Lake Charles Woodworkers Club, Inc. September 2008

Mentoring Program - If you have a project, a problem in any woodworking area, these members have volenteered 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 has years of experience and knowledge.

August Meeting Highlights

The air conditioning is great at Jeff Cormier's fine shop and that's where the LCWW had their August meeting. Jeff did a great job getting it ready as well. Jeff must have been on vacation.

Jeff began by taliking about router safety and specifically about the things you should not put into your router. Most important is to never, every use a standard twist drill bit in a router. Twist drill bits are designed to turn at no more than about 5,000 RPM at most. A router bit is designed to turn at up to 30,000 RPM. So what can happen if you chuck a twist drill bit into your router is something you need to discuss with a paramedic after it comes out.

Jeff added that you should listen to the router as it will tell you by it's sound if something is going amiss. If it sounds other than normal when up to speed, stop it immediately. Always examine the bit before use to see if there are many imperfections on the carbide tips. Make certain that there is no debris in the chuck and lightly lubricate the shaft of the bit before insertion. You should tighten a router bit in the chuck snuggly but never put too much pressure as this could lead to chuck failure (I'm stlill trying to find a replacement chuck for an old Sears router that I like when a freind borrowed it and over tightened it).

There were great Show and Tell items this month with Gary Rock showing some of his beautiful laced bowls in oak and purple heart, finished in Danish oil.

Mr. Thibodeaux showed off a great picture frame jig he built plus an improved tooth pick holder. My question is what kind of chuck does he use to hold the tooth picks when he turns them and just how long does it take to turn a tooth pick - he won't tell us. But Eltee also produced a very fine little box for the Club to be used for the raffle and drawing tickets - thanks Eltee.

Tom Bergsted had a lovely pine bowl and Jim Anderson brought one of his great outdoor swings - this one out of cedar.

A great Donut Delivery truck was Pie Sonnier's contribution made of cherry, maple, ebony and walnut while Larry Eagle showed off one of his great srt works - a giant needle turned in multi-axis. Jim Couvillion showed a sample joint plus a neat plant pot holder he made a few years ago.Jim also showed a photo of one of the 247 rocking horses he has constructed over the years for children

George Giltner brought us a photo of a great entertainment center, finished in tung oil while Jeff Cormier also showed photos of an old rocking chair he restored for a freind plus a curio cabinet in oak with a walnut finish.Jeff also discussed and showed off one of his Changing Tables that can be converted into a table after the child has passed on needing to be changed. Jeff builds these with finished plywood and treats all of the edges. The key is to make certain the frame is square and demonstrated what you

Dick Hopes has been busy making toys for the Shriner's Hospital children and he brought a sample of one of his Hopes Hoppers - an articulated grass hopper that children can pull across a floor.

Jimmy Everett brought a neat corkscrew willow cane with a duck head motif.

Sonny LeBlue is an engineer by trade and a clock maker by interest. But he brought a jig he invented and patented. It is for easy making splin miters with a router and was sold by Leighting in their catelog. Sonny said he about broke even on the project. He brought one of the prototypes made from aluminum as well as a factory model made of fhigh density plastic.

lee Frazier thatnked the LCWW for participation in the fund raiser for him a couple of years ago at the Shiner Center. We see Lee almost every day at Sowela and he is definately doing better.

Finally there was a brief disccussion about wood toxicity and the fact that oily woods tend to be more toxic that others.

Coming Up . . . The Shop and Patio of Barry Humphus on Saturday, September 13 at 9:00 a.m. Barry has a very small shop so feel free to go in one or two at a time and think about what it takes to build anything in that little space - then go back to the patio and have another donut.

Hitting the Nail on the Head

Most of the hammers we use are for that satisfying task of driving a nail home. As we talked about hammers last time, lets talk about nails. There basically five types of nails that are most commonly used.

If you've ever worried over the number of nail selections at the hardware store then you're not alone. Nails are used in a variety of materials for projects such as masonry and wood, which are two of the most common materials. There are long and short nails, brass nails and galvanized and different types of nail heads. They can all be used for something around the house, or remodeling a whole room in your house or temporarily tacking a work piece while the glue dries. There are 5 different nails that are useful around the shop or the house. So take a look at a few of them from the list below.

Common Nails. The common nail is used a lot with wood that doesn't require finish work. Places to use the nails are on 2x4s and other boards surfaces such as particle board and regular wood panels. It has a flat head and comes in different lengths. Usually the nail head is left showing. Use in all of your remolding efforts around you home, garage or shop.

Casing Nails. The casing nails are for all of your finer work needs when dealing with wood. Cabinets and molding trim work is perfect for these types of nails. So if want some new shelves or new kitchen cabinets then make sure you have these on hand. You don't want your detailed work to be ruined by unsightly nail heads.

Finishing Nails. The finishing nails are another nail type, but they can be used interchangeably with casing nails for the fine work. The rounded nails heads can be counter sunk or not.

Common Brads. Are rated on length only. They are good for very light, and can be used like the casing nails for trim work. The nails are of lighter weight, and are shorter than the common finishing nails.

Box Nails. Box nails are like a common nail but the head on them is much larger. The shank of the nail is much larger, and is used primarily for framing and decking. If you need extreme holding power then this is the nail for you to have.

Not only will you need to use these types of nails but there might be instances where another type of fastener will come in handy. When you're a home owner you just never know what might break, or what you might like to do! Here's another list of different nail types.

Galvanized Nails. Use these nails when you want to build a dog house, frame or build a wooden sandbox for the kids. They are coated with a solution that is highly resistant to rust. The shank makes them very tough to bend.

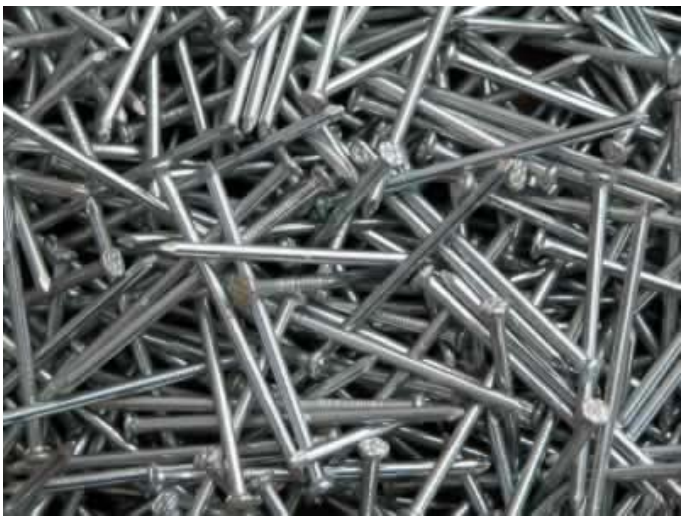
Paneling Nails. The paneling nail is colored to match the type of paneling that you want to put up.

Masonry Nails. If you've got a basement and you need to mount something on the wall then the masonry nails are the nails to use.

Aluminum Nails. Aluminum nails are a very soft nail and are to be used only for certain things such as mounting lights for a pool. They're not very strong, but don't rust.

Pointless Nails. The pointless nail is if you're very particular about not splitting any of the wood you're working on. It's good for molding trim work or some corner pieces for baseboards.

There will be other types of holding and latching devices that you'll need around the house too. Decorative screws, bolts,



tack nails, and other types of will be necessary at some point in your home maintenance and remolding needs. Take some time and build up your supply.

Remember to always use safety precautions when nailing and cutting materials. Wear eye protection to keep any materials from accidentally being poked into the lens of the eye. A good idea to learn more about nails and other fasteners is to get some home repair books, and look at a few examples of how the nails are used in projects for the home. Experience and a little knowledge will go a long way to knowing your nails.

Dove Tail Workshop

Bill Fey and Dick Trouth are having a dovetail workshop at Dick's shop on the first Saturday in November (11/04/2008) at 9:00 a.m. Dick was not certain how much participation they will have, but they figured they can probably handle anyone interested in coming. The workshop will end when they are done or when someone needs to leave.

The basics of through and half-blind dovetail joints and how to hand cut them will be covered. They are anticipating at a later date to have another workshop to teach how to incorporate power tools to speed up the process and reduce the manual labor while still making hand cut joints.

If someone wants to attend just to listen and not actually cut the joints, they will be welcome, as well. Call Dick Trouth at 583-2683 for more information.

The tools you bring should be:

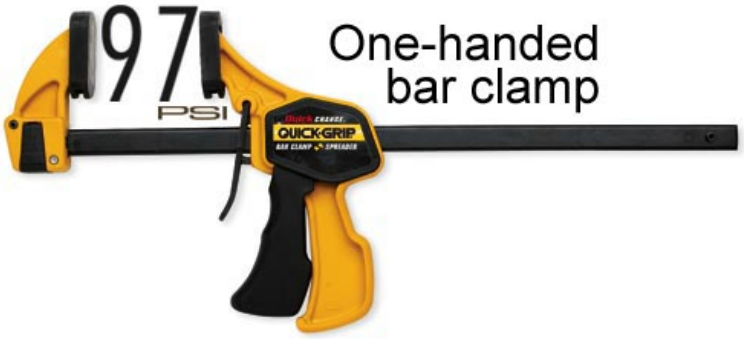
1. Marking out gauge.
2. Dovetail marking gauge or sliding T-bevel.
3. Dovetail saw, tenoning saw, or coping saw.
4. 1/4", 1/2", and 3/4" Dovetail chisels or bench chisels that are tapered on the long edges. Chisels need to be very sharp.
5. Sharp pencil or knife.
6. 6" ruler or measuring tape.
7. Small square.
8. Mallet or hammer for chiseling.

Take It Easy With Clamping

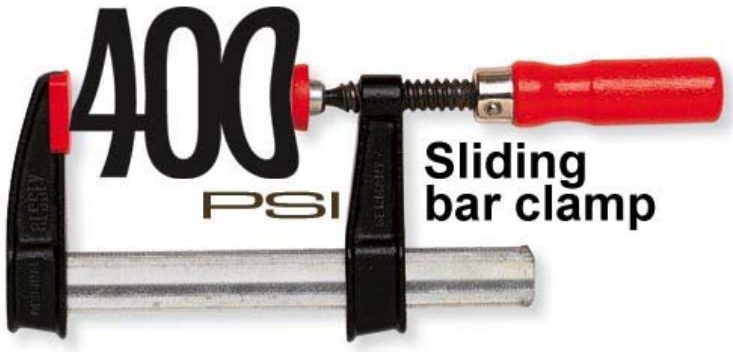
Q: As a newcomer to woodworking, I'm not sure how much clamping pressure to use on joints made with standard woodworker's yellow glue. Can you suggest some guidelines?

A: The short answer is that a good-fitting joint with the right amount of glue doesn't require tremendous pressure. The clamps just serve to hold the surfaces in contact while the glue dries.

Obviously there are other methods where clamps are difficult to use such as molding. In these cases, you might consider brads. But the strength of the joint ultimately relies on its design, the glue area available and how much force is required to hold it together while the glue sets and then cures.



But you must assume that most joints fall short of perfect and will benefit from enough force to push them into complete contact.



Dale Zimmerman of Franklin International (we called him to make sure and the folks at Franklin are very knowledgeable and helpful if you have any glue or clamping questions about their products), maker of Titebond woodworking glues. He recommends 100 to 150 pounds per square inch (psi) for clamping softwoods and 175–250 psi for hardwoods. We found information on the clamping pressure of several standard clamps you might find in a shop.

One-handed bar clamps, provide pressure just into the softwood range or a bit less. So you want to squeeze those clamps as hard as you can. In R. Bruce Hoadley's book "*Understanding Wood,"* he reports that other kinds of clamps, can produce far more pressure than needed. So don't go beyond "snug" when tightening those clamps.

For example, the sliding bar clamp can produce about 400 psi – about twice what is needed for hard woods. The common pipe clamps gets up to 1,000 psi – some four times the needed pressure, while our old friend, the "C" clamp can put down a ton or more pressure at 2,000 psi. With a "C" clamp, you can make the wood say Uncle pretty quickly, squeeze out all of the glue and ultimately have a joint that fails.

The maximum recommended clamping pressure for most joints is somewhere between 100 and 250 psi depending on several factors: soft or hard wood; loose or tight joint; whether there is an "escape" area for the glue; and, the joint design. Putting all your muscle into many common clamp styles generates excess pressure that could force out most of the glue and produce a weak bond.

So a lighter touch is something to consider when gluing up your work. *Barry Humphus*.

LC Woodworkers Annual BBQ

On Thursday, October 9h the Lake Charles Woodworkers wil have our Annual BBQ. Please let Jeff Cormier, Dick Hopes or Barry Humphus know if you will attend so that we can have enough food this year. I recall it was not enough for "seconds" last year. Please let us know as soon as possible. Tickets will be available at the September Meeting.