

Chuck Middleton, President
Dick Hopes, Secretary/Treasure

Officers and Directors

John Marcon, Barry Humphus Editor,
Bubba Cheramie, Brent Evans, George Kuffel

MARCH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Remember last month's question: How many Professional Blacksmiths are found in Southwest Louisiana? If you made the March meeting, you met him. Larry Carlin may also be famous as a neighbor of LCWW member Burl Vincent, but he certainly is a Professional Blacksmith!

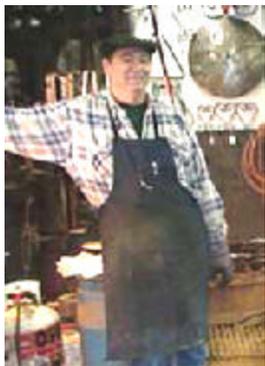
Larry makes his bread and butter from standard blacksmithing and metalsmithing work such as bushhog blades and jackhammer points but he longs to do the more creative metalsmithing art. The blades and points pay the rent but this work leaves less time for the fun



stuff. Some of the metalsmith work he's done were displayed in front of and around his shop. But he says that most of the creative items get sold the moment they are finished. Larry has plans to substantially upgrade the shop floor to concrete. We hope he remembers that the dirt floor is easier on your back!



And all the equipment is interesting. For example a 1904 Cincinnati drill press that almost reaches the ceiling was rescued from the old Majestic



Hotel. The drill press was likely used in the livery operation located in the hotel near the turn of the last century. It was used for boring holes in wagon wheels and other heavy uses at the time. Larry also has a couple of hydraulically powered smithing trip hammers. One is a 25 lb., and the other a 50 lb. The weight refers to the actual hammer weight and not the force of the blow it makes. These are used to cold and hot shape most any form and are foot actuated. He also has a large Nazel hydraulic hammer that must weight in at two tons. This

unit was built in 1905.

It was interesting to learn that the trip hammers and anvils should be warmed before use, especially on cold days as they are much less likely to be damaged if preheated.

The shop features a couple of propane fired furnaces for different uses that can crank up to 2,000 degrees to make the steel white hot for forging. Because the propane is a large part of his monthly expense, Larry is constructing a coke fired furnace with an automatic blower, allowing him to operate at a hopefully lower cost. Of course there are various grinders,

presses, mills, planers and horizontal drills about the place. Heavy duty work benches just outside the shop are also used. His roll press allows the him to make many curved pieces without the need to heat and then re-temper the metal.

Annealing softens the metal while tempering hardens it. This process of softening and hardening makes it possible to shape the metal while not losing it's quality for tool use.

Eltee Thibodeaux brought a scroll work portrait of the late Dale Earnhart. Gene Young showed a wonderful turned lamp from old cypress. New member Dick Trout showed us a lovely large bowl turned from purple heart. Thanks Dick.

COMING UP.....

April 7, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. — Garden District
Glass with John Chavanne & Joe Broussard
Note: A week early & hour later — Easter holiday.

ACCURATE SPACER

Locating a hole or a slot an exact distance away from the edge of a workpiece can be tricky. The problem is re-measuring between a round drill bit and the fence.

To avoid this use a drill bit as a spacer — see the drawing above. Just select a (drill) spacer that's the same diameter as the distance you're positioning the piece. Then place the spacer between the fence and the bit and clamp the fence in place. From *ShopNotes*.

ROUTER-JOINTER

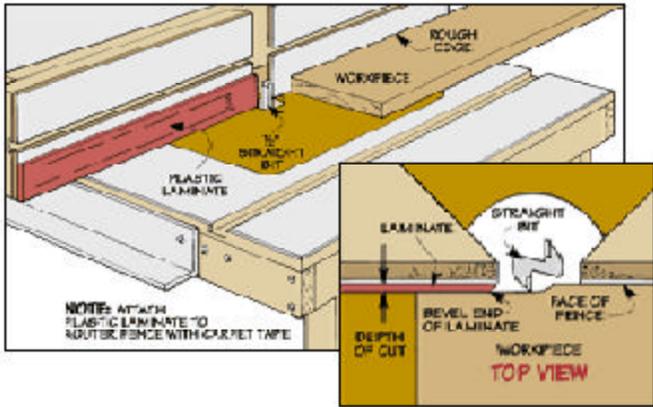
With just a strip of plastic laminate you can convert a router table to an edge jointer. In fact a "router-jointer", puts a surprisingly straight edge on a workpiece.

To turn a router table into an edge jointer simply attach the laminate to the left (outfeed) side of the router fence with carpet tape. The idea is to align one end of the laminate with the opening in the fence. See the detail on Page 3. You should also file a bevel on this end to reduce the chance of a workpiece catching on the laminate.

This is nothing more than a squared-up scrap block that rides against the fence as you push the workpiece past the bit. To prevent chipout, just be sure the...

Continues on Page 3





block is at least as thick as the workpiece.

STRAIGHT BIT. All it takes to joint an edge is an ordinary straight bit. Using a bit with a 1/2" shank is preferred. The thick shank helps reduce vibration and chatter. Note: One limitation with this setup is that the thickness of the workpiece can't exceed the length of the cutting edge on the bit. However, a wider piece can be reversed and run through to get a wider cut.

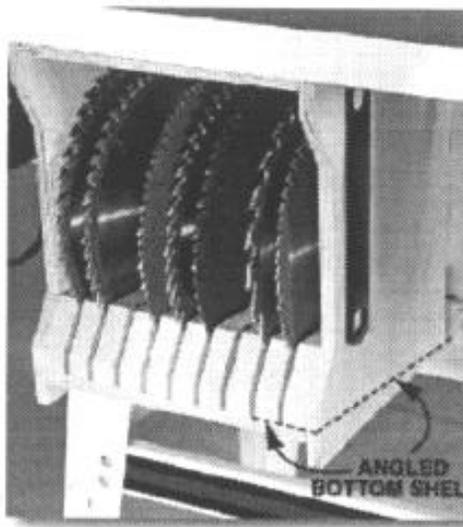
ALIGN FENCE. After mounting the bit in the router, the next step is to align the fence. The goal is to position the fence so the surface of the laminate is flush with the outermost cutting edge of the bit, see the detail drawing. This will produce a cut that equals the thickness of the laminate.

JOINT EDGE. After locking the fence, you can plug in and turn the router on and joint the edge of the workpiece. To do this, hold the workpiece firmly against the fence as you slide it past the bit, making as many passes as needed to produce a straight edge. From *ShopNotes*.

Editor's Note: If you own a *Shopsmith Jointmatic* or equivalent, you can also use this jig. Just position the router bit a 16th inch above the base and run your work across the Jointmatic table, holding the work firmly (or with the auxiliary clamp supplied with the Jointmatic) so it does not get away from you. And like the jig above, you need a thin piece of laminate on the top of the outfeed side of the unit.

TABLESAW BLADE RACK

If you are always trying to eke out more space in your shop, you might find some hidden under your table saw (possibly behind the bevel crank). There's often enough space back there to hang a blade rack. You should make the rack with an angled bottom shelf so the blades stay in their slots when your are rolling the saw around. The rack will keep your



blades from contacting each other and dulling (or removing) their points. Just about any old scrap will do—just be sure it's securely hung. From *American Woodworker*.

WOODWORKING SHOP SAFETY

Safety Tips to Post in Your Shop

1) **Think Before You Cut** — The most powerful tool in your shop is your brain, use it. Thinking your cuts and movements through before acting can help save both fingers and scrapwood.

2) **Keep a Clean Shop** — A cluttered shop is an accident waiting to happen. Keeping your shop clean will help protect you, and your tools, from tripping and other hazards.

3) **Avoid Distractions** — Pay close attention to your actions. Looking up to watch the shop TV or visitor can result in your hand contacting the blade. Always wait until you have completed your cut before you take your eyes off the blade or cutter.

4) **Don't Rush** — Keep in mind that for some of you, this is a hobby so take a break when you feel rushed or frustrated with a project. Professionals who do woodworking every day should develop a schedule of regular breaks. Mistakes happen when we rush to complete a job.

5) **Don't Force It** — If the tool is resisting a cut, stop and see what's wrong. A misaligned rip fence or improperly seated throat plate can sometimes cause a board to get stuck in mid cut. Forcing the board in these situations may cause kickback or contact with the blade. Take a moment to evaluate the situation and determine the problem.

6) **Protect Yourself** — Wearing the proper shop protection is an important part of safe tool operation. Goggles, Ear Protection, and Lung Protection should be used when operating tools. Use push sticks when working close to the blade and make sure the tool's safety features are in place.

7) **Let the Tool Stop** — Giving the power tool time to wind down after a cut is an often overlooked safety mistake. Even without power, a spinning cutter can still do a lot of damage.

8) **Fumes and Dust** — Solvent fumes and airborne dust can present health and explosion hazards. Care should be taken to ensure a supply of fresh air and use only explosion proof vent fans.

9) **Wear Appropriate Clothing** — Loose clothing or hair can get caught in power tools and cause severe injury.

10) **No Alcohol** — Too many woodworkers have been injured because Alcohol clouded their judgment. Avoid their mistakes and wait until after you're done in the shop.

From *American Woodworker*.