeting with the Hunt County Wood Turners. Show and tell was eye opening. Oh my gosh! What these people could do. Wow! The sharing of knowledge is so tremendous. Open shop and demos, that is where you really learn how to turn. And then one day, you look around and say " This is one way to do that, now you try it."