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APRIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Johnny Newman of Home Depot was our presenter in April. Johnny has been with Home Depot since before the Lake Charles facility opened for business a couple of years ago..

Johnny focused on the history of Home Depot as well as its new primary stationary power tool line from Ridgid. Ridgid is an old tool maker with whom Home Depot made a deal to be their exclusive retail outlet a few years ago.

Ridgid produces a number of stationary tools including dust collectors, table saws, planers, joiners, lathes and more. Most of the components in these tools are manufactured in the US. And most of their products have received good reviews in woodworking publications. Johnny has had the opportunity to work with all of the Ridgid line of tools as part of his Home Depot training. He admitted that the training is often limited to just a small time at each tool and looked forward to working more with more of their products.

Johnny was a good host and so was the Home Depot as they provided a large number of door prizes to the group gathered that Saturday. While the plants from the Garden Center did not go over well (we woodworkers want tools — plants are real work!), the large number of small items were very much appreciated. The big winner was Vince Vincent who won a full set of Delta Lathe gouges. These gouges are especially nice as a full range of sizes is provided in the set. They are all made of high speed steel and have particularly long handles.

QUICK AND EASY ROUTER TABLE

A router table is a great addition to any shop and most people wouldn't know what to do without one. It lets you use a wider range of bits and since the bit is stationary, you can make cuts that you just can't do with a hand-held router.

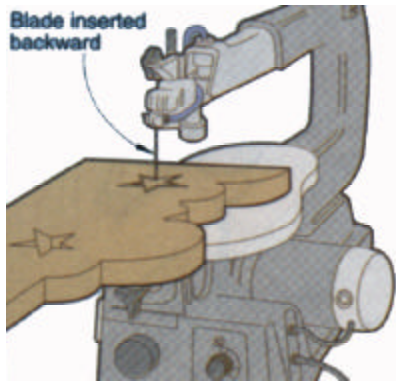
Even though many LCWW members have upgraded to a router table with a cabinet base, a large top, and a fence with all the options, those of you who don't have one can build your own simple system that meets most needs. For those who already have a router table, you can construct this portable model that will work very well. It's not much to look at, but if you don't have a router table yet, it's simple to build and will make a big difference in the work you can do with your router. It also makes a great portable table, or for those times when you could use a second table in your shop so you don't have to change the setup on your main router table.

Start with an 18" X 18" piece of 3/4"-thick plywood (or MDF). Draw diagonal lines on the bottom surface from corner to corner to locate the center of the table. Remove the base plate from your router, position it over the table's center and mark the location of the mounting screw holes. Then drill out the center hole and drill holes for the mounting screws. You'll want to countersink the screw holes on the top side so

COMING UP . . .

May 13th, Saturday, Steve & Terry LeGrue from The Cutting Edge, Houston, Texas at Burl Vincent's Shop. 2629 Laura Lane, Lake Charles on Joinery Techniques.

June 21st, **WEDNESDAY** — Annual BBQ! PPG Pavillion. Brent's Ribs & Killer Beans!



SMALL SOLUTION FOR BORING LONG STOCK

You don't need a big stationary drill press to bore holes in the ends of long workpieces. Make a drill guide block by drilling a hole the same size as your desired hole through a piece of scrap, then attaching the block to a piece of 1/4" hardboard or plywood. Clamp the guide to your long stock, as shown in the drawing right, and bore the hole with your portable drill. The guide block keeps the bit on the straight and narrow. From *Wood Magazine*.



KNOCK-DOWN WORKBENCH

It's always handy to have an extra work surface when assembling or finishing a project. The only drawback is it often takes up too much space - space you just don't have in your workshop.

The knock-down worktable shown in the photo above solves that problem. What's really nice about this worktable is that it can be assembled or taken apart in less than a minute, then stacked flat against a wall for storage. Plus, to build it, all you need is a single sheet of plywood and two small scraps. (There's a Cutting Diagram in the lower left corner of the drawing below.)

