

Southwest Louisiana Woodworkers Club August 2019

Bill Fey, President
Patrick LaPoint Treasurer

Officers and Directors

Barry Humphus, Editor, Eltee Thibodeaux
Daren Hood, John Marcon, Robin Richard

Mentoring Program - If you have a project, a problem in any woodworking area, these members have volunteered to help. Give them a call. Frank Tartarmella 802-8989; John Marcon: 478-0646; Eltee Thibodeaux: 436-1997; Ray Kebodeaux: 583-2378. Each have years of experience and knowledge.

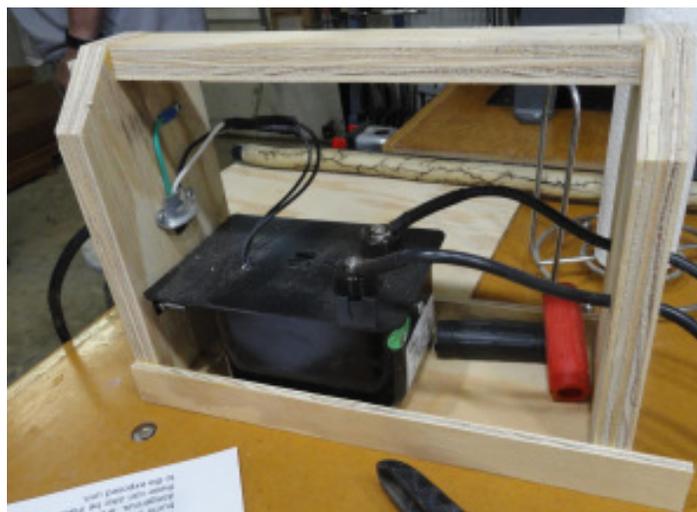
August Meeting Highlights

We had our first opportunity to meet at the shop of long time member Ray Kebodeaux this month and a fine shop it is. In fact, it consists of two separate rooms, the smaller of which Ray uses for storage and to hold extra equipment including some he moved to provide more space for the meeting.

Ray has a beautiful workbench he constructed several years ago out of oak and mahogany complete with very a very nice set of vices plus dog holes. His shop also features a great dust collection system whose motor and vacume are located outside the shop which substantially lowers the sound level of the unit when it is run.

We had two new members join this month: Andrew Monceaux from Sulphur and A.J. Reon from Lake Charles. A.J. mentioned that there was a predecessor woodworking club in the 1980's called the Imperial Calcasieu Woodworkers. The Southwest Louisiana Woodworkers formed (as the the Lake Charles Woodworkers Club) in 1989. This is our 30th year this year.

For Show and Tell, Bill Fey brought a nice box of sastras with a router carved removable top, pinned joints and a pine base. Ray constructed a bat house for a friend. They need to be mounted high on a wall otherwise, the bats won't use it. Bats are a great insect eaters, especially mosquitoes. They typically eat their weight in mosquitoes every day. Ray also showed a walking Litchenberg fractal wood boring system he built.



Ray discussed the variations of the unit and after very careful study, decided to use an oil burner transformer as the power unit. Other power units are available (microwave oven transformer or neon sign transformer).

J.W. Anderson brought us a sweet octangle box with removable lid. The box was mostly made of a very tight grained fir, mahogany handle, bottom of spalted sycamore and purple heart pinned joints.

Just a note that Barry cannot attend the August meeting as he will be returning from Europe that day. Please take some photos and notes and send them.

Up Next . . . 9:00 A.M., August 10, 2019 at the shop of Aaron Andrepont. See directions on page 4.

Lichenberg Fractal Wood Burning

Meeting host Ray Kebodeaux did a demonstration of the Litchenberg fractal wood burning technique at his shop during the July meeting and it was quite a show.

WARNING: The Litchenberg process is very dangerous and should you do this, you must be very careful. Read everything you can on the Internet about this before choosing a power unit and be especially careful when operating your system. Also note that the Woodworking Industry Association and the American Woodworkers Association no longer accepts work for their contests or presentations of Litchenberg work because of the danger of this process.

According to Ray Kebodeaux's research, there are three possible transformer units that may be used for a Litchenberg fractal burning system: microwave oven, neon sign and oil burner transformer.

The microwave (MOT) unit has an output of 2,000 volts at about .5 amps with an ultimate output of 2,000 v at .35 amps. This transformer has a relative low voltage output but very high amperage. Thus, it burns very aggressively because of the high amps. This amperage makes it the most dangerous of the three types to use. But if you have an old microwave oven, it can be the least expensive. Again, the burn pattern is very aggressive and can burn a very wide and deep pattern.

The most common neon sign transformer (NST) have an output of about 12,000v. They also have a much lower output amperage than the MOT, typically about 35 milliamps - ten times less than the MOT. NSTs will burn much more detail but burns slower than the MOT. While it is easier to control, it is much less dangerous due to the lower amperage. The real advantage is that the connections to the work piece can be made in a safer manner due to the fact that no lead is directly grounded to the exposed unit.

Most of the oil burner transformers (OBT) have an output of 10,000v and 23 milliamps. They burn in a way that is very similar to the NST. The OBT units are by far the safest of the three.. Remember that these units are dangerous to life and you may risk serious injury by using one of these. However, they do make wonderful art on almost any wood surface. You can purchase fractal burning art online.

One of the key components of the units is the electrolite you choose to conduct electricity along the surface of the wood you burn and you have several options. A common electrolite is salt mixed with water. Another option is epon salts or borax. The advantage of borax, according to Ray's research, is that it does not add color to the wood surface like salt and epon salt may.

Of course, there are many other factors involved in building a Litchenberg fractal burner and using it safely. We noted that Ray added a foot switch to his unit so that he can instantly stop the process as needed.. He also used insulated clamps to hold the probes that contact the wood surface. with heavily insulataed cooper wire cables.

Please remember that just because one of the transformers is possibly "safer" than another unit, these are still very dangerous and you would likely just have one mistake. Do your research and be very careful.

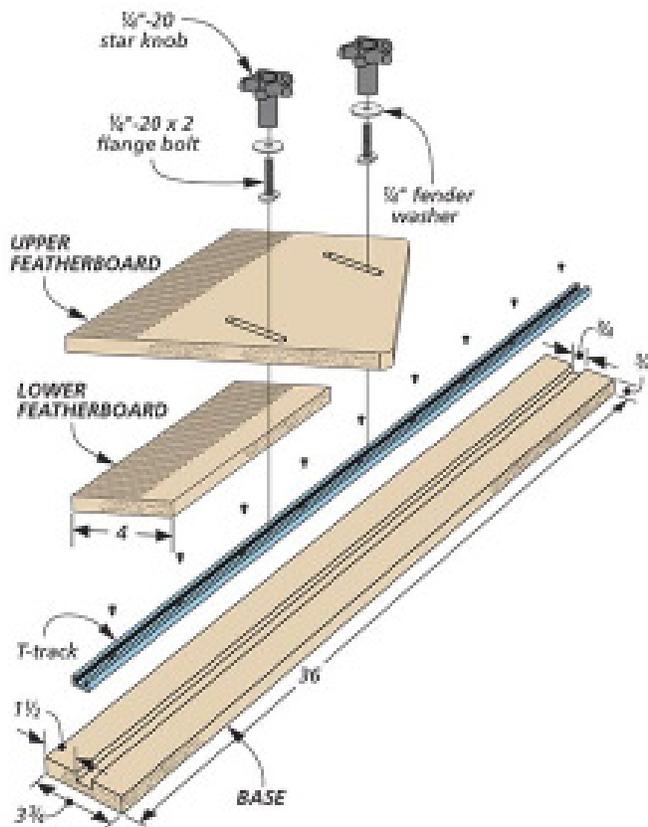
Note that there are many videos on Youtube about how to construct a Litchenberg device. There are also complete units available on Amazon for purchase. Just be very careful as we want you to attend future meetings.

Featherboard for Router Tables

Not all of my stationary tools have a convenient location to clamp a featherboard to their surface. And the fact that my router table doesn't have a miter gauge slot made coming up with a solution even more of a challenge. To address this problem, I made this simple sliding featherboard system. All you have to do is clamp the featherboard system to the top of your table saw or router table. After sliding the featherboard into position against a workpiece, lock it in place using the knobs.



The featherboard system is easy to build. It consists of a plywood base with a section of T-track recessed in a groove cut in the surface of the base. The finger end of the featherboard has two layers. This allows the fingers to sit flush on the machine surface. Continues on Page 3 . . .



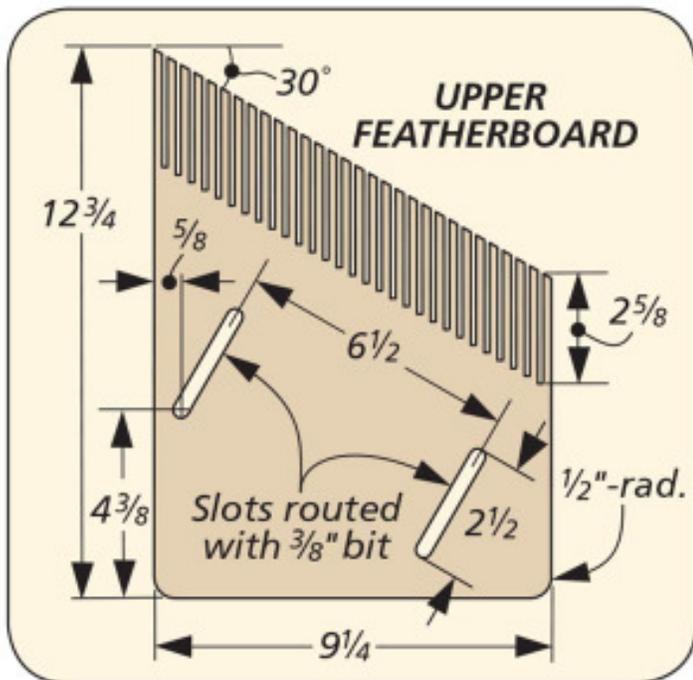
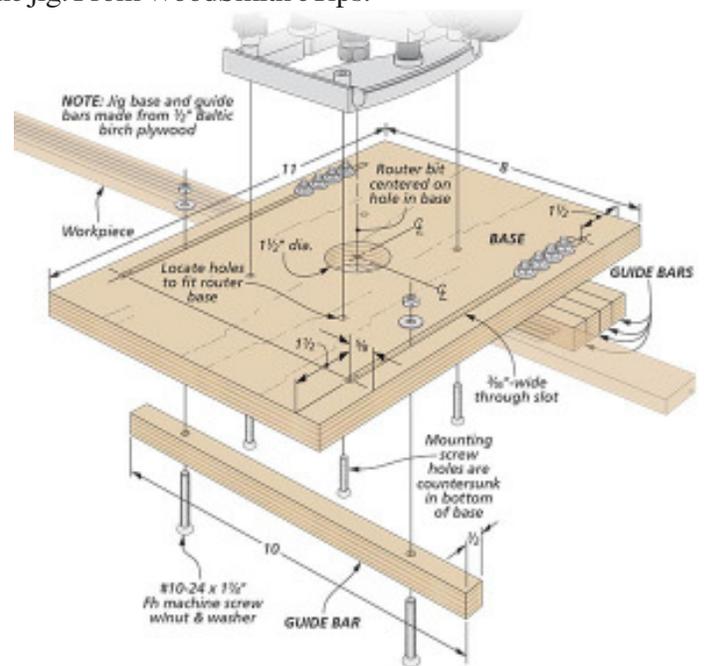
NOTE: All parts made from 1/2" plywood

It's easiest to cut the upper half of the featherboard to shape first and then glue the lower section in place. I then cut evenly spaced fingers at the table saw. Two adjustment slots are located on the upper section for the knobs and bolts. From WoodSmith eTips.

using an edge guide attached to my router, but keeping consistent spacing between flutes would have been a real struggle. Not to mention the possibility of the edge guide losing contact with the stile and spoiling the cut. Instead, I built this simple fluting jig to take care of both those issues.

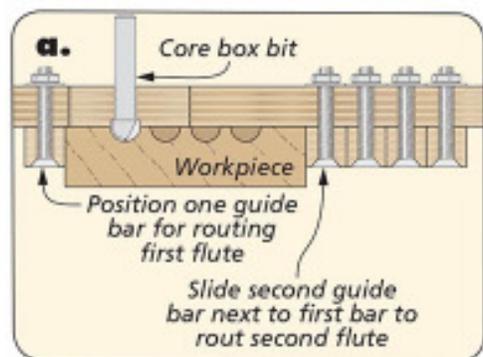
The construction of the jig is fairly simple. It consists of a base and five guide bars all cut from 1/2" Baltic birch plywood. Two slots along each side of the base allow the guide bars to slide along the bottom of the jig once the hardware is added. These slots are easy to make with a straight bit in the router table. If there's one critical component to the fluting jig, it's the guide bars. The width of the bars needs to be exactly the same as the center-to-center spacing of the flutes on your project — in this case, 1/2"-wide. After they're cut to size, drill the through holes and countersink for the machine screws.

What's left is to drill the hole in the base for the bit to pass through and then mount your router to the base. I simply used the baseplate from my router to mark the mounting holes on the jig base. Details 'a' and 'b' show how to set up the jig. From WoodSmith eTips.



Fluting Jig

A bookcase that I made recently has evenly spaced flutes on the face of each of the face frame stiles. A core box bit in a router is the quickest way to form these flutes. I considered

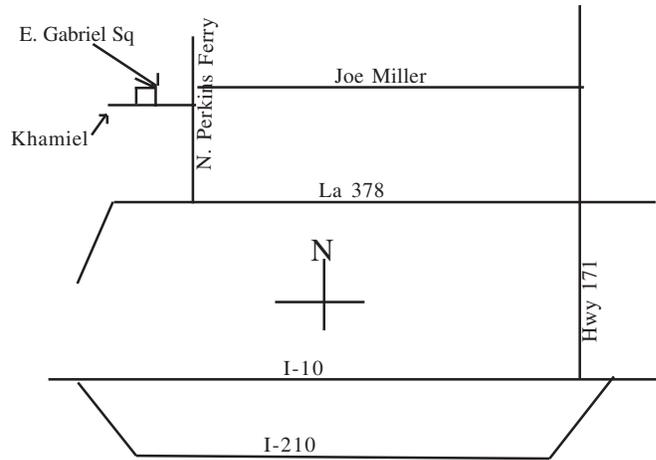


August Meeting Location

We have the wonderful opportunity to meet at the shop of Aaron Andrepont. His home is at 2235 E. Gabriel, Sq., Lake Charles 70611 (Moss Bluff). To get there from Lake Charles, go North on Hwy 171 PAST Moss Bluff and turn West (left) on to Joe Miller Rd. Continue on Joe Miller to N. Perkins Ferry Rd. and turn South (left) and go to Khamiel Dr. and turn West (right). The second right is East Gabriel Square.

If you need further directions, feel free to call Aaron Andrepont at 337-855-0537. **Just a reminder that you may want to bring a chair should you want to sit as Aaron does not have many.**

Barry can't be there to take notes or photos. Someone please do this and send them to Barry.



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