

Dick Trouth, President  
Joe Comeaux, Treasurer

Officers and Directors

Barry Humphus, Editor, George Kuffel  
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.

March Meeting Highlights

Pie and Joy Sonnier were our hosts this month. It is good that Pie has lots of work space given the many vehicles he builds. And Joy’s biscuits were a great hit. Thanks to you both for a great meeting.

George Hutchinson, whom we have not seen in a while, showed up and rejoined - welcome back!

Dick Trouth did our safety talk and discussed the proper ways to dispose of old finishes. At least once a year, Team Green will accept hazardous materials such as non-oil containing paint and other finishes. The best way though is to simply spread them out and let them dry. An organization called Rebuilding Together will also take non-oil paint. Sadly 10 percent of household paint production in the US is dumped into our land fills. This is an amazing 65 million gallons of paint.

Dick also mentioned that you must take care when using rags that contain oil-based finishes as they can definitely combust on their own if not spread out to dry.

Show and Tell brought us lots of things this month. Mr. Thibodeaux had a pine paper towel holder with decorative painting plus a framed plywood base for mounting a carving,

died with Ritz brand . He also brought a nice weed pot of cherry as well as an apple shaped weed pot. plus a bowl of white oak.

John Shippman brought a very nice looking serving tray of pine and oak plywood and Jim Couvillion described how he assembles his rocking horses. Jim tries to book match the grain as much as possible to match the growth rings in the wood. He also talked about a 3M brand of sandpaper he likes to use.

Bill Levy won the Show and Tell drawing (a \$25 Stine’s gift card) while the Bring It Back Item was won by Joe Comeaux.

Joe also mentioned that he had been in contact with June Hopes about Dick’s shop and contents. For the most part, Dick’s tool collection will go to his children but there were likely to be hundreds of toy parts left over that could be assembled. Joe will check back with June in the near future to find out the status of the toy parts.

Ronnie Kramer brought us all Billy Navarra sun visors.

Board Meeting

Immediately following the meeting there was a short Board meeting. Attending were Joe Comeaux, Jeff Cormier, Barry Humphus, George Kuffel, Gary Rock and Dick Trouth.

Barry will begin updating the pictures on the web site during Spring Break and remove pictures of those who have not been members for a long time. He will also check the links on the web site as a few have become stale.

Gary Rock is to visit with Diamond Lumber to get a renewal of support. Dick is to visit with Home Building Materials and Barry will write a request to David Stine requesting same.

Coming Up . . . Saturday April 9, 9:00 A.M. at the shop of Gary Rock. Gary has promised a small demonstration on the big lathe. We hope he will show us some of his many secrets (wood turning kind of course - we don’t want to know about the others!).



Bill Levy is learning a bit of scroll work how-to from Eltee and brought a scroll cut box from a pattern. It was his first piece and he said as long as Eltee will continue to advise him, it won’t be the last. Pie Sonnier has continued to add clothes hangers to the miniature wardrobe closet made for a child’s doll clothes collection.

J.W. Anderson had a stool made of peach plus a 14 inch platter of cypress. Don Elfert brought a boat paddle made from a ceiling fan blade. Nice work and re-use. We couldn’t squeeze in the brandy “Last Man Standing” picture last time, so here it is.

Ray Kebodeaux showed photos of some bookcases he built while Gary Rock had a bowl of elm that was fluted,

## Pocket Hole Joinery

When it comes to assembling face-frames for cabinets, edge joining, picture frames and more, there's nothing faster than pocket-hole joints – each joint will take you about 90 seconds each using a store-bought jig. Attaching the frame to the case hides the holes.

Pocket hole joinery isn't new. The speed and reliability of the technique have made it a favorite in furniture manufacturing and cabinet shops for decades. But for the small shop and weekend woodworker, pocket hole joinery took a giant leap forward in 1990, when Craig Sommerfield brought out the first commercially available model of his remarkable Kreg Jig. Since its introduction, the Kreg Jig has lead the way in affordable, easy to use pocket hole joinery systems.

Pocket-hole screws give the frame all the strength it needs and then some. The angled screws cut across grain rings instead of only passing straight through the weaker end grain, making the joint tougher to pull apart.

The steel self-tapping screws the Kreg system uses are much stronger than the wood fasteners they replace – dowels, tenons, biscuits, etc. Along with that, the self tapping screws exert a tremendous amount of clamping pressure, drawing the surfaces of the wood into the “intimate contact” that adhesive manufacturers say is among the most important factors in producing a solid glue joint. Finally, the highly compressed screws stay in the work piece

permanently; it's like being able to leave your project clamped solidly together - forever. The superior strength of a pocket hole joint has actually been proven. Independent testing found that a pocket screw joint failed at 707 pounds when subjected to a shear load while a comparable mortise and tenon joint failed at 453 pounds – meaning that the pocket screw joint was approximately 35% stronger.

In a correctly drilled pocket hole, the pilot hole should stop 1/8" from the end of the work piece. Because the smooth screw shaft turns freely within the pilot hole, the screw threads pull the joint tightly together.

To make pocket-hole you first mark an “X” on the inside faces of each frame part to avoid drilling into the appearance face of your frame. Center the pocket-hole jig on the end of a part to be drilled and clamp both firmly to your workbench.

Then set the drill bit stop collar according to work piece thickness and the type of jig you're using. Then drill two pocket holes. Repeat the first two steps for the ends of each rail and center stile on your frame.

Finally, at each joint, butt the mating parts together and clamp them solidly against your workbench. Then drive pocket-hole screws suited to the wood. Some have suggested using fine-thread screws for joining hardwoods and coarse-thread screws for softwoods and composites, such as MDF or particleboard. The problem with fine threads is they sometimes ‘spin out’ inside the hole. Using course threads with any type of wood will work. Both types have split tips that eliminate the need to drill pilot holes in the part being joined.

Your case edges should hide the pocket holes after you attach the face frame, but you may want to further conceal the holes from view on some projects. In wood, fill the holes with pre-cut plugs or 3/8" dowels of the same species. With either one, trim off the excess after the glue dries (if you even used glue) and hand-sand them flush with the work using a rigid-backed sanding block. Or turn plugs into accents using contrasting species, such as a walnut plug in maple. For melamine-coated particleboard projects, use angled plugs molded to snap into the pocket hole.

Avoiding mistakes is easy as well. Pocket-hole joints come close to being foolproof, but a few simple ideas ensure perfect joints every time.

- Driving screws can push parts away from each other if both aren't clamped firmly in place.
- To avoid drilling through your work piece, double-check the stop-collar setting using scrap stock identical in thickness to your work pieces.
- Too much drill torque can break loose the material between the bottom of the pocket-hole and the work piece end. Dial down the torque setting on your drill-driver before you begin; then dial it up until it just seats the screw. Too much torque can also cause the screw to spin in it's hole. Use course thread screws where ever you can.
- Use specially designed screws designed for pocket-hole joints. The bugle-shaped head of a flathead or drywall screw can split the wood at the bottom of the pocket-hole. *Photos from Kreg, Inc. Article by Barry Humphus.*



## Basic Marking and Measurement Tools

Your shop may be filled with the finest cutting and shaping tools money can buy, but if you don't measure and mark precisely, your project parts will fit like a cheap suit.

Perhaps that's why woodworking catalogs offer many pages of products promising to make you a more accurate woodworker. To help you sort it all out, here are the marking and measuring tools I find essential for my little shop, plus some that are just very useful.

First, make sure you have the basics: 6" and 12" steel rules. Look for a matte or satin finish with etched markings (rather than stamped) for accuracy and readability. Increments should go down to at least 1/32". By the way, really inexpensive rules, particularly tape rules are often inaccurate. I suggest that you always consider a well-known brand name rule from a reputable dealer, despite the expense. (If you have the resources, get a 36" flat rule as well).

Buy one with a combination-square head and you'll

multiply its value at least threefold by adding the ability to check and mark perfect 90° and 45° angles. You can also get one with a protractor feature that I have found useful. Again, cheap stamped out rules are not accurate. Always by quality when you can.



For longer dimensions, a 6' folding wooden rule provides more reliable accuracy than a retractable steel tape measure because there's no hook on one end that can get damaged and affect the accuracy. Get the kind with a sliding extension for dead-on measurement inside cases and boxes.

A 4" or 6" machinist square is ideal for tool setup and for marking crosscuts precisely, it slips easily into an apron pocket. Good thing, too, because I reach for this more often than one might think. The one I have is an old Stanley passed on from my grandfather.

A sliding bevel gauge is a simple device that performs for any angle what a combination square does for 90° and 45°, making transferring or duplicating that odd angle foolproof, without even having to know the angle.

A mechanical pencil or marking knife (I suggest both, particularly a fine Japanese marking knife) is indispensable in your shop. Measuring to a gnat's backside means little if

your carpenter's pencil makes a wide swath. A marking knife scores razor-thin lines, and a mechanical pencil's thin mark is consistent and predictable. I use both.

A 4" double square has all the best features of a combination square (easy adjustability and measurement markings), and mixes in the best features of a machinist square (precision and pocket portability). When you get one, you'll see why I like a 4" double square. The blade slides through the body for gauging reveals on cabinet doors or for setting up saw blades and router bits, without being cumbersome like a full-size combo square.

A few add-ons come to mind that are inexpensive. A draftsman's T-Square (garage sales, pawn shops, or maybe Dr. Don Elfert - sorry Don, I know you use AutoCAD) and will be a wonder if you are squaring anything large like a cabinet structure. Of course they are great for drawing long straight lines as well.

A carpenter's combination square is also useful to have about as these are cheap and useful for doing all sorts of carpentry math and angles. *Photos from Wood Magazine. Article by Barry Humphus.*

## One More Thing -- Marking Gages

When it comes to marking cut-lines and laying out joints, it's hard to beat the simplicity and accuracy of a marking gauge.

The basic marking gauge consists of four parts: an 8- to 12"-long beam, a fence, a fence-locking device, and a marking pin. The fence slides along the beam to set the required marking distance to the pin. A locking device, such as a thumbscrew or wedge, secures the fence to the beam at the set position. Some gauges have a removable marking pin, making it easy to sharpen or replace. Also, the beams of some gauges are ruled to allow for direct setting of the marking dimension without the need for measuring.

One type of marking gauge, a mortising gauge has a single marking pin for general layout and another pair of pins on the opposite side of the beam for easy mortise layout. One pin is fixed and the other slides in the beam to set the mortise width.

Because the fence follows the stock's edges, make sure they are straight and smooth for accurate marking.

After securing the fence, recheck the setting to be sure it hasn't changed. Practice marking on scrap first to verify the setting.

Position the fence against the stock's edge, and apply light pressure to keep it flush. Rotate the beam so the pin is at an angle to the stock and then lightly drag the gauge to make your mark. *Edited by Barry Humphus from Wood Magazine.*