

Southwest Louisiana Woodworkers Club July 2021

Bill Fey, President
Patrick LaPoint Treasurer

Officers and Directors

Barry Humphus, Editor, Eltee Thibodeaux
Daren Hood, John Marcon

Mentoring Program - If you have a project, a problem in any woodworking area, these members have volunteered to help. Give them a call. Frank Tartarmella 802-8989; Eltee Thibodeaux: 436-1997; Ray Kebodeaux: 583-2378. Each have years of experience and knowledge.

June Meeting Highlights

We had a great meeting at the home of Patrick LaPoint and Patrick was kind enough to take a few notes because Barry was running late (dealing with a contractor).

Sadley, we have lost a long-time member, Robin Richard. Robin was a great engineer with PPG and other firms. We also understand that long-time member J.W. Anderson had a stroke and is recovering. We also understand that long-time member John Marcon is now living in the Houston area.

We have a new member, Mr. David Wilber in addition to Joseph Eastom as well as guests this month of Mr. Keith Hanagrithft as well as Mr. Jay Brooks.

It was mentioned that we need to elect a new President of the club, a new Secretary and Editor. Barry volunteered to continue to be the editor of the web site and newsletter until at least mid-2022, even as he moves to Austin. However, someone needs to step up. The elections should take place at either the July or August meetings.

For safety considerations, Patrick noted that the most common injuries in shops are from table saws, followed by circular saws, miter saws, band saws, and jointers or planers. Some forty percent of shop injuries are from table saws. The key to preventing table saw injuries is the Saw Stop unit.

For Show and Tell, we began with Jordan Andrepont, Aaron Anpropont's grandson. With assistance from his grandfather, Jordan built a wonderful archery equipment holder that holds his bow, arrows and other equipment. Jordan also won the second place in the State archery competition. Congratulations, Jordan!

Ray Kebodouex brought us a very nice folding stool he built plus a great tube tool box for plumbing hardware. Patrick LaPoint did a great pecan bowl he turned on his new lathe, plus he turned an interesting shell head weapon to complete one a three inch shell casings he got from an LST when he was in the U.S. Navy. He mentioned that he also has a shell casing from the U.S.S. Yorktown destroyer which he will complete in the future. The Yorktown, received the Atlantic Fleet's "Top Gun" award for outstanding naval gun-fire support in 1987.

We also discussed the drying of billets for Patrick's project with the five inch shell casing turning. Everyone looks forward to see this at a future meeting.

We had a benefit auction for a jointer that Bill Fey won. Eltee Thibodeaux (as typical) won the Show and Tell gift card. Eltee brought us a nice little car towing a boat as his Show and Tell. He made it out of several woods and we did not catch them all.



We have the wonderful opportunity to meet in July at the great shop of Ronnie and Sandie Kramer. Ronnie is a fine woodworker and Sandy is a fine pyrographer. See us at 9:00 A.M. on July 10, 2021. See the map at the end of the Newsletter.

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The Three Finishing Tools

Compared to woodworking, finishing is a very simple craft. The objective is no more complicated than transferring a liquid stain or finish from a can or other container to the wood. There are only three tools used to do this: a rag, a brush and a spray gun. (I'm including rollers, paint pads, etc., in the same category with brushes.) Each is easy to use. Even a spray gun is no more complicated than a router.

Choosing which stain or finish to use and how to use it can be confusing. This is largely due to bad manufacturer labeling, but there's no problem understanding the tools. There are five key differences among the three tools: cost, speed of transfer, degree of producing a level film, relative amount of waste produced and weather problems with a spray gun.

Rags cost little to nothing, especially if you make an effort to save old worn-out cotton clothing. In addition, inexpensive paper towels can often be substituted for small jobs. Brushes are also inexpensive, though they cost more than rags. In contrast, even the cheapest spray guns, combined with a source of high-volume or high-pressure air, cost \$200 or more. So, if cost is a factor, you may be limited to using rags and brushes. The exception is with small objects where you may be able to use aerosols. These are widely available in almost every finish.

You can apply a stain or finish to a large area faster with a rag or spray gun than you can with a brush. Rags are very effective when you intend to wipe off all the excess, as you usually do with stains and oil finishes. Spray guns are effective for applying any stain or finish and either wiping off the excess or leaving a finish to build a film. In comparison, brushes are inefficient tools, because they can carry only a small amount of the liquid stain or finish at a time. You have to constantly dip the brush back into the liquid to reload it.

In cases where you aren't wiping off the excess, finish leveling is very important. You can always sand the finish to remove flaws, such as brush marks and orange peel, and make it level. But this requires extra work, and it always carries with it the risk of cutting through and causing damage that's difficult to repair. The goal in applying any finish is to get it as level as possible from the start. The three tools differ in their ability to produce a level film.

It's nearly impossible to apply a film-building finish with a rag without leaving deep ridges in the film. (The exception is when you use the technique of French polishing, which can only be done with shellac.) Brushes perform better, but they leave brush marks. This is true even with sponge brushes, which leave ridges at the edges of each brush stroke, and with expensive bristle brushes. Spray guns produce the most level surface of the three tools. But even spray guns leave a light pimply texture called "orange peel."

So, it's virtually impossible to apply a perfect finish using any tool unless you wipe off all the excess after each coat. All three tools leave flaws in the finish film. To make a finish perfect, you have to level it using sandpaper, then rub it to the sheen you want using steel wool or rubbing compounds. It usually requires considerably less work to sand a finish level that's been applied with a spray gun than one that's been applied with a brush.

Waste is undesirable because of cost and the amount of pollution it creates. Waste costs more, not only because of the unused finish material, most of which winds up in the atmosphere, on the floor, or on spray-booth filters, but also because of the cost of disposing of used solvents and filters.

Rags and brushes are almost 100 percent efficient. By comparison, spray guns are very inefficient. A large part of the finish material is lost in overspray and bounce-back. HVLP spray guns are more efficient than the old conventional spray guns, (the one I have) and HVLP guns dominate the market because of this.

If you live in a cold climate and can't finish outdoors for a large part of the year then you'll have problems using a spray gun. Spray guns create a lot of overspray that floats around the room and lands on everything, including your work. You must exhaust this overspray, and this presents two problems: replacing the exhausted air with warm air, and trapping the overspray before it gets to the fan and builds up on it. In contrast, rags and brushes transfer all the liquid efficiently from the can to the wood. The only leftover is evaporating solvent as the coating dries.

Replacing air with warm air on cold days can be a strain on your heating system. Placing a heater in the room where you're spraying can be a hazard, especially if there's an open flame in the heater. Never spray in a room where there's an open flame as it can cause an explosion.

To trap overspray, arrange a bank of filters between you and the exhaust fan. Don't allow finish or paint to build up on the fan. In addition, don't allow solvents from a solvent-based paint or finish to be drawn across a motor that's not explosion-proof.

Though spray guns are easy to use and they produce good results, few of us rely on them because of these problems. The most common tools used by hobbyists are rags and brushes.

Cleaning a spray gun after use is very important. Don't leave finish in the can or nozzle. Be sure to clean your brushes as well. Unless they are throw-away. For rags, ALWAYS spread them out and let dry thoroughly, otherwise, you could have a fire. Barry Humphus

Repainting My Kitchen Cabinets

My wife's project for me last Summer (2020) was to repaint all of the cabinets and drawers in our kitchen. Well, as you likely figure, I did not actually get around to this project, though I thought about it several times. Then, the hurricanes came along and the resulting damage to our home, so everything was put off.

In addition, we moved in with friends in Houston for two months and returned to Lake Charles and lived at our rental home with our tenant for another two months and all the while, teaching classes.

As I was not going to be teaching this Summer (2021) and the wife was getting weeds out of the yard as well, it seemed like a great time to restart the painting project. This was, of course, after my lovely wife asked about the paint job a couple of times.

So how do you start painting twenty-six cabinet doors and sixteen drawer faces (plus the surrounds) for a repaint? The first issue is the hardware. There are screws, hinges and drawer pulls to remove, then, you have to choose some paint product that renews the current product.

What I did was to select some small plastic ZIP lock bags and as I removed screws and other hardware, I placed these in the bags before moving on. This is critical because you do not want to lose the hardware nor mix them. Should you mix them, they may not go into a different door. I used small strips of painters tape and numbered each door, drawer and bag so that when remounting everything, it would all go correctly back into place.

During the Summer of 2020, I had in my office a 3D printer and printed several small triangular mounts. What these do is to allow me to paint one side of a door and flip it over to paint the other side without having to wait very long between paint applications. In fact, I 3D printed many of them and gave a set to my contractor for his use. By the way, paint the inside of a door first, then the outside. That way the tiny pricks made by the triangles, won't show on the outside of a door.

My experience is that you need to purchase at least a quart bottle of Tri-Sodium Phosphate (TSP) from a paint store. This is a great degreasing product and prepares the old paint surface very well so that new paint will adhere.

After removing each door of your cabinet arrangement and the hardware, wipe down each door with the TSP product and let it dry. You may also need to scrub down the surface with a light scrubber for the repainting. Just use a paper towel or rag and wipe down each surface and let it dry before the repaint.

So what about the paint? I suggest that you may want to go to an actual paint store rather than a big box store for your paint. While, Stines, Lowes and Home Depot folks may be good and rather cheaper than an actual paint store, the folks at an actual paint store may be much better at determining what you really need. I chose South City Paint. I even brought one of the small doors so the expert there could assess the old surface and select the correct product.

I decided to brush on the paint despite having an old spray gun. That way I didn't have to worry about over-spray and a lot of cleanup. Using a spray gun is a lot faster process, but it can be messy and there is the cleanup process as well. While brushing is slower, I have all Summer and I wanted a hand painted look.

Another factor is that my air compressor is buried in my shop and difficult to remove plus I still don't have power in the shop (soon, maybe). So, there was little way I could use the spray gun.

My setup was pretty straight forward. A sheet of plywood atop a couple of saw horses under my new car port. I had my support triangles, TSP, high quality paint and a nice two inch cut brush and started the project.

Through the end of June, I've completed sixteen doors and several drawer fronts plus some of the door and drawer surrounds. Wish me luck. Barry Humphus.

Easy Rust Removal

While there are many rust removal products on the market, a quick and cheap method is to use electrolysis. The rust removal products can be a mess to use.

You need a battery charger (or charged car battery and wire), a plastic bucket and a piece of sacrificial steel (iron works best), a box of washing soda (Arm and Hammer from the grocery) and a day.

Depending on the size of the object to be de-rusted, add water to the bucket and stir in a cup or so of washing soda (you could also use baking soda, but it is more expensive). In fact, for a large object, I used a plastic wheel barrel and several cups of soda washing powder. Mix the washing powder well with the water.

Connect the Anode (usually Red of a charger) lead to the sacrificial steel. Connect the Cathode (usually Black) to the item to be de-rusted and completely immerse this into the water/washing soda mixture. Turn on the battery charger. It takes a day.

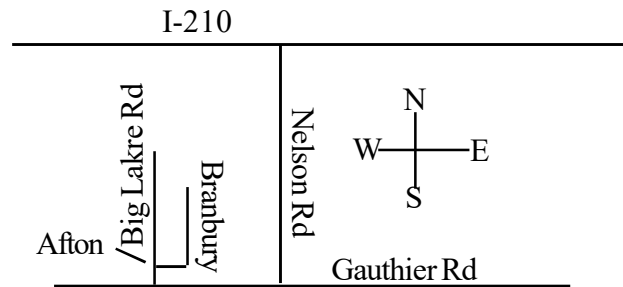
By the way, do all of this outside. What you will almost immediately see are bubbles coming off the item to be de-rusted. This is hydrogen -- very explosive. Don't lose your eyebrows. In 24 hours, the object will be clean. Barry Humphus.

July Meeting Location

We have the wonderful opportunity to meet at the shop of Ronnie and Sandy Kramer.

To get there go South on Nelson Road in Lake Charles going from I-210 on Nelson Road to Gauthier Rd and turn right going west. Travel to Big Lake Road and turn right (north) on to Big Lake Road. The first right on your right will be Afton Drive. Turn right and go to the next left (N. Branbury Road). The shop is at the back of 6821 N. Branbury Road on your right at the second home.

Should you need further instructions, please give them a call at 337-477-4651.



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