

Jeff Cormier, President
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Barry Humphus, Editor, George Kuffel
Gary Rock, Jeff Cormier, Dick Truth

Mentoring Program - If you have a project, a problem in any woodworking area, these members have volunteered 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 Truth: 583-2683. Each have years of experience and knowledge.

April Meeting Highlights

Jack and Marie Stegall were our hosts this month at a wonderfully well laid-out shop. It was our first time here and we hope to be back often. Jack has a really good dust collection system that clearly took some time and design effort to assemble. We had a nice turnout including a couple of guests - Greg Goldsmith and his son Guyson.

Jeff Cormier started our safety discussion talking about proposed legislation in California (AB2218) that would require all table saw sold by a dealer or anyone else after January 1, 2015 to include active injury mitigation technology (AIMT). This means that the table saw shall include technology such that if skin comes into contact with the blade when the system is active and shall stop causing no more than a 1/8 inch deep cut. The law also says that the technology can be deactivated should the operator need to cut something that the technology would detect as skin. As of late April, the bill was pending in the appropriations committee.

Currently SawStop is the only commercial system available that does this and adds about \$150 to the cost of the saw. SawStop uses capacitive sensing to activate. Once activated, the \$100 stop system module plus the blade must be replaced. Jeff warned that the system does not activate instantly but only when the saw is fully operational.

Another system under development (Whirlwind Tool) uses proximity detection, meaning that skin does not have to come into contact before triggering but is experimental at this time. However, the advantage of this system is that it can be retrofitted to an existing table saw while the SawStop must be built in at the factory.

It was suggested that if such a law passes, it will create two industries. One will build aftermarket AIMT devices. The other will be firms that sell non-AIMT equipped table saws in Nevada, just to the East of the California line.

Jeff's second topic continued his discussion on tenoning jigs and specifically shop-made ones. Jeff brought two useful ones. The first rides on the table saw fence and must be made to fit your particular fence. Jeff suggested making the body long enough such that there is not any risk of injury.

Basically it consists on an open ended box that rides along the fence attached to which is a vertical piece to which

you clamp your work-piece. Just adjust your blade height, clamp the work-piece to the vertical one and use. If you want to build one, you can see one that is a bit more fancy than Jeff's at highlandwoodworking.com - search for tenoning jig. An alternative is at woodsmithshop.com - search for tenoning jig.

The other type is similar but rides in your saw's mitre slot. This is similar to commercial versions (such as Delta's 34-184 Universal-Deluxe Tenoning Jig - \$106 from Amazon). Jeff's design includes some of the features of the Delta including an adjustment system. The entire jig, even with the extra hardware should cost less than \$15 to make. You can get plans at finewoodworking.com. Jeff likes this one better than the fence type and is likely an even better design than the one at Fine Woodworking. One of the things known is that the mitre slot is exactly parallel with the blade but at any one time, your fence may not as it is movable or can slip under pressure. Thus, the Jeff or Fine Woodworking design may be a better choice.

Bob Theaux mentioned that he never has used fixed tenons but lose tenon jointery. He favors this because of the simplicity and no need for special jigs - just cut two mortises and fit a lose tenon. Of course it helps if you have a mortiser or mortising attachment for your drill press to make the mortise. I've used both techniques and if you are not doing a lot of these joints, Bob's suggestion has a great deal of merit.

Our members have been busy and starting out Show and Tell was John with a nice walnut veneered plack showing a Gaussian (normal) distribution he made for his statistician spouse. I do like statistics but we have only once before had a representation of a Gaussian curve in terms of woodworking. It had to do with a presentation of turning at a meeting a long time ago at the shop of Bubba Cheramie. That is our trivia question at the next meeting - haha!

We had a flower tulip by Mike in green and red dye plus a cedar bowl with a checkered pattern. J.W. Anderson had a great trivet plus some turkey calls for us. J.W. also had a great chip tray and napkin holder of beech. Continues . .

Coming up: Saturday, May 12 at 9:00 A.M at the shop of Jeff Cormier in Iowa. Please join us.

Show and Tell Continues . . .

Ray Kebodeaux did a great pill bottle holder for us. That would be very useful indeed. Plus he made and showed a



good turning parting tool as well.

John Marcon discussed the expert sharpening skills at NuWave on Ernest street. John emphasized that if you want a chisel sharpened at any angle you may want, they can do this to your complete satisfaction for \$4. The members have met at this shop before and all of us were very impressed by their skills. John's recommendation is that if you want really sharp chisels, re-sharpen your saw blades or want custom band saw blades, this is the place to go. We cannot agree more - support your local folks, make certain that they are aware of

your participation in woodworking and you will always be welcomed.

Mr. Eltee Thibodeau's lovely spouse has had some health issues (and keep her in your thoughts) and he has not had as much time to do the wonderful things he normally does in his great shop. So let us all be concerned and wish her good health. Eltee brought us a great teak and brass hammer. Eltee also had a great step stool that has the property on not being able to tip over - excellent design.

Steve Thomas came with a walnut, basswood and coffeenut cane that was laminated with a poly finish plus our host Jack Stegall had a flower cart of scrolled plywood and stained. Always wonderful work.

Our wonderful expert turner, Gary Rock, came with turned objects that usually defy imagination including elm,

cottenwood and aluminum inlays, stained beautifully as always. They included elm, cottenwood and alcrilic. Gary always blows us away.

Joe Comeaux, while busy with his job continues to impress us with small turnings including some more of those Pen State Industry kits of seam rippers and pens. Dr. Don Elfert discussed his adventures in his discussion of cutting hard to do angles for a project using a table saw. Jeff Cormier won the Bring Back Item so we all look forward to seeing what this brings at his shop in May. *Barry Humphus.*

Getting Router Template Bushings Off

Template guide bushings for your router can jam tightly after just a little use. That is, you have a situation wherein the debris just hangs in the bushing and makes it very difficult to get the bushing off. This has happened to me. If you can't unscrew this with your fingers and you don't want to rough up the edge of the bushing with a pair of pliers, try this simple technique using a bent nail.

Drill a 1/8" hole on the edge of the bushing close enough to the center to clear the threads underneath. Then, the next time your bushing sticks, simply insert a bent finishing nail in the 1/8" hole and push the other end of the nail counterclockwise against the center shaft on the bushing. The leverage from the nail will loosen the bushing easily. I promise you that this works. *Barry Humphus.*

Glue, Clamping and Other Tips and Tricks

When you are gluing up assemble-yourself furniture, use painter's masking (blue) tape to keep the glue off of parts that are to be stained. For example, cover each mortise or dowel socket with painter's tape, smooth it down with my thumbs, then cut away the tape over the holes. When you assemble the joint, the glue bubbles out onto the tape, not the unfinished wood. After the glue dries, pull off the tape and start staining. The reason for using painter's tape is that it does not leave any adhesive residue like other tapes.

I read a tip in WOOD magazine about loosening frozen screws using a soldering iron and ice. When I encounter a stuck screw, I first put the screwdriver tip in the slot, apply turning pressure, and gently tap the screwdriver with a mallet. If that doesn't work, I'll try the iron, but I've had good luck using this method.

By the way, I teach a course on computer troubleshooting at SOWELA and it is amazing how many students do not know how to use a screwdriver properly and so I've started showing them. At first they don't believe me thinking they know how to use a screw driver but they don't!

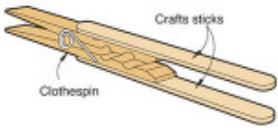
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Tips and Tricks Continued

Speaking of screws and drivers, while trying to remove a screw that just won't budge, you twist the screwdriver even harder. The sides of the blade ride right up the sides of the slot and pop out--a phenomenon we technical types call "camming out," and that you call a major irritation. Solve the problem with a can of valve-grinding compound, an abrasive powder suspended in oil. (Auto-parts stores sell it.) Dip the end of the screwdriver into the compound. The abrasive particles between the screwdriver blade and the screw slot will prevent cam-out, so you can put more oomph on the screwdriver to break that stubborn fastener loose.

Hotmelt glue makes a strong, quick bond for joints that won't get a lot of stress, but it's also great for holding temporary joints while drilling or matching up things. Because it allows for some play before the glue cools, use it for positioning drawer glides, for example. Glue them in place first, then move the drawer in and out as a test to get a good fit. Then screw them down.

If you glue small parts together, you often are in need of a light clamping device. Pie Sonnier's delicate vehicle parts come to mind as well as Mr. Thibodeau's scrow work art. Spring-type clothespins make great clamps for small work. But sometimes they'd be even handier if the jaws opened wider for clamping thicker parts. You can extend the jaws by gluing scrapwood or ice cream sticks to the clothespin as shown. Wood-worker's (yellow) glue or epoxy will hold the lengthened jaws in place. Be sure to allow the glue to achieve full strength before putting the clothespin clamps into service.



Whether by accident or design, sometimes you need to join parts too delicate for clamping. You can't repair a thin scrollsawn piece with an ordinary clamp as it would crush the work. The same is true with a frame of delicate molding. When you are faced with these tricky tasks, "clamp" the joint with a piece of masking or painter's tape on your bench, sticky side up. Adhere the pieces together and press the joint to the tape. Once the adhesive sets, simply peel off the tape.

The next time you need small clamps, try filing off the teeth of some jumper-wire clips used by electricians. (You'll find these clips in the electrical-supply section at most hardware stores and auto-parts stores) The clips exert a lot of pressure, and their jaws open up to about 3/4".

Pipe clamps will dig right into the wood unless you put some protection between the jaws and the work. The

trouble is, you can't hold the pads in place, align the workpieces, and tighten the clamps with just two hands or even three.

If you attach the clamp pads to the jaws, you won't have to fuss with them when your hands are full. Cut pads to fit your particular clamps and drill a hole to fit the pipe. You want the large hole to fit the pipes yet allow free movement. To attach the pads to the jaws you could screw them in place, but an application of some hot-melt glue will work just as well. For further protection, glue a leather facing to the clamping area on the pad. When you cut out the pads, make the bottom a few inches wider than the original jaw face. The wide bottom allows you to stand the clamps on a bench or sawhorses for easier clamping.

Oh no! You're just about ready for a big glue-up project when you discover that your pipe clamps aren't quite long enough. Do you have to buy a whole new rack of pipes just to gain a few inches? Absolutely not. Just buy pipe couplings, instead of new pipes. These couplings come in short lengths and are threaded on the inside. Connect your too-short pipes with the couplings and you'll have more than enough pipe to do the work.

Those little yellow pads on one-handed bar clamps have a way of slipping off and getting lost. There is a simple solution to this issue. If you remove the pads and reverse them--that is, with the closed end toward the bar--they don't fall off.

There are companies bragging about how their clamps can hold odd-shaped workpieces, but nothing holds like a "bag-o-lead" clamping system. Plus, it's less expensive than those high priced specialty clamps.

To make some, purchase some 25-pound bags of #9 shot (for reloading shotgun shells) at a sporting goods store for about \$15 each (or contract this out from George Kuffle). When you need to glue up an unusual shape, put the piece to be clamped on your bench and put a bag or two of shot on top of it. They conform easily to most shapes.

The bags are pretty durable, but be careful not to puncture them. The shot is very small and even a tiny hole will quickly cover your shop floor with shot (also consult with George about this!).

If you always worry about marring the wood with your clamps during dry assembly or glue-up of a project, rather than buying the costly custom pads available for most clamps, purchase some hard-felt chair glides. They have self-adhesive backing and come in various sizes and shapes, so it's easy to find some that are just the right size for your clamps. *All of this from Wood Magazine and edited by Barry Humphus*