

Woodworkers Club

OF HOUSTON

VOL. 8, NO. 5

MAY, 1992

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APRIL MEETING

Our program for April was presented by Master Craftsman Ken McBride on sharpening. The last thing that most of us want to do is to sharpen those dull tools. Ken said to solve some of the problems with sharpening is set up a sharpening station in your shop. It doesn't take much space but the convenience of having your sharpening equipment always ready to use will be more conducive to keeping those tools sharp. The height of the work station is very important, you don't want it to be too high or too low. To determine the height hold a plane blade at a comfortable height and measure to the floor and deduct for the height of the stones. Ken says that we all have the perfect tool in our shop and that is the two handed grip, with this grip you will develop the necessary skills to set that proper angle at the sharpening stone. Ken said that all the gizmos made can help but you had better be careful not to wear a nasty groove in the middle of the stone.

When you buy a new plane iron or chisel it is best to buy locally. Take a straight edge with you and check for flatness. If the plane iron has a twist or bow you will get deep curving swirl marks, like a serrated kitchen knife.

Ken began sharpening using Arkansas oil stones but has completely switched to Japanese water stones. He finds them to be the most efficient--water stones are soft and they break down quickly to reveal a new cutting area. The least expensive are the 400, 600, 1200 grits and the gold polishing stones are the most expensive.

After you have flatten the back of the plane blade, grind on a bench grinder with a very slow RPM, still using your sense of touch to tell you if the blade is getting too warm, if this happens plunge the blade in water to cool.

Be sure that your sharpening stone is flat.

To flatten a water stone, get a piece of 1/4" plate glass larger than a sheet of 220 wet dry sandpaper. Wet the glass and paper with a water sprayer--keep the paper flooded with water. The stone will be a lighter color after it has been flattened. If you have an oil stone you substitute the water with lots of WD-40.

The first angle at the grinding wheel should be 25 degrees and finish with 35 degrees on the hone area.

Small narrow chisels will plow a nice groove in your sharpening stones, Ken recommends Ceramic stones for narrow chisels.

Ken believes that the best safety device in your shop is to use your head. Proper thinking, not just relying on safety guards.

The best gizmo for sharpening is using your eyes, hands and touch to achieve that sharp edge. Always remember that the most dangerous tool is a dull tool--KEEP THEM SHARP.

We all want to thank Ken for sharing his time and expertise with us.

FIELD TRIP

On Saturday April 18th a small but very enthusiastic group of woodworkers met at Susan Neptune Fine Furniture Restoration shop.

Susan's business is fine furniture restoration not the usual strip shop and refinish.

In her shop she showed us a chair that was crafted by Belton (not sure if I spelled his name correctly) he was the first to laminate wood to achieve a radius for the chair back, with applied carvings to these laminations. By the time it arrived in her shop other so called "restorers" had done such a job that the back was delaminating. Susan restored the chair without removing the existing good shellac finish that occurred on the arms, etc. of the chair to preserve its museum value. This chair is valued at about 100,000.00 dollars.

We went through the various different

processes. Susan uses Goddard products, thick and thin bodies depending on what she is stripping.

She gave us a hands on lesson on burn in sticks and some tricks of the trade to do a better and easier job with these colored burn in sticks. Everyone got to try their hand at it and Susan showed us what we did wrong and how to correct it.

I have always been leary at using burn in sticks as I have always heard how difficult it was to achieve good results. But as they say a picture is worth a thousand words and a hands on session with an expert really makes a difference.

Burn in sticks can be used for small dings prior to applying a finish or after the finish has been applied.

We then got a lesson in French Polish including a hands on try for ourself. Susan also demonstrated how to blend tiny amounts of dry colored powders right on the finish to hide imperfections in the wood.

She demonstrated how to make a table top look more pleasing to the eye by using a spray "shade". This dark colored spray is used for shading the edges to achieve the look of an old piece that has darkened with wear and age---even if the piece was just made yesterday.

Have you ever used shellac that just didn't dry? Its not the climate its the fact that the shellac you brought at the local hardware store has expired. Check the expiration on the can and if it is not dated do not buy it--of course unless you want a permanent sticky finish.

You can buy shellac flakes and mix with denatured alcohol--this mixture will have a shelf life of about a year.

Susan uses a spray can of clear sanding sealer (lacquer base) to lay down the first coats of a finish.

What was interesting is you can begin this way and still finish with Bartley's--if you prefer.

Susan showed us a brand new Cherry reproduction table that the customer had waited four months for delivery--and the delivery people made a great big scratch right in the middle of the oval top.

This table came from a high class reproduction company--but they finish in Bartley's--it looked like only about two coats--very thin.

I was surprised that you could see where the stain ended on the bottom side--about a 1/2 inch from the edge.

The underside looked like it might have one coat of a sanding sealer. No I didn't crawl around under the table to look--the table seperated and each table top half tilted.

I know everyone that attended really enjoyed this field trip.

We started at 8:30 A. M. and didn't finish till 11:30 A. M.---Susan graciously answered all our questions with a through visual lesson.

If you run into a finishing problem and need

help she is only a phone call away, just call anytime after 4:00 P. M. so she can get her own finishing done. Most of the products that she uses is available at her retail location, The Settlers.

THE SETTLERS

1436 West Alabama

M--F 9:30--5:30

Sat. 10:00--4:00

I had never been to The Settlers--so I decided to pay the store a visit so that we could all be more informed.

Its a very interesting store--one that you should put on your hard to find items list.

A large part of their inventory is hardware: from boxes of rusted antique hardware parts to brand new beautiful brass and hammered steel.

Susan gave me the tour through some English hardware--cast from centuries old original patterns. She showed me a caster no larger than a quarter, a beautiful solid brass piece of hardware, precision made--of course it sold for \$56.00 each.

They have all kinds of hinges, pulls and lock sets, escutcheon pins, ball catches, latches, table top fasteners, table top alignment pins in wood or brass and lots more, that were only available through mail order--but here you can see them and touch them to make sure this is what you want.

Settlers also carries veneers, inlays, carning supplies and seat replacements.

In finishing supplies they carry French and English waxes, Watco, Minwax, Bartley's, burn in sticks and burn in supplies, spray sanding sealer, spray shading, retouching pens and crayons, dyes and powders, french polish, steel wool, brushes, graining tools, brass darkeners, Goddard strippers and Goddard companion supplies.

Its a very interesting place to visit, I'm sure I missed mentioning something.

DISCOUNT--DISCOUNT--DISCOUNT--DISCOUNT

One big plus to the members--Susan has offered all the members of the Woodworkers Club a 20 PER CENT DISCOUNT upon presentation of your membership card.

TITEBOND GLUE DISCOUNT

Last month we mentioned that Stacy Sales at 404 Washington St. Phone--497--8693 would offer the members of the Woodworkers Club a discount of Regular Titebond and Titebond II glues. The price for a Gallon of Regular Titebond is \$9.50 and for a Gallon of Titebond II is \$13.50. They will have smaller sizes available about the first week in May.

CHARITY NOMINATIONS

We accepted nominations for this years charity--only Make-A-Wish was nominated and the members chose to close the nomination and take a vote. The unanimous vote was infavor of donating the funds from our charity show to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Please make note we have filled some gaps on the committees. The following members have agreed to chair these committees: Banquet Co-Chairmen--Lewis Vallette and Zatis Murphy, Telephone Committee Chairman Guy Meaders--Guy will be needing some helpers, so when he asks please say yes.

SAFETY--OPEN FORUM

By Murray Gordon

Murray called for an open forum for this month's safety program. Robert Sandlin said that he had been using a 3" Forstner bit and when he turned off his drill press it just slipped out. First suggestion is to tighten all three locations on the chuck. Make sure that the chuck is in good working order, the jaw springs can be replaced.

FLY CUTTER--When using a fly cutter check to see the recommended maximum speed that you should use. Clamp the piece you are drilling to the drill press table. Some say a fly cutter with two blades are better balanced. Just be very careful no matter what!

KEYLESS CHUCK-- Keyless chucks have finer threads so they require less tightening. As all products some members have had problems with keyless chucks--but all the members that have used the Jacobs keyless chuck are very pleased.

WORKSHOPS AND CLINICS

We have nothing to report but we are sending out the hounds to look for Stuart--Stuart where are you?

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

One of the members said he uses baby jars to store screws, etc. but he said he must not have cleaned the jars thoroughly and all his screws were rusted. Be sure to clean out that baby food with lots of soap and water. What do they put in those jars?

One member needed suggestions on how to cut pressure treated lumber--check with your hardware store as they make special blades for decking material, etc. Also watch that toxic sawdust around the kids and pets.

Another member wanted to know the best way for 2 dimensional cutting, some suggestions were to use double sided tape or hot melt glue.

THANK YOU LETTER

We received a thank you letter for the drink stands that Don Sloan made for the Bayland Community Center.

GET WELL SOON !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Don Sloan had Bi-Pass surgery, he's home now and doing fine. Hurry up Don and get well soon.....

SIMPLE JIGS AND FIXTURES

In last month's newsletter we asked the members to bring to the meeting a simple jig or fixture. We had a lot of participation and a lot of interesting ideas.

Zatis Murphy had a simple glass cutting jig for making straight cuts, two sticks with room inbetween for the glass cutter. He had a frame that he uses to make blind dados with a router. He also showed us a board with masonite attached for cutting plywood. A jig for making 45 degree corner kerfs on a table saw. A taper jig that he had made with a shaker peg handle. A fixture that he made to convert a portable belt sander to a stationary sander with removable stop--just remember don't cover the air flow of the sander.

Guy Meaders made a fixture for punching holes in sanding discs so that the dust collection on his Porter cable sander would suck dust. He also made a cut off jig from plans in # 89 fine Woodworking.

Another member designed a jig for routing a square recess in the back of clocks to accept the clock works.

Chuck Maxwell made a splitter and blade guard that he hangs from the ceiling, made from Lexan. Plans were in #33 Fine Woodworking.

Denis Muras had various sizes of threaded rod for sanding wheels for the toys that he makes.

The officers and board members would like to thank all the members that participated in the call for Simple jigs and fixtures. There was a great assortment of ideas and this is what the club is all about: friendship and sharing.

MAYS PROJECT

At the April meeting we mentioned that for May we would like to have the members bring in a Toy--any kind of toy--any size from very tiny to a size no larger than 8 INCHES WIDE X 8 INCHES LONG X 8 INCHES TALL. We would like to see as many toys that can be designed to fit within these dimensions. Each month we will try to come up with a new idea that will cover all of the members interests--if you have a specific craft or idea for a monthly project mention it to an officer or board member.

THE PROJECT FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE MAY MEETING---GET READY!

SHOW AND TELL

Walter Turpening's wife is a weaver and she needed a small weaving frame for experimenting with patterns and color, so Walter designed and built one himself. Made out of Walnut with Maple laminated to the back for strength. He used a tap and die designed for making wooden threads.

DUST PROTECTION IN THE SHOP

The following excerpts are from an article written by Zach Etheridge for Highland Hardware in Atlanta, Georgia.

When Zach was preparing his article he received this letter: The U. S. Department of Labor Office of Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has determined that exposure to airborne wood dust from Western Red Cedar in excess of 2.5 milligrams per cubic meter of air (mg/m³) and to dust from other woods in excess of 5 mg/m³ is hazardous to your health, and has ruled that starting September 1, 1989, General Industry must keep exposure in the workplace below these limits.

It's interesting to note that OSHA considers wood dust exposure more hazardous than exposure to Chloroform with a mg/m³ limit of 9.78; Carbon Monoxide at 40; Turpentine 560; VM&P Naptha 1350; or Acetone 1800.

There is no requirement that hobbyists comply with these limits in their shops, but it would benefit their own safety and that of others in the home, especially kids.

Well how much is five milligrams of wood dust? Five mg equals less than two ten-thousandths of an ounce. According to OSHA standards, a moderate-size woodworking shop, 15 by 30 feet with ten-foot ceiling, will reach the permissible exposure limit (PEL) when there are two hundredths of an ounce of wood dust in the air. That's not much dust! (A dime weighs eight hundredths of an ounce.)

These standards might sound absurdly strict and downright unrealistic, but they do make one fact quite clear: the people charged with keeping workers safe in the workplace think that wood dust is very bad for you. Most of us won't have any trouble agreeing with that, having experienced plenty of clogged lungs, wood-toned sinuses, bleary eyes, sore throats, allergies and other assorted ailments traceable to breathing in the average shop.

We also know that a dusty shop is indirectly hazardous to the woodworkers well-being; though most of us don't even want to be conscious of it, the direct health effects together with the physical inconvenience of a dirty shop add a constant background of stress to activity that doesn't need that at all, for the hobbyist or professional alike.

Almost every shop could do a whole lot more to reduce the amount of dust allowed to get into the air. Some tools, the hand-held router for instance, present really difficult control problems because it can be nearly impossible to collect waste at the source; once dust gets into the air only powerful whole-shop filtered circulation or exhaust can relieve the problem. Many tools, though, allow the user to hook up a dust collector or shop vac right at the source and eliminate most of it immediately. More and more tools are now coming equipped for efficient dust collection--as witness the built-in plastic hoods on DeWalt's model 1765 Belt/Disc

sander, and on Delta's two 1" belt sander models. Hoods like these which are designed as an integral part of the tool can be extremely effective, picking up 95 % or more of the jet-blast of dust coming off the abrasive. An 8 gallon shop vac provides plenty vacuum to transform running these big sanders from nightmare to routine.

Sooner or later, however, a good dust collection system becomes an inescapable necessity in the well-equipped shop.

A lot can be accomplished with a good shop vac and a little ingenuity, but the vac reaches its limits when dust is accompanied by high quantities of solid waste, such as comes from a thickness planer, or when the dust source area is greater than a few inches, such as under an open-stand tablesaw or jointer.

NEW MEMBERS TO ADD TO YOUR ROSTER

Jack Eidman Jr. 13903 Perthshire
Houston, tex. 77079 558-1881

John McGuigan 9235 Stroud
Houston, Tex. 774-2608

TAXES

The following timely article is from the Louisville, Kentucky, Better Business Bureau Newsletter.

Tax his cow, tax his goat,
Tax his pants, tax his coat,
Tax his crops, tax his work,
Tax his tie, tax his shirt,
Tax his chew, tax his smoke,
Teach him taxes are no joke,
Tax his tractor, tax his mule,
Teach him taxes are the rule,
Tax his oil, tax his gas,
Tax his notes, tax his cash:
Tax him good and let him know---
After taxes, he has no dough.
If he hollers, tax him more:
Tax him 'till he's good and sore.
Tax his coffin, tax his grave,
Tax the sod in which he lays.
Put these words upon his tomb:
"Taxes drove me to my doom."
And after he's gone he can't relax,
They'll still be after inheritance tax !!

MAY MEETING

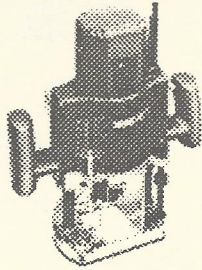
WHEN: MAY 9, 1992 9:00 A. M.

WHERE: BAYLAND COMMUNITY CENTER
ON BISSONNET AT HILLCROFT

PROGRAM: A few months ago Perry Henderson gave a program on Crane models. At that meeting he told us about a crane that he had been commissioned to build with electric motors. Perry will be demonstrating this model and some new models that he has made.

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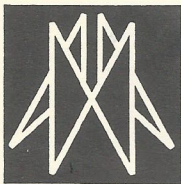
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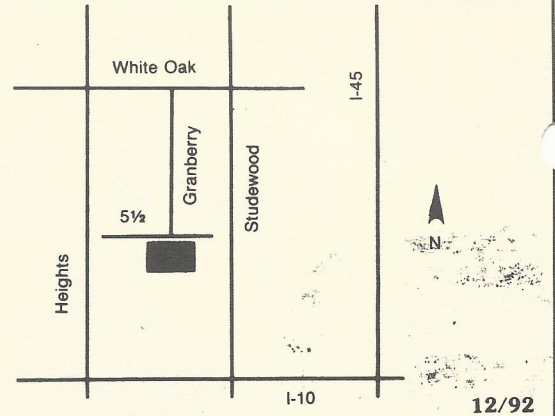


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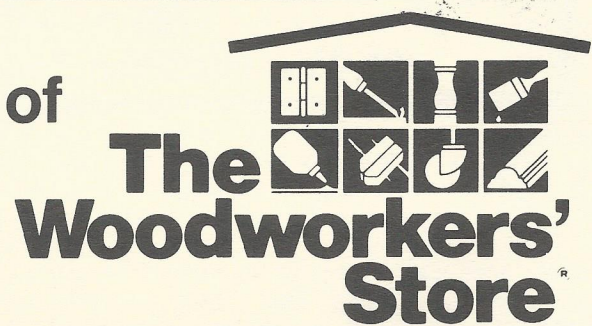
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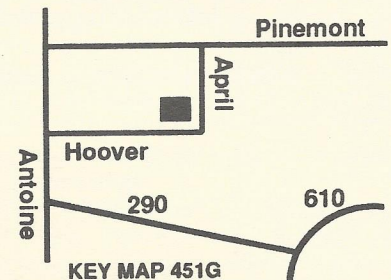
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