

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.

August Meeting Highlights

John Marcon's nice studio was our meeting place this month. Suprisingly, John has added his first wood cutting power tool - a bandsaw.

Greg Hamock was the guest of Jack Stegal this month. Greg is a local contractor. As no one had any safety info this month, there was no safety presentation.

J.W. Anderson brought us a nicely designed plant stand of cypress and mimosa. Eltee Thibodeaux had a bird house bird feeder from a plan out of cypress. Tom bergstedt grandson Kellen showed a turned top made of poplar.

Pie Sonnier showed off some nice plumb and rose-wood business card holders of a design that I know that Eltee has made before - I have one. Don Elfert has continued to expand his collection of patio furniture with a coffee table and a bench. He builds all of this from treated pine so the peices can survive the outdoors. Don also discussed a few of the jigs he made to get



these projects done.

Ray Kebodeaux brought us a beautiful key holder box of maple and mahogany, which was a Bring Back while Jack Stegal showed off a scrollwork in a funny political motife plus some of his wonderful walnut expanded crosses. He also showed some military placks (4 of the five services) that were very nicely done in black walnut. Jack also discussed a wet sanding technique he uses to get those great finishes he does.

Bob Theau does gourgeous boxes and small cabinets. This month he had one of walnut with a patterned inlay and had flocked the interior. Bob also discussed how to properly cut a box on the table saw.

Our master turner Gary Rock (BTW - Mr. Trouth is in the same league), showed off a bowl of aspen with a Ritz stain finish, a beech box with a sand blasted bottem and high

polish inside of sweet gum, plus a hollow vessel with a turned fineal of cherry and cocobolo with a puteuer inlay. Another item was a bowl of maple with laced holes finished with artist oil color.

The only gambling I do is in the stock market and it has served me well, but in a random drawing, you may want to hover around either J.W. Anderson or Eltee Thibodeaux and just bet what they do on the boats as either can win the monthly Show and Tell prize. J.W. Anderson won this month.

John Marcon's presentation was about how he got into the carving area. He attended a carving school in North Carolina after retiring that was about whittling. He was not really satisfied with that experience and went to a carving school in Michigan. That peaked his interest and then he went to a school in Germany which convinced him that this was what he wanted to do. In the city of Unterammergau, he found a place that that made John comfortable. The area is also known as the home of a long tradition of woodcarving; The area also has ski schools and many fine resturants and is located at the foot of the Alps.

John discussed the finishes he uses on his carvings that include alalin dye, WATCO brand satin wax and for higher polishes uses Briwax. John polishes the carvings he creates using tampico-style brushes that are widely available in several hardware stores locally and online.

John also reviewed the way he sharpens his carving tools and chisels at various angles on his several grinders. He actually mounts the grinders such that they turn away (a safer technique in fact) from the user using markers on the stone and of course much experience.

It seems to me that one wet grinder/sharpener would do the job of all those high speed grinders without the worry that you would damage one of those beautiful and delicate carving tools. Just a thought. John uses a drop of water on the blade of the tool to monitor how hot it may be. If the drop boils then back off. But this takes some skill that John has.

Coming Up . . . The shop of Joe Comeaux, our dedicated Treasurer will be the next place for our meeting. Joe has a great shop and I'm certain that he'll have something to say.

Power Boom

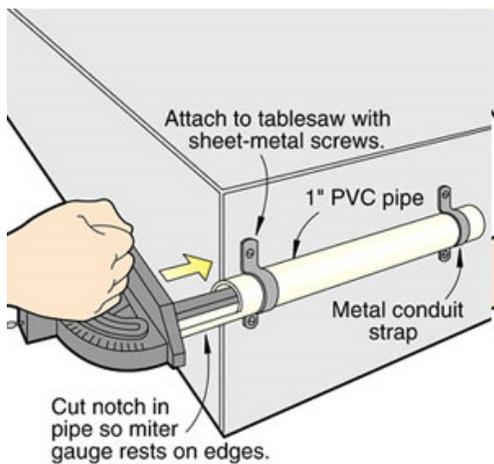
Electrical cords that get draped across a benchtop are ripe for damage, and such a situation could easily result in a serious electrical shock. If you plug in your tools above the bench

instead of behind it, you won't have to drag cords across the worksurface. For an overhead outlet that goes where you need it, fashion a boom like the one shown from 1x4 and 1x2 boards. It should be long enough to extend from the back of the bench to slightly past the bench front. Attach a power strip to one end

and hinge the other end to the wall behind the bench. For a long boom, add a guy wire from the free end of the boom to a point on the wall above the hinge. Rout a groove for the power cord, to avoid damage. Add a clamp-on reflector lamp for a simple, adjustable worklight. *Idea from Wood Magazine, edited by Barry Humphus.*

Stash your miter gauge in a PVC holster

Changing from crosscutting to rip-cutting means finding a place to put the miter gauge. To keep it handy, build a holster



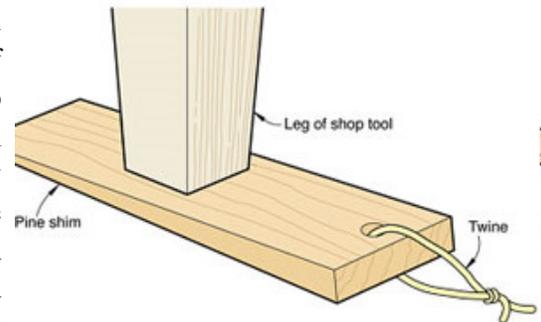
for your miter gauge out of inexpensive 1"-diameter PVC pipe. Cut the pipe long enough to cover the guide bar of your gauge plus 3". To prevent the gauge from rolling over, cut a 3" notch in one end of the pipe as shown. Attach the pipe to the side of your saw with conduit brackets and sheet-metal screws. Now you'll never be more than an arm's reach away from the gauge. *Idea from Wood Magazine, edited by Barry Humphus.*

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How to steady tools on wavy workshop floors

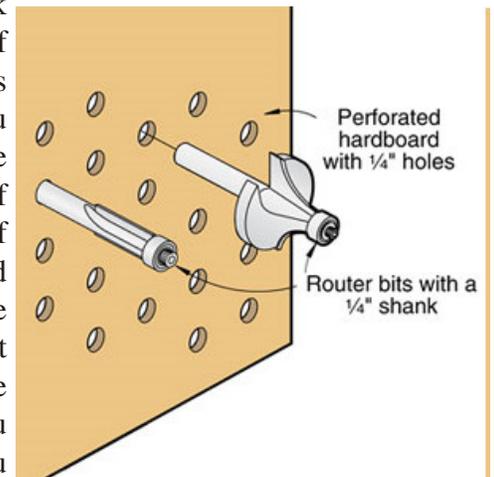
You rarely find a garage or shop floor with a perfectly smooth and flat concrete. And for most of us, that's the workshop

floor. If you move your equipment around at all, you can spend a lot of time trying to steady it in each new location. Buy a package of pine shims (the kind lumberyards and home centers sell for installing windows and door jambs). Drill a hole in the thicker end of each shim and tie a loop of twine through it. Hang one of these modified shims on each piece of equipment. From now on, when you move a tool, you can steady it instantly by sliding the shim under the wobbly leg. *Idea from Wood Magazine, edited by Barry Humphus.*



Store router bits on perforated hardboard. When using multiple router bits to create fancy profiles, the bits tend to clutter up your work area unless you take the time to put them back in a case or holder. If you're using router bits with 1/4" shanks, you can simply slip the shanks into the holes of any empty section of perforated hardboard with 1/4" holes. The shank of the router bit will fit snugly, and the bits won't fall out. If you use 1/2" shank bits, you can drill a few 1/2" holes in your hardboard near where you do most of your routing. Space these holes far enough apart that the cutters on your bits don't touch. *Idea from Wood Magazine, edited by Barry Humphus.*

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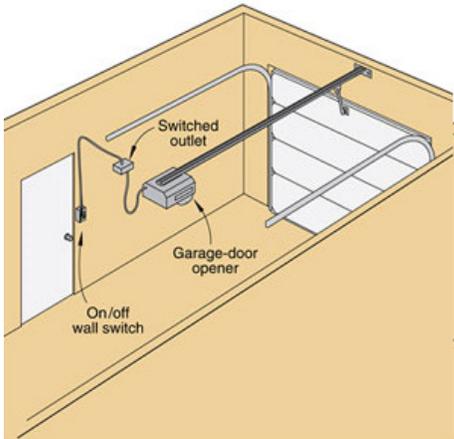
Foil would-be thieves

A shop in an attached garage with an automatic garage-door opener poses a security risk if you leave the remote control

in your car parked outside. All a thief has to do is to break into the car, press the remote-control button, and walk into your shop.

To eliminate this risk, wire your garage-door opener to a wall switch as shown. When you park your car outside, just switch the door opener off before you

step in the house from the garage. Your shop and house will remain secure, and you won't have to lug your remote control back and forth between the car and the house. *Idea from Wood Magazine, edited by Barry Humphus.*



Motion detector offers no-hands light switch

When I walk into my workshop at night, I need light to see where I'm going. But it's not easy to get to the switch with an armload of lumber or tools. The answer was simple and didn't cost much, either. Purchase a basic motion sensor light -- costing under \$10 -- and positioned it on the wall so that it flips on the light every time you enter your workshop. *Idea from Wood Magazine, edited by Barry Humphus.*

Give your tools a modular home

For years, you may have pondered how to keep existing tools in place in drawers and still leave room for new tools. Finally, this is devised a modular system that gives you a solution to the problem.

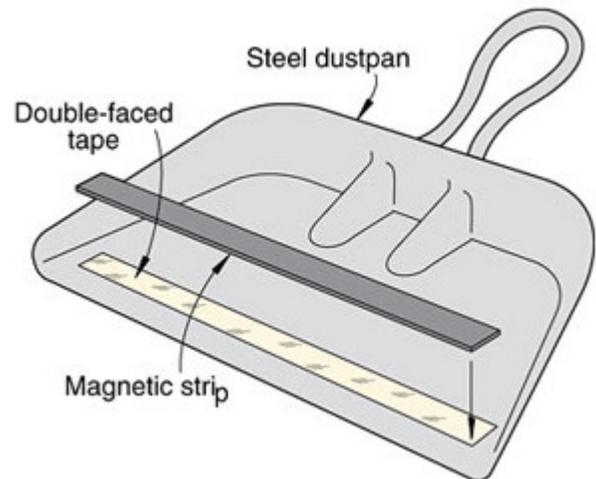
First, cut a sheet of 1/4" perforated hardboard to fit into the bottom of each drawer. Then, draw an outline of each tool on another piece of perforated hardboard and

cut a rectangular module around each tool outline. Cut the tool shapes with a scrollsaw, and glue 1/4" dowels into two corners of each module. The dowels pin the modules into place in the drawers, and the cutouts keep each tool in its place.

For maximum organizational flexibility, cut all the module dimensions to even 1" increments--that way they'll interchange more easily. *Idea from Wood Magazine, edited by Barry Humphus.*

Retrieve lost hardware

I don't know how many times I've dropped brads, tacks, and small screws on the floor of my workshop, where they disappear into a pile of sawdust or wood shavings. Finally, I attached a strip of magnetic tape near the front edge of my dustpan. Now I sweep up the sawdust, shake it into the wastebasket, and the lost items--steel ones, anyhow -- collect on the magnetic tape. *Idea from Wood Magazine, edited by Barry Humphus.*



Way to Clean aerosol nozzles

In my shop I frequently use spray cans of paint and finish and I don't like wasting the can's contents or pressure to clear the nozzle. Instead, I use a can of WD-40, as shown, to easily and completely clean the nozzle.

While WD-40 is a great product and useful for many applications, it is NOT a lubricant. Never spray it into a lock nor any fine mechanical device such as an electrical motor as it will really gum up the works over time. *Idea from Wood Magazine, edited by Barry Humphus.*

