

# LAKE CHARLES WOODWORKERS CLUB, INC. FEBRUARY 1998

## Officers

John Marcon, President  
Bob Ferguson, Treas. & Newsletter Editor

## Board of Directors

Brent Evans                      George Kuffel  
Barry Humphus                John Perry

## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The January meeting was held in John Marcon's shop with 18 persons attending. The main event was a discussion of wood finishing materials and techniques by Gary Breaux of South City Paint Co. Gary indicated that they specialize in premade, off the shelf items rather than mixtures. He discussed wood preparation techniques including sanding, and filling, staining, stain-finish combinations, finishes and after-finish treatments. This was an outstanding program. Your editor would not attempt to reconstruct the presentation but Gary made a number of observations which should be passed on to you. These include the following:

### Sanding

Avoid oversanding. This could seal the grain and block oil staining.

### Filling

After filling, resand the entire surface to remove the shadow effect.

When filling, sand before the filler is completely dry. The combination of filler and sanding dust will provide a better staining surface.

Putty filling should be done only after applying at least one coat of finish.

Latex fillers are improving staining performance.

A filler can be thickened with whiting.

### Steel Wool

Gary considers steel wool to be dangerous because it can contribute to a flammability condition in some situations. In addition, the steel particles will stick to the wood and could contribute to rust staining later under some conditions.

Synthetic wools, such as Scotch-Brite are considered excellent substitutes for steel wool.

## Staining

Blotching, which is a big problem with soft woods, can be combated by

- use of a wood conditioner
- choosing a better stain (different variety)
- experimenting with your technique.

## Stains

- **Minwax** - Deep penetration (sometimes too deep) with long edge time.
- **Wiping** - Good for blotching problem. Provides less grain distinction. Should avoid large areas.
- **Gel Stain** - Good coloration but very light penetration. Will accept multiple coats. Is solvent based and provides some finish.
- **Latex** - Strikes into wood fast and will lap. Good for hard wood. Actually film-forming and not good penetration for grain highlighting.

## NEXT MEETING

Feb. 14, 1998 at 9:00 a.m. at  
Crookshank's Custom Cabinets  
& Woodworks  
1858 Easy Street      (Directions  
Lake Charles, LA      on page 2)

**Subject:** - A view of cabinet making and  
their latest commercial  
equipment.

## FUTURE MEETINGS

Mar. 14      Sharpening Tools by Steve  
LeGrue of The Cutting Edge

Apr. 4      A Visit to Cal Cam Cabinets



- **Polyurethane/Stain Combinations.** Overlapping is a problem. Good for overlaying a finished piece.
- **Woodsheen** - A stain with more oil than urethane. A wiping finish but not much penetration.
- **Watco Danish Oil Finish** - Deep penetration. Considered outstanding combination of stain and finish.

### Finishes

- **Polyurethane** - Good for surfaces which will see heavy use.
- **Sanding Sealer** - Not for use with polyurethane finishes.
- **Lacquer (Deft)** - Good finish. Brushable. Requires low humidity condition when applying.
- **Water-Born (Polyacrylic)** - Poorer adhesion. Buffers the oils in some woods.
- **Bartley Clear Varnish** - A good wiping finish. More durable.
- **Boiled Linseed Oil/ Tung Oils** - Good preservative finishes.

### After Finishes

- **Watco Finishing Wax** - Comes in colorless and dark color form.
- **Pumice & Rotten Stone polishing**

### SHOW & TELL

Bubba Cheramie showed us a wooden toy Jeep which he recently created for a girl who wanted to share in the joy of a boyish activity.

### ARTISANS GALLERY

The list of individuals who volunteered to assist at the Artisans Gallery by filling in for vacancies has grown to include Ray Krull and Norman Robinson. We appreciate their support.

### NEW MEMBER

We are pleased to announce that the following individual has become a member:

Debra Brown  
3425 Sarver Street  
Lake Charles, LA 70605

### SPECIAL MEETING CHANGE

Our April meeting will be held on the first Saturday of the month to avoid a conflict with Easter. There will be another reminder later.

### MEETING LOCATOR

To reach Crookshank's Custom Cabinets & Woodworks go south on Nelson Road a distance of 1.7 miles from Country Club Road. Turn right onto Easy Street (Roto-Rooter is on the corner). Crookshank's is in the long building on the right.

### ANNUAL DUES RENEWAL

A special invoice is included with this issue of the newsletter for all of those individuals who have not renewed their membership to date. It is important that we receive your renewal soon so that we may complete our planning for the year.

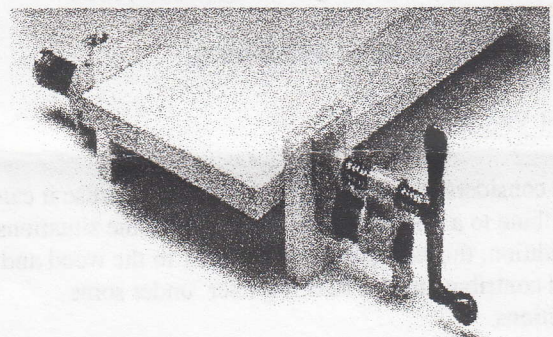
If you lose the invoice, you may still send your \$20.00 payment to the Treasurer by mailing to the address below or bring to one of the next several meetings. Please make out all checks to Robert Ferguson (The club does not have a checking account).

Robert Ferguson  
2326 22nd Street  
Lake Charles, LA 70601

### TOOL TIP: PIPE CLAMP BLOCKS

Tightening a pipe clamp can be a real knuckle buster when the pipe clamp sits on the Workbench. So I made a couple 1/2"-thick wood spacer blocks to raise the pipe clamps up and make it easy to turn the handle.

These clamp blocks have the added advantage of acting as clamp pads to protect the workpiece from the clamps.





## From The Internet\*

### Oil Finishes: The Process ( Author Unknown)

Many woodworkers like to use oil finishes instead of lacquer, varnish, polyurethane or waterbased finishes because oil finishes are much easier to apply and much more forgiving when mistakes happen. However, one of the main drawbacks of an oil finish is that one cannot achieve a glass smooth finish on open pored woods (like oak, mahogany etc.) like one can when applying a lacquer, varnish poly or other topcoat finish. When using a topcoat finish on open pored woods, you can either build up the finish by applying multiple coats and sanding back down until the pores have been filled or you can first apply a paste filler to fill the pores, then apply a topcoat finish. Oil finishes are thinner and contain much less solids than topcoat finishes, therefore it would not be practical to apply multiple coats and sand back until the pores have been filled. This would take much too long. Also oil finishes need to penetrate the wood in order to work properly. Once the finish penetrates, the solvents evaporate and the resins solidify actually making the wood itself harder. If the pores have been filled with paste filler (which is silica) a very finely ground glass, the oil finish will not be able to penetrate the filler.

Over the years I have developed and refined the process of wet sanding on open pored wood. The following is the method I currently use:

1. Prepare the wood by sanding with coarse (100 grit), medium (180 grit), and fine (240 grit) sandpaper. Make sure to wipe off all sawdust after sanding.
2. Apply a generous amount (almost flood the surface) of Watco Danish Oil to the surface.
3. Over the years I have found that it is better to use 320 grit silicon carbide wet or dry paper rather than 600 grit. The 320 grit paper will create the paste quickly and the paste will fill the pores better. Immediately after the Watco Danish Oil has been applied (while it is still wet on the surface) wrap a piece of 320 paper around a sanding block and start to wet sand with the grain. Continue to oil and wet sand until you feel enough of the paste has been worked down into the pores.
4. There will still be a substantial amount of paste left on the surface. Don't wipe it off right away. Let the surface dry for about 10 minutes, then wipe off the excess paste using a lint free rag. Wipe against the grain, trying to cut the paste off at the surface, this way the paste in the pores will remain and not be pulled out. Let dry overnight.
5. Before you continue, there may be a small amount of paste that is still on the surface. This needs to be removed, if not visible now, it will be when you apply additional coats. Because this has dried overnight, you will need to sand it off. Take another piece of 320 grit paper, wrap it around a block and DRY SAND lightly with the grain. You need only to take a few passes, just enough to remove any excess paste that has remained on the surface.
6. I have also determined that in most cases wet sanding need only be done on the first application. Therefore, you need only wet sand once (in step 4). Now it is just a matter of applying additional coats of Watco (without wet sanding) until you achieve enough protection and the desired sheen. Usually I apply three to four additional coats after the first wet sanding coat. I let each coat dry overnight and very lightly scuff between coats with 0000 steel wool.
7. After the last coat has been applied, I let the finish cure about 1 week and apply a coat of quality paste wax. That's it. Try it, I am sure you will be very happy with the results.

\* **Editor's Note:** Since finishing was this month's subject of interest, I thought that this item might add to our total information bank.