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Gary Rock, Jeff Cormier, Chuck Middleton

Mentoring Program - If you have a project, a problem in any woodworking area, these members have volunteered 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.

April Meeting Highlights

Gary Rock’s shop was where we met in April. The shop is dominated by his big lath, a table saw, drill press and some work benches. The shop is relatively small but more than adequate for our meeting. Thanks Gary for a great meeting and fine demonstration on fluting on the lathe.

Show and Tell came first this month and Mr. Eltee showed some of his latest scroll work (Happy Trails) while Sandy Kramer showed her first scroll work plus some children’s bunnies just in time for Easter.

Jeff Cormier brought a nice child’s toy box with shelves on top made of oak and oak plywood. Ronnie Kramer showed photos of a great makeup desk.

Pie Sonnier brought a photo of a candle holder he made while J. W. Anderson showed off a hollow form vessel made from cutting boards he had on hand.



Don Elforts contribution was another variation on walnut fan blades - a napkin holder. Joe Comeaux was doing some scroll work as well with an Easter rabbit for children. Another item was a candle center piece of hickory.

center piece of hickory.



Ray Kebodeaux showed us a photo of a router table built almost entirely from odds and ends found at his shop. Chuck Middleton has been making storm shutters for his home of treated pine and brought one to show us.

Our host, Gary Rock showed a bowl of sycamore died with Ritz, a cherry bowl with pueter inlay and a bowl of

willow.

Our safety topic came from guest Daniel Lubner, an EMT who works for Acadian Ambulance. Mr. Lubner started off by talking about First Aid Kits and what they should contain particularly in the way of bandages.

Daniel suggested triangle bandages, 4 x 4 bandages, 25 various size band-aids, eye flush and burn spray at minimum. Other additions could include blunt-node scissors, absorbent compress bandages, antiseptic wipes, non-latex gloves, 4 inch roller bandage, gauze pads and perhaps even a small LED flashlight.

He said you can purchase all of this stuff at Wal-Mart or a pharmacy including a first-aid book. Most people just buy a kit from one of a number of places.

Some kits are designed for specific activities, such as hiking, camping or boating. Whether you buy a first aid kit or put one together, make sure it has all the items you may need. If the kit is for travel it should include any personal items such as medications and emergency phone numbers or other items your health-care provider may suggest. Check the kit regularly. Make sure the flashlight batteries work. Check expiration dates and replace any used or out-of-date contents.

Most of the consumer kits are low cost and you should consider having one in your shop, one in your home and one in your vehicle.

There are also specialty kits available. I have one that I take when going hiking that includes tweezers with a magnifier (something you may want in your shop version), a quick cold compress, a space blanket and even a suture kit in case I have to sew something back together. We have big industrial size kits in every building at Sowela (particularly in the welding and automotive areas) that even include a defibrillator.

Daniel was asked about what you should use to clean a wound and he suggested water, not alcohol or hydrogen peroxide as the later can slow recovery. Wash the wound every day and replace the bandage once a day until healed enough to go without one.

Coming Up . . . Saturday, May 14, 9:00 A.M. at the shop of Dr. Bill Fey. We have not been there before so this should be a great trip.

The Scraper

The scraper is such a simple hand tool and one that your shop must not be without. It will remove old finish much faster than sandpaper even on a random orbital sander and you don't get the mess or dust in your lungs. It does not clog like sand paper, is usable for years and you can even make your own out of an old saw.

A scraper will take the squeeze-out of glue off your surface quickly and cleanly without tearing and with no sanding marks left over and it makes the surface of any flat item ready to finish.

Card scrapers clean up a workpiece like no other tool, leaving a scratch-free, glass-smooth surface ready for finishing. To achieve this kind of performance, you must maintain a sharp cutting burr on the scraper's edge. Fortunately, doing that requires only a pair of common tools. The real trick to a scraper is the sharpening and a lot of seasoned woodworkers don't know how to approach this simple device and make it work for them. Here's how I do it.

Select a mill file that's at least 3" longer than your scraper, and clamp it horizontally in a bench vise. With the scraper lying flat on the bench, slide it back and forth against the file until you've made the scraper's edge perfectly straight. Straighten the opposite edge and at least one of the sides as well.

Remove the rough burrs resulting from the first step by standing the

scraper on edge and rubbing it back and forth a few strokes along the file. Do this for both faces on both edges; then remove the file from the vise.

Now clamp the scraper in the vise with about one-third of its width above the top of the jaws. Using a

screwdriver with a hard, steel shaft, press down firmly while holding it perpendicular to the scraper face — parallel to the benchtop. Stroke back and forth until you can feel a burr forming on each side of the edge. What you are doing is simply deforming the metal with the screw driver. There are also very hardened steel tools you can purchase that are dedicated to this process.

Next, tilt the screwdriver about 5° to one face. Repeat the process from the last step to further roll the burr, as shown in the picture, to give it a more aggressive cutting edge. Now tilt the screwdriver 5° to the opposite face, and repeat the process. Stop when you can feel a burr that's about equal to the other side.

To use the scraper, hold it with two fingers hooked around each end, and press into the back with your thumbs, bending the scraper slightly, as shown at top. Angle it forward and, when you feel the burr grab the wood, begin pushing forward while holding at that angle to produce light shavings. *Barry Humphus with photos from Wood Magazine.*

Water Stone Sharpening

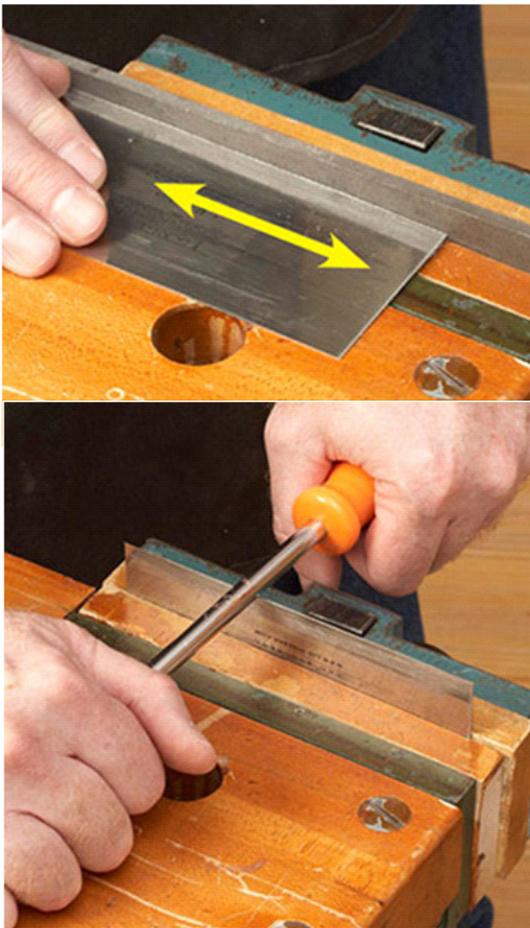
Woodworkers are finding that the path to perfectly sharpened edge tools leads them to water. For that's what lubricates the increasingly popular Japanese water stones. These man-made whetstones offer a big advantage in sharpening tools an abrasive surface that constantly renews itself as you work.

Compare this with what happens to the hard abrasive particles that make up many other kinds of whetstones. Instead of breaking off through use, they round over and become dull. At the same time, oil residue and metal particles pack into the stone's pores, glazing the surface and reducing the stone's ability to produce a really sharp edge.

A water stone's soft abrasive particles break off in use, constantly, exposing new, sharp edges. As you continue sharpening, those broken-off crystals crumble into smaller and smaller pieces. This is a very different process than an oil stone who's pores clog up over time. The crumbled crystals mix with the water on the stone's surface, creating a slurry effect, a honing and polishing compound.

Japanese water stone grades cover a range from 150 to 8000 grit, but those numbers don't relate directly to U.S. grades. For example, the abrasive action of a Japanese 150-grit stone approximates a 100-grit U.S.; the Japanese 1000, a U.S. 500; and the Japanese 4000, a U.S. 1000. It's better to relate water stone grades to each other than to try converting them to U.S. grades.

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Water Stone Sharpening Continues

Unless you have sharpened a plane iron, for example with a water stone, you have no idea what a mirror finish can be once you use one of the wonderful sharpening devices.

Here are some points that will help you when buying water stones:

To remove a lot of metal fast, for restoring a damaged edge or changing a blade's bevel, for instance, you'll want a water stone in the 150- to 250-grit range.

You can count on an 800-, 1000-, or 1200-grit water stone for general-purpose sharpening. The 800-grit stone is a good all-around choice if you sometimes have to sharpen nicked or heavily used edges.

For honing and polishing a sharpened edge, select a 4000-grit or finer stone, sometimes called a finish stone.

A pair of stones will suffice for normal tool sharpening, that is an 800, 1000, or 1200 and a 6000 or 8000. If you often deal with damaged edges, add a more aggressive 150- or 250-grit stone to your set.

Individual water stones cost from \$20-\$40 on average, with some ultrafine (8000-grit) finish stones running as high as \$75. You can buy combination stones, with a coarser grit on one side and a finer one on the other, for \$25 to \$50.

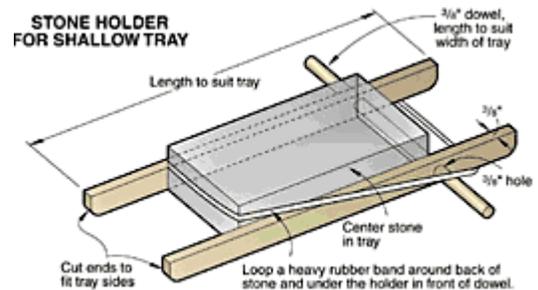
First, whet the stone's thirst. Water stones are intended to be used wet. So before sharpening, soak the stone for 10 to 15 minutes in clean water. (I bathe mine in a drywall-compound tray. You can use any small pan deep enough to submerge the stone in.) While sharpening, keep the stone's surface wet. (I squirt water on the stone from a bicyclist's water bottle; any squeeze or spray bottle would do the job.) All the water, along with the slurry of abrasive and steel particles that forms on the stone's wet surface, makes sharpening messy. To contain the mess and protect your benchtop, place the stone on a cookie pan or similar shallow tray.

Hold the stone in the center, using spacer blocks or a simple fixture. For better sharpening and to protect the stone from accidental gouging, always hold the tool in a sharpening or honing guide. A shallow tray, such as a cookie pan, can be used to contain the sharpening mess. Other useful items include a plastic box for stone storage, a water bottle to rewet the surface periodically, a tray for soaking the stones, and a sharpening or honing guide.

Some woodworkers store water stones in water-filled buckets or plastic boxes. That's okay for coarse and medium stones, but not for fine-grit finish stones. They should be stored dry. I prefer to store all water stones dry-or maybe damp would be a more accurate adjective. It's less hassle:

You don't have to stash sloshy boxes of water in your shop, and you won't end up growing odd organisms if you fail to change the water often enough. After use, just rinse the stone, pat it dry, and stick it into a lidded plastic box. (The stone will remain damp for a while, so keeping it in the original cardboard box isn't practical.)

Protect water stones from freezing temperatures-water that remains in a stone can freeze and crack it. A flat stone sharpens best plane irons, chisels, and other tools that call for a flat stone. But, because sharpening action constantly shears abrasive particles



from the water stone, its surface can become dished. It's easy to flatten a stone again, though.

Here's how: Place a piece of 120-grit wet-or-dry sandpaper, abrasive side up, on a piece of glass or some other true, flat surface. Wet the sandpaper, then rub the stone on it in a figure-8 motion.

Check the stone's face with a straightedge. Flatten your water stones after every few uses, rather than waiting for them to become noticeably dished. Even if you flatten a stone after every use, it will still last a long time.

One of the alternatives to water stones is wet-dry sand paper. This is relatively inexpensive and available at some hardware stores and certainly at automotive suppliers. While this will work to get your edges a mirror finish, it turns out to be expensive in the long run. The life of a water stone is many years while the life of wet-dry paper for sharpening is very short. You do the math. *Barry Humphus based on various sources.*

What Is This Space

This is a blank space and one that needs to be filled by our members. We need your ideas, your thoughts and your input for this Newsletter. If you want to know something in particular about a woodworking topic need to know something to complete or start a project, please let Barry know so he can get you the information you want and need for your woodworking fun.

There is nothing better than to consult for free an expert in what you need. That is why we are here -- to help you. Contact a woodworking mentor, contact Barry, get involved.