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### NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

The shop and studio of the Coy & Linda Bennett was our meeting place this month and Coy (The "Original" Tool Man) and was our hosts and presenter. While Coy is not a woodworker, he loves to collect woodworking and other tools, especially old ones. He has a remarkable collection of many hand tools—some that we've all seen or used and some that you'll find only in such collections.

Coy began by presenting a short history of



tool use, using some examples of his collection and of American Indian stone tools on display in his studio

Coy told the story of wanting to build a classic oak strip chair. He showed the set of old tools needed to do this including a brace and round tenon tool as well as several other tools used for the job. He never did the chair, but this collection started his interest in collecting tools.

Over the years, Coy's collection grew too large for his shop and he recently turned many of the duplicate items over to an auction house. For example, he had a large variety of wood-bodied planes (mostly molding planes) and a large collection of braces.

All of these and more will be auctioned December 8, 2002 in Welch starting at 1:00 p.m. To get there, enter Welch on Old Highway 90. See the large white building on the right when entering Welch

across from Tommy's Tire Repair. The auction starts at 1:00 p.m. and the doors open at 11:00 a.m. for viewing prior to the auction.

The fun part of the meeting was actually a guessing game. Coy would show us some strange or odd tool and ask the members to try to identify it. Rick Haught got several as did John Leonard Fontenot. Some, no one knew, including Coy, though he had some good guesses.

He showed us a couple of interesting sharpeners for double edged razor blades, a hog scraper, a hand operated drill press and many other bits and peices from America's industrial past. In short, the whole experience was a history lesson in innovative solutions to problems. Some of the solutions are still good ones today, but many have past into history.



### 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.

Coming Up . . . Saturday, December 9, 9:00 a.m. Special Christmas Meeting at the shop of Mikey & Gail Hart.

## AROUND YOUR HOUSE

With our recent experience with Hurricane Lili, some of us boarded up our homes. If you have a brick veneer house with standard reveals inside the window casing, you can use a product that makes boarding the house relatively quick.

This new product on the market is called PLYLOX. This is simply a spring steel clip that goes over the edges of 1/2 inch CDX plywood. These are great, but only if your home is made of brick veneer



or other similar materials. You must also have a considerable reveal on the window casing for these to work. You need to use at least four of them per plywood sheet. The plywood needs to be cut to about 1/2 inch less than the width of the casing. The PLYLOX is also pretty cheap at \$20 per bag of 20 — enough to do four average windows.

Note that on many brick homes, the reveal slopes inward as it get closer to the window. This means that you need to carefully measure (twice, as they say) the area between the reveals close to the window. Also, some bricks can stick out from the reveal more than others. This means that even an accurate measurement may not work when you try to jam the plywood into the casing.

The PLYLOX product information says that installation can be done by one person. Our experience is that if you have several days and a very strong back, you could do this. However, horsing a couple of 4 x 8 foot sheets of plywood over a sliding glass door opening, while positioning the PLYLOX clips

in the right places, really takes two people.

Another issue is the CDX plywood. It is only three layers and tends to warp very quickly after getting it home from the lumber supplier. The down side of buying a better grade is the cost. With CDX only about \$10 a sheet, its probably worth dealing with the warping wood.

If you don't have a brick home with a large reveal, you can't use the standard PLYLOX product. Or at least using them will possibly tear up your window casings if they are of wood, vinyl or aluminum and you have a reveal of at least 1-1/2".

PLYLOX also makes a commercial version of their product that requires 3/4 inch CDX. These clip onto the wood like the consumer version but use an allen screw to secure the clips to the casing. They will work on sliding glass doors & some other aluminum window casings with at least a 1-1/2 inch reveal, but they are expensive at \$4 each and again, you need at least four per opening.

The alternatives include real storm shutters (instead on the fake ones on many homes), accordion or roller covers (found on some Gulf Coastal homes and beach houses). Unfortunately, there are no quick solutions to boarding if you have a wooden frame house. Generally, the windows do not have more than a 1/2" reveal. So you have to do it the old fashion way: nails or screws.

Sliding glass doors are a particular chore, but I found that you can hang your plywood from the header above the door. To do this, purchase three large screw hooks per side of the door. These have a wood thread on one end and a hook on the other, i.e., giant cup hooks. Drill three pilot holes for the hook screws about 12" apart above the door and run the screws home. Dab a bit of silicone sealant around each one where it meets the wood. You should also paint these to match your house color — they practically disappear. Then bore three 1-1/2" holes about two inches down from the top of the plywood to match the distance between the hooks. When you are ready to mount them, just lift the board and hook the holes over the screw hooks and secure the bottom with a jam or screw. Jam or screw them good so they won't blow off and land on my house! *Barry Humphus*

## SANDPAPER SENSE

There's almost no more important tool in a workshop than sandpaper (even some carvers we know admit to using the stuff). Sandpaper is a cutting tool and what sandpaper does to wood is really no different from what a saw, plane or a chisel does. All of them have sharp points or edges that cut your wood. Sandpaper cuts on a much smaller scale and the only significant difference is that sandpaper can't be sharpened.

If you look at sandpaper really close, you'll see the sharp tips of the abrasive grains that look like small, irregularly shaped sawteeth. The grains are supported by a paper or cloth backing and a couple of adhesive bonds like saw teeth are supported by the blade. Sandpaper is pushed across wood and the abrasive grains dig into the surface to cut out small shavings (technically called swarf). To the eye, the shavings look like dust, but magnified, they look like the shavings produced by saws or other cutting tools.

For woodworkers, there are four basic types of abrasive and each has its uses and cost.

Aluminum oxide is a sharp and blocky mineral. It is the most common, all-purpose woodworking abrasive, and for good reason. It is the only abrasive mineral that fragments under the heat and pressure generated by sanding wood. This characteristic is called friability and is highly desirable. As you sand, aluminum oxide renews its cutting edges constantly, staying sharp and cutting much longer than other minerals.

Aluminum oxide is also a relatively tough abrasive, which means that its edges won't dull much before they fragment. Its friability and toughness make aluminum oxide the longest lasting and the most economical mineral.

But all aluminum oxides are not created equal. 3M alone manufactures 26 different kinds, ranging greatly in toughness and friability. The toughest grades are nearly white in their raw form and are used on premium-grade sandpapers. The softest grades are dark brown and more appropriate for sandblasting than sanding. Some cheap sandpapers have blast-grade aluminum oxide on them. No manufacturer is going to tell you which kind is on which sandpaper, however, and it's impossible to judge by the color of the sandpaper because a size coat covers and colors the mineral. If one brand's aluminum-oxide paper doesn't work well, don't judge all aluminum oxides by it. Simply try another.

Silicon carbide is black and iridescent, and the grains are shard-shaped. Unlike aluminum oxide, there is only one kind of silicon carbide. It is harder and sharper than most aluminum oxides, making it the better choice for cutting hard materials, such as finishes, paint, plastic and metal. Consequently, you'll probably find the widest range of silicon carbide sandpapers in a good auto body supply store.

Silicon carbide sandpaper for woodworking are almost always on waterproof paper and intended for sanding finishes. Though silicon carb is a friable mineral, it is so hard that sanding wood will not cause it to fragment and renew its cutting edges. Though it will sand faster at first, it will dull more quickly than aluminum oxide. It is also generally more expensive than aluminum oxide.

Ceramics come in a wide variety of shapes, from blocks and heavy wedges to flake-like shards. They're all more costly and less common than other abrasive minerals. All of them are very tough and very aggressive.

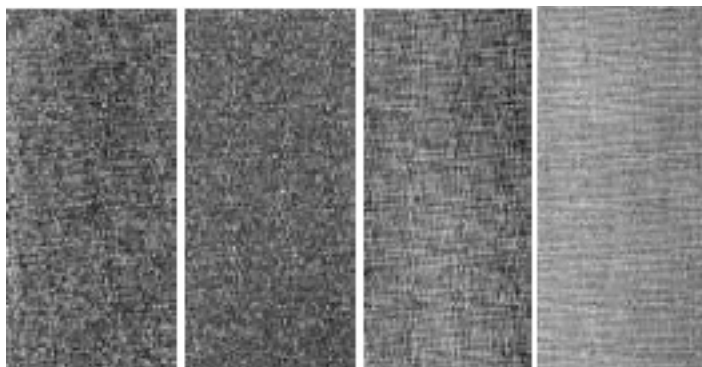
Like silicon carbide, ceramics are not friable, and do not renew their cutting edges when sanding wood. But they don't dull as quickly because of their extreme toughness. This makes them the best choice for hogging off stock, roughing out shapes, removing finish and leveling uneven boards. For this reason, they are generally available only in coarse-grit cloth belts for stationary and portable sanders.

Ceramic mineral names and the trade names they're sold under are not easy to sort out. Though Cubitron sounds like a trade name, it's a ceramic mineral. One of its trade names is *Cubicut*. When mixed with aluminum oxide, it's sold as Regalite. Aluminum zirconia is the name of a ceramic mineral. Sometimes it's marketed as aluminum zirconia, as if it were another type of mineral. It's also sold under the trade names Nozon and AZ as a ceramic mineral.

Abrasive manufacturers make these names intentionally confusing to avoid losing their copyrights. If a trade name becomes synonymous with the product in the public's mind (think of a thermos), then any company can use it.

Garnet is the only natural abrasive mineral still widely used for woodworking. Like aluminum oxide, it is blocky in shape. Unlike aluminum oxide, it is non-friable, not very tough and dulls very quickly. This is not necessarily a defect. The softer cut of a garnet paper, though slow, will produce the smoothest finish of all the abrasives within a given grit size. Because it is so soft, garnet will not leave pigtail-like scratches the way an aluminum oxide will when used on a random-orbit sander. This makes it well-suited for final sanding of wood surfaces.

Garnet is an excellent choice for final sanding end grain and blotch-prone wood. Garnet's peculiar tendency to burnish wood — close off pores — makes a stain penetrate far more evenly though less deeply. *Barry Humphus*



Alum Ox      Silicon Carb      Ceramic      Garnet