

WOODWORKERS

CLUB OF HOUSTON

VOL. 3, NO. 8

AUGUST, 1987

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JULY MEETING

Wayne Boren graciously allowed the club to meet at his custom molding and door factory. His firm specializes in curved and crooked moldings used on doors and architectural details. Some of the processes are proprietary, but we did get an excellent demonstration of industrial shapers.

Advice for all woodworkers from pros who work in thousandths of an inch: always use the same side (reference side) against the table of a shaper or whatever tool. This will minimize variations in stock. Hone your knives-shaper, jointer, planer.

We witnessed some ingenious jigs, with special quick clamps, and were told that the company buys wood in railroad car loads. We are very thankful to Wayne for inviting us, and will hopefully return sometime in the future for more demonstrations.

Zatis Murphy says to keep your body out of the path of wood on a table saw. Use push sticks when appropriate, and when doing blind cuts, a grout float, with a rubber base, provides excellent grip safely.

Porter-Cable routers may have a switch fail when in the on position. ALWAYS UNPLUG A TOOL WHEN CHANGING BITS.

Watch out for sharp tools like knives and chisels. Put them out of the way when not in use-if carelessly knocked off a workbench, they can cut your foot.

Sweep up sawdust--it can be slippery on smooth floors.

CHARITY SALE

The following charities have been nominated for consideration:

MAKE-A-WISH
YMCA
MYASTHENIA GRAVIS FOUNDATION

The Charity selection will take place at the August Meeting.

SHOW AND TELL

Doc Fortner--Baby Cradle in Maple, with turned spindles. Murray Gordon--compact Disc holder in walnut. Jesse Justice--a working toy catapult. Hebert Wilbourn--Bird feeder, another "Bootleg Table", heart chair, and matching stool and a bench. Leonard Ekholm--English Lantern in Ash. Tom Gathright--sliding lid domino boxes in padouk, rosewood and purple heart.

CLINICS AND WORKSHOPS

Doc Fortner's Router Basics clinic has been deferred until Sept. due to unavailability of U of H facilities. Murray Gordon is proceeding with his clamp making workshop.

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

A router table top can be made with two 3/4" plywood pieces for stability. Use 3/8" plexiglass or plate aluminum for a mounting plate.

SAFETY

By Zatis Murphy

Power tools are a boon to woodworkers. I can't imagine ripping an 8 foot board with a handsaw as woodworkers did centuries ago. But power tools demand respect for their power. They can produce straight cuts, sculpted curves, smooth surfaces and beautiful shapes in a relatively short time. Or, they can cause injuries to the person who misuses them. Make sure the work area is clear of debris and obstructions all around the tool. Your feet should be flat on the floor and your body position, comfortable and not strained. Also make sure your power tools are in proper condition before starting.

Power saws require special attention! Use only

blades that are sharp and free of pitch and gum. Make sure that the fence is parallel with the blade on the table saw. Always use a miter gage for cross cuts and hold the stock firmly against the gage. Never try to cut stock on a table saw free-hand. Adjust the blade so it is 1/8 to 1/4 inch above the stock. For radial arm saws always push the saw to the rear of the table after making a cross cut. Use the blade guard whenever possible. If you think that the guard will interfere with your cutting...rethink what you're doing. There may be another, safer way to make the cut! Make adjustments to the power saw only when the blade is stopped, and never try to stop the blade with a piece of wood. Let it come to rest on its own. Stand to one side or the other and not directly behind the blade of a power saw. Keep your fingers clear of the cut line and don't reach over or around a revolving saw blade. Clear scraps from the cutting table with a stick, not your fingers. When ripping narrow strips, use a push stick; when ripping long stock, use a helper or a roller support. When making repetitive length cuts, use a stop block. Never substitute a rip fence for the stop block.

Working safely requires common sense and alertness! If something doesn't seem right to you, stop and think about the job a little more. The time spent going over your work may prevent an injury. HAPPY WOODWORKING.

BUY AND SELL

Wants to Buy: Dave Wintz: Oscillating spindle sander, Edge Sander and Overarm router.
John Schwartz needs reduction motors.

For Sale: 1/2" Drill Press--Louis Fernandez
Wood Lathe--\$150.00 Dick Rothe
Heavy Duty Drill Press--\$400.00 Ken McLoad--469-2363.
Dremel jigsaw with disc sander--\$50.00
Andy Blodget--353-9819.
Shopsmith Mark V with Bandsaw and access. \$1200.00 Sharon Buckley--944-6739.

SPEAKOUT

By John Schwartz

I'd like to begin this Speak Out column with a thank you to Jimmie Harp for introducing me to a fine club of woodworkers. Looking around the room at last Saturday's meeting I could tell that there were a lot of "salty" woodworkers and I'm grateful to be in such good company.

My woodworking experience began when I was in elementary school through my father and grandfather. Two of my biggest influences came from Ralph Schultz and Mark Erlewine. Ralph instructed the woodworking program at Midland High School, Midland, Texas and led my class to three consecutive state championships. While attending the University of Texas I had the good fortune of meeting Mark who was kind enough to let me handout in his shop. Mark is a true master luthier, guitar builder, and his perfection of technique and

design is apparent by his imitators in today's electric guitar market. Last but not least I'd like to thank two Austin cabinet maker Jamie Norwood and tool expert O. B. Malloy.

Now that I have taken care of the obligatory bio and thank yous. I'd like to tell you a little bit about the guitar making and pass on a few of the tricks I have learned.

My first mistake in guitar building was to assure that it was just an over rated form of carpentry. There are a number of skills that crossover from traditional woodworking but there are also technical aspects inherent to a guitars construction that will ground even the most carefully laid plans of a seasoned woodworker. After being shot out of the saddle a few times myself these obstacles became fewer and farther between.

Identifying and curing these problems is essential due to the guitars delicate temperament. A guitars neck is a frequent-perpetrator of problems. With 6 to 12 strings tuned to pitch there can be several hundred pounds of tension exerted on a neck. With this in mind an ideal neck should be constructed of quartersawn wood, usually maple or mahogany, air dried to a moisture content of 6 to 8%, and free of any blemishes that may season differently than its surrounding wood. Even when this wood is available many luthiers go a step further in preparation of the neck and opt to reinforce it with a truss rod. Truss rods are typically made of a hardened stainless steel rod that is threaded on one end and anchored at the other end. These rods are inserted in a routed channel that lies under the fingerboard. After a guitar has been tuned to pitch there is a tendency for the neck to assume a concave bow. If the bow is exaggerated the guitar will be difficult if not impossible to play, because strings will ride high off the fingerboard, buzz, and or fret out at the bowed end of the neck. This is where the beauty of a truss rod comes in. While the strings are in essence pulling the neck away from the body, the truss rod counteracts the pressure with its own torque that is controlled at the threaded end with a small diameter nut. With a properly installed truss rod an instrument can be adjusted for the minor effects of humidity changes to major adjustments necessary to compensate for wood creep of an instrument that has been under tension for a number of years.

The guitar industry is very fashion oriented and sees a lot of trend type changes every year. An example of this change is found with Steinburger Guitars who began manufacturing injection molded graphite composition guitars. These guitars are virtually free of all the problems that can plague wood, warping, cracking, shrinking, etc. Considering all of its miracle merits one might ask why aren't all guitars made of graphite? This is an easy question to answer. If you had a choice to look at a piece of graphite or Brazilian Rosewood which would you choose?

For me it doesn't matter how good they make the synthetics because the natural beauty of wood and the hands that shape it are irreplaceable. I'm looking forward to meeting more members at our next meeting.

Your friend in wood---John Schwartz

THE VIDEO EDITOR

By D.D. Blodgett

I am sure that, by now, most of you are familiar with the fact that you can borrow video tapes about woodworking techniques from the club library to view in your own home at your leisure on a VCR.

This is an excellent way of learning new procedures and perhaps some new tricks which will ease a task and make your woodworking hobby even more enjoyable.

Beginning with this issue of the newsletter, I will try to review one tape each month so that members might have some preview to what the tapes contain. After all, there's no sense in borrowing a tape for a whole month that turned out not to have what you wanted, but might contain just the information someone else was looking for.

I have to warn you up front though - I tend to be opinionated and will let you know exactly what I think of the tape as well as what it contains. Take it with a grain of salt though and remember, opinions by this writer are definitely my own and not those of the club. With that - LETS GET STARTED !!!

ROUTER - TIPS, TECHNIQUES, AND TRICKS OF THE TRADE with Robert R. Rosendahl Certified carpenter, BSC, ED, MA INDUSTRIA ED.

WOW !!! This guys credentials are almost as long as the tape he stars in. If any of you have vere attended a woodworking show where Mr. Rosendahl has given his lecture and demonstration , this tape is an exact duplicate of the show even down to the jokes.

I'm going to be a little critical here, maybe because I've seen the "live show". Throughout the tape, he will demonstrate jigs and devices which he sells at the shows, but in the tape he doesn't really tell you that these things are for sale or even how to order them.

There are actually three tapes in one here and they cover the following broad categories:

- A. Router Techniques
- B. Table Mounted Router
- C. Use of Guides and Jigs

Router Techniques shows what a router is and some of the basic operations that it can perform. Several types and brands of machine are shown ending up with his personal favorite, a plunge type, which will be used throughout the rest of the film.

He discusses how to prevent edge chipping, use of a fence, and some techniques for dados and edging of panels. The best tip in this section is one on safety, and that is to unplug the router every time you change the bit. **THINK SAFETY AT ALL TIMES WITH THIS MACHINE !!!**

I got a little bored with the number of times he showed himself changing cutters though. I mean, once is fine, but he shows you every change on every project. I would have appreciated seeing more techniques instead.

Table Mounted Router shows the advantages of mounting the router in a briefcase-like device which unfolds into a router table. Unfortunately, no plans - no details - just a few quick words on how great it is to have one. Oh well - get out your back issues of Woodsmith and build theirs.

The main feature of this segment are how to cut box joints and how to make a small box with a fitted lid. The way he cuts the lid is a slick bit of work.

You will also see how to make and use a fence with the table. More importantly, he shows how to provide it with clearance holes and grooves for the considerable quantity of chips that a router can produce.

Use Of Guides is basically how to inlay a piece of thin plastic onto a wood panel using a jig. He claims the method will work on a countertop for repair purposes, but the demo is done on a little piece of cedar mounted in a frame. I guess its up to us to figure out how to apply this technique to a countertop.

A detailed explanation is made of the jigs he sells, but remember, some of the Sears guides and ferrules will work just as well. There are some interesting jigs shown in this segment, but no plans or explanations on how to construct them. Just rerun the tape several times and make sketches if you can.

There is an interesting tip here, and that is that all dimensioned bits, ie:1/4", aren't all the same diameter. he suggests measuring them and regrinding to the proper size if necessary. Does anyone know where this can be done in Houston?

Summing up, this tape is OK if you've never seen a router in action before, but you might get a copy of Sears little booklet entitled "How to Do More With Your Router" for even more tips and techniques.

AUGUST MEETING

The August Meeting will begin at 9AM, Saturday August 8th at the Way Engineering Classroom. We will try to remove the tables for extra space, and there will be some chairs, but please bring your own so that everyone can sit down.

Way Engineering is located at 5304 Ashbrook, between Chimney Rock and South Rice, one block south of Gulfton.

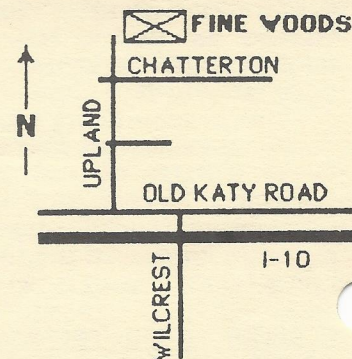


Woodworkers Club of Houston
P.O. Box 34481

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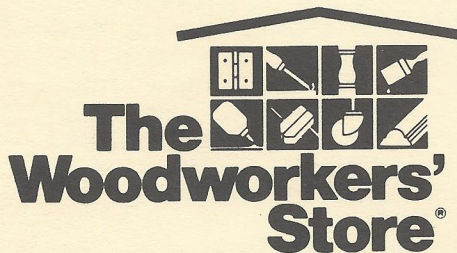
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