

Chuck Middleton, President
Dick Hopes, Sec/Treasure

Officers and Directors

John Marcon, Barry Humphus,
Bubba Cheramie, Brent Evans, George Kuffel

JANUARY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

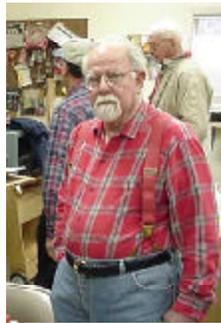
George Kuffel was our host at his nice big shop and our presenter was Bob Patin. Thanks to Nancy Kuffel for the coffee and fine muffins and thanks to George for the use of his Delta lathe. Bob Patin has been turning wood for many years and this long experience and his skill made for a great presentation. Jerry Manuel won our door prize this month — a Home Depot gift certificate.



Bob first addressed lathe setup. Besides following the manufacturer's recommendations and safety advise, be certain you have adequate room in which to work and adequate light. A table to lay your tools and measuring equipment is also desirable. It is also very important to provide yourself eye and face protection using a full face shield or at minimum, safety

glasses. At his shop, Bob uses a full face and hood unit that contains a blower to keep dust out. A dust mask is important or at least a way to vacume away as the dust is produced. Some woods are toxic to the skin so it is important to protect yourself should you be sensitive. Spalted wood is especially dangerous as the fungus that produces the coloration can invade your lungs and cause serious health problems. You should also remove jewelry such as rings, bracelets and watches.

After finding the center of the work piece and mounting the work, adjust the tool rest so that it is about 1/8 to 1/4" above the center line of the work. Hand rotate the work to be certain that it clears the tool rest about 1/4". Many devices can be used to hold the work: spurs, adjustable chucks, various plates and special screws made for holding work in a lathe. Bob addressed each of these.



Bob's advise for tool control is important to remember: let the wood come to the tool, i.e., don't push the tool into the work but rotate the tool so that the wood rides the bevel. Use your body to support and help control what you are doing. Start the lathe slowly and turn until the work is round and stable and then increase it's speed. Bob said that you turn fast and sand slow as this results in better finishes. Hold the handle of the tool in your right hand and against your hip. The left hand can either fold over the tool with the fingers on top or fold under the tool with the thumb supplying pressure.

Bob demonstrated the use of large and small gouges, scrapers and skews. It was interesting to see him use only a couple of tools during the demonstration despite the intricate spindle he did. When turning coves, for instance, go down into

the cove rather than up as this is less likely to catch instead of cut the wood.

Sharpening tools was also discussed. Bob uses a One-Way jig on a bench grinder but other techniques work as well including a belt or disk sander. There is no real need to hone the tools as a quick stroke at the grinder or sander will produce a tool that is as sharp as generally required. Bob uses 60 and 100 grit white wheels on his grinder and a 80 to 100 grit belt works well on a sander. He keeps his grinder close at hand.

For finishing the work, Bob now uses shellack, mostly sprayed on. If you skew and scrap the work well, little sanding is needed. He typically uses a flexible sanding pad and advises against steel wool as it leaves steel fibers that can later rust. Other finishes he's used include Watco and various waxes including his 'secret' Kiwi Brand shoe polish available only at very select places such as Krogers and Albertsons (and about a million others)!

Bob mentioned several organizations that support wood turning including the American Association of Woodturners and the Aramont School (which he has attended among others). He also mentioned several sources of equipment and tools including The Cutting Edge (800-790-7980) in Houston and Packard (800-683-8876). Bob has several lathes including a mini, a OneWay and a large custom unit that has it's own crane to handle heavy logs.

While many wood species turn well, Bob likes sycamore, pecan, magnolia, persimmon, mesquite and walnut. Found wood is the cheapest source but blanks can be purchased from many sources including our freinds at The Cutting Edge.

Some of Bob's work can be seen at the Imperial Calcasieu Museum (along with other work by LCWW members). He also invited us to join him in his shop from time to time for advanced demonstrations. We'll report in a future Newsletter when those events will take place so you can attend.



For this month's show and tell, Gene Young brought several of the hand made turning tools he's built, Lee Frazier showed some very nice mounted fretwork, Bubba Cheramie showed photos of a king size bed he built for a daughter and Barry Humphus showed a couple of spalted maple bowels he recently turned. Treasurer Dick Hopes reported on the financial condition of the club and results of 2000.

COMING UP.....

February 10, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. — Lowes Lake Charles in the Highway 14 Power Center

DEPTH STOPS FOR HAND-HELD ROUTER

When using a router, you want to avoid taking too deep a cut. It can create excess chipout and, in some situations, can be dangerous. So when you want to rout a dado or groove that's more than a 1/4" deep, take multiple passes.

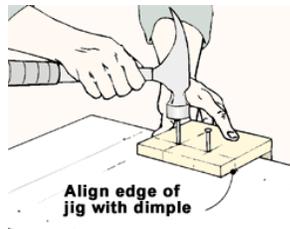
It's easy enough to change the height of the bit between passes. But with some routers, changing the height of the bit also slightly changes the position of the bit relative to the base. (This means you could end up with an unwanted shoulder inside the dado.) And besides, here's a way of using depth stops that lets you avoid the extra setups.

To rout a deep dado with one setup, use a set of depth stops or plates that are carpet taped to the base of the router, refer to Fig. 2 at right. Two of these plates are made from 1/8" hardboard, and a third is 1/16"-thick plastic laminate. All three stops have a hole drilled in the center for the bit to fit through.

Before you add the depth stops to the base plate, the first thing to do is adjust the height of the router bit to match the finished depth of the dado, as in Fig. 1. (Once the bit is set, leave it alone.) Then carpet tape the auxiliary stops to the base of the router (Fig. 2).

After the first pass, simply "lower" the bit during successive passes by removing one stop (Fig. 3). The final pass (after removing the laminate depth stop) will be a 1/16"-deep skim cut that will leave a clean dado at just the right depth.

DRILLING SHELF PIN HOLES



Using adjustable shelves with many of your storage projects adds lots of flexibility, allowing you to store a variety of items without worrying if they'll fit. Of course, alignment and spacing of the holes is fairly critical — since you don't want shelves that sit crooked or wobble. To achieve uniform spacing for the holes, nothing works better than a layout jig.

For such a project, you can build a simple jig that leaves a starter dimple at each hole, see the drawing above. You simply position the jig, give each of the nails a tap, then slide it down to mark the next pair of holes, as shown in the middle drawing.

Once you've located the first set of holes, simply align the edge of the jig with the last dimple for the next set. This assures evenly spaced holes without having to lay out each hole individually.

The dimples help keep a regular twist-style bit from wandering as you drill the hole. But, if you have one, it's best to use a brad-point bit. This way you'll get less chipout around the holes. Also use a stop collar. As careful as you may try to be, it's easy to have an attention lapse after drilling several holes and blow right through the side of the workpiece.

To keep the collar from marking up the sides of your workpiece, cut a small disk out of a plastic milk jug and slip it over the bit so it rides between the collar and the workpiece. From *Woodtips.com*

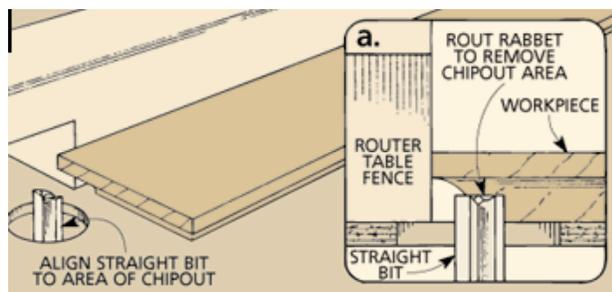
REPAIRING ROUTER CHIPOUT

When routing a profile along the edge of a board, what can you do when the bit chips out a large piece of wood? If you're lucky and can find the broken-off chip, you can glue it back in place. But more often than not, the chip has been splintered or sucked into your shop vacuum.

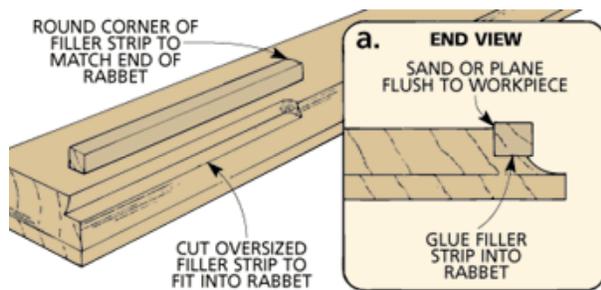
The solution is like the trick an old greenskeeper uses on a nasty divot. First the "bad" section is actually enlarged out to the undamaged area. Then the area can be patched with a new piece to fit the hole.

Here are three easy steps for making this same kind of repair on a bad case of chipout.

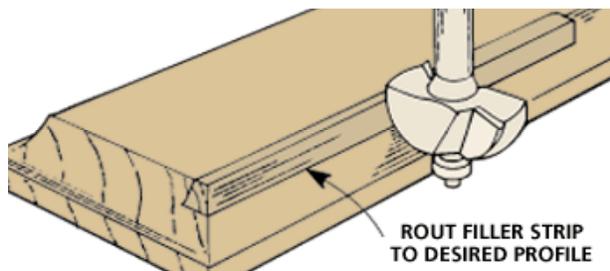
1. Using a straight bit in the router table, rout a stopped rabbet along the damaged edge. This will remove the chipout and create a straight edge for accepting a filler strip.



2. Cut an oversize filler strip to fit into the rabbet. Round one end to match the curve of the rabbet (where the bit stopped). Then glue this filler strip in place and sand or plane the top surface flush.



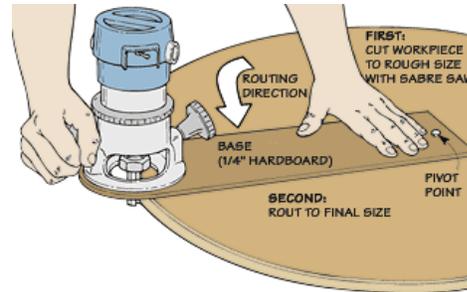
3. Now the original profile can be routed in the filler strip. (Hopefully without chipout this time.)



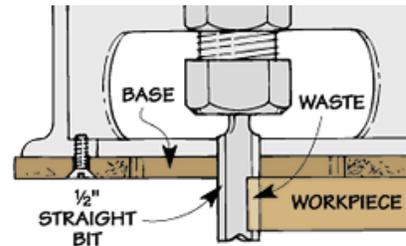
If you use a filler strip that matches the color and grain pattern of the damaged wood, the repair will be practically invisible.

CIRCLE-CUTTING JIG

Recently, I was working on a project that called for cutting a large circular workpiece. The material that I was using was medium density fiberboard (MDF), and I needed a quick and easy way to end up with a circle that had a nice smooth edge. I've found that the best way to do this job is to use a router that's mounted to a trammel, see the drawing at right.



Note: The hole doesn't need to be drilled all the way through the piece. To size the base, I ripped it to width so it was wide enough to support my router. Then I cut it about 9" longer than the radius of the circle to be cut.



The next step is to locate the pivot hole in the base. After mounting the router to the base and installing a straight bit, simply measure from the inside edge of the bit and drill a hole centered at a distance that matches the radius, see the drawings at left.

Before routing the circle, it's a good idea to first cut the workpiece to rough shape. (I used my sabre saw to do this.) This way, there's not as much material to remove as you rout it to final size. Also, make sure to rout in a counterclockwise direction. This means you're routing the opposite direction as the rotation of the bit. This is safer because the bit pulls the router into the workpiece so it doesn't "bounce" along the edge.