

Jeff Cormier, President  
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Barry Humphus, Editor, Bubba Cheramie  
George Kuffel, John Marcon, 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 Truth: 583-2683. Each has years of experience and knowledge.

### December Meeting Highlights

First of all, Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and Happy New year to all. The meeting in December was at the shop of Chuck and Charlene Middleton. They have finished it out and now have bathroom facilities. With a cot, blankets and an occasional sponge bath, Chuck will not have to leave his shop again.

Lots of Show and Tell were brought this month. Bob Theaux showed a very nice tip and turn tea table of oak. He got the plan from Woodsmith magazine, Vol. 6, # 154 should you want to make yourself a copy. The article also included sources for the special hardware.

Gary Rock brought us a hollow form of aspen, cocobola and rosewood with woven twine, a wonderful tree ornament and a small turned box while Chuck Middleton showed off his scroll work skills in cypress of a religious theme. Chuck also had a work in progress - a duck in Intarsia.



Mr. Thibodeaux showed another of his neat

tooth pick holders, a cut and carved wooden spatula plus a cigar style writing pen of unknown wood.

Sonny LeBleu made some trivets using his radial arm saw mounted with a dado blade set. The trick is to cut a third of the way through the material, flip the piece and cut a third off the back. Ray Kibodeaux showed a home built blast gate for his dust vacuum system. A clever and easy to reproduce design.

Jim Couvillion brought us a black gum bowl with wonderful figure that he turned a few years ago while Barry Humphus showed a bowl of pear wood from a neighbor's tree that came down during Ike. Joe Comeaux has been doing some more of his perfume and other small turnings. These were from mesquite.

Paul Filler showed one of his beautiful carved and scroll saw boxes. Paul really has a good eye for wood figure as every one of these we've seen has been a marvel.

Dick Truth reminded us that there are some great

videos online demonstrating the art of had cut dove tails. See youtube.com and search for Dove Tail Master and you get lots of videos that show you how to make perfect hand cut dove tail joints. We were also reminded that the last Newsletter didn't contain an article about the SIG on dove tail joints. So here you go.

### Dove Tail Workshop Meeting

On November 15, 2008, Dr. Bill Fey and Dick Truth put on a hand cut dove tail workshop at Dick's shop. While Bill attended a professional workshop on dove tails, Dick has vast experience at all types of joints. So they were our teachers and guides during this hands on meeting.

Most woodworkers believe that hand cut dove tails are for the experts, but what this workshop taught me is that 70% of a good tight dove tail joint comes from the tools you use, 20% comes from the technique and 10% comes from practice. I know this because I brought a very good dove tail saw, borrowed a marking template, learned the technique and cut a perfect, tight dove tail joint on my first try.

I have to admit that I took about 30 minutes on the first one but the second took only ten minutes at most. I suspect with a little practice, I could do them in five minutes or less. Of course this depends on how many tails and pins you need to cut. We were cutting two pins and one tail. If you were doing 5 or 25, it is going to take a bit longer.

It turns out that anyone can cut perfect hand cut dove tails given you have the right tools, make sure they are tuned up properly, see the process at least once and practice a few.

Bill chose to use 3/8" white pine for our work for a couple of reasons. One is that it is soft and we would not be struggling with maple, ash, oak or walnut in this learning session. Second, it was cheap and so if you goofed up, it was easy and inexpensive to start over.

Dick had instructed everyone who would be attending to bring a particular set of dove tailing tools.

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Coming Up . . . January 10, 2009, 9:00 a.m. at the new outdoor kitchen of J.W. Anderson. Many of us saw the old one and it was great, but the new one is just fabulous and has everything you might need in an out door kitchen.

Dovetail Workshop continued

Fortunately, it turned out that there were enough tools to go around so for those who didn't have the required tools, they still got to cut their own dovetails. In fact the only tools I brought that I ended up using was a small Japanese (Ikedame, Rockler part # 20946, \$25) dovetail saw (that turned out to be the best thing I could have carried) and a chisel or two.

We saved some time because Bill and Dick had provided us with square stock. Otherwise, you would need to be certain that the stock you are using is flat and square.

The first detail to think about is whether you are going to cut the tails or pins first. It does not matter which you do first as what you do is use what you have cut to lay out the other side. In our case (because that was the way Bill had learned it) we cut tails first. Because this was our first dovetail joint, Bill chose to do the easiest and most common of these joints: the "through" dovetail joint.

First consider the "best" side of the stock. This is simply the two faces you want exposed. If this were a drawer, it may not matter much, but if a furniture item, you may need to carefully examine the work piece faces for quality and figure.

Next, mark the face side, face edge and each pair of ends that are to be jointed. Set a wheel marking gauge to the thickness of the stock. Note that these are available from Rockler (\$16, part # 35000) and that Dick had modified his by flattening one side. This made it possible to get into really tight places with this gauge and we highly recommend you do this. Mark the shoulder line for the tails all around the end of the tail member as well as on the sides. In cases where the gauge cut would mar the finished work, use a fine pointed pencil and a try square instead. I found that running a pencil in the cut of the gauge made the line stand out. By the way, if you don't have a wheel gauge, you can just use a trusted try square, making sure that the square is set to the thickness of the stock and at the correct angle.

Then, mark the tails. The size and number will vary according to the width of the board and the type of wood (in general, soft wood needs fewer tails than harder wood). As a general rule for good appearance, the tails should be the same size and equally spaced (though this is not necessary and for an interesting look) but wider than the pins.

Start by squaring a line across the end 1/2 inch from each edge then divide the distance between the marks into an even number of equal parts. Measure about 1/8 inch on each side of the marks and lines using either a T-bevel sliding square or a dovetail template. You don't have to purchase a special dovetail template as a common sliding T-bevel square will do fine. I used a template provided by Dick that he had

made. Always mark the waste - the wood that you will remove to avoid confusion later.

Use a vise to hold your work while sawing (Dick had provided several). Set each piece in the vise at an angle such that one side of every tail mark is vertical. Then using a dove tail saw, cut down one side of the tails. Always keep close to the waste side and take care to not go down beyond the shoulder line. Reposition the piece in the vise and cut down the other side of the tails.

If your tails flair a great deal, you may find it easier to remove most of the waste with a coping saw. Pare out what is left with a bevel edged chisel, working toward the middle but finishing level with the shoulder line. Dick emphasized that the chisels should be very sharp and in fact I brought two very sharp ones just in case.

To mark the pins, set the blank vertically in the vise, lay the tail piece down onto the end grain and use a sharp pencil or marking knife to indicate your pin cut lines. Supporting the tail piece with a block will be helpful as you mark. Line up the edges and shoulder line of the tails precisely and mark. Next, square the lines down to the shoulders on each face. Be sure to mark the waste.

To cut the pins, saw down to the shoulder line following the angles marked from the tails. You can then pare the waste with your chisel though I suspect it would be faster to use a coping saw to remove the bulk of the material and clean it up with a chisel. Work from both sides toward the middle.

Hand cut dovetails require just a bit of fitting and trimming any tight spots. This is a good time to clean up the inside faces of the parts prior to glue up. The resulting joint should have a snug but not impossibly tight fit. With a wide piece, you may have to persuade the two parts together using a block of wood and a hammer. If there is too much resistance, back off and trim a bit more.

What happens if the joint is loose? Dick said that most woodworking glue has marvelous gap filling qualities. But the key is some practice with scrap around the shop. The date for the next dovetail meeting has not been set but in that one, we'll take a look at some power tool enhancements to hand cut dovetails to make the process even faster. *Barry Humphus.*

### We Need Your Help

The LCWWC needs your support and participation to continue and while these are tough economic times for some, the \$20 a year you spend as a member is dirt cheap. Send your renewal membership payment to Dick Hopes, 1139 Green Rd., Lake Charles, LA 70611

For Sale (to someone who will care for it)

Barry Humphus has just retired his table saw and welcomes a buyer. For those of you who like old tools, this will be an easy purchase, a delight to use and the saw has a provenance as well.

It is a 1941 Sears Dunlap, 8 inch, bench top tilt table saw, Model 103-02041 (manufactured for Sears by King-Seeley). King-Seeley was purchased by Emerson Electric which was purchased by Ridgid Tool who currently manufactures the Craftsman line for Sears. Tilt table saws are perfect for small cabinet, miterers and box making. The saw is in great shape with its original rip fence, miter, splitter, anti-kickback system, blade cover, and 3/4 hp Sears motor with switch, belt and bench motor mount. It has a new 8-1/4 Freud 40 tooth blade, the arbor (permanently sealed bearings) has zero runout and the blade and tilt mechanisms work smoothly and accurately. It's even re-painted in the original blue color.



The Dunlap brand was Sears' premium brand prior to their use of Craftsman before World War II. This saw was purchased in April 1941 (according to the serial number - 4003) by Lawrence Kuffel, passed it on to his brother and thus to his nephew, member George Kuffel and thence to Barry. Therefore it has been well cared for by a series of fine craftsmen. \$58 (much less than it's age).

For Sale

Delta brand dedicated mortiser with three chisels and bits for \$100. Contact Eddie LeBleu at 527-0541.

Review: "A Splintered History of Wood" by Spike Carlsen

While my typical reading include college textbooks, computer journals, woodworking magazines and shop manuals, Spike Carlsen's "A Splintered History of Wood" is a book you will not easily put down. With a full set of notes, photographs, resources, a bibliography and complete index, it is a very well researched book that every woodworker or in fact anyone, should read.

From 50 thousand year old wood to belt sander races, tools, wood in sports, wood in war and much more, Carlsen hits the high points, tells us interesting things about the substance that makes us woodworkers and entertains us with funny stories and interesting facts.

If you've ever wanted to know about how ancient crosses were made, the history of how wood was used and is still used in our every day lives - bombs to tebuchets, toothpicks to pianos and on to the wood in your home, Carlsen has it in this book.

"From the cribs we sleep in as infants to the caskets in which we'll be buried in death, wood touches us in a real and personal way, every day," says Carlsen in his funny and personal introduction.

For some 15 years, Carlsen was the Executive Editor for The Family Handyman magazine. He was also the lead editor on "The Reader's Digest Complete Do-It-Yourself Manual" and 20 other home improvement related books. As well as author of hundreds of articles on do-it-yourself, and woodworking. He has written articles for Old House Journal, Fine Homebuilding, Workbench, The Minneapolis Star Tribune and other publications and appeared on CBS, the Today Show and many others.

Go get this book as it is a purchase you will not regret. Among other places, it is available at amazon.com, ISBN 978-0-06-137356-5. *Barry Humphus*.

Review: Bosch 4100-009 Portable Table Saw

While thousands of feet of wood have been cut accurately with the aforementioned Dunlap saw, I felt it was time to look for an update. I had reviewed several portable saws a couple of years ago when recommending one for my brother, who like me, has a small shop. A full size contractor or cabinet saw would simply not fit in the limited space I have.

I once again took trips to various suppliers, asked questions of the sales folks and played with the controls. Another source of information are online reviews - that is, what did people who bought these saws think of them? This was an enlightening experience as I found that the saw I had recommended to my brother is not the one I would buy today.

The reason is technology. In order for the manufacturers to keep their products current and of interest in the consumer market, they have to come up with new features - be they safety, convenience or price.

The Bosch 4100 had everything I wanted including both safety and technology. The rive is especially convenient to use and adjust as is the blade guard and anti-kickback system. Especially nice is the easily installed digital rip fence accessory that makes cutting to 1/32 inch a breeze. The total cost was just a bit over \$600 including shipping. *Barry Humphus*.