

Woodworkers Club

OF HOUSTON

VOL. 7, NO. 9

SEPTEMBER, 1991

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AUGUST MEETING

The August program was on woodworking in Aircraft construction presented by Dan Durham from Rice Aviation.

Due to the high cost of constructing aircraft from wood plus the craftsmanship required to construct an aircraft it is not feasible to commercially manufacture wooden aircraft.

Its much cheaper to build an aircraft out of aluminum on the assembly line.

The Experimental Aircraft Association members still make aircraft out of wood--so if you've got 3 to 5 years you too can make an aircraft in your home workshop. The EAA has a fly in each year at Oskosh, Wis. where you can see thousands of different airplanes.

The builders of wooden aircraft use three types of wood---solid, laminated and plywood. The premier wood is Sitka Spruce, one wood that has strength to weight ratio--lightweight and strong.

Because of two World wars there is no longer any native stands of usable Sitka Spruce in the mainland U.S. The trees were replanted but because the trees must be 50 to 75 years old and WWII was only 50 years ago, maybe in another 10 years there will be native wood available.

Right now Sitka Spruce comes from British Columbia and Alaska where there are still native stands. Trees are selectively cut and carefully felled, trucked out, cut into billets, graded--select wood shipped by rail or boat. The spruce is taken to another saw mill, regraded, kiln dried, regraded for splits and checks--then sent through a finishing mill--graded again, then stamped aircraft grade spruce. Grading standards are set by the FAA. The wood must be straight grained, quarter sawn and no less than 8 annual rings per inch.

Spruce is in demand for ladders and scaffolds, also as an acoustical wood for piano sound boards and instruments. Since Sitka Spruce has no odor or taste they even make chopsticks out of this type of wood.

The whole log is used but only the best of the log is used for aircraft.

Laminated spruce is used for the curved part of the airplane--the beams and wing spars because it has a better resistance to warpage.

Aircraft Plywood has a mahogany face with the grain running length ways or at a 45% angle which adds 45% more to the cost. The core is either basswood or poplar. The plywood thickness ranges from 1/16" to 3/8". The cost of a 1/16 x 4 x 8 is \$100.00 and 1/8x4x8 is \$235.00 a sheet.

The wings are truss type construction with plywood gussets for strength. All joints are glued, no mechanical fasteners. Years ago they used casin glue but when exposed to weather it would deteriorate. Today they use synthetic glues.

When an aircraft is finished it looks like a fine piece of furniture, then they cover it with fabric and paint. The cloth they use today is an Aircraft grade dacron, they used to use cotton and a nitrose cellulose dope that was very flammable.

Dan had some sample of patches made to the very thin plywood skin, for holes larger than one inch in diameter they use an oval or circle--no square patches and for holes no more than one inch in diameter, they use a splayed or scarfed patch, cut by hand.

WORKSHOPS AND CLINICS

Ed Burger gave a couple of workshops on wooden pens. Ed will give more clinics as needed--if interested contact Ed. Each pen mechanism costs \$4.00.

CHARITY SHOW AND SELL

We need lots and lots of merchandise for sale at the show---so if you can't bring it to the show on Friday please start bringing it to the next two meetings. If you haven't started now is the time to make something to sell at the show.

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Gayle Robinson is looking for someone to make rustic furniture out of willow wood. It was suggested that he check the books Foxfire #4 or Roy Underhill Woodwright's books.

Guy Meaders is getting inconsistent cuts on his router--it was recommended that he check or replace the collet.

Another member was looking for friction hinges for casement windows--try Cabinet Makers Hardware in Houston.

BUY AND SELL

As reported in last month's newsletter Steve Procter is selling wood and plans for Executive Desks.

Art Chester has some aluminum sections trays with lids for Sale at \$5.00 each.

SHOW AND TELL

Guy Meaders showed us a Cherry Chest of Drawers, finished in 3 coats of Bartley's. Guy got the plans from Woodsmith. He used biscuits instead of tongue and groove. The plans in Woodsmith also include a couple of jigs.

Bill Hochmuth made a small drop leaf table out of Tiara, Brazilian Mahogany, finished in Watco oil. The plans were out of Woodworkers Journal. The table has only one drop leaf with rule joint. Bill is also contributing this table to the Charity Sale.

Chuck Maxwell demonstrated a simple jig for lathe turners for setting your callipers--plans were in the Woodworkers Journal.

Denis Muras made a Writers Secretariat out of Pecan. Pecan is a very interesting wood, the dark sections of wood are very hard and the light sections are very soft. Denis finished the piece in 3M Scotch guard.

Don Richardson brought his own designed router and sanding table. He combined many different ideas: The drawers were from Woodsmith, from Bob Rosenthal the groove in the top. He placed grooves in the top to accept the Inca Jig, feather Jig is set at a 45 degree angle for hold down.

When he removes his router he has made solid inserts to make a solid top. Don designed bins in the bottom for storage, routers, and sanders. The drawers to hold router bits and accessories are accessible from both sides of the table.

Bill Beggs suggested using 3/8" white plastic for non-stick runners--polystyrene-trade name Delrin.

Bill Sallans showed off the wooden pen that he made in Ed Burger's woodshop.

DRILL PRESS SAFETY

From the Power Tool Institute, Inc.

Read and understand the warnings and instructions on the drill press and in the owner/operator's manual.

Always wear safety goggles or safety glasses with side shields complying with current national standard, and a full face shield when needed. Use a dust mask in dusty work conditions. Wear hearing protection during extended periods of operation.

Do not wear gloves, loose clothing, jewelry or any dangling objects, including long hair, that may catch in rotating parts or accessories.

Remove material or debris from the area that might be ignited by hot chips.

Make certain the chuck key is removed before starting the tool. The key can be thrown at high velocity if not removed.

Be sure belt guards are installed and functioning properly.

Never hold the workpiece by hand. To prevent the workpiece and backup material from spinning, set them against the left side of the drill support column. Secure the workpiece with a clamp or the appropriate fixture if it is too short to reach the column.

Carefully set the drill press speed appropriate for both the type of material and bit size you are using.

Don't touch the bit or chips. Drill bits and cuttings are hot immediately after drilling.

If something goes wrong, never attempt to correct a problem with the drill operating. Shut it off and unplug it if possible.

Never reach around or under the working head, or grab the chuck to stop a drill press. This can result in hand puncture or other serious injury.

Always shut off, unplug if possible, and lock the press if a lock is available, and store the key.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

WHEN: SEPTEMBER 14TH, 1991 9:00 A. M.

WHERE: BAYLAND COMMUNITY CENTER
ON BISSONNET AT HILLCROFT

We will be voting on the Charity for the October Charity Show and Sale.

OFFICERS FOR 1992

It doesn't seem like it but at the October meeting we must place in nomination a slate of officers for 1992 and vote on new officers at the November Meeting. We need your help wouldn't you like to hold an office and help the club grow. I know no one likes to volunteer but we do need your help--if you would like to serve--please tell one of the officers.

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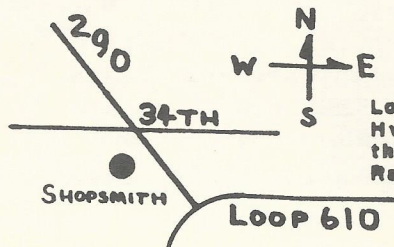
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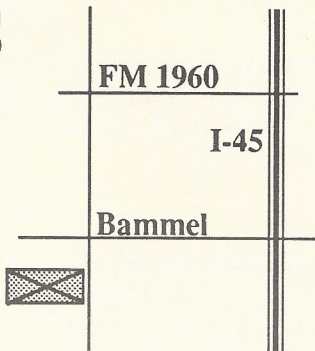
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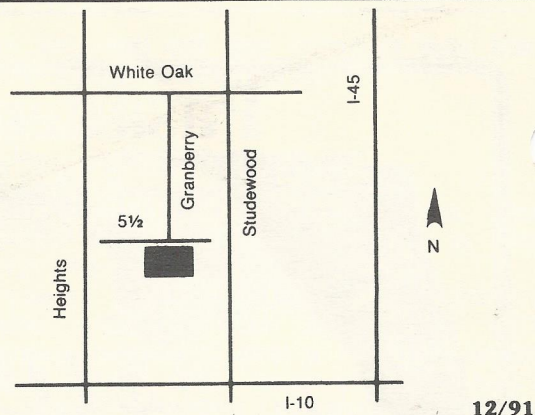


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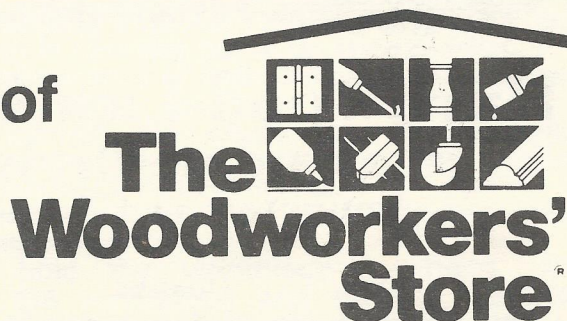
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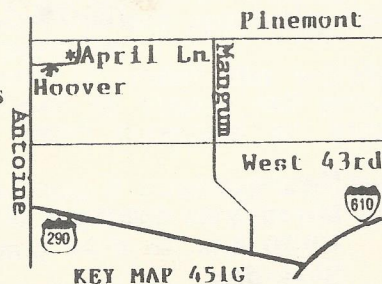
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