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DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

The holidays are typically a joyful time. Christmas, Hanaka, New Years — each has special meaning. This year, we went from Nemo Robinson's great shop to Mickey and Gail Hart's. More than ever, we were treated to the year-end Show and Tell with wonderful projects, tips, and discussion about our second love: woodworking.

If you are thinking about a new shop, look to the Hart's as an example. With 2,000 square feet of space, you can place almost every stationary tool needed. The Hart's shop also has many of the comforts of home as well including a full kitchen area and restroom. Along one wall there were sanding stations, router table, bandsaw, two scoll saws (one for



Gail's use only), drill press, mitersaw and jointer. Each peice of equipment has dust collection inlets. In the central area there are two table saws (one for dado work), lathe and a great sanding table complete

with it's own dust collection system. On the other side of the shop are assembly and display areas plus a clamp rack with an adequate selection and in the back, a wood storage area, plus they found the room for an eight foot pool table.

Many fine examples of a few of the members projects were on display. **Eltee Thibodeaux** brought



some of his scrolling work including a three deminsional open scrollwork bowl. Other scrollwork was displayed

by **Chuck and Charlene Middleton** and **Ron Nunley**. Rod's hunting and fishing scenes were really outstanding along with Eltee's United We Stand

flag. **Chuck and Charlene** also showed some great children's puzzles including a Macaw and Pelican along with a couple of neat toy airplanes. **Gene Young** had an American Legion plack and a special jig for gravels. **Dick Trouth** brought by one of his beatiful purple heart bowls, **Barry Humphus** brought a walnut pen and pencil set he just created after inspiration from **Dick** (and many others over the years including **Howard Nealy**, **Bob Patin** and the late **Burl Vincent** and **Ron Stowe**). **John Marcon** brought a few small painted Christmas trees that were both turned and then carved.



Mickey and Gail also have separate displays



of their work including large pieces and small that include Christmas items and other items. **Gail's** display of children's toys and ornaments were contained in their own set of shelves.

The LC Woodworkers hope everyone had a joyful and happy holiday season.

IT'S TIME FOR SOME DUES

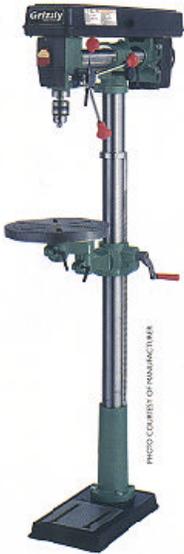
Lake Charles Woodworkers Club Treasurer **Dick Hopes** reminds members that 2002 dues are due now. Please mail your 2002 \$20.00 renewal to LC Woodworkers, 1139 Green Road, Lake Charles, LA 70611.

COMING UP.....

Saturday, January 12 — 9:00 a.m. Nu-Way Saw Shop on Ernest Street. Learn all about sharpening from a professional.

BUYING A DRILL PRESS

Tired of trying to make accurate and consistent holes with your hand drill? When it comes to drilling holes, you can't beat a drill press. It is a surprisingly versatile machine, which can be used as a drum sander or even for cutting mortises. A drill press may not be the first power tool you buy, but it should be right up there among the basic tools needed for your shop.



The three types of drill presses are floor models, bench models and radial models. Except for their height, there is not much difference between floor and benchtop drill presses. At 52- to 76-in. tall, floor models need a dedicated space in the shop. Benchtops are generally 22- to 46-in. tall and rest on top of your workbench.

Some benchtops are lighter duty and have less capacity, while others are exactly like floor models, just shorter. Both styles offer lots of features from speed range to capacity. The longer column on floor models accommodate end drilling of longer parts. However, benchtops are 10 to 15 percent less expensive. But don't count on a benchtop being portable. Only the lightest duty are easy to move and they'll need to be clamped or bolted down for stability.

The other type of drill presses are radial models. These are a prime choice for chairmakers and others who drill a lot of angled or compound-angle holes. The head can move in and out on the column (like a radial arm saw) and tilt left and right to almost any angle.



Radial drill presses allow drilling to the center of pieces as large as 34 inches — a capacity not found on conventional drill presses. You've got to need that capacity because radials generally cost twice as much as the conventional machines with

similar features.

Almost all drill presses are designed for metalworking rather than woodworking. Some features, however, can make them woodworker friendly:

The table should have a wide, flat rim. This makes it easier to add a fence and other fixtures. Slots through the top make it easier to fasten things from underneath and square tables are generally thought of as better than round one.

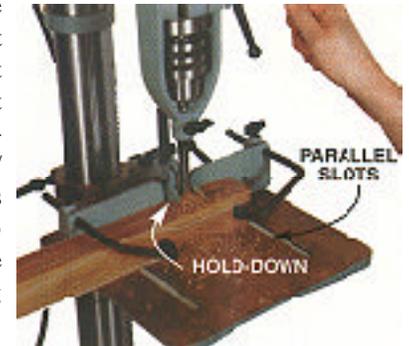
The operator's levers need large, round grips with long stout rods for comfort and leverage. The grips should be smooth so they move easily in your hand as you push the levers. The rods should be threaded so the grips can be removed if they are in the way.

In general, wide drive belts have less tendency to slip than narrow ones as the wide belts have greater surface area and keep in contact with the pulleys to transfer power from the motor.

The switch should be designed for safety and be obvious and front mounted. Paddle switches are the easiest to operate. Speed changes should be easy as well. On too many machines, getting belts on and off is difficult because belt-tensioning mechanisms don't have enough travel. Motors of 1/2 to 3/4-hp will provide plenty of power for most drill press operations. For lighting, stick with a bright after-market magnetic base type as the OEM lights are often poorly positioned and likely to throw shadows into spots you'd like to see.

If you don't have the room for a dedicated accelerating drum sander and a mortising machine, a drill press can do a pretty good job at either. Drum sanding attachments for drill presses come in a variety of sizes and designs. They mount in the Jacobs chuck and spin at whatever speed you set your drill press but you have to supply the accelerations with your right arm.

While mortising attachments on drill presses are not as easy to use as a dedicated mortiser, this is usually only because they are some trouble to set up. Another issue is that the typical drill press is not designed to exert the amount of force required to cut a mortise, especially with large (1/2 inch) sets. The key to this problem is having sharp chisels and most kits come with a chisel sharpening stone.



For occasional use, however and mortises no larger than 3/8-in., these attachments are adequate for most work. The attachments from Delta and Ridgid are excellent because of their similar and superior hold-downs. Reviewers rate the Delta very highly because it is the only one that allows easy, unrestricted front-to-back adjustment of the fence because of the Delta slotted table. The Delta attachment fits all Delta drill presses from 12 inches and larger.

LC WOODWORKERS ON THE INTERNET

At nearly every meeting of the Lake Charles Woodworkers, members show and tell about the beautiful things they have made in their shops. We now have a place to show off your work to the world. All we need is a photo and description of the work. After scanning the photo, we'll post it on the LCWW web site under Projects (<http://woodworkers.lightwire.net>).

For those of you who want to sell your work, just provide Barry Humphus with your contact information and we'll post that as well.



Barry Humphus. "Olin" bowl (made from the old Olin corporate sign), Oak and Walnut.

STRIPPED AND BROKEN SCREWS

www.woodzone.com

We're often in a rush to complete a project and "forget" to drill a pilot hole for the screw. Drywall and decking screws can often be driven without a pilot hole in softwood but when they break you're left with a problem. Electric drills speed up the process of screwing in a wood screw, but tip the drill a little to side and you may be facing a stripped head. Let's face it, we've all encountered these problems in the past and have had to deal with them.

Removing Broken Screws - If the screw breaks above the surface of the wood it can usually be extracted by grabbing the end firmly with a pair of vice grips or pliers and wound out of the hole. If the screw is being used for holding power and broke below the surface it may be worth leaving it in place, patching the hole, and fastening another screw near the broken one. If you must remove the screw there are a couple of options. Broken screw extractors are available from most wood-working supply stores and some hardware stores. The most popular design is simply a small metal tube with teeth cut into the end. The extractor is inserted into the drill and a "core sample" is taken from the wood around the screw. A wood dowel is glued into place and a new screw can then be fastened into the repair. Another option is to dig around the screw until you can grab the end with a pair of needle nosed vice grips or pliers. The remaining scar can be drilled out and a matching plug can be used to repair the defect. Use a plug cutter to cut a matching plug from a piece of scrapwood to match the grain of the wood. If you were trying to install a hinge and one of the screws broke you can probably epoxy the head into the hole. Most hinges will hold just fine with one screw missing. Don't try saving more time by drilling in a second screw next to the first. Often the second screw will twist in the hole or worse, press against the first and split the wood.

Tips to Avoid Breaking a Screw

Always drill a pilot hole in hardwood

When attaching a hinge with brass screws attach the hinge with steel screws first, then replace with brass.

Lubricate stubborn screws with wax or soap to reduce friction

Removing Screws with Stripped Heads

Using a drill to drive in a screw is often a great time saver, but care must be taken to keep from tipping the drill and stripping the head. If you do end up stripping a screw's head and can't back it out, try using a pair of vice grips to grab the head and twist it back out. If the head is below the surface of the wood, use the correct size screwdriver and a hammer to firmly set the screwdriver into the screw's head. Then, with significant downward pressure, back the screw out until you can grab it with a vice grip or pliers.

Tips to Avoid Stripping a Screw's Head

Correctly match the screwdriver to the screw.

Take care to avoid tipping a drill when driving the screws.

Maintain firm downward pressure to keep the head seated in the screw. Pre-drill pilot holes for the screw.

EXTENDING PIPE CLAMPS

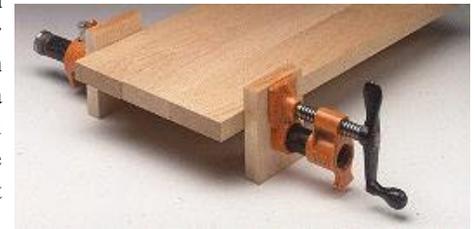
Adding new sections of pipe to your existing pipe clamps is a low cost way to get yourself a set of longer pipe clamps without buying new clamps. You need to buy only various lengths of pipe with threaded ends and a few couplers. But no new clamp jaws.

Then assemble the length and number of clamps you need for a project from the pipe clamp parts.



PIPE CLAMP BLOCKS

Tightening a pipe clamp can be a real knuckle buster when the pipe clamp sits on the workbench. So make a couple 3/4"-thick wood spacer blocks to raise the pipe clamps up and make it easy to turn the handle.



These clamp blocks have the added advantage of acting as clamp pads to protect the workpiece from the clamps.

RESTORING THE CEDAR SMELL

www.woodzone.com

The linings of cedar chests and drawers often lose their aroma with time and use. The aromatic properties of cedar serve as a natural pest deterrent, keeping moths and other insects away from your clothing. Over time the pores in the cedar can become clogged with dust and dirt or pinched closed from use. This prevents the aromatic oils from escaping and causes old cedar chests to lose their aroma.

There are many products on the market to "rejuvenate" the aroma in old cedar furniture such as cedar oil extracts and sprays. A less expensive solution is to lightly sand the surface of the cedar with a fine grit sandpaper (200 grit) and a sanding block. The sandpaper will help "cut" the pores open thus exposing new oil pockets. Try to sand with the grain to avoid scratch marks and don't over-sand. Usually only a light sanding is needed to rejuvenate the wood.

If the cedar has been finished with a sealant such as a varnish or polyurethane you will need to sand through the finish to expose the oils. Finishes that have deeply penetrated the wood may have permanently sealed the oils into the wood.

It's advisable to sand a small out of sight area to ensure you can bring the oils back to the surface. If all else fails you can still buy the cedar oil extracts at the store.

SAWING QUICK-TIP

Do you need to make long straight cuts in plywood but don't have a table saw? A straight 2"x4" clamped to the plywood can serve as an edge guide.

