

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XII NUMBER 3

MARCH 1994

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Did you see the most recent issue of WOODWORK Magazine? Dale Lewis had a full page of very fine furniture in the Gallery. Two thumbs up, Dale! Additionally, did you read the articles on dust collection? Deja vous! Everything that was said in last month's program was repeated in the articles. Many thanks to Fred Baker, Dan Browning, Leonard Sanders and Richard Brewer for an excellent program on dust collection. My asthma is better already.

Contained elsewhere in this issue is a schedule for Saturday visits to a number of member's shops. This should be an opportunity for members to see a variety of shop setups and get ideas to take back to their own. On Saturday, March 26 John Tow and Fred Baker will have their shops open from 9 till 12 to receive visitors. John and Fred live fairly close together in the Grayson Valley/Chalkville area. Take I59 north to Exit 141 which is the Trussville-Pinson exit and turn northwest on Chalkville Mt. Road. For Fred's house, turn left at the stop light at Grayson Valley Drive, pass the country club, and his house is at the four-way stop at 2100 Grayson Valley Drive. For John's house, continue on out Chalkville Mt. Road past the Winn-Dixie to the Baggett Drive stop light. Turn right and his house is the 7th house on the left — Number 5260 Baggett Drive. Thank-you very much in advance for your hospitality, John and Fred.

Two portions of the monthly meetings are clearly indicative of the success of the

Guild—those of the program and show-and-tell. These are the magnets that bring people to the meetings. Richard Brewer is most certainly committed to bringing you the best possible programs—those that you want. The other, show-and-tell, is really up to the membership. If you have a new woodwork project that you like, bring it in. Tell us why you made it, what it's made of, how you made it, what mistakes you made, how you corrected them, what the finish is, and how it was received. And incidentally, show-and-tell could be your practice session for presenting your own program and becoming—an instantly famous master craftsman!

In an effort to attract more members, I've had printed small pads of invitations to our monthly meetings to be placed in likely places of business. These are intended to attract people who don't know we exist. So far they have been accepted at HGH Hardware, Huffstutler's Hardware, Acton Hardware and Supply, Alabama Lumber and Supply, Thuston Saw, Kentek Tool and Black and Decker. I'd like some help in placing them at other stores, so if you have a place in mind, see me and I'll give you a few. When you buy from these organizations, let them know you are a Guild member. And bring a guest yourself.

Don't forget the Annual Show at Sloss Furnace the last half of August. Make the sawdust fly (into your dust collection system) and win a ribbon.

See you Thursday, March 10 at 7:00 PM.

Ed Sheriff

NEXT PROGRAM MARCH 10, 1994 • 7:00 PM

We have another outstanding program coming at our next meeting. Richard Brewer, V-P and Program Chairman, has invited Mr. Bobby Michaelson, owner and operator of RAMWOOD, a furniture designer and manufacturer. Mr. Michaelson is a member of the A.D.C., the designer organization and the same group to which our own Ethel Owens and Dale Lewis belong. RAMWOOD specializes in high grade, superior furniture making. There is no doubt there is a lot to be learned from Bobby at the next meeting.

LAST PROGRAM FEBRUARY 1994

If you were there you know the subject of this meeting was dust collecting. Richard invited several of our members to demonstrate and/or describe their dust collecting. Fred Baker, our scholar and studious past president, shared with us several books he recommends consulting if you have any plans to improve your dust collecting. There are three publications he recommends: Fine Woodworking, Dust Collecting Basics, and Time-Life Books. Check our library. All three are very informative and won't lead you wrong. Dan Browning introduced us to his splendid central collecting system. He uses a 2 HP Grizzly collector, situated in one corner of his shop. It took about 60 feet of three and four inch PVC pipe to run lines

from each machine to the central collector. He uses flexible hoses for attaching to the machine, and each machine has a blast gate in the pipe. He keeps all blast gates closed except for the machine he is running, thus concentrating the volume of air being pulled by the central collector. He estimates he has a little over \$500 invested in his system but is pleased with the results. He had a diagram of his shop and the lines he had to run. He referred us to WOOD Magazine, June 1991 and WOOD magazine September 1992. Thank you, Dan. Next came Leonard Sanders with his combination sanding table and dust collector. It consists of a box measuring 40" long, 24" wide and 30" deep. The top is made of a sheet of peg board with the holes enlarged slightly to admit more dust. Just under the top are two 20" x 20" pleated furnace filters. Powering it is a furnace blower which draws the dust through the peg board and the filters and the clean air is exhausted out the end of the box. When doing a lot of fine sanding elsewhere a lot of the fine dust is collected. Plans for this collector were featured in February 1993 issue of SHOPSMITH. Then our VP introduced us to his Rube Goldberg collector. Using a 30" high trash basket with a top, he attached a leaf blower/vacuum. Believe it or not, it works. A little noisy, perhaps, but it works. And so went the program.

ANNUAL SHOW

It is certainly not too early to be thinking about our annual show coming up in August. Many of you have never participated in our show. Maybe "show" isn't the proper way to describe our annual effort. Maybe we should call it the annual Show and Tell similar to our regular meeting feature each month. All we are

trying to do is encourage our members to bring their work to a central location where we can see what each other is doing in his shop. Please don't be frightened away by the fact the show will be judged. That just means a qualified judge will critique our work and award ribbons to some of us. Just because you don't win a ribbon doesn't mean you haven't done well, it just means someone else has done better in the eyes of the judge. There is nothing wrong with not winning a ribbon. Most of the work entered does not win a ribbon so there is no reason for you to hold back on that account. It is great fun to see each other's work as you will discover if you will just bite the bullet and enter some of your work. There are several categories — Traditional, Contemporary, Small Objects, Turned Objects just to name a few. Please give serious consideration to entering this year. The Show will be held, again this year, at Sloss Furnace during the Cudzu Festival. There will be more on this subject each month up until the last minute.

FIELD TRIP

We had such a good time last year visiting the DELTA plant in Mississippi that we want to do something like it again. Under consideration is the International Woodworker's Show in Atlanta. To do it in one day will require leaving here early in the morning and returning late in the evening. More about this later.

ALABAMA WOODWORKERS GUILD BOOTH

Long time member, Charley Brown, made an excellent suggestion. After our fine program on Art and Craft Fairs in February, Charley has suggested we, the Guild, reserve space at a show and let some of our Guild members display their works for sale to the public. What a great idea. This is going to be investigated and more will be forthcoming.

ACTON'S GIFT

We are certainly blessed to have Ron and Sue Acton provide us with a place to hold our meetings. It is convenient to shop for our supplies before and after the meetings and we appreciate this very much. Ron, being the generous fellow he is, tabulates the purchases we Guild

members make with him each month and gives us a check representing the profit derived from those purchases for us in staging seminars for the benefit of our members. The check for January was \$64.15, and we appreciate it.

DOOR PRIZE

It is always nice to have guests/visitors. The gentleman, who was a guest, was Bob Powers, and he got the \$15 gift certificate. Congratulations, Bob.

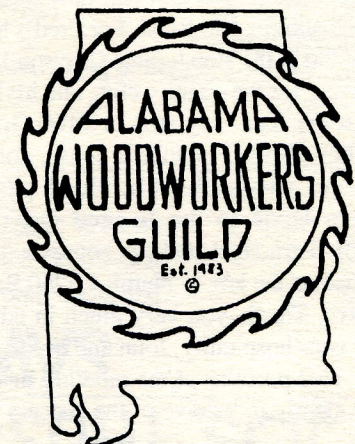
SHOW AND TELL

At the January Meeting Ben Neighbors, Toys for Tots guru, asked for volunteers to make some wheel chair desks for the Children's Hospital. Frank Jones and Ben Angwin volunteered and had their desks at the February meeting. They were made of plywood with a cut-out to go around the body and rest on the arms of the wheel chair. Thank you Frank and Ben, the children are winners, but you are too. Then Ivan Kronberg had a couple of his incomparable turnings: a red maple burl bowl and an Elm shallow bowl (really, a plate). Thanks, Ivan.

BUY — SELL — SWAP — TRADE

We wish more of you would make use of this space in the newsletter. This month we have: DELTA 10" Table Saw with 6" Planer/Jointer attached on the side, all using the same 3/4 HP belt driven motor, and it has a cast iron table. Roy Kostner may be called at 967-0192, and he will discuss the \$350 he wants for it.

Alabama Woodworkers Guild Newsletter is published monthly for its members and other interested parties. Guild meetings are held monthly on the second Thursday at 7:00 P.M. at Acton Moulding & Supply Co. Information concerning the Guild may be secured by writing P.O. Box 506, Helena, Al 35080 or calling the Editor, Leonard Sanders, at 822-6876.



OPEN SHOPS

President Ed Sheriff has announced the following schedule for openhouses at member's shops. There will be two "openshops" on the same Saturday morning 9:00 AM till Noon for the next four months. Others may follow. An effort was made to locate the two shops as close together as possible. The host will expect you between the times indicated—either one you wish to visit first.

March 26	John Tow Fred Baker	Chalkville Grayson Valley
April 23	Brewers Dan Browning	Hoover Hoover
May 21	Frank Jones Dale Lewis	Maylene Calera
June 18	Richard McRee Ed Sheriff	Sunny Meadow Inverness

Further instructions on how to find the shops will be included in the newsletter prior to the visit—see the president's letter for the March visit. These openshops will be an opportunity to see the environment in which other craftsmen do their work and the tools they use to do it. This should be an excellent way to bring sound ideas and tested methods back to your own shop.

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WOOD Magazine:

MULTIPLE-PASS ROUTER CUTS GO QUICKLY

You like to make certain cuts with your table-mounted router in steps, cutting a little deeper each time. What you don't like is reaching under the table to adjust the router $\frac{1}{16}$ " or $\frac{1}{8}$ " after each cut—it sure slows down the job.

TIP: Set your router to the final cut depth, and then leave it there. Now, make your depth adjustments by laying several pieces of thin cardboard, artist's mat board, or poster board (all available from art-supply dealers and some crafts shops), or even $\frac{1}{8}$ " hardboard on the router table. Each piece must be wide enough and extend far enough past the bit on each side to support your workpiece properly. Cut a hole in each piece for the router bit to protrude through, and secure the pieces to the table with double-faced tape.

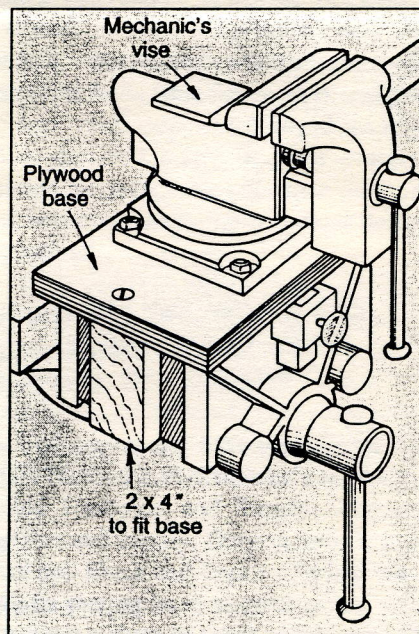
Make your first cut with all of the shims in place. Remove one for each subsequent pass until you've removed them all for the

final cut. Each one you remove increases your depth of cut by its thickness, so you never have to mess with the router.

BENCH VISE STAYS SCARCE UNTIL YOU NEED IT

A mechanic's bench vise often comes in handy in a woodworking shop, but it isn't very handy to have it taking up most of a corner of the bench when you're not using it.

TIP: Mount the vise on a base that clamps into your woodworking vise. Cut a piece of $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood as long as your woodworking vise's jaws, and about 1" wider than the width of the mechanic's vise. Mark and drill the plywood for $\frac{3}{8}$ " or $\frac{1}{2}$ " T-nuts or threaded inserts (depending on the vise's mounting-bolt size). Cut a piece of 2x4 to fit lengthwise along the center of the bottom of the plywood. Fasten the narrow edge of the 2x4 against the plywood with screws and glue. Bolt the mechanic's vise to the base assembly. Store the vise and base assembly out of the way. Then, when you need the mechanic's vise, just secure the base in your woodworker's vise.



BENCHTOP EQUIPMENT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE ON THE BENCH

With benchtop space at a premium for most of us, permanently mounting power tools is out of the question. Here are two approaches to quick, solid temporary mounting.

TIP 1: Turn your tablesaw into a tool stand. First, cut a $\frac{3}{4}$ "-thick auxiliary base for the tool. On the underside, attach a strip that fits your saw's miter-gauge groove.

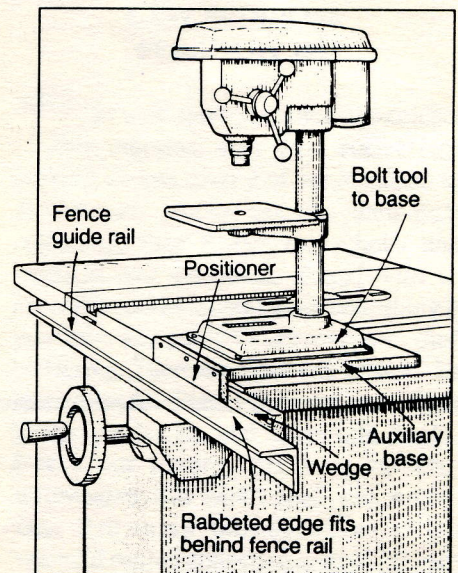
Then, rabbet one edge of another piece of $\frac{3}{4}$ " stock, forming a lip that fits between the table edge and rip-fence guide rail. Attach this positioner to the front edge of the auxiliary base, perpendicular to the miter-gauge strip, rabbet facing out. Mount the tool.

To set up, place the auxiliary base on the saw table (the miter-gauge strip locates it). Secure it with a wedge between the edge of the table and the backside of the positioner.

TIP 2: Look to your lathe for a rock-solid tool stand. The lathe bed makes an ideal platform for benchtop tools.

Cut an auxiliary base large enough to accommodate the tool and span the lathe bed. Next, provide a means to clamp it to the bed. In most cases, a simple nut, bolt, and clamping-block arrangement will do the trick. You could use U-bolts or a yoke for a lathe with tubular ways.

Fasten the tool to the auxiliary base. Then, to use the tool, slide the tailstock up out of the way, set the mounted tool on the lathe bed, and clamp it.



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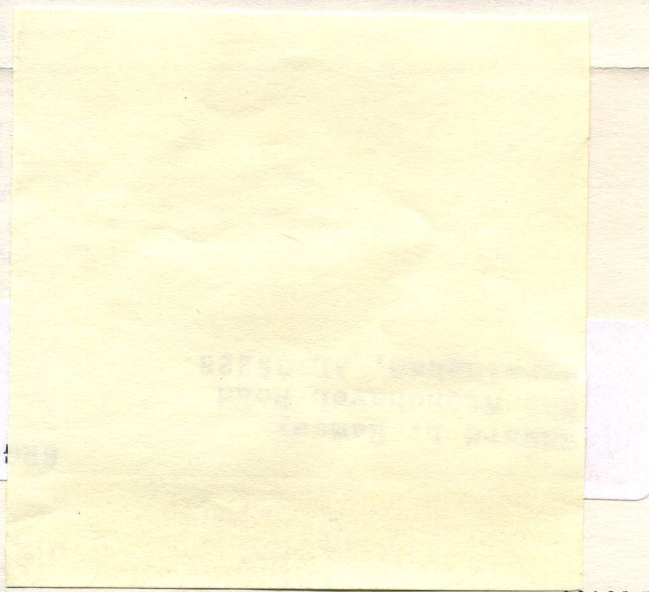
Watch for Guild Night
Specials!



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8 TO 6 M-F — 7 to 12 Sat.



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