

Jeff Cormier, President
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Barry Humphus, Editor, Bubba Cheramie
George Kuffel, John Marcon, Chuck Middleton

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 Trough: 583-2683. Each has years of experience and knowledge.

November Meeting Highlights

An incredible new 60 x 40 foot shop awaited our meeting this month. Larry Cooper was the envy of everyone who attended and rightly so. In addition too the massive amount of floor space, it has two covered areas for those jobs that are just too large or messy for inside. It is heated and at some point will be air conditioned.

Larry is still considering where various stationary tools will go. When that phase is completed, he'll install the duct work for a full shop dust collection system. Larry said it took about three days for his contractor to assemble the steel building and then he spent several months laying the raised floor and installing electrical and insulation. His rolling wood rack is a wonder as well.

Very nice accessories include gas heat, a range and oven plus a sink and food preparation area. It reminded me of another great shop - that of Gayle and Micky Hart. And speaking of food, Mrs. Cooper fixed some mighty nice treats for us as well.

Because the floor is raised two feet off the ground, he plans to install the dust collection ducts under the floor and everyone looked forward to returning there in the coming year.



Larry and Leddie should certainly be proud of this fine place and we certainly appreciate their hosting us this month.

Show and Tell brought us a 1932 Ford from Pie Sonnier made of maple, ebony

ash and other woods. Bob Theaux brought a piece he made more than 55 years ago - a small multiple drawer jewelry case designed in the style of a chest of drawers made of maple. He left so early that morning, it still had his wife's jewelry intact.

Turner Gary Rock showed two Aspin bowls plus one of sycamore while Mr. Thibodeaux showed off a nice

scroll work book stand and a couple of his neat push sticks.

Joe Comeaux brought some turnings including nice perfume bottles from paddock, and corian plus a pen from mesquite. Jack Stegal showed a beautiful CD case of walnut he made for a relative - really fine work as well as a beautiful box.

Paul Filler brought a lovely collection of carved boxes out of persimmon that he had made for his wife. Very special work.



Jeff Cormier brought an oak box that was the door prize this month. We also had two guests - Frank Markins and Mrs. Markins of Houston, a friend of Larry Cooper's who was visiting and Paul Filler who became our newest member. And Paul, who loves to make boxes and doesn't need any was of course, the person who won the box that Jeff contributed.

Jeff discussed router safety. He reminded us that routers, because of their high speed, need special attention. For example, you should always wear eye protection, even a full face mask when using one manually. Also, you really should not use large bits in a hand held router, only a stationary setup. Of course, it also makes lots of sense to wait until a router (or any tool) spins down before you get close to the cutting edges.

There were discussions about dust collectors, Renaissance Wax and much more.

Jeff reminded members that it is time to pay your 2009 **annual dues**. Just see Dick Hopes (welcome back Dick) at the next meeting or mail your check for \$20 to Dick Hopes, 1139 Green Rd, Lake Charles, LA 70611.

Coming Up . . .

Saturday, December 13, 9:00 a.m. at the shop of Chuck and Charlene Middleton - Annual Holiday Feast

Shop Safety Checklist

Sure, you know your tools and materials. You've done it all before, right? But all the same, you can never take safety for granted. Here are a dozen things to ponder before you begin any woodworking project. Just like the launch of an airplane or the Space Shuttle, check them off one by one as pilots do in their places of work.

1) Do you know exactly what you're going to do, and feel like doing it? Think through the operation and each move you must make before you make them. And don't do anything with power tools if you're tired, angry, anxious, or in a hurry.

2) Is your work area clean? Keep your work area uncluttered, swept, and well lighted. The work space around equipment must be adequate to safely perform the job you're going to do.

3) What are you wearing? Don't wear loose clothing, work gloves, neck ties, rings, bracelets, or wristwatches. They can become entangled with moving parts. Tie back long hair or wear a cap.

4) Do you have the right blade or cutter for the job? Be sure that any blade or cutter you're going to use is clean and sharp so it will cut freely without being forced. Dull tools are a safety hazard.

5) Are all needed power tool guards in place? Guards — and anti-kickback devices — also must work. Check to see that they're in good condition and in position before operating the equipment.

6) Where are the start/stop switches? Ensure that all the woodworking machines you'll use have working start/stop buttons or switches within you're easy reach.

7) Are the power cords in good shape? Don't use tools with signs of power-cord damage; replace them. Only work with an extension cord that's the proper size for the job and route it so it won't be underfoot.

8) Do you have your power tools properly grounded? Tools other than double-insulated ones come with three-wire grounding systems that must be plugged into three-hole, grounded receptacles. Never remove the grounding prong from the plug.

9) Do you know what safety equipment you need for the job? Around cutting tools, always wear safety glasses, goggles, or a face shield. Add a dust mask when sanding. Wear hearing protection when required. (If you can't hear someone from 3' away, the machine is too loud and hearing damage may occur.)

10) Where are the chuck keys and wrenches? Check that all chuck keys, adjusting wrenches, and other small tools have been removed from the machine so they won't interfere with the operation.

11) Have you checked your stock? Inspect the wood you're going to use for nails, loose knots, and other materials. They can be hidden "bombs" that possibly may injure you or damage your equipment.

12) Where's your pushstick? Keep a pushstick or pushblock within reach before beginning any cut or machining operation. And avoid getting into awkward stances where a sudden slip could cause a hand to move into the blade or cutter.

Time For Power Tool Tune-up

This time of year when we are busy with things other than projects also may mean that it's time to consider checking the status of all of your power tools.

Just like a car, your woodworking equipment will work better and last longer with regular maintenance. How often do you need to stop building projects and start cleaning your machinery? That depends on how much you use a given tool.

If you work in the shop just now and then, set aside one Saturday every year for checking and cleaning tools. If you're running a table saw all day, every day, you should clean it every couple of weeks. Here are some essential maintenance steps for some common workshop equipment.

The Basics:

Power Cords. Check for frayed spots; check plugs for burned prongs. If you find any flaws, replace the cord and plug.

Motor Brushes. These actually are solid blocks of carbon. Some are accessible beneath two screw-on covers on the motor housing; others require removal of the housing. Replace the brushes if you find rainbow colors on a spring, a collapsed spring or a broken copper lead inside a spring. Also replace any brush that's worn down near or past the limit mark on its side or shows signs of burning or chipping.

Arcing. Peer through the vent slots while the motor is running. You should see small sparks at each brush. But if sparks trail around the motor, have the tool checked at a repair shop.

Grounding. Touch a continuity tester from the grounding prong on the plug to any metal on the tool. A reading shows that the tool is safely grounded.

General Procedures

Blow out dust from inside portable power tools by directing compressed air through the motor vents while the tool is running. Wear safety goggles, and don't use more than 50 pounds of pressure. Blast around drill chucks, too.

Remove rust from metal work surfaces with degreaser or rust penetrant and an abrasive pad. To protect against further rusting, spray with TopCote, available at woodworking suppliers or better yet, use Right Stuff available from automobile supplies. Allow either TopCote or Right Stuff to dry to a haze, then wipe it off.

Clean plastic parts with a damp cloth. Use water because chemical solvents can damage plastic.

Tool-Specific Steps

Tablesaw: Clean the moving parts with a stiff wire brush and citrus cleaner. Don't use water, which rusts cast iron. (Note: To get at all the key spots on a cabinet-style saw, you probably will have to remove the tabletop. This is a pain but then you can do a thorough cleaning job and lub while you are there).

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Saw blades: Spray them with oven cleaner, then buff them with a fine, knotted wire brush mounted in a drill. Citrus cleaner also works well to remove gunk from a table saw blade.

Router: Remove the collet, and clean the inside surface with a round, fine-bristle, brass brush. I found that a large caliber bore cleaner brush works very well. Clean the outside with steel wool or a nylon pad. Clean the subbase, and lubricate it with a Teflon lubricant or wax.

Plunge router: Clean the plunge rods with a fine abrasive pad, and lubricate them with ATF, graphite or wax.

Bandsaw: Clean off any sawdust that has packed between the blade and the tires, using a Scotch-Brite pad or a light wire brush. Replace the tires if they're cracked.

Radial-arm saw: Clean the track and rollers with a rag dipped in a 50/50 mixture of ammonia and water. Then lubricate with ATF (WD-40 will do), and wipe most of the oil off again. Also clean the column with a fine abrasive pad, spray it with ATF or WD-40, and wipe off.

General Procedures for Lubrication

Noisy gears or oil leaks behind the spindle indicate that the grease has broken down. Open the tool housing, and put a modest amount of medium-weight grease on the gears. Or, you might choose to take it to a tool repair shop.

Gearbox oil reservoirs require frequent checks. Top them off with 90-weight oil (e.g. ATF). You'll find these on such tools as stationary planers and worm-drive saws. Don't forget the power tools driven by an external motor such as a table or band saw. Most motors have one or two small caps at either end for lubrication and most folks just forget these. Open the caps and fill them with a 90 weight (i.e., ATF) oil.

Sealed bearings on most newer power tools require no lubrication. However, some less-expensive tools have an oil hole that opens onto a sponge, which feeds oil to a brass or bronze bushing. Apply only a few drops of light oil in that case.

Tool-Specific Steps

Table saw: Apply white lithium grease or powdered graphite on worm gears, bevel gears, and trunnion gears.

Belt sander: Spray white lithium grease on the needle bearings mounted on a shaft in the idler roller.

Planer: Some bigger and older machines have drive chains. Remove the side cover, and oil the chain. Spray Teflon lubricant or graphite onto the jackscrews that raise and lower the table or cutterhead. If your model has oil cups on top of the table, apply a few drops of oil in those. Check the rollers for build-up. Clean metal rollers with solvent and a fine wire brush, and clean rubber rollers with a hand scraper.

Drill press: Apply ATF, Teflon lubricant or graphite to the height-adjustment rack.

See to Those V-Belts

Cracks. If the machine vibrates as it shuts down, that could be a sign of belt problems. Check the belt, or belts, and replace any that are cracked. Always buy one of the same series and length. If the marking has worn off the old belt, take it to a supplier as a reference.

You can find local belt suppliers under "Power Transmission Equipment" in the Yellow Pages of your telephone book.

Tension. When you tap a belt with your hand, it should feel taut, not slack. If you push on it lightly, it should flex about 1/32" for every inch between the pulley centers. Adjust tension according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Performance. Spray a commercial belt dressing on the belt while the machine is running. This product reduces slippage and extends the life of the belt and is available at auto supply stores..

Pulleys. Make sure they're aligned properly with one another and tight on their shafts. Use Loc-Tite, available at hardware stores, on the threads of set screws to keep them secure.

