

Woodworkers Club of Houston

October, 2005

Volume 21, #10

www.wwch.org



Six Steps to Success

by Walt Akers

I was recently in Portland, Oregon and had the opportunity to wander through the many 'fine art' galleries they have in the downtown area. I was surprised to learn the Pacific Northwest has a vibrant woodworking community which has generated an immense volume of fine woodwork... I was even more surprised at the prices that some of these modern day masters were asking.

Now, I have a nodding acquaintance with hand tools, power tools, finishes, polishes, and blisters - and it's safe to say that I know a hustle when I see one. So I probed the benefactor of one of these shops, 'The Real Mother Goose', to find out why these craftsmen thought so highly of the fruits of their labor. The information that I gleaned from the spritely young man led me to realize how confused I really was... and what I really needed to know to get ahead in the woodworking world.

Against my better instincts, I'm going to share this information with you...

1) Have a STUDIO. You may talk all you want of your workshop and how well outfitted you are -- but these guys will still regard you as a beer swilling, blue collar clod with a case of the crabs. You'll never be an artist until you have a STUDIO.

Now, I know what you're thinking, "What is a STUDIO, how do I get one, and will I still be able to keep my beer and crabs?" That is a difficult question, even for the experts. Although my informant couldn't tell me the exact difference between a workshop and a studio, he assured me there was a difference - and it was BIG... I concluded that it must be color. Buy paint!

2) LOOK Different. You can always pick the artist out of a crowd of lesser humans --- they have a distinctive, oddball, artist-sort-of-look about them. The Kings (and Queens) of the artistic world are those who can express this weirdness without using props like make-up, dark glasses, facial hair or clothing - they just look strange (even more so when they're naked). Lesser royalty might disguise their lack of innate strangeness by dressing in a wardrobe devised entirely from milk cartons, tin foil, and strategically located band-aids.

3) SMELL Different. Stop bathing and use a very strong cologne to augment your natural essence... People WILL notice the difference...

4) THINK Different. For years I've looked at the works of the great woodworking/fine arts masters and have said to myself - "How can a sane person possibly produce something this bizarre..."

The answer is, "They can't - they're nuts..." You can never produce something like the "Red Blue Chair" by starting with a sensible design and then making it odder --- you have to start from an incomprehensibly goofy concept and then battle your way back to sanity (or as close as you can get)... Stop taking your medication today!

5) SOUND Different. Being understood is not one of the major requirements of an artist. While good grammar may have served you well in grade school, its time to put the stinging lash of Sister Mary Elizabeth's "ruler of knowledge" behind you and set a new course...

Start by making up new names for all of your tools - a "drill press" sounds pedestrian, but a "stationary boring implement?"

This approach can then flow from your studio to

The Club will promote woodworking by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas, to help members improve their woodworking skills and techniques and to promote safer woodworking habits and conditions.

other parts of your life. Name your house, your furniture, your wife AND your neighbors. Ignore any existing captions that might have been arbitrarily assigned to them - remember YOU are the artist...

You needn't work too hard to come up with names for your creations... when in doubt, assign a utilitarian name that describes the essence of the piece - like "TABLE", or "BENCH". For added emphasis, you may add a piece of punctuation; i.e. "SCRATCHING IMPLEMENT!".

Invent new words. Make them as long and pretentious as possible and then use them continuously until they are accepted (or at least understood) by those around you --- then disavow them... Some of my favorite made-up words are "aguchified", "buffuglio" and "entourage"...
Speaking of which...

6) Have an ENTOURAGE. History has taught us the only thing you NEED to be a leader is FOLLOWERS... Get some! The homeless are excellent in this capacity because they work for cheap and they ALREADY look, smell and sound different...

I am proud to say that I have implemented (almost) all of these ideas - and it has led me to the production of something that (I believe) is completely different....
Having said that... It is my pleasure at this time to introduce...

"CHAIR! by Walt Akers at the Twisted Oak Studio"
Walt - The Unwashed

--

Walt Akers

<http://www.jlab.org/~akers/Woodwork/>

Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility
akers@jlab.org.

Three Tools for a Desert Island

by Sheldon Grand

If I were to be stranded on a deserted island, there are three tools I'd most want to have with me in order of importance: First is a flap wheel sander. This is an arbor-mountable (or mounted in the smaller sizes) hub to which are attached flaps of sandpaper. When the wheel turns, the sandpaper removes a light amount of material from the product which is brought into contact. The longer the contact is maintained, and/or the greater the pressure used, the more material is removed, just as in any type of grinder.

These "wheels" come in a variety of diameters, widths, grits, and arbor holes. I believe some are designed to run at very high speeds - up to 30,000 rpm - but I prefer to mount them on fractional horsepower motors that run about 1750 rpm. My favorite is a motor scrounged from an old washing machine with shafts at both ends. I simply obtained a pair of arbors with holes to slip over the motor shafts, held to the shafts with set screws and with ends threaded with 1/2" - 20 threads, and then obtained wheels of 6" diameter, 1" wide, with 1/2" arbor holes. Note that the left hand arbor has a left-handed thread (counter-clockwise) so that the wheel does not "self-loosen."

One of the advantages of this tool is that you really need to make an effort to hurt yourself with it, unlike a powered sanding wheel or belt or carborundum wheel - where a poor hand-hold could result in great discomfort if not disaster. Another is that it is much less likely to burn the work-piece; and another is that it is equally at home on wood or metal.

The second of my deserted island tools is double-sided carpet tape - on a CLOTH backing, not plastic. It is normally purchased in rolls an inch-and-a-half wide and longer than you'd be likely to use for any wood-working or shop project. It is useful for joining together similar or dis-similar materials such as wood, leather, cork, felt, cloth, plastic, aluminum, and steel, or any combination thereof. The bonding is instant and needs no time to cure or set; the joined surfaces will not normally separate unless you intend for them to do so, but once the tape is removed the surfaces can be restored by cleaning up with lighter fluid or other solvent.

If you use either a bandsaw or a scrollsaw or a hand held jigsaw for making cuts by following lines on paper templates or drawings, try using several pieces of double-sided tape to fasten your drawing or template directly to the surface of the wood to be cut. Use enough tape to cover all areas where a saw cut will be made. When finished with all cutting, simply peel the tape off the wood. If necessary, use solvent to clean up the surface.

I've heard of using the product for mounting wooden workpieces to lathe faceplates but have not had occasion to do so. I certainly would use enough tape to cover the complete area of the smaller surface, refuse to stand directly in front of the spinning workpiece, wear a full length face-and-neck shield, and take very light cuts with the lathe running at slow

speed.

Some of my applications are reasonably permanent but allowing for easy replacement, e.g., a leather insert in a wooden desktop. Others are intended to be temporary, e.g., bonding together two pieces of wood to ensure exact alignment of a hole to be drilled through both.

The third of my essential tools is fibre-reinforced tape available in widths from one-half inch to two inches, or better. I was recently faced with inserting a one-quarter inch threaded rod into a five-sixteenth inch threaded hole where the only consideration was that the rod not easily drop out of the hole. A few turns of the reinforced tape around each thread did the job. The actual application was a metal "slider" foot in each of four places on the bottom of a cabinet.

My latest project to utilize it is an easel made of one-quarter inch plywood to support a book or magazine for reading at a convenient angle (about thirty degrees for me). I used the wide tape instead of a metal "piano hinge" to join the vertical and angled pieces of the easel, thus allowing it to be folded flat for

convenient storage. The tape was installed on both sides of the joint.

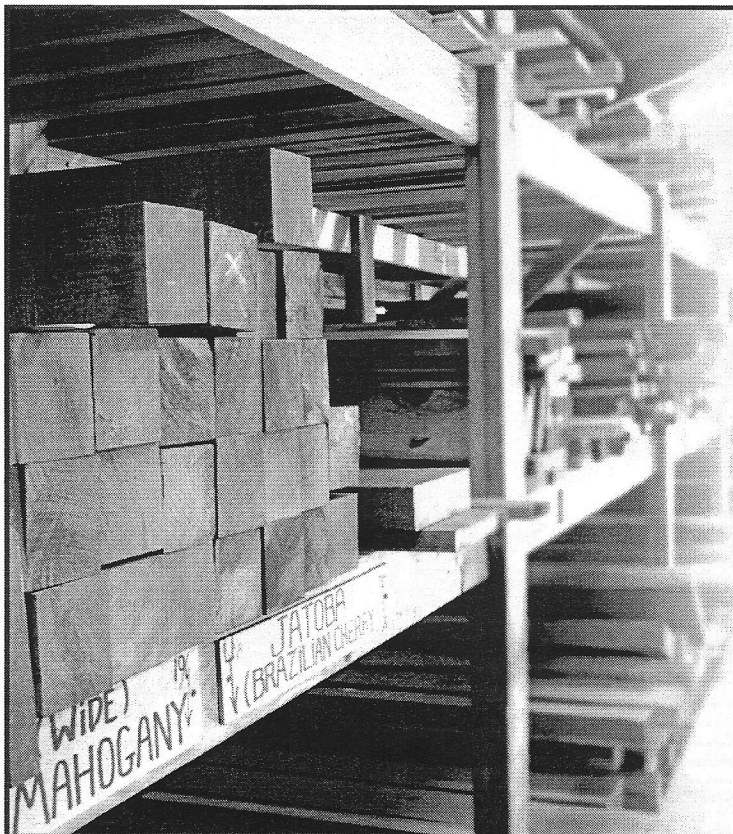
Besides this use as a hinge, I often use tape of this type instead of any other type of tape because it is so much stronger. I've not done any technical tests, but I am comfortable that it will hold better than duct tape, masking tape, and just about any other tape you can name.

Sheldon Grand

Last chance to buy tickets for the WWCH Barbeque on Saturday, October 15

Want some tools? Need some fun? Hungry for some barbeque? The Annual WWCH Barbeque is for you. And it's almost upon us in a big way. Events like a tool auction, swap meet, raffle, and belt sander races will provide the tools and fun—provided you join us. Children's and ladies events will round out the program. Tickets available at the October general meeting. Remember to bring your chairs.

Bayland Pavilion: 11:00am - 3:00pm



Specializing in quality hardwoods, plywoods and moulding since 1990.

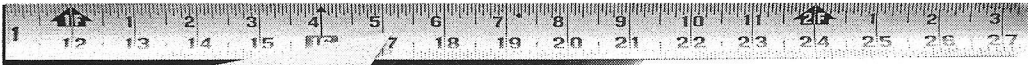
Select your own wood from our supply of Birch, Mahogany, Maple, Padouk, Teak, Walnut and much more.

- Domestic and Imported Plywood
- Edgebanding and Veneer
- Butcher Block Tops
- MDF and Melamine
- Moulding

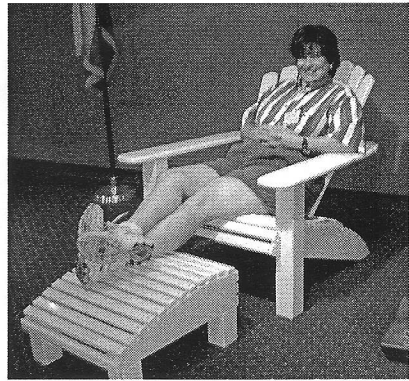
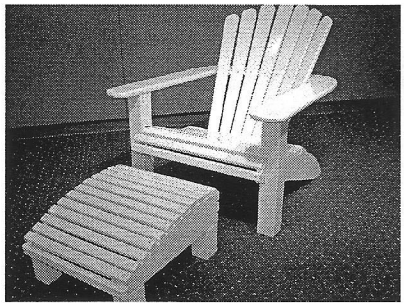
Houston Hardwoods has built a reputation for personal service, prompt delivery and on-site custom milling. Come by and meet our friendly staff or visit us on the web at www.houstonhardwoods.com



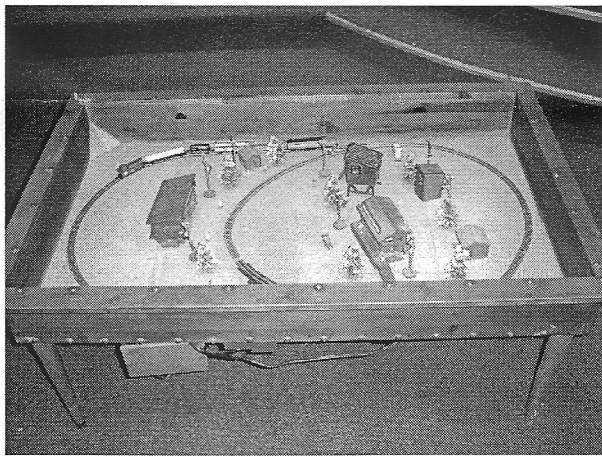
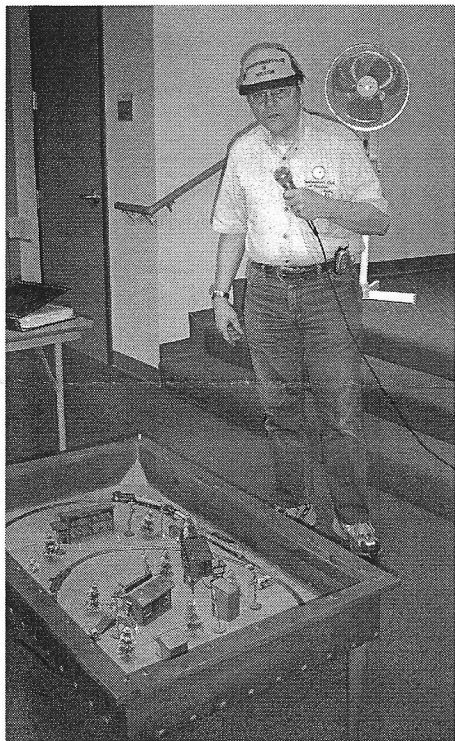
4910 West 34th St, Houston, TX 77092
Tel: 713. 686. 6176 • Fax: 713. 686. 3217
M-F: 7:30 - 5:00, Sat: 8:30 - 12:00



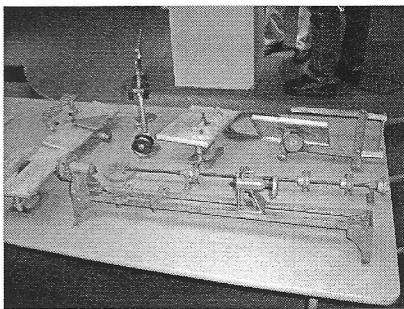
Current Work



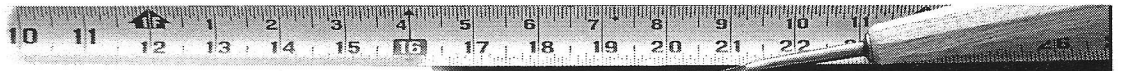
An Adirondack chair...oops, I mean a Southern style Fan Back chair of salvaged deck board is demonstrated by **Dottie Forbes**. Painted in oil based Rustoleum.



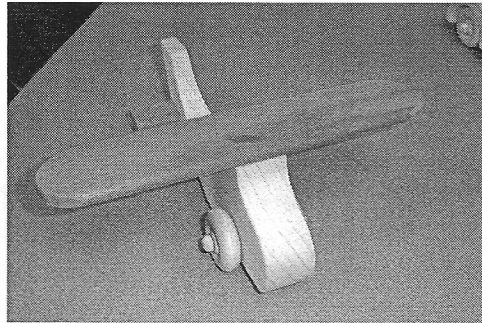
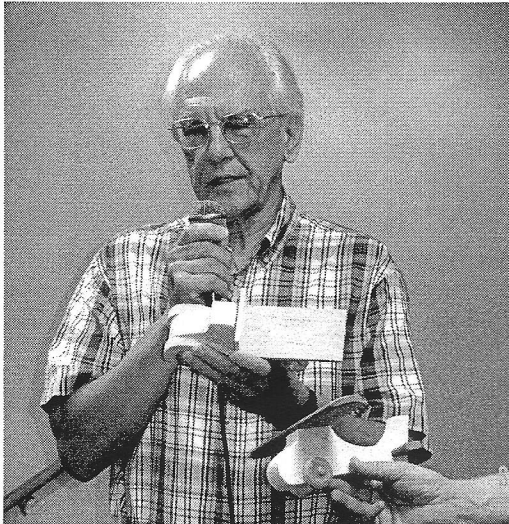
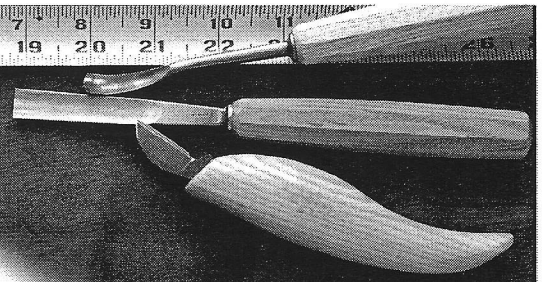
A table of pine houses the N-gauge **Robert Sandlin** Railroad.



No, these are not flea market items but are old tools that **Jim Howard** grew up with.

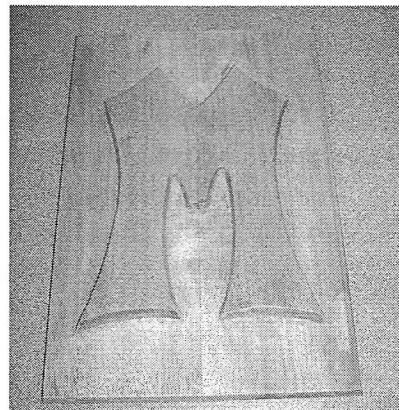
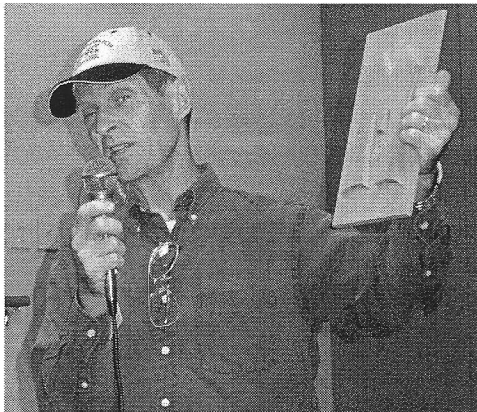
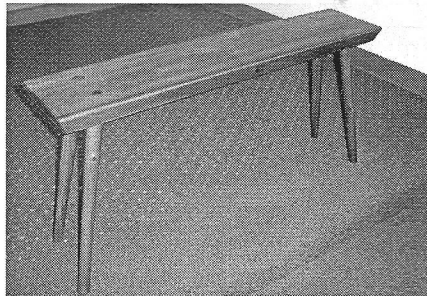


Current Work



Lon Kelley shows the simplicity of making toys. The toy plane is of poplar and the wings of mahogany.

A bench of "Dottie Wood" by Jim Robertson. Looks very sturdy.



The Letter "M" is being brought to you by Dennis Serig. Carved out with an exacto knife plus some scraping, chiseling and sanding.

October Program on Picture Framing by William Reynolds

As woodworkers we often get asked about framing family and friend's photograph's, paintings, or other works of art. Frames range from simple and rustic to complex and sophisticated, but what is appropriate for your family member or friend's piece of art and hanging space? What wood, what stain, what glass, and a hundred other whats about materials, construction, hanging and arrangement? How are you going to figure out what would be appropriate for your particular project and where to get the information and materials that you need?

At our October 2005, meeting, the Woodworker's Club of Houston will be honored to have William Reynolds go over picture framing basics, materials, arrangements, hanging techniques, and more. William is the manager at *The Great Frameup* on 6538 Woodway and is one of less than 2,000 certified picture framers in the U.S. Bring your questions. William's training and experience assure an informative and interesting program.

Dennis Serig

Early Humans Had Woodworking Technology

Archaeologists have discovered the earliest evidence for woodworking yet. According to a report published in the April issue of the *Journal of Human Evolution*, 1.5-million-year-old stone tools belonging to *Homo erectus* sport telltale traces of acacia wood. The new finding predates the oldest known wooden implements by about a million years.

"The importance of this study is that it shows that humans, at a very early stage of their evolution, were producing wooden implements that have not been preserved in the archaeological record," the researchers write in their report. Although it has been suggested that such early hominids lacked the necessary technology for hunting, the new study opens up the possibility that they were making wooden spears. "This could have enhanced their adaptation as hunters to open environments," the team notes, "and gives us further insight into the complex intelligence of hominids at that time."

Kate Wong



Circle Saw Builder's Supply, Inc. Circle Saw Shop of Houston, Inc.

2510 ELLA BLVD. • CORNER WEST 26TH ST. • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77008

CONTRACTORS AND BUILDERS TOOLS AND SUPPLIES

- MAJOR BRAND TOOLS
- PNEUMATIC NAILERS
- STATIONARY TOOLS
- CHAIN SAWS & SUPPLIES
- WOOD WORKING TOOLS
- PORTABLE TOOLS
- SHARPENING SERVICES

(713) 864-8444 • FAX (713) 864-6014 • www.circlesaw.com

Shop Tour: October 8th 1:00 to 5:00 pm

Visit four members' shops in the SW part of Houston after the October meeting from 1 to 5 PM. Maps will be available at the meeting.

Mark Bollinger in Sugar Land has a well organized two car garage shop. He has clever ideas on dust collection, and has an impressive array of jigs for the table saw and other tools. He has very organized tool and catalog storage.

Jim Robertson in Westbury has a purpose built 900 sq. ft. metal building shop with a large number of power tools, including lathes, and integrated dust collection. He has an out building for wood storage. The shop includes industrial metal shelving for tool storage.

Fred Sandoval in Greatwood has a two car garage shop with an eclectic group of power tools. Fred builds period furniture but specializes in making stringed instruments such as violins and lutes, so he has a large number of specialized tools, including delicate brass planes, for making instruments. A truly unique shop!

Steve Procter in Missouri City near Sienna Plantation has a four car garage shop, air conditioned with portable dust collection. The new shop cabinets are styled like a high end kitchen. A large number of power tools, including a molder are geared to making cabinetry for clients as a side business.

Steve Procter

CarveWright System status

Remember that interesting presentation on the CarveWright System at our June meeting? Well, there's a rumor that the machines have arrived. For all of you who have been holding your breath, David Jochim of LHR Technologies is expected to announce the availability of the CarveWright System at our October 8th meeting.

Dennis Serig

Glue that actually takes Stain!

Elmer's a household name in glue for years now makes a Stainable Wood Glue is ideal for all indoor and outdoor wood projects, furniture, and repairs. Elmer's Stainable Wood Glue is formulated with real wood fibers for superior staining, sanding, and painting, has a longer set time for multiple-piece projects, and is ANSI Type II Water Resistant. Available in 7.625 oz and 16 oz. Safe and non-toxic. You can buy it at almost any hardware store or home improvement center.

WWCH Contacts:

Walter Mason, President: 281.288.7706

Dennis Serig, Vice-President: 281.655.1162

Al Morrow, Treasurer: 713.863.7826

Gary Rowen, Web Master: 281.486.2013

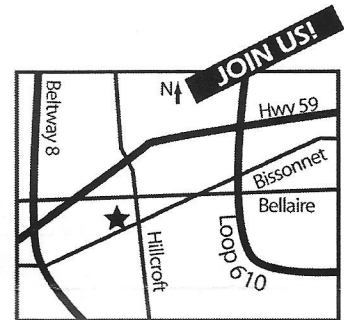
Bill White, Newsletter Editor, 713.524.8768

WWCH Monthly Meetings:

The WWCH meets every month on the second Saturday. We open the doors at 8:30am, the meeting starts at 9:00 and we're finished by 11:30. Guests are welcome and encouraged to attend at no charge.

Our meetings offer a time to discuss problems and seek solutions; see work that members bring in and discuss techniques, design and finishes; catch up on woodworking news and events and hear a presentation by woodworkers, manufacturers or retail firms that is of interest to woodworkers.

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



Woodworkers Club of Houston Membership Application

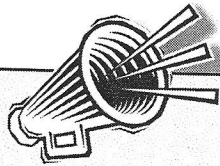
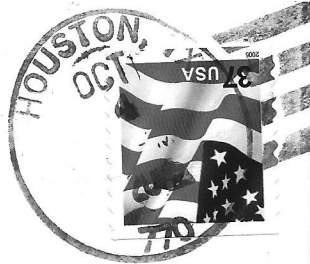
A WWCH membership is a chance to learn about woodworking, visit with other woodworkers, and see some woodworking projects. Your membership includes a monthly newsletter, access to our video and book library, invitation to field trips and occasionally we collectively buy tools at discounted prices. Our dues are \$24.00 a year and, we think, a real bargain. So, we invite you to fill out this application, cut it out and send it to the address below with a check for your dues.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Mail to: WWCH Membership
502 Aurora
Houston, TX 77008

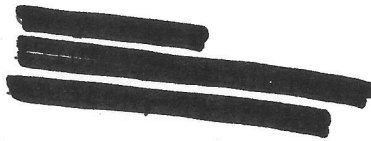
Woodworkers Club *of Houston*

502 Aurora
Houston, Texas 77008



Coming Events

- Monthly Meeting:
October 8
- Program: Picture
Framing by William
Reynolds
- Shop Crawl: October 8
- Barbeque: October 15
- Next Meeting:
November 12



*"Some of the most fundamental and essential tools can't be bought."
Jim Tolpin's, Woodworking Wit & Wisdom*

77062+2622-00 C015



The Cutting Edge offers only the finest woodworking tools and supplies.

Come visit and see our new and expanded store. We've kept all the best lines of supplies and equipment and added lumber and a few other surprises. We're still committed to providing the best sales and service in the Houston area. You won't be disappointed.

- Woodworking Machinery
- Turning Tools and Supplies
- Carving Tools
- English Hand Tools
- Japanese Hand Tools
- Lumber from around the world
- Monthly Woodworking Classes

JET

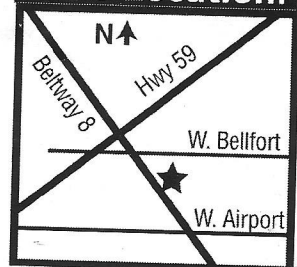
POWERMATIC

▲ DELTA®


**Best Prices on JET
Machinery Every Day!
Authorized JET Service
Center**

See our web site for our
monthly list of classes and
much more:
www.cuttingedgetools.com

New Location:



11760 S. Sam Houston Pkwy W.
713. 981. 9228


**The
CUTTING EDGE, INC.**
A Woodworker's Tool & Supply