

Bubba Cheramie, President
Dick Hopes, Sec. / Treasurer

Officers and Directors

Barry Humphus, Editor, Brent Evans
George Kuffel, John Marcon, Chuck Middleton

AUGUST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Dick Trouth's great shop was our meeting place and Dick was our host as well this month. Eltee Thibodeaux brought his high speed engraving tool to demonstrate.

Dick's newly completed dust collector system is really nice and keeps all those fine particles he generates out of his home (his shop is part of the house). This not only is safe for his lungs, but safe as well for his family. It features a remote control and with 24 gage tubing and was designed for his shop by Oneda, a supplier of dust collection hardware and systems. Each of Dick's power tools has a vacume input and he can control each section of the tubing with cut-outs built into the system.



Dick also built a "shop-vac" using his dust collector. The manufacturer said this wouldn't work because the system does not pull enough vacume. But Dick's works fine.

Eltee Thibodeaux brought his neat high speed engraving tool. The unit he has comes with a step-down valve that allows him to turn it off and on with the turn of a lever. The system also features a water capture to keep the unit free of moisture from the compressor. The unit will run on about 40 psi from your shop compressor or from a tank of CO2 gas for very quiet operation. The down side is that it sounds just what it looks like: a denists drill. For some, that was a sound they'd like to forget.



But using the engraver is just like writing with a pen and is held in the same way. Eltee brought a few examples and showed members how to etch glass (and showed off the work he did on his truck's win-

dow) as well as wood. He has a wide variety of burrs for the unit including ones made from carbide and others coated with diamond.

Leonard Fontenot brought a couple of his miniature turned items: a LC Woodworker's coffee cup and a tiny goblet. You can see these in the Gallery at woodworkers.lightwire.net New member Dean Cryar joined us for the meeting - Welcome aboard Dean!

GOT AN OLD TOOL?

Got an old power tool? Can't find out anything about it? Well, I have one and know a little about where it came from and who owned it over the years. It is a Sears Dunlap Production 8-Inch Bench Saw and I got mine several years ago from George Kuffel. It's compact and accurate. All I did was clean and tune it, add an ON/OFF switch and pully guard. Otherwise, it is about like it came out of the box (plus a little hard use).



In preparation for our November meeting at a tool collectors shop, I wanted to find out more about this saw which has worked so well for me. What I first found was the 1941 Sears tool catalog. The catalog lists the cost as \$47.50 with a 1/2 hp motor. The Dunlap was made by the Atlas Press Company of Kalamazoo, MI for Sears in 1940. I got the manual and a complete parts list. See www.oldwwmachinery.com.

Coming Up... September 14, 9:00 a.m. George Kuffel's Shop on jigs and Roger Richard with a new Hegner saw.

SANDER REPAIR

It's time to do that final sanding before you put on a finish. You get out your Porter-Cable Quicksand Model 333 random orbital sander, slap on the correct sanding disk and start it up. The sanding disk begins to slide out from under the pad and finally slips out and sails across the shop. What's going on? You put the disk back on and start again and the same thing happens!

What is going on is that the hook and loop pad on your great little sander is worn out and won't hang onto the sanding disks any more. While you may be able to live with this condition, it becomes very frustrating as soon as you try to sand an edge and the disk takes off again.

The solutions are two-fold: you can just get rid of the pad and use sick-on sanding disks or replace the pad. But if you have several boxes of hook and loop sanding disks, you are wasting your previous purchases. Another issue is that sick-ons are, well, sticky and the pad begins to collect sawdust and other particles and eventually, you need to clean it well enough to keep using it. Another problem is where to put the disks when you change grits—on your forehead? Seriously, I really don't use self-sicking sanding disks unless that's my only choice. Hook and loop works well and the disks are easily re-used.

But to replace the pad, you have to track down a Porter-Cable (or Dewalt) dealer with a replacement pad in stock or try to find one on the Internet to order. And you need to sand that piece today.

Fortunately, there is a great hook and loop replacement kit available at Lowes and Home Depot. Ali Industries, located in Fairborn, OH makes millions of feet of sandpaper every year. They also make a neat little kit that is not only cheap (\$10), but perfectly replaces your worn hook and loop pad. While it is designed for the Porter-Cable Quicksand and other 5 inch Porter-Cable models, it will work perfectly well on any 5 inch sander (the Dewalt and several other models). In fact, you can use this kit to replace nearly any hook and loop pad 5 inches wide or less.

The Ali-Gator kit includes two 5 inch replacement pads, a tube of adhesive and a 4-1/2" x 4-1/2" scuffing pad.

To replace the worn hook and loop disk, place

the scuffing pad on a flat surface. The scuffing pad is adhesive backed, but you can also just clamp down the scuffing pad's edges to a board without removing the adhesive cover.

Turn on your sander and use the scuffing pad to "sand" off the old hook and loop material using the scuffing pad. The hook and loop material is just a woven fabric with the hook and loop glued to the rubber pad underneath.

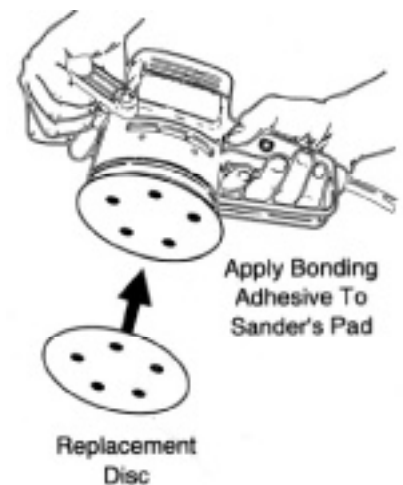
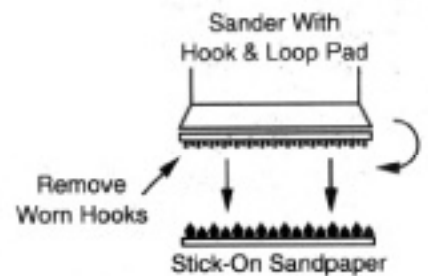
After sanding down to the rubber pad, apply a thin layer of the included adhesive to the rubber pad, align the 5 hole pattern of the replacement hook and loop disc to match the sander's pad and press the disc into place. Be sure to remove any wood meal from the pad's surface to ensure good adhesion.

Place the sander "face down" on a flat surface overnight to allow the adhesive on the new hook and loop pad to cure to the rubber pad on the sander. After the adhesive cures, trim off any excess hook and loop pad (needed on the Dewalt and other smaller sanders).

OK, you decide that you really don't want hook and loop. Stop at step one — i.e., just remove the old hook and loop material and buy some self-adhesive sanding disks.

The kit comes with a 100% guarantee and if it fails to work, it will be replaced free of charge by the manufacturer. In all, the process to sand down and replace the old pad took me less than five minutes.

By the way, you can use any course sandpaper to remove the old pad, buy hook and loop material at Hancock Fabric and supply your own adhesive and save about \$3. *Barry Humphus.*



PANCAKES AND GLUE

OK, as our friend Norm says, it's time for some assembly. You reach for the old glue bottle, it goes off onto the concrete floor of your shop and when you pick it up, the tip has broken off.



The pull-up tops on the 16- and 24-oz Titebond and Titebond II bottles are not very durable. If you are not careful to wipe them down after each use or clean them out once in a while, they build up glue. At some point, the tip and possible part of the screw-on top will break, crack or fail.

So how do you fix this problem? The answer is very simple: eat more pancakes (with syrup). The standard 24 oz syrup bottle is plastic, has a removable top with a tight lid, a hole through which syrup (or glue) flows and is just about perfect for glue. Titebond

will not stick to this plastic and the bottle has a nice handle.

Just wash out the remains of the syrup with water and pour in the glue. It will hold 24 oz (about 1-1/2 of the standard 16 oz Titebond bottles). The best thing about these is that there is nothing to clog up and the tip won't break off when it hits the floor.

Barry Humphus.

WHITE ASH: WOOD FOR GREAT SPORT

Most of you know white ash quite well. You've hefted it, grasped it in your hands, and worked with it for hours. Anyone who has ever dug a hole, raked leaves, or chopped weeds has likely touched white ash. The tough, resilient wood leads hickory for handles on non-striking tools.

White ash classifies as utilitarian, it bests all woods in sports. Wooden baseball bats (still the mainstay in pro leagues) have always been made of white ash. Before carbon fiber, it was the wood of choice for tennis rackets and skis. You'll also find white ash as hockey sticks, polo mallets, oars and paddles, and playground equipment.

White ash (*Fraxinus americana*) grows from the East to the Midwest. Green ash and blue ash share

the same range and they're harvested and marketed together. White ash can grow to 120' tall and a diameter of 6' with nearly half the trunk height clear of branches. The name "ash" probably comes from the gray color of the tree's flat-ridged bark that's cross-hatched with diamond shapes. White ash produces leaves 8" to 12" long that are made up of five to nine lance-shaped leaflets, each about 5" long. Near the leaves hang clusters of tan paddle-shaped wings with seed cases.

White ash differs in color from black or brown ash, white ash looks lighter—although it's actually tan, not white. Even flat-sawn white ash can display bird's-eye, fiddle-back, and quilt-pattern figure.

Although somewhat coarse-textured, white ash generally has straight and even grain so you can use white ash for any woodworking project that you would red oak. Ash won't weather as well as white oak in outdoor projects. Carvers and turners view white ash the same as red oak. Its hardness and coarse grain make it difficult to work but less "stringy."

With power tools, you want to tackle white ash with carbide-tipped cutters. White ash burns easily if you use dull or dirty blades and cutting edges. Chose a rip-profile blade with no more than 28 teeth. Then, don't force feed it. Be sure to feed white ash to the jointer so that the knives' rotation follows the grain direction, or the wood will chip. Feed figured wood slowly and at a slight angle. Avoid burning and chipping with your router by taking shallow passes on the wood. In end-grain and all cross-grain passes, use a backing board on the exit side to eliminate chipping. Always use pilot holes for nails and screws, and drill them with brad-point bits to eliminate wander. White ash's hardness means that you can't skip grits when sanding or the wood scratches, and they're hard to get out. It can, though, be sanded glass-smooth. Although the wood readily accepts all types of adhesive, it is slow to absorb, so a glue with a longer open time (white glue) performs better. Unlike maple, white ash won't give you any problem in staining, and filling the grain for smoothness isn't necessary.

Carvers haven't traditionally been drawn to white ash. Maple-like in hardness, but failing to take fine detail, the wood probably is more trouble than it's worth. *Barry Humphus.*