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DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Gail and Mickey Hart were our hosts at their great shop this month. If Gail and Mickey don't have it, it probably isn't worth getting. Since last year, there's even more that has been added, including a great Delta sander. The two table saws, two scroll saws and two (or more) of a couple of more items means they this couple really have a complete woodworking shop. The only thing that supsries me is that neither of them have gotten into turning. Their old Craftsman lathe has been moved out of the way and unused for some time. Maybe we can get Bob Patin or Bill Tolin to show them the pleasure of faceplate & spindle turning.

Both have been busy with craftwork and Mickey was struggling with a couple of gun cabinets who's wood was changing shape as we looked. The locally dried wood was obviously not as dry as claimed. The seller claimed 8% WC but it was likely triple that. Next month, we'll learn about drying your own wood at Jeff Cormier's fine shop.

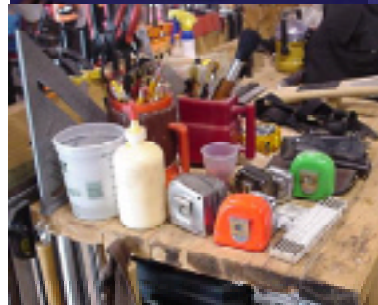
One of the really nice things about our year-end meeting is all of the items that members bring to show what they've been doing lately. Eltee Thibodeaux showed a photo of some of his latest work — a water wheel for the yard. Eltee also showed a neat little scrollwork condiment holder. Leonard Fontenot showed off some of his miniature turnings as well as a mahogany goblet. Leonard said that only slow and careful work allows these tiny items to be made. He also had a wonderful cedar bowl, about 3" x 9" made from some fencing he had laying around.

Theresa and Leonard Wilfret showed some of their first turnings. These included a cherry bowl with a bark edge, some honey dippers and a red oak platter. These were done during one of their recent craft schools. They are getting their first lathe (a Delta Midi) over the next couple of weeks. They also announced that the Febuary meeting will be at their shop where we'll get to see (and help them set up) all their new power and hand tools.

Dick Hopes brought a wonderful scrollwork lion image that his wife had framed as well as lots of toys for our annual toy program. Lee Frazier brought a bit of his craftwork in the form of Tic-Tack-Toe game boards and peices for the toy program.

Barry Humphus showed a couple bowls: a 6" x 6" recent turning of pear. Dick Truth mentioned that fruit woods are some of the nicest woods to turn. Barry also brought one of his wormy bowls — this one from a red oak burl. Lots of worm holes in this one!

You can see all of the wonderful items shown at the meeting on the Internet at <http://woodworkers.lightwire.net>. Just click on the Gallery.



Measure Twice?
Maybe Thrice!

Coming Up . . . Shop of Jeff Cormeir on drying your wood and cabinet making, Saturday, January 11 at 9:00 a.m.

BOX FAN FILTER

You've probably at one time or another seen a version of a box fan air filter. At the local home center, you can purchase some vinyl siding J-channel. (Its normal use is for trimming around doors and windows.) It can be used for



mounting furnace filters to box fans much easier.

The advantage to this design is that it firmly holds a 20" x 20" filter, yet it allows for easy and quick removal of the filter for cleaning or replacement.

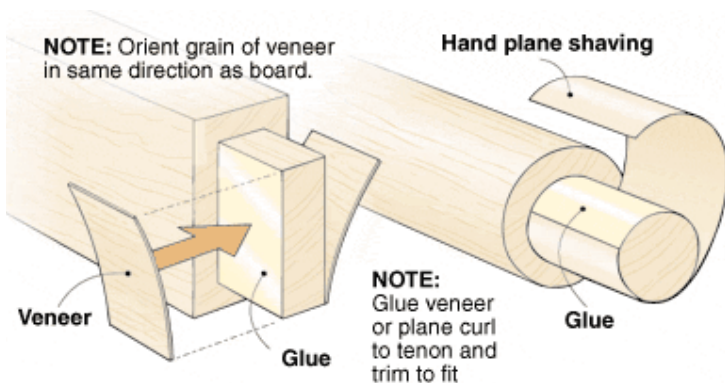
Start by removing the plastic grill. Then attach the channel to the grill, using some narrow wood backing strips to screw into. You can do this to

three edges of the inlet side of the fan, like you see in the top photo. Finally, replace the grill back on the fan. From *Woodworking.com*

REPAIRING LOOSE TENONS

It's frustrating when you cut a mortise only to find out your tenon doesn't fit snugly. Luckily, though, there's an easy fix that doesn't require cutting new mortises. The key is to build up the tenon instead.

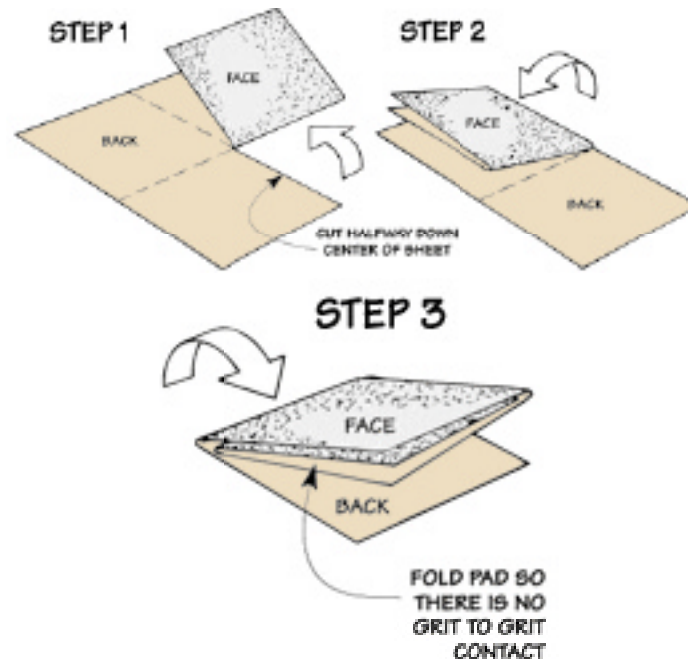
A simple fix for a round tenon is to glue on a shaving from a hand plane (see drawing below). Then sand the tenon to fit snugly in the mortise. For square tenons, glue a thin piece of wood veneer to each



cheek. Gluing veneer to both cheeks ensures the tenon will be centered in the mortise (see drawing). You should orient the grain in the same direction to get a strong glue joint, too. Again, once the glue dries, trim the tenon to fit snugly in the mortise. From *Woodworking.com*

SANDING PAD

Here's a clever way to fold a quarter sheet (or half sheet) of sandpaper into a pad that eliminates the usual grit-to-grit contact. What's nice about this pad



is the unexposed surfaces won't wear as you sand with the outer surface. The pad also works great when sanding a project on the lathe. With four layers of insulation, my fingers don't get as hot.

To fold the pad, first make a single cut to the center of the sheet. Then follow the steps shown below. To expose a new surface, simply refold the pad. From *Woodworker.com*

2003 LCWW DUES

There is no time like now to make it possible for the Lake Charles Woodworkers to continue our programs, meetings, events and newsletter. Without your support, we cannot continue to bring this woodworking forum to the Lake Area. Now is the time of the year to pay your \$20 dues to make certain that we can offer programs in the future. Please send your \$20 to Dick Hopes, Treasurer, 1139 Green Road, Lake Charles, LA 70611.

TURNING GREEN

One of the pleasures of turning is to turn green wood (wet turning). Green wood is easy to obtain (find it on the street, visit a sawmill), it's usually free and most folks won't mind if you go through the pile they've left for pickup. It also doesn't create much dust and can produce long fine shavings over your shoulder as you turn.

But there are a few things to think through before scouring the local neighborhoods for newly felled logs. In fact, once friends and neighbors know you are interested in newly-felled logs, you may be invited to remove the tree they've just cut down in their back yard. My advise is to let them get it to the curb, then pick and choose what you want.

Some of the woods that are delightful to turn wet include just about any fruit wood (pear, ornamental pear, cherry, apple) as well as sycamore, ash, walnut, pecan, white oak, etc. Just about any wood with a specific gravity greater than 0.46 can be reliably turned into a bowl that will not crack.

Note that many green woods contain high levels of tannic acid. Unless you are using HHS tools, you'll need to clean your tools and equipment to avoid staining or just coat them with WD-40. Also remember that green wood shrinks and typically the sapwood shrinks a lot faster than the heartwood. This can actually create interesting effects resulting in oval bowls.

A good log for turners is one that is free of branches and reasonably cylindrical throughout its length. Though the trunk of the tree is the obvious choice, large branches can yield good blanks.

To prepare the blank, the best tool is a chain saw. Be absolutely certain that you know how to use it and be sure the log is well supported. You are trying to cut bits off the log—not off you. To cut the log into a blank, saw the log in half, lengthwise. It's easier if you chalk a line down the log and follow the line.

With the flat side of the log up, place a compass point into the pith or heart of the log—but not in the physical center. This ensures the heartwood runs through the middle of the blank. Now draw a circle.

To lessen the weight of the blank, trim the corners. This makes handling easier for you and reduces stress on the lathe bearings. Smaller blanks

can be trimmed on a bandsaw.

A decision now must be made which will affect the final shape of the bowl. Placing a faceplate on the flat surface of the blank will result in a bowl where the rim either side of the heart will curve downward. Placing the faceplate on a flat circle on the bark side will cause the rim to curve upwards.

Depending on the size of the blank, you can use a 6 inch faceplate secured with four coach screws (these are wood screws with a hex head and built-in washer) or for a smaller blank (9 inches or less), you can safely use a 3 inch faceplate with standard wood or drywall screws.

To start turning, start with the lowest speed and stand to one side with your hand near the switch. Put on your face shield. Turn on the lathe and if you are happy with the balance, you can start shaping your bowl.

The initial roughing cuts should be light as the bark is removed and done with a 3/4" to 1 inch bowl gouge. The overall design is personal, but take into consideration that wood moves and can change shape as it dries and use this to compliment your work.

Take some time to flatten the outside (bottom) of the bowl. Whether you choose a recess or spigot for your chuck, when the bowl dries, the bottom of the bowl will need to be sanded or cross-planned.

When sanding green wood, automotive wet/dry paper works well from 180 to 320 grit, lubricated with tap water. A big advantage is that the paper does not clog. While sanding green wood produces very little dust, you should still be wearing your dust protection and have the shop dust filter running.

Hollowing should follow normal procedures but special note should be taken on wall thickness. Paper-thin walls are not necessary with green wood and 1/4 inch are perfectly OK (though drying time will be increased).

When sanding is completed, wipe down the bowl with a dry rag, held securely.

The wet bowl needs to dry to avoid cracking so finishing should be done with a product that does not seal the pores of the wood: Danish oils, pure sunflower oil, etc., but one that will dry. **Next month, we'll do the finish.** Most of all, have fun turning green! *Barry Humphus.*