All the News that fits

Lake Charles Woodworkers Club, Inc. April 2013

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 have years of experience and knowledge.

March Meeting Highlights

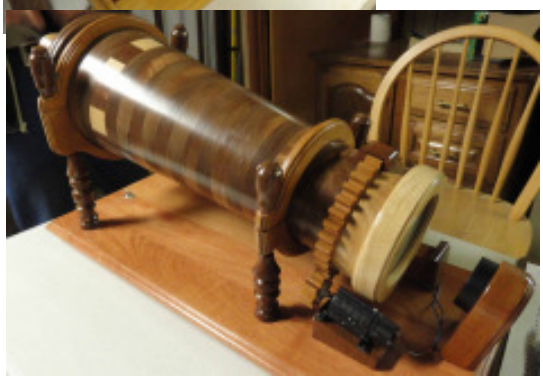
Pie and Joey Sonnier were our hosts this month and the food was very tastey. Thanks to both of them.

Steve Thomas discussed the importance of safely using hand tools. They account for some 6% of reported shop injuries. The key is to keep them sharp and well maintained.

Steve then discussed his building of turned kaleidoscopes using first surface mirrows. Steve was in the glass business for many years and said that the first surface mirrow makes for a better reflective surface for a kaleidoscope. First surface means that the reflective coating is on the front rather than the back of the glass. He uses stained glass for the media as this gives greater color depth than plastic chips or other materials. First surface mirrows can be purchased from a number of sources including amazon.com.

As Steve creates segmented bowls, it is rather easier for him to create the tubes for the units plus, he can make them in various lengths and diamenters. The first one he showed was built such that he could show how it is assembled.

Next, Steve brought out a parlor kaleidoscope he built that was designed to be placed on a table. It is mounted in a frame and angled down for easier viewing. Plus, it has a light and hand crank for the rotating mechanism. Then Steve went to the back to bring out his masterpiece.



This was another parlor unit with a twist. It is also set in a frame but with a binocular view. motorized and lighted. Steve said he always wanted to look through a kaleidoscope with two eyes rather than one. So he built what he wanted and beautifully -- a kaleidoscope for both eyes. Steve also brought the finished version of his demonstration segmented bowl from last month.

Mr. Thibodeaux turned in a turned pen for Show and Tell. The cool thing was that it was a dove tail motif. Our host Pie madea great trailer for his tractor and crane. He mentioned that it should retail for about $2,000. He also had a cool slingshot. Pie mentioned that the Sulphur Man Show will be in July. Check with Pie for futher updates.

John Griffith brought us a beautiful end table this month of maple and padauk while Joe Comeaux did a neighbor a favor by making some handsome misquite BBQ pit handles. Joe also showed a U.S. flag case for a fallen soldier he made in collaboration with Steve Thomas. The soldier was Terry Cross, KIA in Vietnam in 1968.

Bob Theau brought us a great oak writing table and toy box built for a child. Don Elfert did a nice breakfast tray that's also suitable for holding a laptop. Gary Rock showed off a neat little acorn box that, well, looked like an acorn!

Joe Comeaux won both the Show and Tell gift card and the Bring Back Item. He also mentioned that you can now purchase wood glue that contains a UV fluorescent tracer. This allows you to see (with a UV light source) and glue bleeding at joint lines. This has actually been around for a while but not in consumer quantities. The UV dye can be purchased by itself and added to glue. See riskreactor.com for more information or call them at 714-641-3500. It is drinking water safe but expensive at $20 per ounce in small quantities. See more on page two.

Coming Up . . . Saturday, April 13 at 9:00 A.M. at the shop of Jack Stegall. This is a nice and well-laid out shop.

Adding UV Flouresent Dye to Wood Glue

If you happened to watch the local TV (KPLC) news in late March or caught an article in the American Press about the release of a strange green substance in the water in Westlake, you know about flouresent dyes. This particular dye was used to detect leaks in the tanks at the Phillips66 facility in Westlake. As the article said, the green dye is used to detect leaks in vessels. This is very useful if you have a leaking vessel (including a washing machine, for example). You add the dye to water that is in the vessel and then shine a UV light around it (the Sun will do for the visable versions) to see if it is leaking.

If you are a woodworker, you likely use wood glue (duh) and it is useful to know if you have any glue bleed at joints. The glue dries clear and after it cures, it prevents you from applying a stain or finish thus leaving a bare spot on your project. Of course you may have left a spot or three of glue on the surface of the project as you were glueing and did not notice this during glue-up. That has likely happened to more than one of us.

Glue spots can ruin the finish of an otherwise perfect woodworking project. The glue seals up pores in the wood surface, locally reducing the wood's stain or finish absorbency. Normally the discoloration due to glue spots can be easy to see, but this isn't always the case. It is difficult and in some cases nearly impossible to sand out and apply additional finish on your project.

Fortunately for us woodworkers, the guys at Franklin International (the Titebond folks) have come out with a glue that solves this irritating issue.

Titebond's II fluorescent wood glue is designed to make dried glue spots far easier to spot before final surface-preparation prior to applying a stain or sealant. See titebond.com. Because a fluorescent dye is added to the Titebond II glue formula, any UV light will make residual glue stand out quite prominently.

Titebond II Fluorescent contains a dye that, when viewed under a black light (UV), enables woodworkers to inspect the glue line and assist in the cleanup process. It is ideal for most porous materials, is easy to use and cleans up with water. In other words, this is just standard Titebond II with an additive.

Note that this new version of Titebond II may not be available locally yet but you should ask your local supplier (hey Home Depot/Lowes/Stines - we need this stuff).

OK, so you have a ten year supply of Titebond II and you want to use the latest technology with invisable UV and what do you do?

Fortunately, Titebond II (and III) is water based and thus you can add a water-based dye to the mix but you must be careful. The folks at Franklin are most helpful for this.

Basically, you can reduce (thin) Titebond II and III by 5 to 10 percent without any issue regarding it's strength. In other words, you can add a water product to Titebond for up to 10 percent of total volume of glue without compromising it's holding power for your woodworking project. Thus you can add UV dye to your Titebond glue as long as you do this in a careful way and no more than 10% of the glue volume.

What you do is add a small amount of UV water-based dye to your container of Titlebond II or III. The dye is readily avaialble at riskreactor.com for more information or call them at 714-641-3500. However, there are several other sources. Just search for UV dye products. *Barry Humphus*.

Put Wings on Your Table Saw

How do you keep all of those tablesaw accessories close at hand without being under foot? Take two pieces of 1" angle iron a couple of inches shorter than the width of your saw and bolt them to the front and rear of your contractor-style saw's stand. Now cut plywood shelves to fit between the stand and the ends of the angle iron, and then bolt them on top of it. Add a strip of hardwood at the end of each shelf to keep things from falling off, and you gain valuable storage space. Next time you are at George Kuffles's shop, just look at what he did.

A simple T-shape support, made from scrap plywood or MDF, mounts in your portable clamping workstation. Once you've matched the support to your table height, drill the base of the support and insert dowels to instantly set the height each time. To make this table even more versatile, use it with your bandsaw and mitersaw, drilling separate dowel holes for each height.

You can buy or build more elaborate tapering jigs, but this simple helper will handle most of your tapering chores.

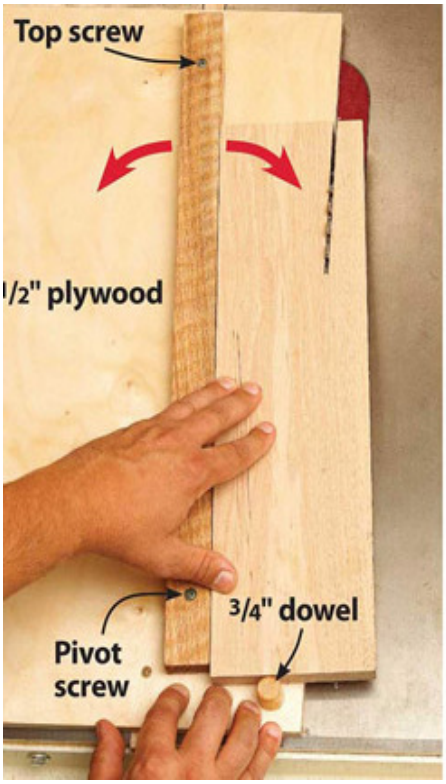


Table Saw Tips Continued . . .

in the miter gauge slot. To use the jig, measure the width of the sled and set your fence that distance from the blade. Remove the top screw, loosen the pivot screw, rotate the fence to match your desired taper, and then tighten both screws. Butt your workpiece against the dowel with one edge against the jig's fence, and then cut your taper.

If cutting the ends of parts such as tenons on a tablesaw gives you the heebie-jeebies, a rip-fence saddle will put you at ease. Supporting tall stock from both the side and behind, all you have to do is clamp the workpiece to the saddle and guide it through the cut. A coat of paste wax on the inside of the saddle where it contacts the fence makes it glide smoothly.

Keep it clean. Before making any cut, clear the tabletop of all scrap wood, tools, fasteners, and other debris. (That includes not using the top of your fence as a tool tray.) These objects not only distract but they also can become missiles.

Protect your eyes. Without face-hugging safety glasses, airborne dust and chips can blur your vision (not good in the middle of a cut), or worse, injure your eyes permanently. A decent pair of safety glasses costs less than a visit to the ER, so buy a pair and wear them.

Set the right height. There are lots of ideas floating around about proper blade height, but Freud's Jim Brewer has the final word, advising that about half the highest tooth should protrude above the workpiece, as shown. Brewer emphasizes that the bottom of the tooth should never be higher than the workpiece top.

Be alert! The tablesaw-injury story often begins with, "I was making the last cut of the day..." Fatigue leads to errors in judgment that, in turn, lead to miscut workpieces—or worse. Also, repetitive cutting chores can lull you into carelessness, so take frequent breaks. In fact it is a good idea to take a break every 30 to 45 minutes.

Don't overreach. Any time your hands get within 6" or so of the blade, you should hear alarm bells in your head. Keep pushsticks handy and use one to complete the cut whenever your digits get within the danger zone. There is no better tool to have at your easy reach around your table saw than a shop or professional push stick.

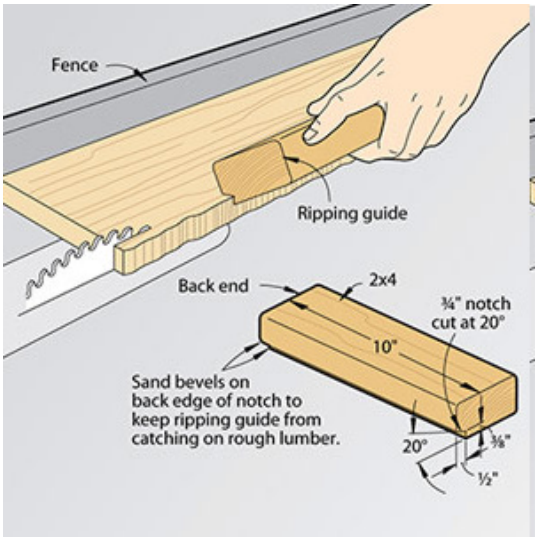
Always use the fence or miter gauge, but never both. Two cuts you should never consider: freehand cutting (with no assistance from the rip fence or miter gauge); and using both the fence and miter gauge to guide a workpiece. In both cases, the workpiece will likely bind on the blade, sending it flying back at you.

The fingers of a feather board handily hold a workpiece snug against the fence so you can focus on feeding the work at a steady pace. Mount the feather board so that the fingers end before the cutting starts to prevent trapping the offcut and launching it across the shop.

For those of you who have a fence with a square or flat rear rail, here's another quick and easy solution.

First, buy a suitable length of an adhesive-backed tape measure. Secure the tape measure to the rear fence rail so that it reads the exact same measurement at the right-hand miter slot as the measurement scale on the front of the fence. Then, set your saw blade parallel to the miter slot by following the instructions in your tablesaw owner's manual. Whenever you position the fence, just make sure that the face of the fence bar aligns with the same measurements on the front and back rails before locking.

If you need a safe, secure way to rip lumber with one rough edge, then this ripping guide costs next to nothing, and it keeps lumber tight against the fence.



To start, cut the 1 1/2 x 3 1/2 x 10" ripping guide from a piece of smooth hardwood, such as maple. Then, put a dado blade in your tablesaw, tilt it to 20 degrees, and rip the angled rabbet as shown in the drawing. Finish the guide by chiseling or sanding a slight bevel on the infeed end of the rabbet. This prevents the guide from snagging on splinters or rough edges of the stock.

To use the ripping guide, hold the rabbet against the rough edge of the board on the left side of the blade and about 4" behind the leading edge of the blade, where shown in the drawing at left. Push the workpiece snugly against the fence and feed the wood into the blade. Keep the ripping guide and your hand stationary as you feed the workpiece into the saw blade. Don't move the guide with the wood, always keep it at least 4" in front of the blade. Barry Humphus with some help of the nice guys at Wood Magazine.