

Q. - - -What is Grailing? It is mentioned in Evans's book (page 60) but without explanation.

A. - - -Grailing (described as 'graining' in Holtzapffel Vol V. page 85) is an effect produced by cutting either a continuous spiral (like the groove on a gramophone record) or a series of very closely cut circles to cover a section or the whole of the surface area of a piece. It produces a matt effect on the surface, giving greater contrast to a deep-cut pattern than would result if the pattern were cut directly into a flat polished surface. To see an example of this: click onto the 'About' section then 'Featured Turners' and go down to 'Norman Tweddle' and you will see a disc, a sort of golden brown colour, with a geometric chuck pattern cut into a grailed surface.

To avoid the time-consuming process of grailing by individual cuts, a special slow-motion drive was invented by T.J.Ashton, comprising: a driving band from the overhead which turns a worm and wormwheel on the end of the slide-rest leadscrew so that the slide moves very slowly along the rest and a point tool cuts a continuous groove like that on a gramophone record. This apparatus also has stops that can be set to limit the area to be grailed.