

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME X NUMBER 4

APRIL 1992

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Show and Tell

I really do appreciate the number of things that were brought along for Show and Tell at the last meeting. One of the more enjoyable parts of my job is seeing and hearing about something that someone has built. Personally, I look forward to bringing something to the meeting and showing it and I believe that you will too if you will only try it once. Let's see some more projects from all the members.

Ron's Project

I don't know if you have had a chance to tour Ron Acton's latest addition to the store or not. If you or someone you know is anticipating building or remodeling your home entrance you need to see his display. You can get an idea of how the finished product will appear, and

even if you're not in the market right now, I know you will enjoy seeing Ron's handiwork.

Hugh Davies

I subscribe to many woodworking magazines, and when one arrives, I generally stop what I'm doing and thumb through it to get an idea of the construction articles that it has in it and also to see if anyone in the Guild has had anything published. I am sorry to say that I missed seeing Hugh's toy box picture in issue 19 of Today's Woodworker. It is a mighty fine picture of his project and once again I apologize for having overlooked it. You can contact Today's Woodworker at the following address:

Today's Woodworker Box 44 Rogers, MN 55374 A yearly subscription is about \$20.00 dollars.

Woodworking Classes

The woodworking classes that began in January have been completed. All the reports that I have are that the classes have been very successful and I am indebted to David Traylor for his patience for conducting the classes and also his willingness to have them in his shop. We need to make plans for the next class. Be thinking about what you would like to do next and let's discuss it at the April meeting.

Summer Show

It is time for you to start your project for our Summer Show at Sloss. Look around in your magazines for some project that you have always wanted to tackle, gather your materials and hardware

and get going. Maybe if you start now, we won't all be overcome with finishing fumes in the showroom during the Show!

A Longtime Guild Supporter

A support of the Alabama Woodworkers Guild for many years, Birmingham Saw Works has moved next door to their old location. They have

a <u>new</u> name
a <u>new</u> phone
a <u>new</u> address

Jos. Thurston and Sons Saw Works (205) 328-4300 928 North 28th St. (the blue building)

Let's support all of the businesses that support us!

See you at the April meeting.

Fred Baker

NEXT PROGRAM APRIL 9, 1992 • 7:00 P.M.

Dale Lewis, Vice-President and Program Chairman, reports so many of you have mentioned how much you have enjoyed programs when some of our members bring tools, jigs, pictures, partially or completed objects, and explain their

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use or worth, we are going to do it again. The presentations sound exciting, but since all of them are not firmed up yet we will not report any details here. He does mention slides and possibly a video tape, but whatever he and our talented members bring us we know from past meetings they will be interesting and educational. After all, the reason we attend our meetings is to come away knowing a little more about our favorite subject, woodworking. If you have a special thing you do, let Dale know about it.

LAST PROGRAM MARCH 1992

Mike Franklin made his second appearance with our Guild in March, 1992. Mike is the Senior Service Technician with Porter-Cable in our area. It is abundantly obvious Mike knows what he is talking about when he gets on his favorite subject maintenance of tools. He began his presentation with a true story about a customer who brought in a portable belt sander that had quit running because something had "choked" it down. When he examined it there was a piece of cloth caught in it, and then Mike noticed the man's shirt had a place torn out of it. You guessed it, the shirt had gotten caught in the running machine. All of us must repeat MUST — make ourselves be aware of what we are doing at all

from our machines. Mike got into brushes next. There are a multitude of brush sizes available, and it is absolutely essential that the proper size brush be placed in our tools when needed. Some of our tools are used only occasionally and remain on the shelf or hang on the wall until needed. Mike advises us to inspect our tools carefully when using one that has set up for a while. When the tool is turned on look through the air grill and see if there are sparks, and if so take the brushes out and wipe them clean and clean out the brush area. Then to extension cords. He says too many of us do not use properly sized extension cords. He warned us about letting the looks of the cable fool us into thinking just because it is large looking on the outside it is large enough on the inside. In other words, check the amps of the tool before buying an extension cord. Then he suggested if we want to be kind to the motors that power our tools we should keep the blades or cutters lubricated properly. By lubricating our router bits and saw blades with one of the dry lubricants available today we cut down on the "pull" we put on our motors. Oh yes, with regard to routers turned upside down in a router table, he suggests we put a piece of panty hose over the grill that is facing upward to filter fine dust out of the motor. We appreciate Mr. Franklin sharing his expertise with us.

times and keep loose clothing away

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STOCK PREPARATION

One of the key ingredients for a successful project

by Fred Baker February 6, 1992

Many projects fail because inadequate thought was given to the preparation of stock prior to the actual point where it's needed. In all projects, necessary lengths, widths and thicknesses are required and provision for these should be thought out in advance.

ROUGH STOCK

If you have a thickness planer at your disposal, purchasing rough stock for a project is probably the most cost effective method. Rough hardwood stock is sold in random lengths and widths. The thickness is stated in quarters of an inch, for instance four quarter or five quarter and so on. Four quarter stock can be thicknessed to 13/16". The price of hardwood stock is quoted in terms of board feet. A board foot is 12" x 12" x 1". If a certain four quarter board is eight feet in length and six inches in width and is priced at \$2.65 per board foot the cost of the board will be \$10.60 before taxes. Here is how this works:

8 feet x 12 inches/foot = 96 inches length of board x 6 inches width of board 576 square inches in board

Since the board is four quarter, multiply the number of square inches by 1" to determine the number of cubic inches of material. In this case the result is 576 cubic inches. Next divide the number of cubic inches by 144 cubic inches/cubic foot to determine the board feet.

576 cubic inches / 144 cubic inches/cubic foot = 4 board feet

Multiply the board feet by the cost/board foot for your cost.

4 board feet x \$2.65 = \$10.60

If the board had been five quarter (5/4), 576 square inches would have been multiplied by 1.5 resulting in 864 cubic inches in the board. Then when that amount is divided by 144 the result is six board feet. The cost of the 5/4 board is \$15.90.

Generally, the woodworker will examine the plan and calculate the number of board feet necessary for the project. It is probably wise to increase the amount purchased by 15% to allow for cutting, waste and unusable material. When

purchasing the stock, try to visualize how you will make your cuts so you are purchasing an adequate amount.

GLUE UP AND THICKNESSING

Prior to the thicknessing operation, the stock must be flattened on one side. Remember that the purpose of the thickness planer is to cause one side of the stock to be parallel to the other side. If one side is not flat at the outset, the thicknesser cannot create a flat side on its own.

I have found that if a width of more than four inches of stock is required for a project, I have more success by ripping the rough material, jointing each edge and then gluing the stock back together prior to thicknessing. When using this procedure, make sure that the pieces aren't turned end to end. Keep the grain going in the same direction. It is a good idea to mark the boards on their end with a pencil to note the grain direction. I mark the end that comes off the jointer outfeed table. The width of the glued up pieces should be slightly less than the width of your jointer so that when the glue has set and the excess glue has been scraped off, the piece can be flattened on one side prior to thicknessing. It is best to prepare all the stock and thickness it all at once. It is difficult to come back later and achieve the exact thickness that you had on a previous run. During the thicknessing process, it will be helpful to have an assistant to offload material. Best results will be achieved by continuously feeding material into the machine. Start a piece and then butt another one up to the end of it so that feeding is unbroken. This process helps to prevent snipe. Have a scrap piece available for the last piece through the machine. Pay attention to the mark on the end of the material and feed the material in the proper grain direction. Do not run any pieces that are shorter than the distance between the feed rollers on your thicknesser. Wear ear protection and use some method of dust and chip collection.

JOINTING AND RIPPING STOCK

Once the desired thickness has been achieved, the stock should be jointed on one side prior to ripping to width. Pay careful attention once again to the grain direction as you feed material into the jointer. As each piece is jointed, stack the stock with the jointed side on the right side of the pile. This will be useful in determining the orientation of the pieces when they are ripped. Keep the jointed side next to the rip fence during the ripping operation. Allow an amount of extra stock during ripping for jointing after all the ripping has been finished. It is a good idea to rip some extra widths that can be used

for machine setup and spoilage. Certainly no woodworker deliberately spoils any piece but sometimes it happens.

SOUARING THE STOCK

I made a sliding table for my table saw that I use a lot. It is a simple affair — a piece of plywood that is good on both sides with a hardwood fence glued and screwed to the front edge of the plywood. A hardwood runner sized to fit the miter gauge slot was carefully positioned to the underside of the plywood then the entire arrangement was passed through the table saw so as to cut the plywood and the fence off right at the blade. I purchased a self-stick flexible rule and fastened it to the fence. The rule is one that reads right to left. Care should be taken to have the fence at ninety degrees with respect to the saw blade and have the hardwood runner parallel with the blade. I rubbed some paste wax on the runner prior to its use.

If you use the miter gauge that came with your saw for squaring the stock, make sure that it is perpendicular to the saw blade prior to use. It is also helpful to attach a piece of hardwood to the miter gauge and glue a piece of 100 grit sandpaper to the hardwood. This sure keeps the stock from slipping during the squaring operation.

If the radial arm saw is used for squaring stock, make sure that the blade is perpendicular to the saw fence and that the blade is perpendicular to the saw table prior to the saws' use.

When squaring stock, cut at least 1/4" material from the end of each piece. Rotate the stock end for end and keep the same side of the stock against the fence for both cuts. If less than 1/4" of material is cut off, sometimes chipping can occur. It is less likely to happen if more stock is removed. Keep the saw table cleared during this operation. Sometimes small pieces lying on the table can be picked up and hurled at the operator. Wear eye and dust protection when sawing.

CUTTING TO FINAL LENGTH

Clamp a stop block on the fence of the sliding table or radial arm saw prior to cutting for final length. Study the drawing of the project and layout all the material for each particular length. If you have some extra material, cut a few extra pieces just in case something has to be replaced later one. Happy woodworking!

SHOW AND TELL

This is becoming a high point at our meetings. It is amazing the amount of talent we have in our Guild, and it is demonstrated more and more as this segment of our meeting grows in interest. As President Fred said, we hope even more of the members will share their projects with us. At the March meeting the following were presented:

NAME	OBJECT
Fred Baker	Spice cabinet with nine drawers.
Fred Baker	Machinist tool box.
Michael Healy	Table - End, with
	disappearing side rails
	when drawer is removed.
John Taylor	Oak rocking chair and
	drilling jig for arms
	and legs.
Ivan Kronberg	Two lovely bowls of
	Soft Maple and Oak
	burls.
Leonard Sanders	Bowl made of Boxelder.
Ed Sheriff	Adjustable marker of
	Ebony and brass.
Mary Spanos	Spinning wheel, custom
	made for her, modified
	for her by Frank Jones
	so she could spin from
	"other" side.
Hugh Craig	Silhouettes of vintage
	cars made on scroll saw
	in variety of woods.

NOTE OF APPRECIATION

As reported last month we were asked (the Guild) if we would make a hat and coat rack for the foyer at the Helena United Methodist Church in lieu of our cash donation for use of their social hall at Christmas. We were happy to comply and, as reported previously, Frank Jones undertook to make the rack. We received a lovely

thank-you note from the Church, and we are all glad they are pleased with it.

DUES - DUES - DUES

Sorry to have to bring this up again, but apparently a few have forgotten or just haven't gotten around to taking care of this matter. We don't think we have exorbitant dues at \$20 a year and with what you get for it - eleven meetings and a Christmas party, a monthly newsletter and seminars in Spring and Fall. Your Directors voted to extend the deadline for inclusion in the roster until March 31st. Hope you made it (since you will be reading this after that date) but if not, please call Cliff Saxon at 823-4467 and tell him the check is in the mail. We want the roster to be up to date, but also we want it to be the useful tool it is when we want to contact a member about a piece of wood, a tool, a technique or seeking advice. Get 'em (dues) in, guys and gals.

DOOR PRIZE

Following our practice of awarding a door prize to a lucky member who took the trouble to sign in upon arrival, there was a gallon of Elmer's Carpenter Glue awarded to Bob Hofer.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our most celebrated woodworker has done it again. Dale Lewis, in

addition to having pictures of some of his work published in well-known woodworking magazines, also shows his work in galleries or professional shows. He had an exhibit on display at the Little House on Linden on Homewood until April 4th. We take pride in having Dale as one of us and value his advice and counsel. Then there is Ed Sheriff who will have an article on jewelry box making in an upcoming issue of AMERICAN WOODWORKER which we will all be watching for. In the President's Letter mention is made of another of our members, Hugh Davies, has a picture in TODAY'S WOODWORKER. Our members are gradually getting the recognition they richly deserve.

BIRMINGHAM SAW WORKS

A long-time supporter of our Guild has changed its name and moved into the building next door. They are now known as JOS. THUSTON & SONS SAW WORKS, 928 North 28th Street, Phone 328-4300. We are assured by Mr. Thuston that Joey Jones will continue to be there to meet our needs, and that the fine tools they sell will be available as before. The Guild appreciates the contributions of postage for our NEWSLETTER and the tools as prizes for special occasions we have received down through the years.

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The Alabama Woodworkers Guild P. O. Box 506

P. O. Box 506 Helena, AL 35080



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