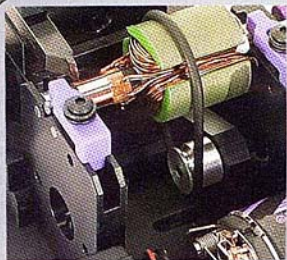
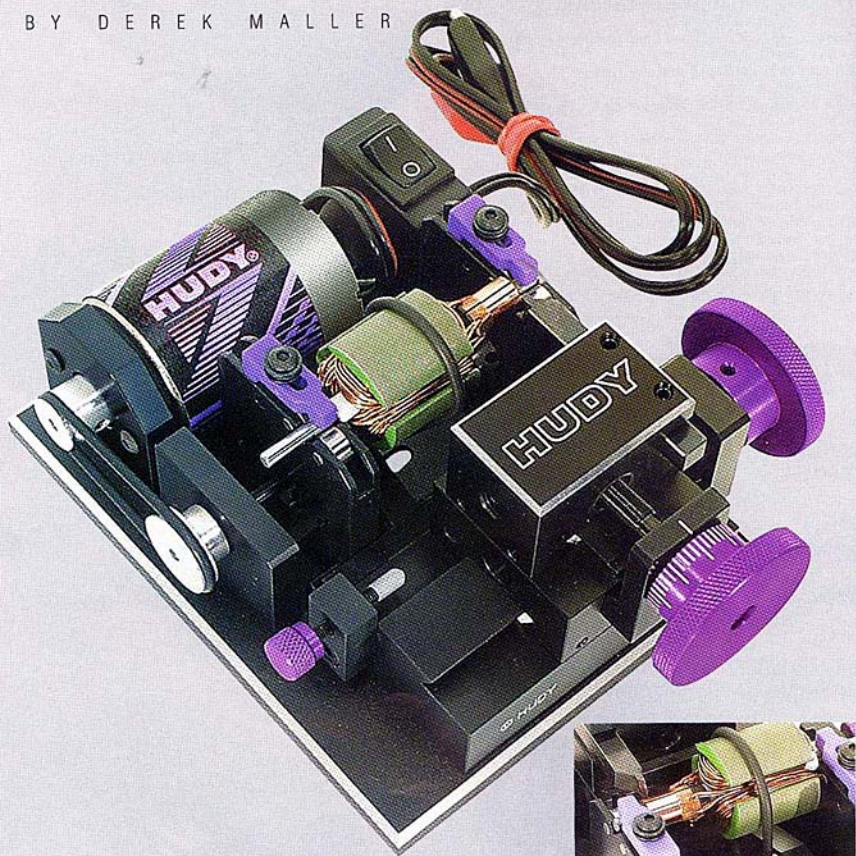


testbench: HUDY TECH CO

BY DEREK MALLER



COMM LATHE

In our last issue, we had a look at the Hudy Advanced Comm Lathe. Although this is the entry level lathe in the Hudy range, we were very impressed. For many people, the Advanced model would be all that is needed. However, the Tech Lathe contains all the features of the Advanced Lathe, plus a few more and deserves closer inspection. The good gets even better....

The Hudy Tech Lathe is the intermediate lathe in the Hudy offering. It sits in between the base Advanced Lathe and the all singing and dancing Executive Lathe (which you can read about in our next issue).

The new feature of the Tech Lathe is the inclusion of a middle shaft to isolate the slave motor from the armature. This is designed to reduce vibration and

allow for the best possible results.

It is a nice touch by Hudy to include everything that is needed, making life much easier.

Feature packed

The Tech Lathe has the following features:

- Ball bearing armature guide – results in a smooth spinning armature with less resistance and without the need for frequent oiling as with grooved supports.
- Ultra fine pitch screw threads – allows for minute adjustments to be made, for greater touch and accuracy.
- Belt drive system with middle shaft – the main feature the Tech Lathe has that its younger brother, the Advanced Lathe, does not. It isolates the armature from slave motor vibration, yielding a smooth and accurate cut. This, according to Hudy, will give ultimate results.
- Black anodised surfaces, with purple anodised adjustment knobs – anodising extends component life and boosts overall look and feel.
- Hard plastic carry case, slave motor, on/off switch, shims, allen keys.

Some other lathes on the market for instance don't come

with a slave motor or the necessary wiring and switch harness. Very few come with a carry case to hold the lathe during storage and the Hudy cases fit the lathes perfectly.

The only gripe we have is that while the case is made of hard plastic and will provide much needed protection for the expensive lathe within, the top of the case doesn't really lock into the base securely enough. A large rubber band solves this problem quickly and cheaply.

Conclusion

The Hudy Tech Comm Lathe would have to be one of the best lathes on the market. It features top quality components, is excellently constructed and is easy to use. The inclusion of ball bearing armature guides and the belt drive system with the middle shaft ensure a smooth and accurate result.

The purple on black anodising adds to the visual appeal and the handy carry case provides protection during storage and transport.

Combine the Techn Lathe with a Hudy diamond bit and their new axial support and you would have to go far and wide to find a better set-up.

The Hudy range of products is extensive and is distributed to hobby shops in Australia by Custom Model Cars (02) 9579 4007.

Hudy website:
www.hudy.net

Testing time

We tested the lathe using a Hudy diamond bit and the optional Hudy axial support. The axial support secures the armature to be cut in between a three bearing arrangement supported by an adjustable arm. The support is designed to allow for easy adjustment for varying armature lengths and for improved cutting results by reducing armature vibration. It fits on all the Hudy lathes and is a handy and useful addition.

With two Group 20 armatures that looked like they were in need of some desperate attention sitting in our pit box, we had the perfect opportunity to test the Tech Lathe. A few light skims later and the comms were looking better than new.

The middle shaft isolates the armature from any vibrations from the slave motor and this can be noticed when operating the lathe. The armature spins extremely smoothly and this no doubt results in a smoother and better finish.

The end result was a pair of super smooth and straight comms.

We made a mention in our review of the Advanced Lathe last issue and the same applies here; although we are very impressed with the Hudy Lathes, their instructions are not to the same detailed standard. This takes nothing away from the product but it would be nice if Hudy could include thorough instructions on the all important cutting technique to allow owners to achieve the results that their lathes are capable of. Don't get us wrong, the instructions included are more than adequate in their description but do not stree the importance of the cutting process.

Part numbers

- #10 1400-B Hudy Tech Lathe with Axial Support
- #10 1081 Hudy Diamond Cutting Tool
- #10 1900 Hudy Axial Support (fits all Hudy Lathes)

What we think

The good

- Your comms come out super smooth, we haven't seen better.
- The middle shaft system eliminates slave motor vibration.
- High quality construction. The lathe looks and feels very well made.
- Everything is included: carry case, slave motor, switch, shims, allen keys.
- Increases longevity of your armatures, meaning that by reducing replacement costs, the lathe will pay for itself.

The not so good

- The top of the case does not lock to the base and could come loose during transport. A rubber band solves this problem.
- Instructions could be more thorough