

# Woodworkers Club of Houston

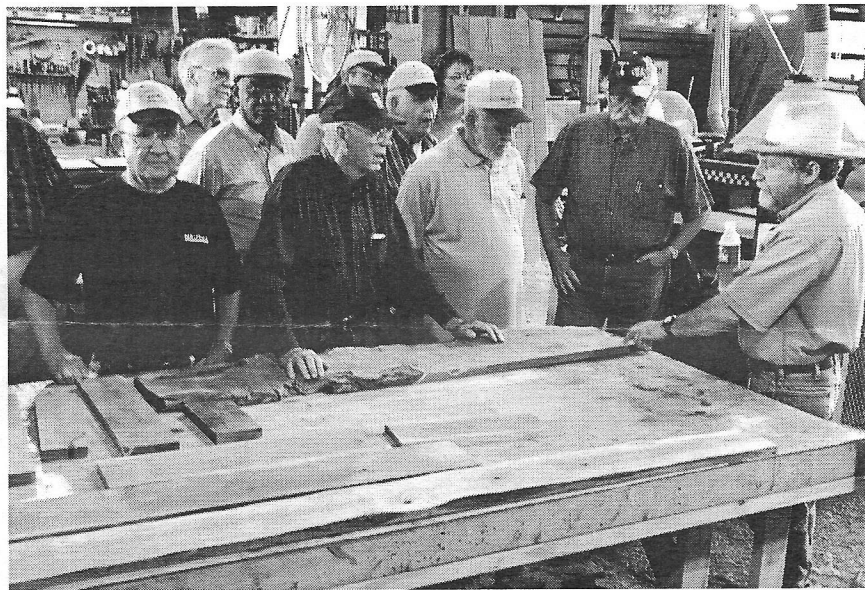
May 2004 • Volume 20, No. 5 • www.wwch.org

## Field trip to Texas Kiln Products an education in mesquite.

Approximately 30 WWCH members made the trek to Smithville to learn about Texas Kiln Products. Ray Sheldon led the members through his operation and discussed the drying process. In addition to mesquite he told us about the outstanding quality of pecan he gets from that area along with cypress and pine.

In addition to milling and drying Texas hardwoods TKP also makes finished wood products to order. Ray showed the members a set of double doors his shop made in mesquite and discussed some of the problems in working with mesquite. There were also several beautiful mesquite mantles that his craftsmen had prepared for various woodworkers and home builders around the state. These mantles will be a distinctive feature in any home.

The drive to TKP is about 2 1/2 hours from Houston. Judging from the amount of wood members carried to their trucks and cars it seemed like an investment well worth the time. One of the bargains Ray offered to the members was a pickup bed full of his scrap millings for

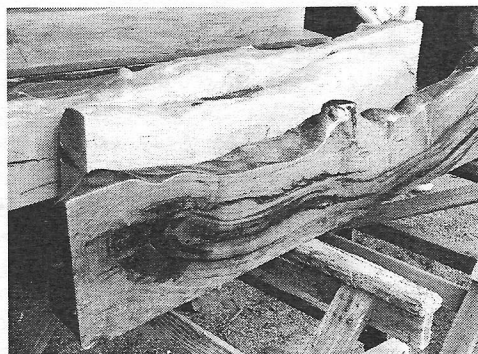


\$20.00. Several members jumped on that opportunity.

A clap on the back to the members that set up this field trip. TKP is a resource for woodworkers all over Texas and throughout the country. And now it's a resource for the WWCH.

Article and photos by Bill White

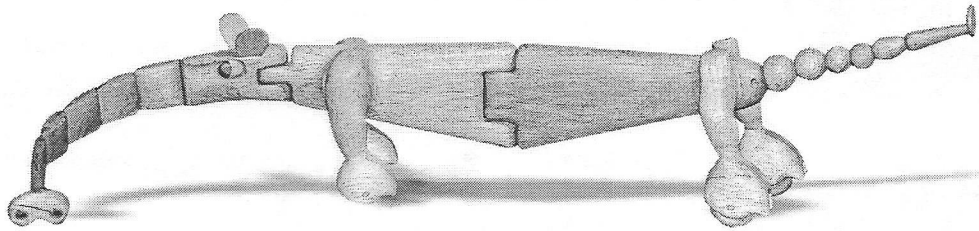
Texas Kiln Products  
170 Texas Kiln Place  
Smithville, TX 78957  
800.825.9158  
Ray Sheldon, Owner



Above: Ray Sheldon points out the qualities and characteristics of mesquite.  
Below: Several of the mesquite mantles prepared by Texas Kiln Products.

## A source of inspiration and learning for woodworkers.

by Bill White



There's a playful quality to wood that most woodworkers I know find delightful. Wood can be fun to work with, and in turn, fun to play with. In years past wood was used to make toys, for example. And now, at the **Houston Center for Contemporary Craft**, there is an exhibit in town that many woodworkers will find... well, delightful. "Playing Around: Toys Designed by Artists" will be showing until June 6th. Whether you've made toys in the past or have enjoyed playing with them you will enjoy this show. It's playful, like the articulated armadillo above, it's fun like the carnival magician that saws the lady in half and it recalls childhood visits to the circus with a display of trapeze artists that swirl around in space.

Wood isn't the only medium the artists use. They employ metal, clay and fabric as well. There are fifty toys in all and they force us to remember a time when toys weren't made of plastic and when imagination was a key component. The show was curated by the Arkansas Arts Center in Little Rock from their extensive (over 3000) collection of handmade and historical toys.

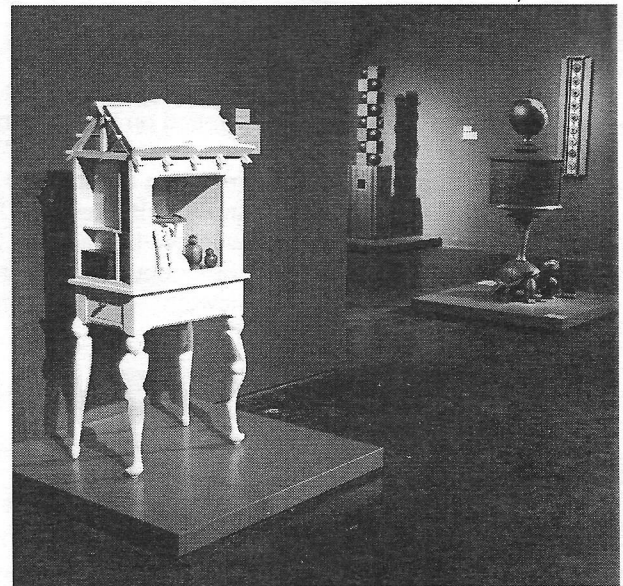
And that's not all. There's also another show in the same gallery that features woodworking called: "Cabinets of Curiosity." Most of these objects are also made of wood. They are mostly a testament by artists to the furniture that's made to hold things: cabinets. In these cabinets, however, are found objects of an intensely personal nature. Objects and combinations of objects that are meaningful to the artist and are presented in hopes that the viewer might find a personal meaning. Most of these cabinets are made of wood using a variety of construction and finishing techniques.

While you're there check out the really fine retail shop that carries many handmade wood, fabric, pottery and jewelry items. In addition the Craft

Center has 8 studios that house several local craftspeople. Usually some of the artists are there and will take the time to talk and explain their techniques. They throw pottery, make jewelry and weave fabrics. Just like WWCH members, their "shops" show the process they use to make their crafts. The Crafts Center sponsors classes for adults and for children. Looking for a little inspiration in your own work? It may be here at the **Houston Center for Contemporary Craft**.

**Houston Center for Contemporary Craft**,  
4848 Main Street, Houston, TX 77002  
[www.crafthouston.org](http://www.crafthouston.org). The web site has a map or call 713.529.4848 for directions. The gallery is open from 10:00am - 5:00pm Tuesday through Saturday and 12:00pm - 5:00pm on Sunday.

Photos by Bill White



## Design and Drawing in 3D

by Todd Burch

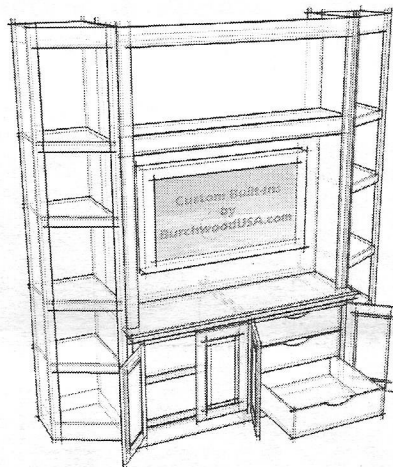
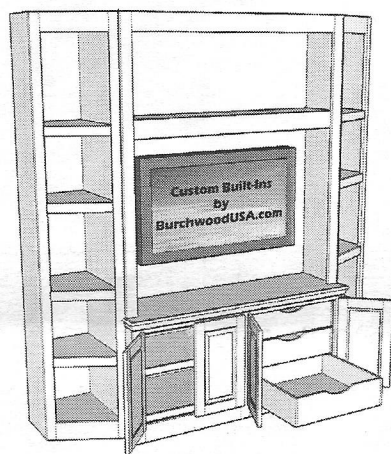
In April's meeting, a question was raised about which CAD (computer assisted, or aided, drawing) programs people were using. I replied with what I use, a program called "Sketchup," but I figured I would write a little about it for those who might be interested, and show an example or two.

I've owned Sketchup for several months now, and could not be more pleased (well, I could be more pleased, but that's a longer article!!) I use it as both a design and layout tool, and as a sales tool for prospective clients. I have used several CAD programs (TurboCad & DesignCAD), and other illustration tools

(CorelDraw, PowerPoint) and Sketchup is by far the easiest to grasp and use.

With Sketchup, you won't get bogged down in technical terms that require weeks or months of training. In as little as a couple hours, you will be exploring your ideas efficiently and being productive. It is one of the few pieces of software that I have used that really harnesses the PC's intent of being easy to use and leverages the PC's power for graphics.

Here is a couple of drawings I did of a built-in entertainment center for a client. Having the ability to draw the item to scale, with as little or as much precision as needed, was a great asset in communicating my intent and understanding of what the client wanted.



## Woodworking Is Therapy

by Sally White, Senior COTA

As an Occupational Therapist with Ben Taub Mental Health Services, I work with patients diagnosed with schizophrenia, psychosis, and mood disorders. The most popular daily group activity I offer is "arts and crafts". According to their level of function, this activity can be simple coloring to a multi-step pre-packaged wood project (i.e. sanding, gluing, nailing, painting & finishing). The purpose of this type of intervention is to assess thought organization and process, frustration tolerance, problem solving, & focus to task. During the groups, I discuss with the patients the value of an enjoyable leisure activity on stress management, sharpening cognitive skills, concentration, and the promotion of self-esteem.

The media selected by patients most often is wood. If I have a low functioning client, simply

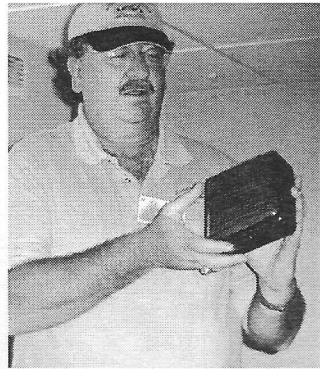
sanding a small piece of wood, and decorating it with paint or a decal is a significant accomplishment, even if it takes many sessions. All completed projects are given to the clients upon discharge as a reminder of their ability to focus, follow instructions, and to reinforce the benefits of engaging in a pleasurable activity.

At this month's meeting, I will show you some examples of our client's woodwork. They are clearly not of the caliber of our accomplished members, but the end result—the feeling of pride, mastery of a skill, and positive outcome—is something we all share, regardless of our abilities and level of function.

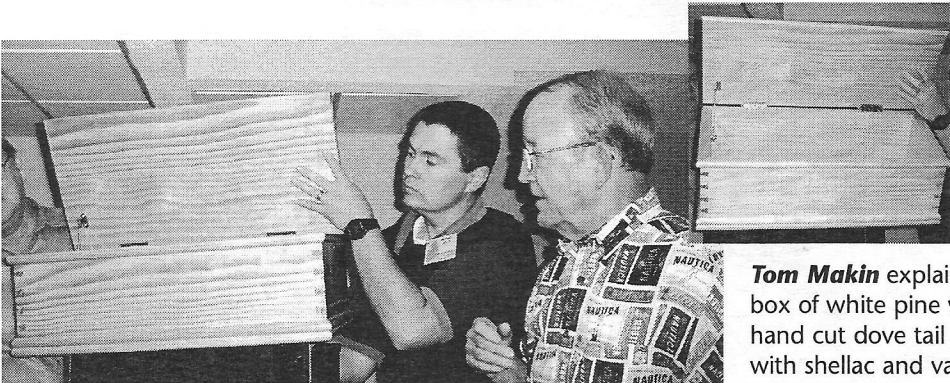
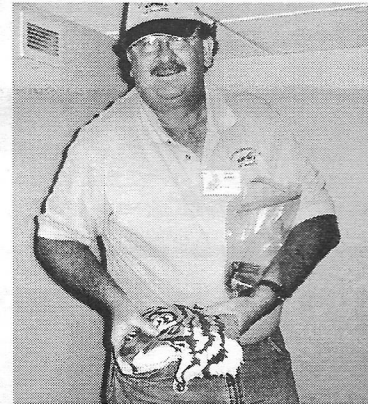
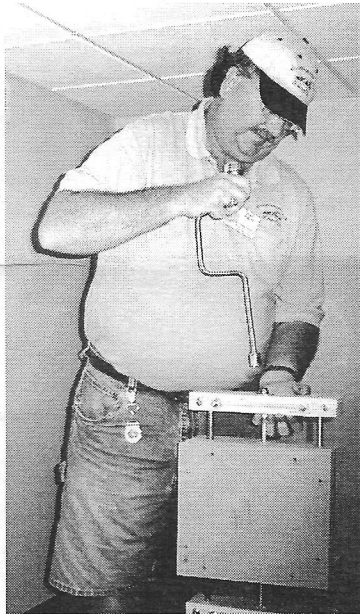
# April projects



**Ridg Gilmer** showed his adjustable "short fence" for use on his Delta Unisaw. It's used for narrow pieces.

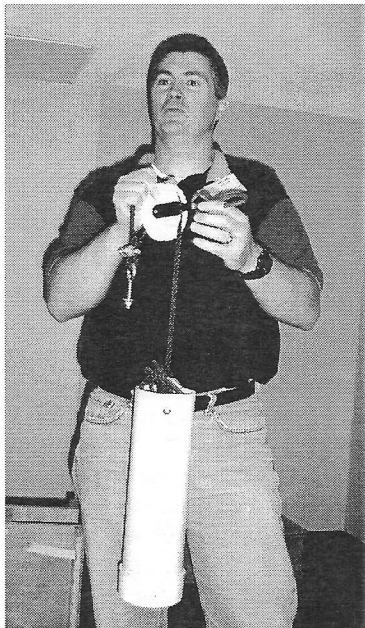


**Denis Muras** explained to club members how his router lift gadget works. His box of zebra wood made with, what else, box joints. Denis also brought a work-in-progress—his scrollsawed tiger head.



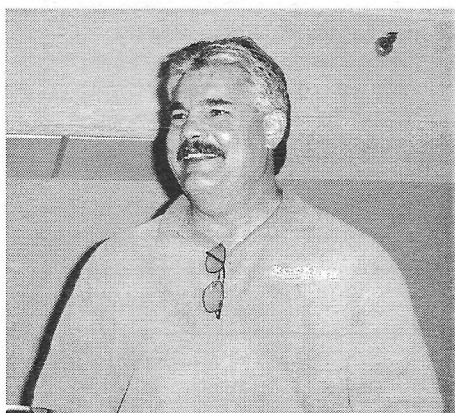
**Tom Makin** explained how this lidded box of white pine was an exercise in hand cut dove tail joints. He finished it with shellac and varnish.

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**Mike Kelley's** fence for his Biesemeyer was shown to club members. His creative talent rose to the occasion in helping him design a counterweight when the Shopsmith is used as a drill press.

**Ken Kooser** showed club members the fence jig he constructed to fit over his Biesemeyer table saw fence.




**Max Quenon**, manager of Rockler Tools, spoke to the club about the company's new store in Houston. Max talked about conducting woodworking classes for all ages and experience levels at his store. His Rockler store will honor all Rockler internet discounts. He explained that sometimes stores don't receive notice on Internet sales in a timely manner.

All Current Work photos & text by Gary Rowen

# Club Contacts

- Jim Robertson, *President* . . . . . [REDACTED]
- Walter Mason, *Vice-President* . . . . . [REDACTED]
- Gary Rowen, *Secretary* . . . . . [REDACTED]
- Al Morrow, *Treasurer* . . . . . [REDACTED]
- Ken Kooser, *Director* . . . . . [REDACTED]
- Paul Koury, *Director* . . . . . [REDACTED]
- Tom Matkin, *Director* . . . . . [REDACTED]
- Mike Kelly, *Director* . . . . . [REDACTED]
- Gary Rowen, *Webmaster* . . . . . [REDACTED]
- Joe Edelen, *Name Tags* . . . . . [REDACTED]
- John Gay, *Book Library* . . . . . [REDACTED]
- Blaine Stokes, *Video Library* . . . . . [REDACTED]
- Loretta Buckley, Bill Hochmuth, *Coffee Committee*
- Bill White, *Communications Director and Newsletter Editor* . . . . . [REDACTED]



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(Call for Directions)


## WWCH Monthly Meeting

Second Saturday of every month  
We open the doors at 8:30am, program starts at 9:00 and winds up by 11:30am.

**Bayland Community Center**  
6400 Bissonnet  
Houston, TX 77074



## Woodworkers Club of Houston Membership Application



A WWCH Membership is a chance to learn about woodworking, visit with other woodworkers and see some fabulous projects. Your membership includes a monthly newsletter, access to our video and book library, invitation to field trips and occasionally we collectively buy tools at discounted prices. Considering the cost it's a genuine bargain. So, cut out this application, include a check for \$24.00 yearly membership and mail it to the address below. And join us once a month for a good time.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**\$24<sup>00</sup> A bargain!**

Mail To:  
WWCH Membership  
502 Aurora  
Houston, TX 77008

This column is devoted to woodworking stuff and where to get it. The Woodworkers Club encourages its members to patronize the businesses that support the club through advertising (noted in **bold**). Also, the Club makes no claims of satisfaction from these vendors and this listing is not intended as an endorsement.

### Fine Woodworking Tools and Supplies:

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**11760 S. Sam Houston Pkwy  
Houston, TX 77031** 713. 981. 9228

Woodcraft Supply  
13155 Northwest Frwy  
Houston, TX 77040 713. 690. 8508

Woodwright  
1407 Spring-Cypress Road  
Spring, TX 77373 281. 651. 9663

Rockler Tools  
3265 Southwest Frwy  
Houston, TX 77027 713. 622. 6567

### Exotic Lumber & Mills:

#### • Houston Hardwoods

**4910 W. 34th Street  
Houston, TX** 713. 686. 6176

• Brandle's Sawmill  
**13868 Lakeland Dr.  
Montgomery, TX 77356** 936. 597. 4575

Clark's Hardwood Lumber  
700 E. 5 1/2 Street  
Houston Heights 77007 713. 862. 6628

Third Coast Hardwoods  
18734 E. Hardy Street  
Houston, Texas 77073 281. 233. 0400

Texas Kiln Products  
170 Texas Kiln Place  
Smithville, TX 78957 800. 825. 9158

### Speciality Tools and Equipment:

#### • Jointech

**11811 Warfield Drive  
San Antonio, TX 78216** 800. 619. 1288

Shopsmith 800. 543. 7586  
www.shopsmithmarkv.com

### Hardware:

Southland Hardware  
1822 Westheimer  
Houston, TX 77098 713. 529. 4743

Buffalo Hardware  
2614 Westheimer  
Houston, TX 77098 713. 524. 1011

### Brink's Hardware

3017 N. Durham  
Houston, TX 77018 713. 862. 6609

### Cox Hardware & Lumber

1923 Wayside  
Houston, TX 77091 713. 923. 9458

### Cornerstone Hardware (formerly Cabinetmakers Hardware)

6910-J Renwick  
Houston, TX 77081 713. 839. 8586

### Sunbelt Fasteners

7115 Ashcroft  
Houston, TX 77081 713. 774. 5250

### Pasadena Industrial Supply

222 West Pasadena Freeway  
Pasadena, Texas 77506 713.472.5588

### Power Tools & Supplies:

#### • Circle Saw Builders Supply

**2510 Ella Blvd.  
Houston, TX** 713. 864. 8444

Harbor Freight Tools  
17490 Hwy 290  
Houston, TX 77040 832. 467. 9442

### Pen Supplies:

#### Boyce Cahagan Pen Supplies

20201 Fox Glen  
Humble, Texas 77338 281. 446. 1590

### Web Sites:

#### Flying Dutchman Scroll Saw Blades

<http://www.mikesworkshop.com/>

#### Gatto Plan Supply

<http://www.gattoplans.com/>

#### Toys and Joys

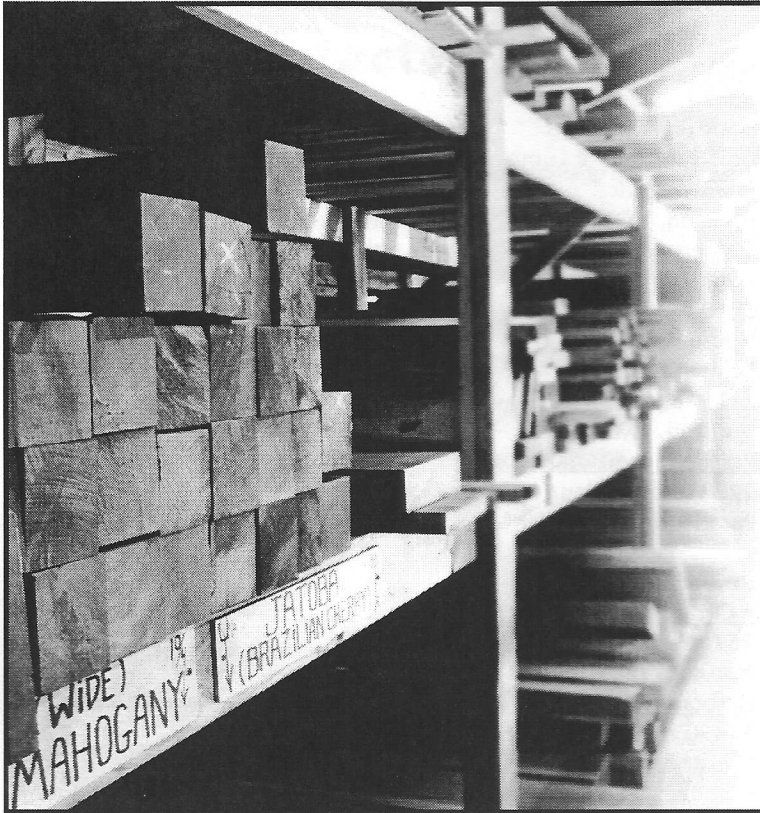
<http://www.toysandjoys.com/>

#### Amazon.com

[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

Thanks to all those who have contributed listings for the Resources column. If you haven't yet contributed take a few moments and send your suggestions for this page to the Editor:

**Bill White**  
2006 Brooktree Dr.  
Houston, TX 77008 or  
[bwhite444@houston.rr.com](mailto:bwhite444@houston.rr.com)



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# Woodworkers Club *of Houston*

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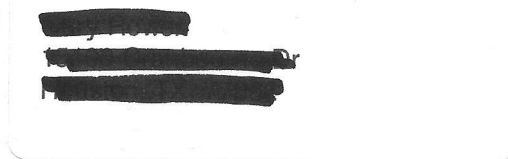


## MARK YOUR CALENDARS:



**WWCH Monthly Meeting: May 8**  
**Scheduled program:**  
**Jack Hutchison on Fine Finishing**

**Next Monthly Meeting:**  
**June 12**



7706242622 • 15 Woodworkers Club of Houston • www.wwch.org • Meeting Second Saturday of Every Month

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