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### FEBRUARY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Chuck and Charlene Middleton were our hosts this month while Aaron Andrepont, Eltee Thibodeaux and Chuck Middleton were our presenters.

What a great shop Chuck and Charlene have — 20 x28 feet and two stories. Chuck throws all of the ‘extra’ stuff onto the second floor before every meeting, then slowly brings it all down in time for the next one. Pretty good system!

Some sad news was announced by John Marcon. Vince Vincent passed away in early February. Vince was a long time member who did wonderful work, primarily veneer and boxes. He had been Conductor of Airforce bands, a professor at McNeese and a fine jazz trumpet player. Also, Steve LeGrue’s wife Teri passed away. Anyone who had met her remembers her winning smile, wood-working knowlege and great attitude. We’ll miss them both.

We have some new members to start the year: **Kyle Andrepont, Charlie Richard, Jerome Richard and Jeff Silker.** Welcome!

Show and Tell brought lots of neat items. Scrollwork from Aaron Andrepont and Eltee Thibodeaux, a large toy truck and a beautiful mallet by Kyle Andrepont, plus a couple of bowls by Gary Rock. One of the bowls is some 18 inches across. See these and more can be found on our web site. The site has a new address effective 02/16/04: [www.lcwoodworkers.com](http://www.lcwoodworkers.com). See page 2 for more.

Eltee Thibodeaux started out by recommending Flying Dutchman brand of scrowl saw blades. He said that he has tried just about every brand and these are the best around. Eltee finds that he has the best results with a #2 and #5 reverse cut blade. The reverse means that the botton inch of the blade has teeth that go up instead of down. Another recommendation is that you should use clear packing tape on the piece—any brand will do (in fact Chuck finds that the very cheapest works as well as the most expensive). What this does is to both limit tear out and provide the blade with just enough lubrication to last longer and stay cooler.

Most of the scrollers work in wood and did not have much experience with metal, bone or plastics. However, Aaron said that he recently acquired some Corian material that he would try out.

All agreed that much scroll work technique is learned by experience. Just try it and find the best technique that suits your needs. However, they all recom-

mended that you run the saw fast. Fast scrolling speed reduces burning and makes for much less post cut sanding. In fact, you should do most of your sanding before you start to saw as this reduces the amount of cleanup you have to do and controls tear out.

Another important point is to follow through with the cuts. That is, don’t stop in the middle of a cut as this can cause the wood to burn.

Next, Chuck Middleton demonstrated some of his PC skills by using his shop computer to do a quick scroll design. Many popular programs will do this (especially easy is text in various fonts) such as Word, Pagemaker, and any number of standard drawing programs. Chuck recommended printing in a color other than black as this shows up better during the cut. Most have the ability to adjust the “kerning” of text. The kern is the distance between letters. If you are making a desk name plate, pushing the text together makes cutting the pattern easy.

New member Kyle Andrepont has found a source of free ultra high molecular weight plastic. This is the stuff that you can use to make those tool fences ultra slick. To find out more, call Mason LeGrue at the Cutting Edge (713-981-9228). Kyle also mentioned that Franklin International (Titebond will shortly introduce Titebond III. It is unique because it is the first of its kind to pass the Type I water-restance specification—meaning that it is water proof. It has a one year shelf life and long open time. The product is due to be released in the comming months and available at retailers.

Several members attended the recent Houston Woodworkers show (most did not bring nearly enough money—Bubba reports that the hot dogs were \$9.00!) and several new products were shown as well as number of seminars by experts. Chuck found some of the Timberwolf bi-metal blades (Sulfolk Machinery—available from The Cutting Edge). These are unique because they are so-called low tension blades. This means that you don’t have to over tighten your band saw to get good results. Under tensioning also means that your saw will last a lot longer. Sulfolk ([sulfolkmachinery.com](http://sulfolkmachinery.com)) will produce any length you want for your saw. Chuck may do some re-sawing and report at the next meeting. Eltee found some new drill bits at the show—BadDog. While they make convensional twist bits, the Fostner type uses the European configuration of a long shaft. Continues, Page 2 . . . **Coming Up . . .** Shop of George Kuffel on tablesaw & bandsaw tuneup. Saturday, March 13, 9:00 a.m.

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Long shaft Forstners have been around for a while, but BadDog has brought a European design to the US. Part of the bit is conventional but has a carbide cutter on the edges of the bit. These can be used to cut conventional holes, create mortises by drilling and then connecting the holes by pushing the work piece sideways without a secondary step, create pocket holes, and even power carving. Because they use carbide, you can also cut through thin mild steel, aluminum or brass. The long shaft makes it easy to guide the bit around angles and grooves. BadDog ([www.baddogtools.com](http://www.baddogtools.com)) also produces carbide router bits and cutoff wheels.

Ray Krull mentioned that WD-40 is a great product for cleaning a rusty iron table, but it is not so good as a final finish as it can promote further rust. After cleaning with WD-40 and then wiping down with mineral spirits (paint thinner), use a wax to coat the surface for a long lasting seal. Don't use a silicone-based wax (like Pledge) as this can affect finishes (can cause the finish to form fisheyes).

John Marcon showed an interesting furniture catalog from Wood Classics. They sell wonderful indoor and outdoor furniture in many different and beautiful designs. What you do is give them a call at 800-385-0030 and order the catalog (or go to [www.woodclassics.com](http://www.woodclassics.com) and order online). The catalog will give you some great ideas for your own projects.

Eltee Thibodeau said that you can get Flying Dutchman blades from Mike's Workshop, Inc., P.O. Box 107, Brandon, SD 57005 (605-582-6732, Fax 605-582-3792) or go to his site at [www.mikesworkshop.com](http://www.mikesworkshop.com). The minimum order is 1/4 gross (3 dozen) and you can mix and match in the same blade category. Mike also sells scrollsaw files that are silicon carbide and useful for carvers, turners or anyone needing a fine file or rasp in tight places. Mike Mororlach specializes in scrollsawing but also has an interesting life story that is well worth reading on his web site (from the Netherlands, experienced Nazi occupation, etc.).

#### NEW LCWW WEB SITE

Instead of a sub-domain, the Lake Charles Woodworkers are now for real on the Internet. We have a new web address at **[www.lcwoodworkers.com](http://www.lcwoodworkers.com)**. Changes have also been made on the main page for better navigation as well as the Gallery (where your work is displayed). In the Gallery, where there was a long list of work and names, we have organized your work into categories: Cabinets & Furniture; Carving & Engraving; Turnings & Bowls; Scrollwork & Intarsia; Toys & Fun Things; Tools & Jigs and

Everything Else. There are also updated links on the Projects Page and the Links Page to keep you informed.

In addition, we have added a search engine to the main page. To search for anything on the Web, just type what you are looking for and press the Enter key (or click the Go button). The search engine is supplied by Overture which most professionals believe to be better than Google (e.g., Yahoo uses the Overture search engine).

We have kept the site clean and simple to make it fast. Enjoy the new look and let Barry know if you have any suggestions, ideas or comments to make the site better for you. By the way, we always need tips, ideas or photos of your work. Email them to Barry at [barryhumphus@hotmail.com](mailto:barryhumphus@hotmail.com). If you have a photo in electronic form (from a digital camera), just email it to him. If you have a standard photo, just loan him the picture, he'll scan it and put it on the site (and return the photo). You need to describe it—what it is and what it is made of.

#### LAST CHANCE

If you want to continue to receive our newsletter, know where meetings are and enjoy the great things we do, you need to send your dues to Dick Hopes (Lake Charles Woodworkers, 1139 Green Rd., Lake Charles, LA 70611). The cost is low and the benefits are great—just \$20 per year for a family membership. While the Newsletter is on the web, we'll not post it beginning with this issue until after the meeting.

#### EBONIZING STAIN

It can be difficult for some to stain a project made from a beautiful hardwood like walnut. A purist might say that staining any wood is unnatural and thoughtless. Sometimes though, a wood requires stain to bring out its hidden beauty. As woodworkers, most of us appreciate the beauty of grain in wood and it's uncommon for us to hide it. Wouldn't it be nice to see this inner beauty develop without a can of commercial stain?

A few household ingredients will create a potent chemical stain that will profoundly change the color of a wood with a high tannin content—most notably, oak and walnut. Don't forget to wear your rubber gloves and eye protection!

Ingredients:

Apple cider vinegar

Steel wool pad

3 table spoons of salt

Ordinary nails (not galvanized)

1/2 cup of water in a spray bottle

You will need a bucket or some other means to contain the mixture.

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Unroll the steel wool pad and place it in the bucket. Toss in a few old nails or any other rusted items you may have. Next, place 3 tablespoons of salt into a spray bottle and add 1/2 cup of water. Shake the bottle until most of the salt has dissolved. Spray the steel wool and nails with this mixture until the bottle is empty.

Allow the mix to sit for a few days. It may be necessary to lightly spray the steel wool and nails every other day with plain water to promote as much rust buildup as possible. Why plain water? As the water evaporates, the salt will remain on the pad and nails.

You will want the steel wool pad to lose at least 75% of its consistency before continuing. The longer you can wait for rust, the better.

Let the water completely evaporate before you do anything with the rust. If you are satisfied that you have an ample supply of rust, carefully mix in 1/2 cup of white vinegar (really cheap). Allow this to set up for 10 minutes. After about 3 days...yuck!

There will be a tendency for this stain to raise the grain of the wood. In certain situations, it may be preferable to wipe down your project with a wet rag to raise the grain, allow the surface to dry, and sand it lightly with 220 grit sandpaper.

Apply the stain with a foam paint brush. Within seconds, you will see the chemical reaction take place. Walnut's brown will change to black almost immediately. On oak, the result will be interesting but less dramatic. After the coat of stain has dried, sand the project again and apply another coat. Walnut typically requires 2 coats and oak may require 3 or more. Sanding will become less necessary with each additional coat as long as you do not sand too much from the surface.

The mixture will remain somewhat potent if kept in a sealed glass jar. Within a year though, the chemical will start to turn green and the results will not be as astounding. And though I hate to say it....a coat of Minwax "Ebony" stain on top of this mixture will further deepen the color and give you a very, very deep black color.

Walnut will now look like ebony. The tremendous change in walnut will open up a whole new world of wood combinations. How about a pedestal table made from ebonized walnut and unstained cherry? Or how about an ebonized walnut bowl or vase? *Edited from joewoodworker.com.*

### TABLE SAW ALIGNMENT

To get an accurate crosscut on the table saw, the blade has to be parallel with the saw's miter gauge slots. A quick way to check this is to use a combination square and a marker, see the photo above right.

If your blade isn't parallel to the miter gauge slots, the table saw trunnion needs to be adjusted. (The trunnion is the assembly that holds the saw's arbor to the underside of the saw table.) Normally, all you need to do is loosen the bolts that hold the trunnion and tap the trunnion in the direction needed.

To check that your blade is parallel with the miter gauge slot, first mark a tooth. Then place a square in the slot and adjust it so the end of the square just touches the side of the marked tooth.

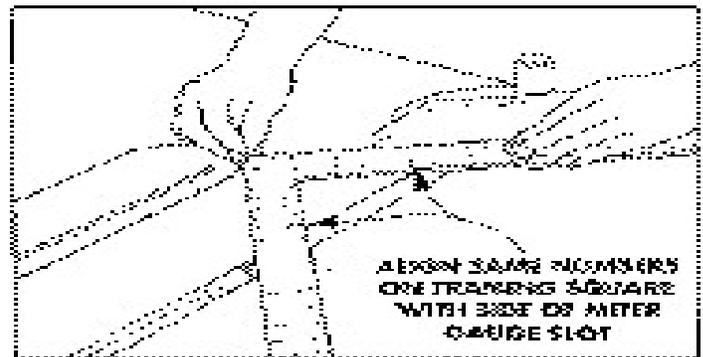


Next, slide the square and rotate the blade backward until the marked tooth aligns with the square. If the square just touches the side of the tooth, the slot and the blade are aligned. *Edited from woodworkingtips.com.*

### CHECKING A MITER GAGE

When cutting picture frames or other mitered joints, you want to be certain that the miter gauge on my table saw is set to precisely 45°. So use a framing square to check its accuracy before cutting.

To do this, lay the framing square on the saw table and align the 5" marks on the inside edges of the square with one side of the miter gauge slot, see drawing.



Now loosen the angle lock on the miter gauge. Then slide the face of the miter gauge against the framing square and lock in the angle.

This technique gives you accurate miters if the saw blade is parallel to the miter gauge slot (which it should be).

It's also important that your framing square is truly square. Since most framing squares get dropped and banged around a lot, check your square with a try square or another framing square you're sure of. *Mike Rogerson, edited from woodworkingtips.com*