Alabama Woodworkers Guild

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FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

I hope each of you are enjoying a nice summer. Summer is a great time for families — weekend outings, vacations and various outdoor projects around the house for all to take part in. My family and I have spent a great deal of time this summer painting and fixing the house. I can truthfully tell you I enjoy woodworking a lot more than housekeeping.

We missed a lot of you at our last meeting. We had about 30 turn out and we all had fun turning a 4 x 4 stick of mahogany into a cabriole leg. From the look on most of your faces, I think you felt just like I did the first time I saw one done — it's not as difficult as I thought. It's really not. I hope some of you will experiment around and try your hand at one.

I hope you had been giving some thought to building some toys for our Christmas show this year. If any of you need any ideas or plans see my dad. He ordered several toy plan catalogues.

Well, there is not much else going on this summer with everyone in and out of town on vacation. We'll get back into full swing this fall. The clockbuilding class is winding up. Some of the finished works will be on display at our next meeting.

See you in August

Spruce McRee

NEXT MEETING

This month's meeting will be held in Fairfield at Gilberts & Traylors Cabinet Shop. We will have a general discussion of the set up and use of power tools. This should be at timely review for the experienced woodworker and a good introduction for the novice.

The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. Officers will meet at 6:15 p.m.

To get to the cabinet shop, take I-59 South to the Parkway Exit in Fairfield. Make a left at the bottom of the ramp. At the second traffic light, bear right (not a hard right) onto Gary Ave. The cabinet shop is at 4606 Gary. There's no sign on the shop yet but it's across the street from the AmSouth bank and next door to the Big Saver.

SHOP TIPS

These Shop Tips are reprinted from *Woodworker's Journal*

To make a fast cutting file/rasp (great for cleaning out mortises and other slots), cut equal lengths of bandsaw blade, then join them together by taping at the ends with black (electrical) tape. You can make it any width, just add blades as needed. Alternating the tooth direction of the blades will permit cutting both directions.

Richard Tolzman, Excelsior, Minn.

Some pieces of old rug come in handy around the workshop. When sanding, they can be put under the stock to protect it from scratches. Small pieces on the tops of sawhorses will serve the same purpose. Scraps can also be put on the floor when you need to tip a cabinet on its side to work on it.

Paul Levine, Sherman, Conn.

Keep a length of cotton clothes line handy for those touch-up staining jobs. Dip the end into the stain and use it like a small brush. When you're done, just snip the used part off. Next time, you've got a clean "brush" ready to use.

The child booster seat project featured in your September/October 1980 issued required a piece of one inch thick foam rubber. Rather than buy one inch material, I wanted to use some three inch thick foam rubber I had on hand. To my delight, I found that an electric knife cuts through foam rubber like a piece of cake.

Arthur E. St. Martin, Claremont, N.H.

Lead fishing sinkers make it easy to add weight to book ends. Simply bore ½in. diameter holes, then add sinkers as needed. A few drops of epoxy will hold them in place. Exposed holes can be plugged with ½in. diameter dowel plugs.

James E. Thompson, Lake Park, Fla.

If the bit in your portable drill or drill press is bent out of line try this trick: use a plastic mallet and turn the drill speed up to about 1000 R.P.M.'s, then give the drill bit a slight tap. Sometimes it will come back into perfect alignment with the first tap, sometimes it makes it worse. However, with patience and continued tapping, the bit will eventually straighten out.

Don Kinnaman, Phoenix, Ariz.

When many pieces require the same hole, and the hole is located near a corner, here's a jig that can save a lot of time. The jig is simply clamped to the drill press table so that the hole is properly located.

William Twiford, Nottoway, Va.

Soap or paraffin rubbed into the lathe dead-center end works better than oil - it won't drip out.

Don Kinnaman, Phoenix, Ariz.

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