

Woodworkers Club *of Houston*

March, 2008
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www.wwch.org



FEBRUARY PRESENTATION

What a great job Steve LeGrue did in his talk on joinery last month. Steve, master turner and proprietor of The Cutting Edge on the beltway near West Bellfort, gave us some great information on the different types of joints, when to use them appropriately and, when we make a joint, how to glue it up properly depending on the joint and the materials.

Some of Steve's tips:

- Mortise and tenon joints should fit tightly but not too tightly. Now, while that is a very subjective statement, try this explanation. Make the mortise (the socket) first. Make the tenon (the tongue) to fit the mortise and, in doing so, make it about one-third the width of the stock to allow for maximum glue surface and joint strength. As for how tight, if you can hold the joint up dry-fit only and the pieces fall apart, that is too loose. If you dry-fit the pieces and you need a hammer to pull them apart, that is too tight. So something in between is correct.
- If using dovetails, make your dovetails a little proud and use a shoulder plane to trim them up and make them flush. If you are making only one or two boxes or drawers (a drawer is just a box without a top), try hand-cutting your dovetails. If you are making a full set of drawers for a chest of drawers or a large project, you may want to use a dovetailing machine such as a Porter-Cable, Sears, Incra or Jointech.
- If you are edge-joining pieces into a larger panel and are using biscuits to keep the pieces aligned, allow the panel to dry overnight so that when you use a belt sander to make the final panel smooth and the joints flush, you will avoid dimples that temporarily form due to the expansion of the biscuits.

For more on joinery and how to make various joints, Steve invites you to stop by his store on the beltway near West Bellfort or you can purchase any one of a multitude of books on joinery.

MARCH PRESENTATION

This month's presentation will be by long-time member and custom cabinetmaker, Steve Proctor. A number of years ago, Steve did a presentation on casework using sheetgoods. It has stuck with a large number of us but there are a large number of members – new and old – that have not seen Steve's presentation. He has some new and exciting things to show us so you don't want to miss it. g Edge is a premier supplier of tools and supplies for the woodworker and wood turner.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

As everyone knows, your Board of Directors and committee heads are all volunteers. A busy work schedule and travel schedule for some of us has caused a few delays in getting the newsletter out earlier and also in getting the Membership Book in your hands this weekend. While we are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause, we are certain you understand.

In light of the delays, we will be able to extend the inclusion in the 2008 Membership Book of members renewing or joining in March so, if you have not yet renewed your membership or if you have not yet officially joined the Woodworkers Club of Houston, renew or join now. We look forward to having you remain part of our wonderful organization.

Current Work



Carolyn and Doc Cotton brought photos and explain how they constructed this bookcase and reminded us all that there is no such thing as having too many clamps. Nice work, you guys!!



Mark Bolinger brought in one of the panels that would ultimately be one of the sliding doors to his entertainment stand. He included windows so he could use slats that were already cut from a previous project. Mark explained how the bottom is a thin rail and the top is beveled to allow easy removal of the door. The stand is finished with Danish oil and polyurethane. Looks great, Mark!



Jeff Levy, guest and hopefully new member brought in an electric guitar he is working on. It is made of maple, mahogany and rosewood. Awesome work, Jeff! We can't wait to see more of your stuff.

Current Work



Using his home-built CNC router he showed us a couple of months ago, **Rich Thomas** created an image of his son on a piece of maple plywood. He then framed it with mahogany. I'm working on trying to see a resemblance but I think he looks more like his mother. Nice work on the engraving, Rich.



Brian Honey created this "Beveled Beauty" box from bird's eye maple and cherry from a design he borrowed from Wood Magazine. He finished it with linseed oil and then lacquered it. He then rubbed out the finish with fine steel wool.



Treasurer **Bill Cole** explained to us that this keepsake box has been in his family for many years. While he does not know who crafted it, whoever it was in his family that did make this box did a wonderful job. Make sure you keep it in the family, Bill! It is truly a treasure.



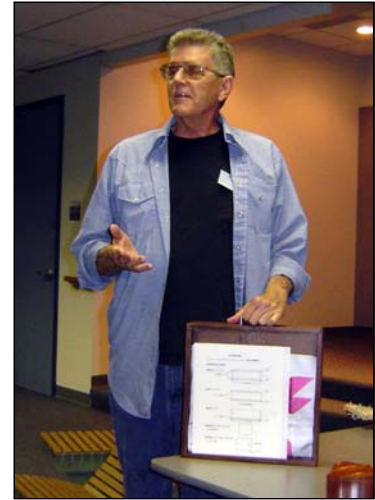
Current Work



Animated toy maker extraordinaire **Denis Muras** shows off his pull toy made of walnut and maple and then finished with a wipe-on polyurethane. Great work, as usual, Denis!



Steve Singleton won't admit to making this "Hush Pup" to keep his wife from bothering him to make her something but he explained that this is used to store quilters squares by quilter. Steve doesn't look like a quilter but, hey, who knows. Nicely done, Steve!



This guy really knows how to get on the good side of his valentine, doesn't he? **David VanDerwerker** crafted these heart-shaped boxes from oak and mahogany just in time for Valentine's Day. Dave used plans from the January/February, 1992 issue of *Woodworkers Journal*. For sitting, nothing fits a bottom better than this portable lawn chair. The chair and matching table were built from a plan in the book "*Woodworking for the Backyard*".



Cut-Offs

THE BOX CONTEST IS BACK!!

We will be conducting the box contest again this year. Yeah, I know, it is short notice but I know you folks can and will step up and meet the challenge. The rules of the contest this year are the same as the rules last year. A copy of the rules is posted on the WWCH website and, if I am not mistaken, a link to the contest rules was emailed last month.

The winning entries will be kept... for only a short time. Just as we did last year, the winning entries – and possibly a few of the non-winning entries – will be retained by the Club and put on display at the Woodworking Show that is coming to town next month. Your boxes will be returned to you at the April meeting. We greatly appreciate each and every one of you who are working on boxes and are submitting them for judging. Besides showing off your work, it helps the club showcase a few of the things our members work on to potential members who are wandering the aisles of the show.

I received a phone call earlier in the week asking if we will be having a traditional show-and-tell or will the box contest be out show-and-tell this month. My answer was a very direct and authoritative “I don’t have a clue”. Yeah, I know none of you ever expected me to not know something but on rare occasions it happens. Rare occasions! By the end of the conversation, I realized that Ed Zinni, the Master of Ceremonies of the monthly show-and-tell will not be attending the meeting due to work requirements. So I think the box contest will be the show-and-tell this month. This being the case, you folks need to bring lots of boxes to show and tell about and have judged.

SIGNING YOUR WORK – PART 2

Kathryn Hampton

Last month, we discussed marking or otherwise signing your work. We discussed some of the different ways to mark your work, such as branding irons, rubber stamps or written signatures. We also discussed what different information you may want to include in that marking, such as a logo, completion date, limited-quantity indicator or a project name. This month, let's take a look at different ways to make that mark.

Notes on Writing Instruments

The concerns with pens are bleeding, smearing, fading, and a finish coat may cause the ink to run. Check the reaction between ink and finish on a scrap piece first. Be sure to allow sufficient drying time for the ink before applying the finish. The advantages are that they can be purchased in various colors and writing tip sizes, and can be used on small or large items.

Ballpoint and Gel

Pilot G2 gel pens mark on wood without bleeding. I use these to trace patterns on bare wood. The smoother the wood, the better the mark. All blacks are not created equal, try several brands of pens to find out which is blackest. A Faber-Castell PITT artist pen with a fine tip seems to do well on pieces between coats of finish. A Pigma Micron pen is waterproof, but I'm not sure about other finishes. You can find them at an art supply store, or maybe even in the scrapbooking section of department or craft stores. They come in different colors and tip sizes for more detail or more boldness, as desired. India ink pens work well and stay on the wood.

Sharpie

The concern with Sharpies is that they have a tendency to bleed (like touching a napkin to water) when used on bare wood. Frequently recommended, is the ultra fine point sharpie between coats of finish. Signing the piece after Danish oil has cured, but before spraying with deft finish seems to work, no runs. Spraying a coat of fast drying polyurethane on the area and when dry signing it with a black Sharpie produces good results, the polyurethane prevents bleeding. I found reports of good results using a sharpie after finishing with shellac also.

Archival Quality

Of course, archival quality inherently means that they are designed to not bleed and with no color fading over time. Michael's has a non-bleeding fine tip marker in the art section. Cost is about \$2 and it works great. Some have dual tips, fine on one end and thick on the other. The tip is barely bigger than a regular pen and it's a nice dark black. Archival pens can be used with lacquer (brushed or sprayed), polyurethane, and Tung oil. One person reported finding the best price on an archival pen in the craft section of Wal-Mart.

Paint

I know you can find paint pens in craft stores such as Michael's and Hobby Lobby, and I have heard they can also be found in office supply stores as well. The "ink" is paint, so it does not bleed at all. You can get any color imaginable in a paint pen – even 24kt Gold (Real Gold)! Fine point tips are available. You have more control applying the paint with a pen than a brush.

Woodburning Tool

Okay, it isn't actually a pen with ink in it, but I have included the wood-burning tool here because you would use it like a pen. The concerns with a wood-burning tool are primarily penmanship and difficulty in signing small pieces. Wood-burning is more permanent than ink or paint. Use a wood-burning tool, with either of two points (very small ball or very sharp point), before any type finish is put on. Sign everything with a pencil first. Fixing mistakes or problems with a pencil is easy. Then, trace it with the wood-burning tool. Any stray marks can be sanded out with very fine sandpaper or even erased with the eraser. Apply finish over the top of the wood-burning.

Carving Your Mark

The concerns with carving are the complexity of your mark and your carving skills. The advantages are the mark can be inconspicuous (or even part of the design) and like wood-burning, more permanent than ink or paint. You can carve (using carving tools or a knife) a motif or logo on your piece, then apply the finish. The finish fills in the mark, darkening it, and visually blends it in with the wood. If doing projects one at a time, taking 10-15 minutes to cut the mark is not an issue. Here's another idea, combine your initials to form a simple logo that is quick and easy to do with a scratch awl. Apply it to end grain (easy to control) and keep it very small. Fast, cheap and personal.

Hand Engraving Tool

With very little practice you can sign your name on the bottom of a piece, or wherever, with a precision approaching that of signing your name on paper.

Medallions



If you can't engrave right on the piece, a medallion inlay is a great alternative. Typically laser-cut, the concerns with medallions are cost, availability, and size of the piece in which to inlay. I created this medallion on my laser, its size is approximately 1 ¼" in diameter and is ⅛"-thick Alder wood. Medallions can be made from any species of wood. The piece to be marked is drilled a 1" Forstner bit for a perfect inlay fit. You can also request sequential serial numbers be engraved when ordering. They look great inlaid in the bottom of turned pieces. If you sign a 3x5 index card (unlined) with your "shop"

signature, it can be scanned and laser-engraved onto a medallion.

Rubber Stamp

Concerns with rubber stamps include the same ink issues as with pens (test it first), and application consistency -- too light or too hard, it's kind of a one shot thing or you get a double stamp. Another concern is that the stamp area is not larger than the piece being stamped. An advantage is that you don't have to worry about your penmanship. Stamps can be basic lettering, or can be designed and created especially for you.

Branding Iron

Branding irons can be basic (fairly inexpensive) all the way up to custom designed (more expensive). The concerns with branding irons are similar to the rubber stamps with regard to size (brand in relation to piece) and application consistency -- too light or too hard it's kind of a one shot thing or you get a double mark. It takes a little practice to hold it vertically so as not to get the outer edges of the iron touching the wood, and how much burn time for a crisp image -- and it varies with species, too. Electric branding irons take about 30 minutes to heat, and if you have multiple things to brand, you need to wait a little between each piece to let

the iron get hot again. Non-electric branding irons take about 5 minutes to heat with a propane torch. Branding irons need flat surfaces for best results. A nice addition is a date attachment.

Punch-Stamping Set

For stained pieces, an option is an alpha-numeric steel hand punch set. The drawbacks are punching one letter at a time, you need an edge to help line up the letter punches, and application consistency.

I hope this series of articles has been informative and beneficial. As a woodworker, it is important to mark your work so that future generations are aware of who the craftsman was and when the article was crafted. That marked article could possibly be your family's only perpetual connection to you long after you are gone.

Trading Post

WANT TO BUY

- 1998 or newer Honda Gold Wing. Black or silver preferred. I need it to haul small woodworking tools and meeting information to and from the meeting every month.

CONTACT: Saul Harris (sharris@sawdustcreek.com or 713-299-3785)

FOR SALE

- 1950's model Shopsmith 10ER on wood cabinet with casters... \$600
- Delta 20" scroll saw... \$150
- Bosch #1611 3HP router (22,000 RPM)... \$150
CONTACT: Gene Bradley (713-723-5343)
- I have over 100 board-feet of Wenge. Superb grade and finished all four sides... \$11.00 / bf
CONTACT: Jon Cummings (281-304-1109)
- Performax 16-32 Plus drum sander and stand. Used but in very good condition... \$500 or best offer.
CONTACT: Bobby Johnson (713-466-7200)
- Porter-Cable Model 554 Plate Jointer w/ case and instruction book. Lightly used (<100 biscuits)... \$40.00
- Porter-Cable Model 5508 Dovetail Template. Original box and instruction book. Used twice... \$15.00
- Both for \$50.00 cash.
CONTACT: Sid Hockens (281-265-0884)
- Stanley #5 Jack Plane. Type 19. Tuned and sharpened, ready to use... \$40
- Spokeshave with Adjustable Mouth. Stanley cutter. Sharp and ready to use... \$20
- Spokeshave, Kunz. \$5 (negotiable).
Contact: Mark Bolinger (281-242-4712)

Finally! A Texas Scroll Saw Picnic...We're Getting Closer

By Norm Nichols

To the best of my knowledge there has never been a scroll saw picnic in the state of Texas. Many of us Texas scrollers have been pushing for one for several years. NOW we have one. First, a "picnic" is a gathering of scrollers and vendors to swap stories, tell a few lies, and hopefully learn something new. There is a competition where anyone can enter and may even win a ribbon. Of course, the vendors are always interesting as they have lots of toys for us to play with and hopefully buy. I will get into more details on all of this in a later newsletter.

The picnic is Friday and Saturday, May 2 and 3, 2008 in Grapevine, in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. It is being co-sponsored by the DFW Scrollers and Lyndal's Backyard Workshop.

On Friday, the picnic will be open from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. Rumor has it that the vendors will be set up at this time. There will be seminars at the First United Methodist Church in Grapevine. The entrance fee will be \$8. That evening at the church, there will be a BBQ buffet. The BBQ cost will be \$15 and we need to be preregistered by April 12, 2008. On Saturday, the hours are 9:00am to 5:00pm at the Grapevine Convention Center in Grapevine. The entrance fee is \$7 if you are preregistered or \$9 at the door. The competition will be held at this location and will be under the guidelines of SAW (Scroll Saw Association of the World). Concessions will be open and of course the vendors will be in full gear. There will be lots of door prizes, but the grand prize is an Excaliber EX-21 that is being sponsored by Seyco. (I sure hope I win this saw as that will save me from having to buy one.)

Contacts for the 2008 Texas Scroll Saw Picnic are www.dfwscrollers.com, phone at 469-360-9938, or email at lbworkshop@verizon.net.

I have been to several picnics and they are really fun. You will be able to meet some of the folks you have read about in the magazines. It is fun to find out what other people are doing. I am hoping that WWCH will have a good turnout at this picnic and lots of pieces are submitted into the competition. So far I know of three us who are going. So mark your calendars and get that saw fired up.

Woodworking Humor

From The Associated Press • Updated 3:09a.m. CT, September 10, 2007

HEADLINE: CARPENTER FREE TO PLY TRADE IN THE NUDE

OAKLAND, Calif. - A carpenter caught hammering nails and sawing wood in the nude has been found by a judge to be not guilty of indecent exposure.

Alameda County Superior Court Judge Julie Conger ruled Thursday that although Percy Honniball of Oakland was naked, he was not acting lewdly or seeking sexual gratification.

Honniball, 51, was arrested last year after he was spotted building cabinets in the buff at a home where he had been hired to work.

The carpenter has said he likes to work in the nude because it's more comfortable and it helps him keep his clothes clean.

Honniball earned two years' probation in 2003 after being caught three times working naked in Berkeley, which prohibits public nudity. Oakland does not have a similar ban.

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Woodworking Events

March

- 7 Southwest Houston Splinter Group
- 8 Woodworkers Club of Houston Monthly Meeting
- 8 13th Annual Texas Mesquite Association Spring Seminar (Kendall Co. Fairgrounds / Boerne, TX)
- 27 Hand Plane Splinter Group – Sugar Land, TX

April

- 4 Southwest Houston Splinter Group
- 4 – 6 The Woodworking Show (Reliant Park)
- 12 Woodworkers Club of Houston Monthly Meeting
- 18 – 20 Texas Mesquite Association Art Festival-San Angelo (Fort Concho)
- 24 Hand Plane Splinter Group – Sugar Land, TX

May

- 2 Southwest Houston Splinter Group
- 2 – 4 2008 Texas Scroll Saw Picnic (Grapevine Convention Center / Grapevine, Texas)
- 10 Woodworkers Club of Houston Monthly Meeting
- 22 Hand Plane Splinter Group – Sugar Land, TX

June

- 6
- 14 Woodworkers Club of Houston Monthly Meeting
- 26 Hand Plane Splinter Group – Sugar Land, TX

July

- 12 Woodworkers Club of Houston Monthly Meeting
- 24 Hand Plane Splinter Group – Sugar Land, TX

August

- 1 Southwest Houston Splinter Group
- 9 Woodworkers Club of Houston Monthly Meeting
- 28 Hand Plane Splinter Group – Sugar Land, TX

September

- 5 Southwest Houston Splinter Group
- 13 Woodworkers Club of Houston Monthly Meeting
- 25 Hand Plane Splinter Group – Sugar Land, TX

October

- 3 Southwest Houston Splinter Group
- 11 Woodworkers Club of Houston Monthly Meeting
- 18 Annual WWCH Barbeque
- 30 Hand Plane Splinter Group – Sugar Land, TX

November

- 7 Southwest Houston Splinter Group
- 8 Woodworkers Club of Houston Monthly Meeting

December

- 5 Southwest Houston Splinter Group
- 13 Woodworkers Club of Houston Monthly Meeting

Join the Woodworkers Club!

The Woodworkers Club of Houston is a group of about 200 men and women who truly enjoy the craft of woodworking. Our members are comprised of both professional and hobbyist woodworkers. All skill levels are represented. Our goal is to promote, educate and share the craft of woodworking.

We meet once a month on the second Saturday at the Bayland Community Center at 6400 Bissonnet, just a block west of Hillcroft. The meetings begin at 9:00 am and usually last approximately 2½ hours. During the meetings, our members are encouraged to participate and exchange ideas and experiences in woodworking through our “*show and tell*” and “*problems and solutions*” sessions. The meetings conclude with a program put on by club members, local professionals or other people involved in the craft of woodworking. Some past programs have been “router techniques”, “jig making”, “finishing”, “wood identification”, “joinery” and equipment demonstrations by manufacturers.

In addition to the monthly meeting, we also have an extensive book and video library that is free to members. That’s right, books, how-to videos and CDs are available for club members to check out at no cost for one month. We also have field trips, bulk tool and wood purchases, and are involved in several community activities during the year. So, if you love making sawdust and you want to improve your woodworking skills, this is the place for you.

Summary of Benefits

Membership has its privileges. Here are a few:

- Monthly meetings that address a variety of woodworking issues and interests
- Monthly newsletter
- Monthly tool raffle
- Hundreds of books and videos free for members to borrow
- Field trips to woodworking resources in east Texas
- Membership book
- Barbeque or picnic each year
- Splinter groups
- Bulk tool buys for members
- Club website: www.wwch.org

The Woodworkers Club of Houston is a great woodworking value. Dues are only \$24.00 per year. Join us! You’ll be glad you did.

WWCH Monthly Meetings

Our meetings are held the second Saturday of every month. We open the doors at 8:30am, program starts at 9:00am and winds up by 11:30am. Guests are always welcome at no charge.



Bayland
Community Center
6400 Bissonnet at Hillcroft
Houston, TX 77074

Woodworkers Club of Houston, Texas, Inc.

Contacts

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Woodworkers Club *of Houston*

PO Box 815
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Coming Events

Saturday, March 8

Monthly Meeting

Saturday, March 8

13th Annual Texas Mesquite Assn.
Spring Seminar, Kendall County
Fairgrounds

Friday - Sunday, April 4 - 6

The Woodworking Show, Reliant
Center, Houston, Texas

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- Japanese Hand Tools
- Lumber from around the world
- Monthly Woodworking Classes

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