All the News that fits

Lake Charles Woodworkers Club, Inc. August 2013

Mentoring Program - If you have a project, a problem in any woodworking area, these members have volenteered to help. Give them a call. Jeff Cormier: 582-3278; George Kuffel: 478-2707; John Marcon: 478-0646; Chuck Middleton: 625-3134; Gary Rock: 433-1679; Eltee Thibodeaux: 436-1997; Dick Trouth: 583-2683. Each have years of experience and knowledge.

July Meeting Highlights

George and Nancy Kuffle were our hosts this month at their fine shop. It's big and has A/C. It is always a treat being there including for actual woodworking.

Steve Thomas gave us a talk on power cord safety and we have a article later in the issue regarding safe use of power cord extensions.

One of the late Jim Couvillion's sons attended. Robert Couvillion asked that we consider building a shadow box memorial for Jim.

Steve Ensminger was our guest presenter this month. Steve is a carver of considerable experience and very creative. He showed many items that he created and suggested that any carvers attend the annual Rendezvous carving conference in Branson in June of each year. Steve often uses children's coloring books for inspiration as the images are simple and easy to replicate in wood. Steve also discussed how he got started in carving and his first carving. This was a Santa Claus and he has done several of these. It was great to have a professional discuss his work and we were most impressed. He also mentioned several books on the art of carving. Steve mostlu uses beachwood or butternut, the latter for his Indian carvings and discussed rough cuts in preparation of the final works. He also does some wood buring for a few of his projects and uses a light stain on some.

For Show and Tell, Pie Sonnier had a very nice Deer tractor which he constructed for J.W. Anderson. Mr. Eltee Thibodeaux brought several items including a photo of a piece he did for some freinds and a very nice trellis in a religious theme.

Joe Comeaux had candle stands as well as a quilting tool - an iron press used for quilting to press down the seams. Ray Kebodeaux brought us a nice box he had constucted of redwood and cypress finished with poly.

Ronnie Kramer showed some photos of his new down-draft sanding atble and we look forward to seeing the actual unit in the near future.at Sandy and Ronnie's shop.

Irving Monroe showed a segmented box of walnut and poplar plus a pencil holder. Steve Thomas showed some segmented bowls of Bradford pear, sycamore, purple heart and walnut. He had another of mesquite that was a natualr edged platter. All of these were 7-8 coats of wipe-on poly.

Gary Rock brought us several wonderful peices including a water oak and laced with leather with 7 coats of wipe-on poly. Gary also did a green ash and aluminum peice with laced leather.

Ray Kibodeaux won the gift card and Pie Sonnier reminded us about the Works of Men in Sulphur on-going. The Bring-Back was won by Joe Comeaux and our next meeting is in fact at Joe's shop.

Comming Up . . . Saturday, August 10 at 9:00 A.M. at the shop of Joe and Sandra Comeaux

Stanley, Black and Decker

When you trace all the modern power tool way back, it comes down to three individuals: Frederick Stanley, Duncan Black, and Alonzo Decker. Three passionate individuals who built powerful companies that they were so proud of they put their names on them.

In 1843, Frederick Stanley started a small shop in New Britain, Connecticut, to manufacture bolts, hinges, and other hardware from wrought iron. With superior quality, consistent innovation, and rigorous operational improvement, Stanley's company defined excellence, and so did his products.

In 1910, S. Duncan Black and Alonzo G. Decker started their shop, similar in size at first, in Baltimore, Maryland. Six years later they changed the world by obtaining the world's first patent for a portable power tool -- an electric drilll, and the company they built has been changing the world ever since. They received a patent for the pistol grip and trigger switch on its drill. The first factory was opened in Towson, Maryland and the company is still headquartered there today.

Both companies grew in parallel over the ensuing decades, amassing an unparalleled family of brands and products and an even more impressive wealth of industry expertise.

In 2010, the two companies combined to form Stanley Black & Decker, to deliver tools and solutions that industrial companies, professionals, and consumers count on to be successful when it matters.

Note that not all Black & Decker items you find in a store are from the Stanley Black & Decker company. Black & Decker (the corporation) is distinct from "Black & Decker" the brand as more than one corporation uses the brand name. In particular, "Black & Decker" branded household products in the Americas (but outside of Brazil) are marketed by a division of Spectrum Brands, a consumer products corporation based in Madison, Wisconsin. In December 2012, Spectrum Brands also purchased Black & Decker's hardware and home improvement division. Brands include those such as DeWalt, Porter-Cable, DeVilbliss and others.

Just as it was in 1843, their passion for excellence is seen around the world in disciplined operations, purposeful business growth, and loyal customers. Black & Decker also invented the first cordless drill in 1961.

Wobble Head Blades

When you are asked about wobble (adjustable) dado heads., you have to take a step back You can't blame folks for asking. A wobble head is a lot less expensive than a stackable head. So why don't woodworkers use them?

A wobble head blade consists of one blade mounted on a hub. Dialing the hub allows the user to set the width of the resulting dado.

A hash mark on the hub points to a measurement, the resulting dado width. One of the things that's cool about wobble heads is that they're infinitely adjustable to any size dado. No shims required.

When the hub on the wobble head is set to its widest setting, 13/16" in this case, the blade is canted at a significant angle relative to the saw arbor. When the hub is set to a narrow setting, 3/16", the blade is nearly perpendicular to the saw arbor. The width of the cut is basically equal to the width of the teeth.

As the blade spins it cuts one side of the dado, then sweeps out the middle of the cut, then cuts the other side of the dado. are a little icky. Although some wobble heads do better than others, this is fairly exemplary of the performance you can expect.

In addition to the surface having a lot of chips, the bottom of a dado cut with a wobble head is not perfectly flat. This affects glue strength, and is also a cosmetic problem when the dado shows.

As pointed out you can infinitely adjust wobble heads from their minimum to maximum width settings. This adjustment can be made on the saw (with the saw unplugged and the arbor nut loose), and is pretty convenient. And with many wobble heads selling for less then $50, the economics are good. Cut quality in solid wood is better than in veneer materials.

Although wobble heads cost a lot less up front, if you're serious about woodworking you need to invest in a stackable dado head. Overall performance is so much better. Additionally, over the life of the blade you'll save money. Since the work is spread over a higher number of blades you'll sharpen less frequently.

Cabinetmaking Jigs

Here are my three favorite shop-made jigs for cabinetmaking: For years I used the T and E method (Trial and Error) for sizing dadoes. That is until I came up with the Dado Sizer.

Here's the deal. Using a piece of Baltic Birch plywood you can cut a series of increasingly wider dadoes, starting at 23/32?. After cutting the 23/32? dado you add a .005? shim and cut another dado. Added another .005? and cut another…on and on until you had a dado that was .010? over 3/4? wide. Then you label each dado with its size.

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When you are ready to make a dado simply slip the shelf into the dadoes until you find which dado it fits in. That's the dado head/dado shim set up you use on the table saw. You still should make test cuts, but this jig cuts a lot of time off your dado head set up.

There are lots of ways to make holes in case sides for adjustable shelves, including drill presses, hand-held drills, high falutin' specialized tools and more, but this is my favorite.

It's made from a piece of 1/4? Baltic Birch plywood. The holes are 5/8" diameter on 3" centers. Use a drill press to make the holes so you can use a fence and ensure the holes are all equidistant from the edge.

The holes are 1" on center from one edge and 2? on center from the other edge. Use the 1" set back on cases with face frames and the 2? set back on frameless cases with inset doors.

Since you may not always use every hole in the jig it's helpful to number the holes so you can track which ones you do use.

Clamp the jig to your case side making the end and edge of the jig even with the end and edge of the case. If you consistently position the jig (you'll need to flip it over as you go from one edge to the other) you holes will be consistently spaced and your shelves won't rock and roll.

Make the holes using a 5/8? guide bushing in a plunge router and allowing the guide bushing to seat in each hole. With a 1/4? or 5 mm router bit in the router and depth correctly set you can quickly and easily plunge shelf holes. With the high rpm of the router bit you'll never chip a veneer.

On big cases, it's easier to bring the tools to the work than the work to the tools. If you need to cut dadoes in a big case side, like an entertainment center, it's almost impossible to do that on a table saw. This jig will handle it for you, no sweat.

It's made of Baltic Birch plywood with one long side fixed to the cross pieces and the other side adjustable. I made mine long enough to straddle a 24? wide case side. The narrow fixed side is 4? wide. The wider movable side is 6? wide. When you fasten the fixed side to the end cross pieces be sure they're perfectly square.

The movable side gets its adjustability by virtue of 1/4? carriage bolts going through 1? holes. A fender washer straddles the hole and a wing nut locks it down.

Set up the jig by squeezing a piece of shelf material between the fixed and movable sides. Lock the movable side in place using the wing nut.

Set up a pattern bit in your router and you're ready to rout. The bearing on the bit rides on the edges of the fixed and movable sides creating a dado that is perfectly sized to your shelf material. Be sure the pattern bit is smaller in diameter than the thickness of your shelf material. I use a 5/8? bit for 3/4? shelves. Barry Humphus

Electrical Cord Safety

In addition to needing to be kept out of sight, electrical cords need to be kept out from underfoot (to prevent tripping), and they should be kept in good condition so they don't become fire hazards.

Keep unprotected cords out of the path of foot traffic and furniture to prevent fraying, overheating, and tripping.

Never run a cord under a rug. It prevents the cord from releasing its heat and could lead to a fire.
Don't leave cords dangling anywhere where they can be pulled down and tripped over.

Make sure there is no crimping or pressure on cords, and don't force them into small spaces or behind furniture. Over time this could lead to a breakdown of the cord's insulation. When using cord-bundling devices, such as Cable Turtles or plastic spiral wire wrap, avoid cramming too many cords together. Keep it loose.

Never use staples or nails to attach cords or cord bundlers to a surface, such as a baseboard or a wall. They could puncture the insulation and create a shock or fire hazard.

Note that most extension and standard electrical cord insulation is soy-based. That's right, Louisiana supplies the base material for making the outer wrap of electical cords. But is is attractive to creatures that chew (rabbits, mice, rats, etc.).

Don't overload outlets or extension cords with too many power tools, or appliances with too much wattage (space heaters, microwave ovens). Check the maximum capacity of an extension cord, and make absolutely sure you don't exceed the rating.

Any electrical cord, extension or otherwise, contains an inner metal conducting wire, which carries electrical current from one end to the other. The thickness of this conductor is referred to as its gauge. Gauge is indicated by a number; the lower the number, the thicker the wire is. A wire's thickness directly affects the amount of current (or wattage) it can carry over a certain distance.

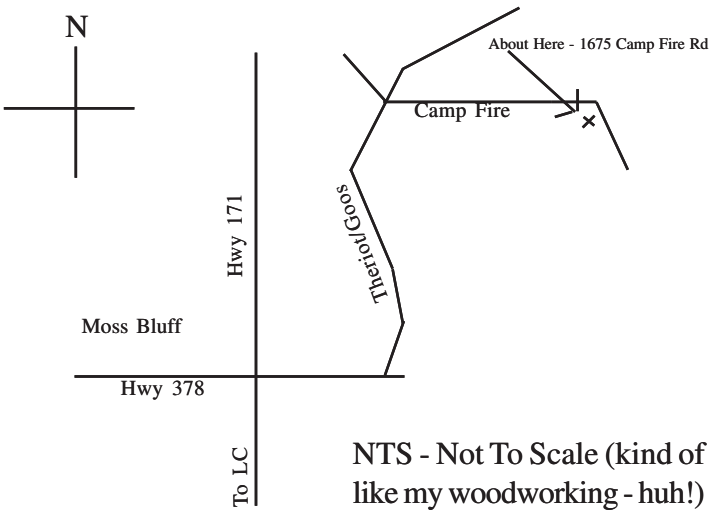
On the same note, if you'll be powering multiple devices from one extension cord, calculate their combined energy requirements and make sure that the total isn't higher than the wattage rating for that cord. Barry Humphus

August Meeting Location

Joe and Sandra Comeaux will be our hosts at their very nice home this month. Joe is a fine woodworker, knows his shop well and it is nicely appointed.

Joe says to take highway 171 North (or South, depending on where you are coming from) to the intersection with highway 378 (signal light in Moss Bluff). Go East at the light. Follow Theriot Road/Goos Road for about 3 miles to Campfire Road. Go right on Campfire Road to 1675 Campfire Road on the right about 0.75 miles. His house faces Campfire at the corner of Campfire and Tanglewood Drive. His driveway is on the Tanglewood side of the lot.

Hmmm - while I'm going to punch in his address into my GPS, if you have questions, give Joe or Sandra a call at 855-6361 just to make sure.



NTS - Not To Scale (kind of like my woodworking - huh!)

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