Lake Charles **Woodworkers Club, Inc.** November 2001

Bubba Cheramie, President
Dick Hopes, Sec. / Treasurer

Officers and Directors

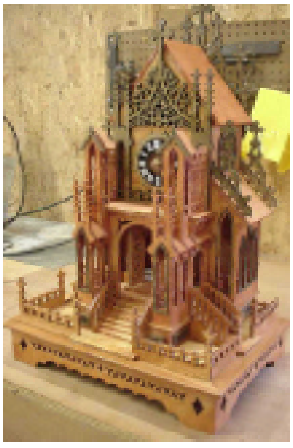
Barry Humphus, Editor, Brent Evans
George Kuffel, John Marcon, Chuck Middleton

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

Burl Vincent once again provided hosting for our monthly meeting at his fine and large shop. Burl's collection of antique tools and items were of interest to members as he showed off his latest find — an early commercial corn nibler. This 1930's device took the corn kernals off corn cobbs in a hurry. He also has purchased a few of the Crockshanks casting forms (from an old foundery) that he is turning into clocks and toys. Much thanks to Burl for use of his shop.

There was some Show and Tell with machinest **Gene Young** showing off his latest metal work — a electric motor powered sharpening system for plane irons and lathe tools. It features a sliding tool rest. Of course, it will sharpen chisels as well.

Eltee Thibodeaux brought a house. Now it is small but the doors and the clock works great and according to Eltee, it only tool 37 hours to do the scroll cuts (with a couple or three days to assemble). Elton had also brought a tribute to firemen with a wonderful mounted scroll picture. **Chuck Middleton** showed off a lathe steady rest built from a plan from ShopNotes. Chuck used maple wheels for the runs. A lovely cypress table was new LCWW president **Bubba Cheramie**'s latest work, while host Burl Vincent designed and uses an orbital sander rest that lets you put down the sander without waiting the 60 seconds for the sander to slow down.



Larry Wilfret (with **Theresa**'s great support) did a great shop entrance sign ("Larry's Toy Shop") out of pine. He used both a router and carving tools to create the sign, and as Larry is new to routers, it was both a challenge and great adventure for him. Theresa and Larry plan to attend the Aramont School next Summer to gain a few more skills. We are hoping that they can teach us some things when they return.

Dick Troth brought a rolling pen — one that he made in 1957 in his high school wood shop for his grandmother. The rolling pen has a wonderful patina from 40 plus years of good use (just think about the biskets and pie crusts they rolled!). It's too bad that many school districts have discontinued wood shop training. I was certainly inspired and many of our members were as well. The few that are left focus on carpentry skills.

While these skills are needed in the workplace, the basics learned in a high school woodshop are without question, one of the best learning experiences a student can have.

Past president Middleton also mentioned that Flying Dutchman scroll saw blades are about the best for scrollers and discussed turning a piece using the back and side of a blade with Theresa Wilfret. **Jeff Cormier** mentioned the short shelf life of some adhesive products and what to do about this. He mentioned the Gorrilla "Tacky" glue product and what to do about storage of "yellow" glue products (refrigerate and add no more than 5% water to the mixture if it gets tacky).

Our real subject was shop safety and **Barry Humphus** discussed various issues and passed out several pages on shop safety matters. He brought a good paper on push sticks and how to cut a safe one and presented some material from Dick Hopes (a professional safety trainer for PPG Industries) on dust collection systems. In addition, there was a good item to post on your shop wall: Ten Shop Safety Tips. The standard shop safety issues of eye, ear and lung protection were discussed as well. One issue that most forget is having a good fire extinguisher at hand in the shop. Some members admitted that they don't have one or the one they have is out of date.

IT'S TIME FOR SOME DUES

Lake Charles Woodworkers Club Treasurer Dick Hopes reminds members that 2002 dues are coming due starting now. Please send your 2002 $20.00 renewal to Dick Hopes, Teasurer, 1139 Green Road, Lake Charles, LA 70611.

OUR NEW WEB LOCATION

http://woodworkers.lightwire.net

COMING UP.....

Saturday, November 8 — 9:00 a.m. Shop of Dick Troth. Turning Pens and other small Items.

CHOOSING A SHOP GRINDER

Finding a bench grinder that's good for general home use is easy; finding one that's right for woodworking isn't. For under $50 you can find a reasonable 6-in. grinder, one that'll run at 3,400 rpm or so, with a worklight, medium and coarse wheels, and general-purpose tool rests. For sharpening woodworking tools, the best setup is more specialized. You don't need a larger, 8-in. or 10-in. grinder, but experienced woodworkers would recommend something a little differnt.

Stiff, fully adjustable tool rests are best. It's impossible to sharpen plane irons so the edge is straight if the tool rest flexes under your fingers. It should also be adjustable in and out (as the wheel gets smaller) and for different angles.

A friable fine-grit wheel is very desirable. Normal gray wheels will overheat the thin edges of chisels and plane irons, even with careful attention. The symptom is a blue color, and the problem is that the temper of the tool is removed, making the edge hard to sharpen. The softer, friable white or pink wheels are much more forgiving. These wheels are available from specialty retailers for $30 to $50. Buy a medium (180) grit for general tool sharpening.

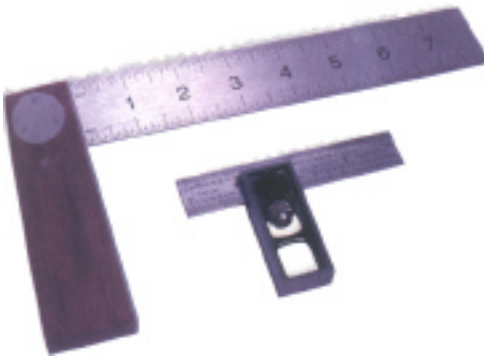
Normal grinders operate at 3,400 rpm, because the grinding is more aggressive, and the motor is cheaper. However, a speed of 1,750 rpm or so is much less likely to burn your tool edges. However, grinders that operate at this speed are harder to find and generally, but not always, more expensive. In practice, many woodworkers are successful on high-speed grinders, as long as they're equipped with a friable wheel and good rests, and are used with a light touch.

Some of the grinders you might consider are: The Craftsman 6-in. Grinding Center, which has good tool restsand a variable-speed motor that will slow down to 2,000 rpm, sells for only $60. Add a friable wheel and you're still under $100. Delta sells a massive 8-in. grinder with good tool rests that comes equipped with a friable wheel and sells for $170. Highland Hardware sells a slow-speed, 8-in. grinder with basic tool rests and friable wheels for $190

Finally, equip your grinder with a good wheel dresser to keep the wheels straight and clean. There are several styles of dressers. They all work, but our favorite is a T-shaped diamond dresser; you can get one at Amazon.com for under $20. From *American Woodworker*.

A GOOD SQUARE CHOICE

“My first choice for an essential kit of layout tools is a good square,” says John Economaki, president and CEO of Bridge City Tool Works (Portland, OR, www.bridgecitytools.com). Economaki notes that many established shops have a collection of squares, usually acquired one after the other, when the previous squares proved insufficiently accurate.



“In our experience, it's very useful to have one very precise square in your shop. You can rely on this square for machinery setup, such as setting your jointer fence and your tablesaw blade square to the table. It is possible to test your tools—and quite accurately, too—by cutting test pieces of wood, but it's slow and cumbersome. A small, accurate square is much easier.”

When choosing a square, Economaki says you should expect to spend $10 to $20 per inch of blade length for a good-quality square. Your very accurate square need not be large; between 3 and 6 in. is fine. It can be a combination model that has a 45 degree angle, or one that simply does 90 degrees. Watch out for “machinist's squares” selling for very low prices— there's nothing magical about the word “machinist’s,” nor are machinist's squares necessarily more accurate.

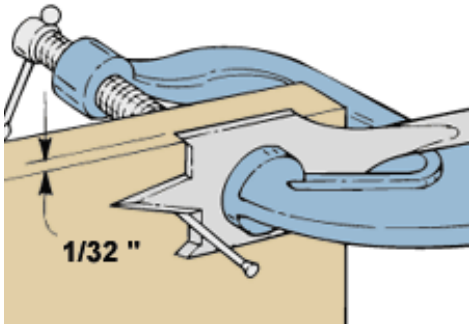
Most woodworkers also have a larger, less precise (and less expensive) square for general use in checking their project parts. If you happen to drop it you're not out $100. From *American Woodworker*.

MODIFYING A SPADE BIT

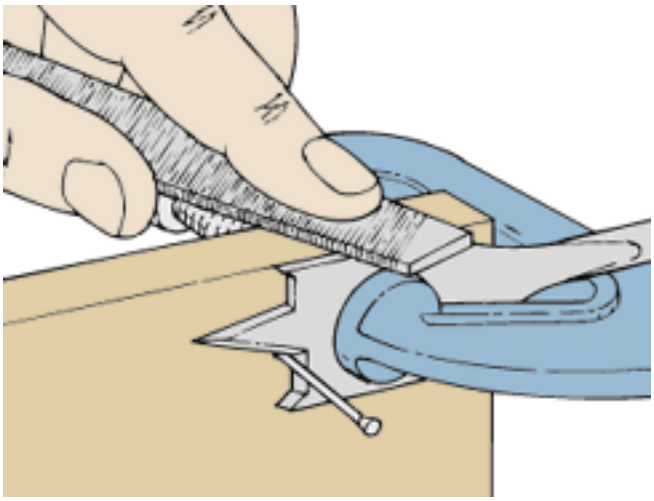
My father owned an old Stanley brace and bit set that included an expansion bit for drilling any sized hole. That drill bit would have come in handy the other day, while I was working on one of my projects. I was making some wood collar blocks that needed to fit snug around some iron pipe.

But I ran into a snag when it came time to drill the holes for the pipe. I didn't have a bit that matched the 1-1/16" outside diameter of the pipe. So I modified a 1-1/8" spade bit by filing the sides until it was the correct size.

To ensure that the bit stays balanced and continues to cut evenly, it's important to remove the same amount of material from each side. A handy way to do this is to use a nail and scrap block to position the bit, see drawing above. The nail positions the side of the bit 1/32" above the scrap and the clamp holds the bit in place.



Once you've filed one side down to the top of the scrap block, you can repeat the process on the other side until the bit matches the size of the hole you want to cut, see drawing at right. One last thing

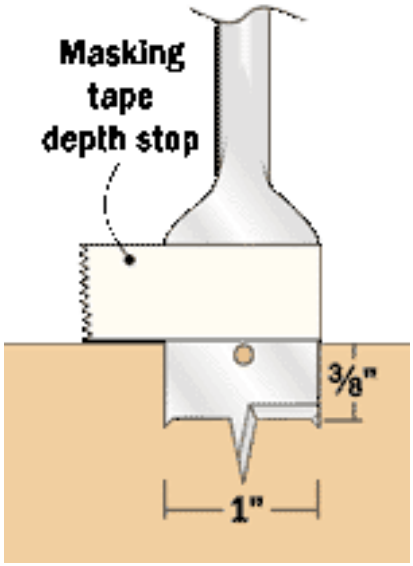


— I made sure to mark the new bit size on a piece of masking tape that I wrapped around the shaft. Or, if you have an engraver or moto-tool, you can mark it that way. From *ShopNotes*.

COUNTER BORES

Are you sorry to admit that you've gotten ahead of yourself more than once when working on a project. The trouble usually occurs when the end is almost in sight. You are anxious to get on to something else and make a mistake.

Just the other day, I drilled the through holes for some carriage bolts, and then realized I needed to counterbore the holes so the washers and nuts sat below the surface of the wood. I tried to drill the counterbore with a spade bit, but it chattered and skipped, and the counterbore wound up slightly out of line with the bolt hole. If I'd had a Forstner bit in my tool box, I could have used it to correct this problem, but all I had was the spade bit. Fortunately, the workpiece was a short length of 2x4 and was easily replaced.



The second time around, I started with the counterbore. That way, you can use the centerpoint of the larger hole to center the bit when you drill the through hole.

I've got stop collars for my most commonly used twist bits, but for spade bits, I just stick a short piece of masking tape at the proper depth. (If you don't have tape handy, you can mark the bit with a felt-tipped marker, but tape is a lot easier to see.) From *Workbench*.