

John Griffith, President
Patrick LaPoint Treasurer

Officers and Directors

Barry Humphus, Editor, George Kuffel
Gary Rock, Steve Thomas, Joe Comeaux

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.

August Meeting Highlights

The nice folks at Stine's once again helped us out by hosting our August meeting. Be sure to stick around after the meeting and shop. I did.

We gained a new member this month, Stephen St. Michael. Welcome Stephen! We are also wondering about member John Marcon who had a medical issue a couple of weeks ago. We understand that he is in Houston at a daughter's home so if anyone can contact him and let us know how he is doing that would be great.

John Griffith started us off by describing the process of constructing the rosette center of his guitar build. An efficient guitar building process is essential to creating a really nice guitar that will sound good with optimal playability. It is not easy to do in two weeks and John is taking this production slow and carefully. I did the same thing when building my first (and last) pool table nearly ten years ago.

John mentioned that cutting the tiny pieces for the rosette inlays was a challenge. Even after cutting, you don't want to lose one and of course each tiny piece is sticking to your glue coated

Darren Hood showed off a Stanley Model 113 compass plane which allows one to plane curved surfaces such as a solid chair seat bottom.

Mr. Eltee Thibodeaux brought us a nice 18 wheeler model and a 1957 Chevy model plus a great Lets Ride scroll. Ray Kibodeaux did a walnut and holly turned bowl as well as a maple bowl both finished with Minwax poly. Ray also has a 6 inch Craftsman jointer for sale so if you have a need, call Ray.

J.W. Anderson brought us a very nice memosa and spalted maple box with walnut and tulip accents. Mike Dupree had a Bradford pear bowl he turned as well as a lime wood bowl. He also had a spalted maple bowl with neat worm holes finished with wipe-on poly.

George Carr did a neat chip carved sign to go in his communication center. George is a ham radio operator and needed a great sign to remind him of his call sign (! He used bass wood plus a gel stain with a sealer.

Pie Sonnier did a cool doll cradle of unknown wood (perhaps poplar) for one of his grandchildren. He also had a scroll work motorcycle.

Steve Thomas brought us a spalted oak bowl with lots of neat knots plus some nice cat and mouse items of pine. He also told about adding a magnetic sensor system to his old lathe to get very precise control. Gary Rock (who exhibited with other area artists at the Gallery Promenade last weekend at the Historic Court House) did a spruce and mahogany inlaid bowl plus some neat wood balls of pine all finished with wipe-on poly. His Gallery exhibits were marvelous as well.

New member Steve Gray is starting his turning experience and brought us a nearly finish purple heart bowl. Purple heart is one of the nicest woods to turn and polishes out so very well and you can't believe the great color.

Barry will not be able to attend the October meeting as he will be in California at a conference. If possible, bring your camera and take a few shots at the wonderful things folks will bring.

fingers. Jack Stegall suggested that the easy way to cut these is with a standard paper cutter.





Block Plane Thoughts

A sharp, properly adjusted hand plane allows a woodworker to peel a whisper-thin shaving from wood while leaving a surface of unsurpassed quality. Darren Hood reminded us of this when he brought a wonderful old Stanley Model 113 to Show and Tell. That's why these venerable tools—planes go back to Roman times—still fit into today's shop. And, among hand planes, the block plane ranks near the top for versatility and convenience.

Using a block plane feels very natural--and very craftsmanlike. You hold it in one hand, with the rounded top of the iron cap in your palm. When you push the plane forward, you also press the sole down against the wood.

A block plane handles many tasks, including some that would be difficult or even unsafe to perform with power tools. With one, you can erase mill marks. Rely on the block plane to wipe out the wavy machine-milling marks on lumberyard stock, leaving it satin-smooth. After sawing out your parts, eliminate saw marks with a few passes of the block plane. You can also square up small stock. Grab the block plane to true a piece too small to run safely over your jointer. Clamp the plane upside down in your vise, and you can plane parts barely large enough to grasp,

You can also bevel an edge. Turn to the block plane to bevel or chamfer edges, especially on short or narrow pieces. Just draw guidelines, and plane to them. For best results, make several passes, angling the plane across the edge. Planing bevels or chamfers by hand often is almost as fast as machining them, considering setup time. And it's always quieter than routing them. In my shop, setting up the table saw for even a long bevel takes time thought and even some practice with a scrap piece. Doing this with a block plane can take just a few minutes and the result is the same and always a moother cut.

You can plane to a line. When sawing a tapered part, many woodworkers like to cut slightly outside the layout line, then sand down to it. But, shaving down to the line with a block plane results in a nicer surface and a truer edge.

Fitting doors and other parts is simple. You've built a small cabinet and hung the door. But it binds a bit. Instead of taking the door off to rework it, just mark the high spot and shave it off with your block plane. When any project part would fit better if it was just a smidgen narrower or shorter, the block plane can save the day.

And sharpen your shop pencil. I even sharpens flat carpenter's pencils with a block plane. It's quicker, easier, and neater than using a knife. Just be sure to brush off the graphite before planing light-colored wood.

The block plane owes its handy size in part to the shallow angle between the blade—or iron—and the sole. This bedding angle is usually in the neighborhood of 20° for block planes. In a bench plane, it's normally about 45°.

Even so, a block plane's cutting edge meets the wood at about the same angle as a bench plane's. That's because the bevel on the block plane's iron faces up. (For a block plane, the angle of the cutting edge to the work equals the bedding angle plus the iron's bevel angle.)

You'll also find block planes with a bedding angle of about 12°. These low-angle planes slice through wood more easily, but may cause tear-out along the grain. Some woodworkers prefer low-angle block planes for end-grain work.

Tuning benefits any plane, old or new. On a block plane, you should check two main points—sole flatness and iron bedding.

Check the sole with a sheet of 180-grit wet-or-dry sandpaper laid abrasive side up on a flat surface. (A cast-iron saw table or piece of glass will do.) Retract the iron, and rub the plane sole over the abrasive. Scuff marks indicate high spots on the sole.

To flatten the sole, wet the sandpaper, then continue rubbing the plane sole over it. When the sole shows a uniform scuff pattern, it's flat. Polish it, following the same procedure with progressively finer sandpaper grits.

To check the bedding, extend the iron. Then, inspect the back of the mouth to determine how solidly it supports the iron. If gaps appear between the back of the iron and the back of the mouth, or if the iron rocks in the throat, remove the iron and carefully file down the high spots in the plane. Check the cap for full contact, too. Solid bedding helps prevent chatter.

Sharpen the iron to a 25-30° bevel. Position it in the plane's body, bevel up, engaging the appropriate notch over the tang on the adjuster, when applicable. Center the iron in the throat, and install the iron cap.

Extend the cutting edge slightly past the sole. (Determining the proper amount of protrusion takes some trial and error; the thickness of a business card is a good starting point.) Square the end with the mouth, and then tighten the iron cap.

Some block planes feature an adjustable mouth. To regulate the length of the mouth opening, turn the front knob to loosen the sliding part, and move the eccentric lever. Generally, a smaller opening suits finer work.

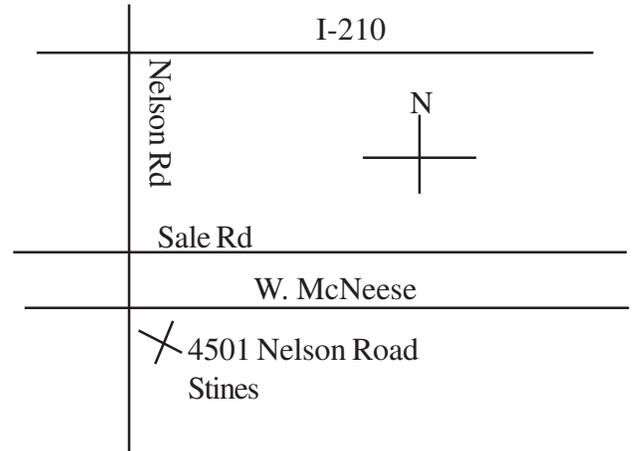
Get a block plane if you don't already have one. I have three from an ancient Stanley to a more modern one with an adjustable throat.

October Meeting Location

We have the wonderful opportunity to meet at the Stines Lake Charles location at 4501 Nelson Road. Please enter the store and go to the back left in the store to the meeting room.

To get there go South on Nelson Road in Lake Charles going from I-10 or I-210 and turn into the parking lot. Go to the back of the main entrance to the very back to the meeting room to find us.

Please take an opportunity to explore Stines before you leave to find the items for your shop or home that you may need. As always, thank the folks at Stines as you check out.



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