

# LAKE CHARLES WOODWORKERS CLUB, INC.

## APRIL 1998

### Officers

John Marcon, President  
Bob Ferguson, Treas. & Newsletter Editor  
Brent Evans, President-Elect

### Board of Directors

Barry Humphus  
George Kuffel  
John Perry

### MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The March meeting was held in Bob Schmitt's shop with 27 persons attending. Our president, John Marcon, introduced Brent Evans as our new President-elect. He also welcomed back Donald Elder, who had been recovering from a recent illness.

The main program was presented by Steve LeGrue of The Cutting Edge in Houston who spoke of various sharpening tools and techniques. Steve pointed out some of the features of various sharpening mediums.

**Arkansas Stones:** Although popular, they are not considered complete systems.

**Diamonds:** These are aggressive and stay flat. Three grits are needed.

**Ceramics:** Normally considered dry stones, they also stay flat. Can be cleaned easily with water and an abrasive cleaner.

**Water Stones:** These are aluminum oxide in a clay binder and are available up to a fineness of a 6000 grit.

Steve demonstrated his technique of sharpening chisels and plane blades. He uses a Tormek, wet wheel, slow speed, rotary sharpener to achieve a hollow ground profile. Other sharpening devices will work and the hollow ground profile is not absolutely necessary, although it does minimize later touch-up sharpening efforts. He also prefers to use Japanese water stones over other mediums.

Successive steps include:

1. Flattening the back of the blade,
2. Determining the correct angle for the application,
3. Sharpening on a 1000 grit water stone,
4. Polishing on a 6000 grit stone with a Nagura stone, which is a very fine abrasive additive.
5. Grinding the micro bevel, and
6. Stropping. (Considered a requirement for complete sharpening).

Steve LeGrue also demonstrated the technique for sharpening scrapers. The steps included:

- Pushing down any residual burr by flattening the scraper on a flat surface,
- Hold the scraper at a right angle to the stone and grind the edge on both 1000 & 6000 grit water stones.
- Clamp in a vise and rub the burnisher at a 90 degree angle to the edge. Push fairly hard. This creates the actual burr.
- Then hold the burnisher at a 15 degree angle and push the burr down.

**Sharpness.** Do you know what sharpness is? The old standby test of sharpness was to shave the hair from your arm. But this indicator is generally considered (by many professionals) as inadequate. Steve's definition : Sharp is defined as the ability to cut across end grain and obtain a curl.

### SHARPENING INFO

Need help with a sharpening problem? Why not call the expert, Steve LeGrue, at 1-800-790-7980.

### NEXT MEETING

**April 4 A visit with Buddy Robison at  
Cal Cam Cabinets  
1402 Lewis Street  
Sulphur, LA**

*For Directions see the Locator on a  
following page.*

### FUTURE MEETINGS

**May 9 Restoration of Evergreen  
Plantation by Jane Boddie**  
**June (Date & Time later - mid week)  
Delta Tool Demonstration at  
Stine Lumber Co. in Sulphur**  
**July 9 - (A Thursday evening)  
BBQ Social at PPG Park**



## FOR SALE

Member Barry Humphus is selling a Cambell-Hausfeld 1HP, 12 Gal. Tank, 125 psi air compressor for \$50. It was custom made by area welder Paul Patin. You can contact Barry at Work: 439-6383, or at Home: 477-8474.

## CHRISTMAS TOYS PROGRAM

Barry Humphus spoke briefly about plans for the 1998 Christmas toy program. He indicated that, although we had a significant achievement last year, this year could be considerably better since we are starting earlier and he will be working hard to get more persons involved.

Barry had a series of designs for toys which were provided by Camille Vincent and copies were made available (and still are) to the members.

The committee will be collecting materials shortly- much is available from various construction site- and they will be looking for temporary storage sites (Anyone have a small space available ?????).

He also made several suggestions:

1. If you plan to purchase lumber for this application, white pine is preferable.
2. You can glue together the 1" stock to achieve greater thickness for these applications.
3. Small attachments (ornaments) for the toys should be avoided. The effect of an eye can be achieved by drilling a shallow hole.

Barry will be issuing guidelines for toy making.

## SHOW & TELL

Klahr Raney showed a toy that is easy to make: a wooden lovebug which is equipped with wheels to serve as a mobile bug. The body can be turned to provide the double shape, sliced down the middle to obtain two halves. Wheels assemblies might be available for later installation on the base.

Klahr also demonstrated a technique for cutting inlays with a router. He a simple CAD program obtained from Office Depot which he uses to create the routing patterns.

Scott Pias showed several recently carved caricatures. He also related his recent experience with Wendell LeJeune of "Logs to Lumber" in having a large oak tree cut up into 600 board feet of useable lumber.

## MEETING LOCATOR

Go to Sulphur's main street, which is Napoleon Street (Hwy 90). Lewis Street is one of the major roads between Huntington Street and Neg Beglis Parkway which run North from Napoleon Street. Proceed North for a distance of 1.5 miles. Cal Cam Cabinets will be on the right.

## ETIQUETTE FOR VISITORS

It was suggested recently that visiting a shop requires that our members observe certain rules of courtesy. The owner of a shop has equipment of which he is proud and which must be kept clean and in good condition. There also may be some of his production in various phases of completion, plus expensive lumber, both of which could be easily stained or damaged.

A visitor then should use extreme care not to jeopardize any of these elements.

**Rule 1:** Do not place food or drinks on any piece of operating equipment or on the surface of items which are under construction. If there is any doubt about where to set a drink, put it on the floor or hold it in your hand.

**Rule 2:** Clean up after yourself. Please put drink cups or containers in the appropriate trash receptacles.

## Making a Burnisher from a Router Bit

One of the best materials for a cabinet scraper burnisher is polished carbide. The shanks of solid carbide router bits are ideal. Any used 1/4" shank bit will do.

Press fit the cutting portion of the bit into a pre-drilled dowel rod (at least 1/2" diameter) that has been chamfered at about 75° to the axis. The angle is not critical; the intent is to make the maximum portion of the exposed shank useable.

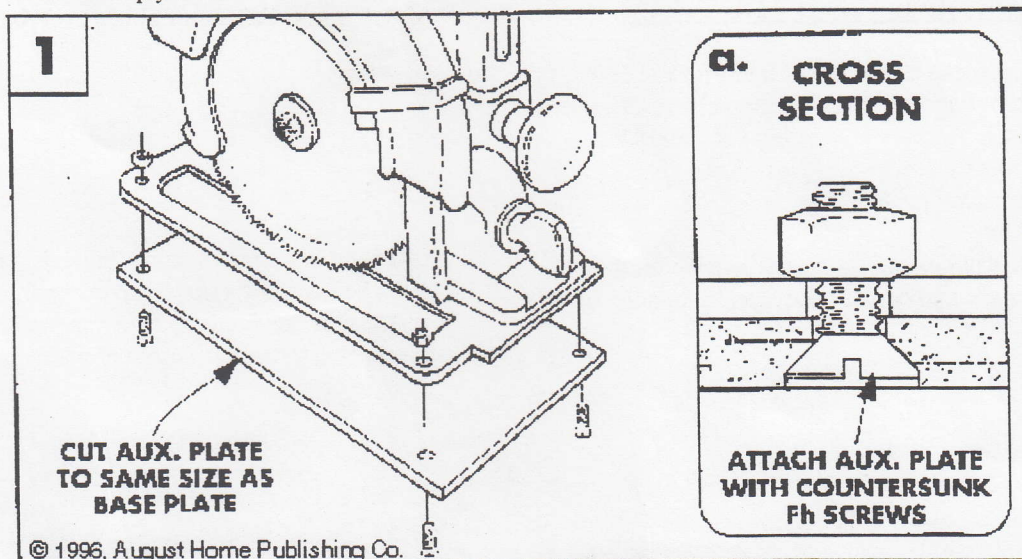
For ease of grip, glue or press a short section of dowel on the tip of the exposed part. The burnisher will outlast you. (L.L.)





# CUTTING PLYWOOD with a CIRCULAR SAW Woodsmith

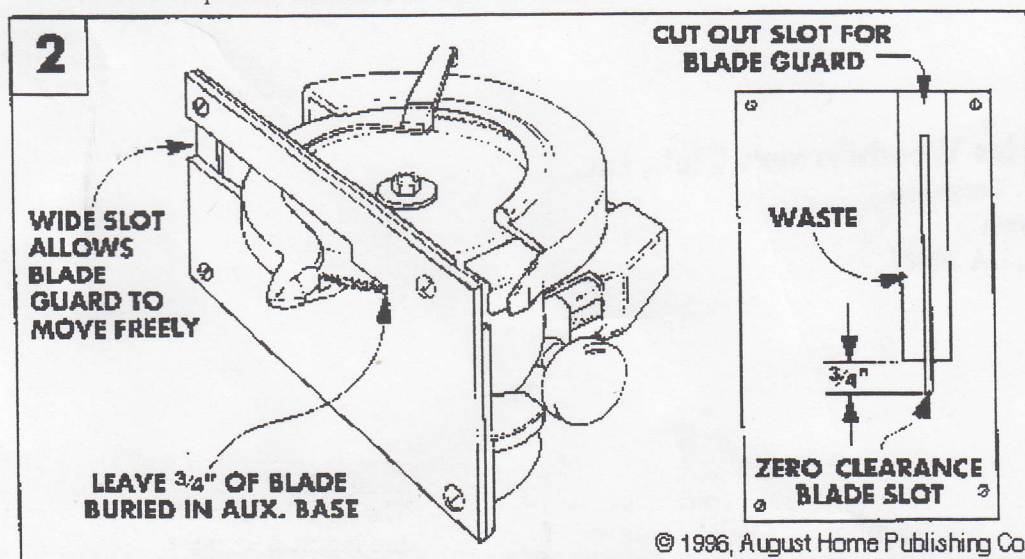
When cutting plywood with a circular saw, I always face the good surface of the plywood down because the blade causes chipout on the top ("up") side. But sometimes I want a clean cut on both sides of the plywood.



To prevent chipout on the top side, I attach an auxiliary plate to the saw's base plate, see Fig. 1. The auxiliary plate has a "zero clearance" blade slot cut in it. This backs up the wood fibers along the cut line and prevents chipout on the top side of the plywood.

The idea is pretty simple. Screw a piece of 1/4" Masonite to the saw's base plate, see Fig. 1. Then plunge the blade through it. Now you've got a plate with a zero clearance blade slot.

The only problem is that now the blade guard won't work. It's held back by the auxiliary plate, so the blade is left exposed -- and that's not safe.



To solve this problem, I cut a wide second slot centered on the first, see Fig. 2. Cut it wide enough to allow the guard to move freely, but stop it 3/4" back from the forward end of the blade slot, see detail in Fig. 2.

The shortened blade slot still prevents chipout because occurs at the leading edge of the blade. And that's still buried in the narrow slot.

Gordon Raver  
Fall Brook, California