

Steve Thomas, President
Sandy Kramer, Treasurer

Officers and Directors

Barry Humphus, Editor, George Kuffel
Gary Rock, Jeff Cormier, Dick Trough

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; Gary Rock: 433-1679; Eltee Thibodeaux: 436-1997; Dick Trough: 583-2683. Each have years of experience and knowledge.

January Meeting Highlights

Jeff and Mary Cormier were our hosts last month and it is always great to visit this fine shop. Mary made a batch of her great sausage biscuits as well.

Steve Thomas began the meeting with a safety tip: get your flu shot if you have not done so already. Flu viruses can hang around as late as May so you still have time to get a flu shot. These can be done at most area pharmacies for low cost or free (if you are older than 60). Don't forget your pneumonia shot as well (every five years).

Barry Humphus told about an opportunity later in the day at Dr. Steve Hedlesky's home - a huge wood giveaway. Dr. Hedlesky is planning to move and needed to rid his shop of many hundreds of board feet of lumber and invited LCWW members to drop by after lunch and help themselves. Dr. Hedlesky did this a couple of years ago as well and everyone appreciated his generosity.



Don Elfert said he got some new tools for Christmas including a great Dremel circular saw plus a neat new tape measure with a nice center finding feature.

Steve showed off a really old Stanley Model 55 combination plane and a Model 48 routing plane. He inherited these from his father but no longer had the instructions. Barry was able to find them at www.tooltrip.com which carries instruction booklets for many old Stanley and Sargent tools and systems.

For Show and Tell, Ray Kebodeaux had a marvel-

ous white oak burl bowl plus a neat turning he called a wing bowl. Eltee Thibodeaux brought a couple of unique toys: a poop dog that emits M&Ms from his rear as the tail is operated plus a rabbit toy that sends M&Ms out of its belly and into a basket.



George Carr chip carved a mangle board. Mangle boards were originally used for ironing clothing, before being discarded for the flat iron. Mangles were widespread throughout Europe before the nineteenth century and often given to prospective brides. George did a wiped stain after applying sanding sealer (reduced shellack) to moderate the stain.

Bob Theaux builds very nice furniture and this month brought a puzzle box for assembling pasteboard puzzles that was complete with two puzzle holding drawers with a formica playing surface and oak trim.

Sandy Kramer has started doing pyrography and brought a beautifully done rooster image. Ronnie Kramer did a child's tongue drum of maple.

Steve Thomas had two items to show off this month. A 528 piece segmented bowl some 13" in diameter and consisting of walnut, purple heart and maple and an electric guitar built from a kit. Steve also constructed a nice case for the instrument.

Gary Rock brought a series of holiday ornaments made in the shape of tops. Gary also turned the tiny aluminum tips.

Ray Kebodeaux won the Show and Tell drawing. Steve Thomas reminding those attending to not forget to pay the annual dues. Please bring your \$20 to the February meeting and give it to Joe Comeaux, our new treasurer.

Coming Up . . . Saturday, February 8, 2014 at 9:00 A.M. at the fine shop of Steve Thomas.

Sliding Miter Saws Do More

Sliding mitersaws have pretty much replaced radial-arm saws in woodworking shops and job sites thanks to their lower cost, improved accuracy, and portability. Few users realize, though, that these machines also can make partial-depth cuts, such as those in half-lap joints, dados, or rabbets. You'll find a slider especially handy when building large outdoor projects made of hard-to-handle, big--and often wet--lumber.

For through cuts, all mitersaws are designed to cut just below table level in front of the fence. But when you raise the blade for partial-depth cuts, the curve of the blade no longer reaches the fence, also reducing crosscutting capacity. Make certain the work piece is clamped securely to avoid a flying work piece.

To find exactly where the blade will cut, begin by setting the depth of cut--typically half the part thickness--using the saw's depth stop.. (See your owner's manual.) Unplug the saw and pull the blade toward you as far as it will go. If your saw has a laser marker, use this to find where the blade will cut.

If your saw doesn't have a laser locator, you can add one to most sliding and non-sliding miter saws. These cost anywhere from \$12-45 depending on the seller and saw. My old Delta slider uses one that replaces the large arbor washer and costs about \$25. The setup is simple and results in very accurate cuts.

But back to doing this without a laser mark. Lower the blade to cutting depth and mark the saw table directly below the center of the blade arbor. Now push the saw all the way back and mark its blade center as shown in the photo. The distance between these marks equals your saw's width capacity for that depth of cut. (For many 10" saws, that equals about 6".) Measure from the fence to the back-limit line and rip a scrapwood spacer about 1/16" wider than that dimension. Then use your saw's stock hold-down clamp (or double-faced tape) to secure the spacer against the fence.

Lay out the half-lap joint on your workpiece and hold it against the spacer. Note: Depending on the saw, pushing the workpiece out this far from the fence might leave it with little support from the saw table. Supplement with infeed and outfeed support, if necessary. Cut a kerf at both ends to define the joint.

Eliminate the waste between the end kerfs by cutting repeated kerfs between them, as shown in the photo. Use a hammer to break off the fingers of waste wood between the end kerfs. Now flatten the bottom of the dado using your widest chisel, shown in photo, a block plane, or a shoulder or rabbet plane.

Test the joint for a snug fit. For too-tight joints, saw the same amount of waste from both parts until they slide together with light taps from a rubber mallet.

If you own a radial arm saw, all of this works the same way and in many ways is a more versital power tool. However, you have to have space in your shop to accomodate one. Should you want a radial, George Kuffel has a very nice DeWalt unit for sale at a good price. *Thanks to Wood Magazine for the idea.*

Improving Accuracy of the Table Saw

Even old hand-me-down saws and low-cost benchtop machines can produce clean, on-the-money cuts. I'll tell you how. Somewhere between measuring every workpiece with a micrometer and troweling in wood putty lies attainable accuracy. Whether you're preparing to buy a new tablesaw or putting off some much-needed maintenance on your existing saw, it's critical to get it dialed-in so all your cuts will be flawless. Go beyond what's covered in your owner's manual for spot-on accuracy.

You'll find the best and least expensive tablesaw accessories at an office supply store, of all places. Invest about \$10 in a couple of plastic drafting triangles. They give you perfect 90°, 45°, 60°, and 30° corners for setting blade angles and miter angles.

To set a blade angle, raise the blade fully and register the triangle against the body of the blade, not against the teeth. Raising the blade fully gives you the most surface for the triangle to rest against. Lower the blade to the proper cutting height after setting the angle.

An extension screwed to the miter-gauge head is a great and inexpensive way to improve the quality and accuracy of your cuts. Use a flat length of 3/4" plywood, MDF, or hardwood.

The extra surface steadies longer stock. An extension that reaches past the blade backs up the cut, preventing tear-out on the back edge of the workpiece.

If you own a benchtop saw that won't accept a dado blade to cut a rabbet, you need to make a series of cuts and nudge the fence over slightly between passes. The trick with this method is getting each cut precisely the same depth. A simple way to apply consistent pressure downward during each pass is to use a hold-down. A hold-down prevents the workpiece from rising off the table, ensuring cuts of equal depth. When clamping the hold-down to the fence, use the workpiece as a gauge. Bevel the leading edge of the hold-down to guide the board under it.

And here's a bonus tip: Use a rip blade for the best
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results. Its square-profile raker teeth cut a smooth, flat bottom.

It's often smart not to cut to finished size on the first pass. Instead, cut the workpiece slightly oversize; then sneak up on the final dimension for a perfect fit. This works especially well when the piece must fit into an existing opening.

An easy way to sneak up when crosscutting is to use a stopblock. When you can safely hang on to the "keeper" piece, clamp a stopblock to a miter-gauge extension. Nudge the stopblock toward the blade between cuts to get to the desired length. Once the stopblock is positioned, you can cut any number of pieces to identical lengths.

For keeper pieces too short to hang on to, attach the stop to the rip fence. The stop creates space for the cutoff to rest safely between the blade and fence without being kicked back. Cut test pieces until you have the rip fence and stopblock set properly.

Cutting sheet goods to size can be a challenge on any size saw. Make the initial cut about 1/8" oversize. This reduces the size of the sheet and makes it easier to handle. Then reposition the rip fence to trim the more manageable panel to finished size.

To precisely mount miter-slot guides to a sled, first place a couple of washers in each miter-gauge slot. Then set the guides on top of them, as shown in top photo. The guides should sit just above the surface of the tablesaw. If they don't, add another washer or two. Put a strip of double-faced tape on top of each guide.

Use the rip fence to help squarely position the base as you lower it onto the guides, as shown bottom photo. Press the base firmly onto the guides; then carefully remove the base with the guides attached. Now screw the guides in place. *Idea from Wood Magazine edited by Barry Humphus.*

Ramp-up Your Table Saw

For most woodworkers, the shop revolves around the tablesaw. So it makes sense to pump up that machine to be the best it can be. Sometimes, achieving peak performance with this vital tool requires upgrading factory parts with aftermarket add-ons. But with hundreds—if not thousands—of catalog and Web pages devoted to tablesaw accessories, finding the right ones can be a crapshoot. To help you out, we shop-tested dozens of today's greatest tablesaw add-ons and winnowed the list down to these items most deserving a spot in your shop.

In recent years, tablesaw manufacturers have really stepped up their games when it comes to rip fences. Many factory fences now equal or exceed aftermarket models.

Biesemeyer fences are simple, solid and with super-flat faces plus it doesn't provide fancy microadjusters or T-slots for mounting jigs or feather boards. But it does its job supremely well and never has let us down in many years of use.

Factory-supplied tablesaw miter gauges have a reputation for being inadequate and inaccurate. That's why replacement miter gauges—some souped-up with length stops, adjustable-width miter bars, and positive stops every degree (or even down to .1°)—are all the rage among woodworkers. Incra's 1000SE, for example, proved superior to the others and offers the best length stop on the market, with precise 1/32" repeatability and a microadjuster for length.

Most serious tablesaw accidents result from kickback (when the rising teeth at the rear of the spinning blade lift and launch the workpiece back at the operator). Splitters prevent kickback, but if you put your factory guard on the shelf, you're robbing yourself of the protection provided by its splitter. MJ Splitters brand mount on a zero-clearance throat-plate insert you buy or make yourself. The slightly off-center mounting pins allowed us to rotate the splitter 180° to actually press the workpiece against the fence. It's like having a tiny feather board for the "keeper" behind the cut. Use the green splitters with your full-kerf blades; use yellow splitters with thin-kerf blades.

Every tablesaw (and router table, for that matter) needs a good set of hold-downs and hold-ins, such as feather boards, to keep the workpiece flat on the table and tight against the fence. A Grip-Tite magnetic featherboards grip a metal fence (or the auxiliary fence face included in this kit) ferociously, yet release with a quick flick of the release lever. And they work well as hold-ins because they also stick like glue anywhere on the cast-iron tables of your tablesaw or bandsaw.

Traditional clamps always seem to get in the way of the workpiece when you use them to temporarily mount an auxiliary fence face. (And you just hate driving screws into a perfectly good fence if we can avoid it.) Sub-Fence Hole Clamps fit into holes you drill into the top edge of your auxiliary fence face. Use just one Hole Clamp to add a stopblock to your rip fence to gauge repeated crosscuts.

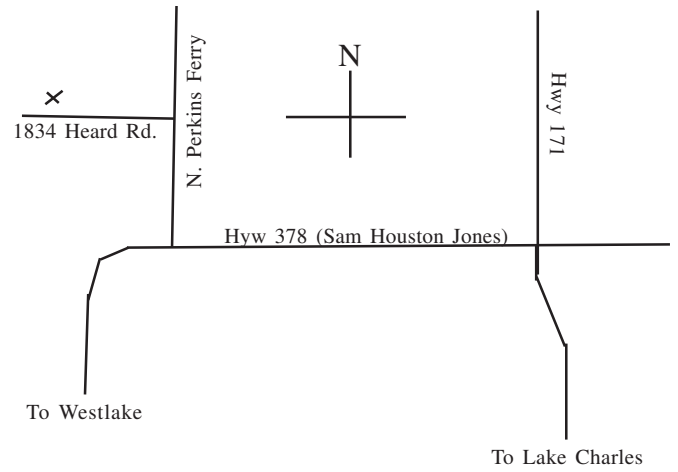
If you don't have a cabinet saw, Ridgid's Flip-Top stand makes a great extra hand in the shop. Research found that its tilting top gently guides a sagging workpiece up to tablesaw-top level, so you could set it up a few feet behind the saw for outfeed support without fear of knocking it over. (The large 21×25" footprint helps, too.) This inexpensive support is stingy on storage space, folding to only 3-1/2" flat. Once again, we thank the folks at Wood Magazine for the ideas for making your table saw more productive. Barry

The February Meeting of LCWW

Steve Thomas has graciously provided his shop for our meeting this month so please come to Moss Bluff.

Steve provides the following directions: "To get to my place take North Perkins Ferry Rd. off route 378 in Moss Bluff. Follow North Perkins Ferry about 1 mile and turn left on to Heard Road. My house is on the right side of the street. If it's not too wet, members should be able to park behind my shop."

The address is 1834 Heard Rd., Lake Charles, La 70611 in Moss Bluff. If you need further directions, please give him a call at 337-302-8296.



February 2014

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