

Brent Evan, President
Dick Hopes, Sec/Treasurer

Officers and Directors

John Marcon, Barry Humphus
Camile Vincent, George Kuffel

JULY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Member John Perry demonstrated his extensive experience and skill in showing the ends and outs of band saws and tables saws. John started out saying, "Respect the tool, what it does and how it does it. It cuts and it will definately cut you if you fail to respect its power. Always focus on where your hands are in relationship to the cutting blade."

Demonstrating on a Craftsman 12 inch band saw at the shop of George Kuffel, John focused first on tuning the saw. This Craftsman, like most, has a tensioning scale related to the blade width. Adjusting the tension just past the blade width mark is a good start for any band saw. Next John said that the teeth of the blade should be outside the cooling blocks as the blocks can quickly wear the teeth. John's view is that the support rollers should just touch the blade when running. As this puts wear on the roller's bearings, you can back off about the thickness of a piece of paper (about 1/1000ths inch) so when running free, the rollers don't turn, but when work is applied, they support the blade. Squaring the blade in relationship to the table is also critical. John recommends steel cooling blocks. For resawing, John suggests the blades sold by Thibson Saw Shop (724 Orange, LC, 433-2331).

Like band saws, table saws also need to be tuned. As a table saw is designed to cut straight lines, it is critical that the miter slots and the blade are in perfect alignment. Using a machinist's square placed in the miter slot, set the square to touch a tooth closest to you. Mark the tooth and rotate the blade until its on the opposite side, then move the square to touch the same tooth. If it's not parallel, adjust the trunnion — you need to consult your manual as table saw trunnion adjustments vary between models and brands. Next check the rip fence. With the blade aligned with the table, adjust the square and slide the rip fence over until they touch. Then lock the fence and move the square to the back to see if it's parallel to the miter slot. If not, check you manual for fence alignment.

For blade height above the work, adjust such that the bottom of the teeth just clear the top of the work. This reduces friction between the blade and the work and you will see less chance of burning the edges of the work. John also recommends using a combination blade rather than a special cross-cut or rip blade. Combination blades generally cut smoother but rip a bit slower which you'll only notice when ripping thick stock. John recommends the Forest Wood Works #2 32-40 combination (457 River Rd., Clifton, NJ 07014, (201) 473-5236) as one of the best blades you can buy. John mounted a Forest on George's saw and demonstrated its fine cutting ability.

Try to always use a push block with narrow work — its safer. Place the push block such that it slight pushed the work toward the rip fence while moving forward with a steady smooth motion. This gives you the best and safest cut. Always try to stand to the left of the blade while cutting as this generally puts you out of harms way should you get a kick-back.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

From October of 1998 through July of 1999 the Woodworker's Board of Directors has arranged the following meetings:

Date	Subject	Location
10/1998	DELTA Equipment	Stine Sulphur
11/1998	What makes a desirable shape	Library
12/1998	Show and Tell Christmas	Nemo Robinson
1/1999	Scroll Saw Demo	George Kuffel
2/1999	Painting Restoration	Library
3/1999	Planes and Chisel Sharpening	Burl Vincent
4/1999	Lathe Demonstration	Bob Schmitt
5/1999	Carving / Sharpening Demo	John Marcon
6/1999	Annual Barbecue	PPG Pavilion
7/1999	Table& Band Saw Setup	George Kuffel

Some members have mentioned that they would like to see a different format or types of meetings. I urge all members to attend the August 1999 meeting for an "open forum discussion". Remember, this is your Club, and one of the purposes of the Board is to provide subject matter for meetings that are of interest to as many members as possible. We need your involvement.

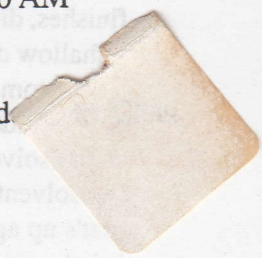
SHOW AND TELL

Please bring any small projects or jigs you have done recently or photos of your work to show your fellow members. We all learn from others and your projects, designs and ideas are a major part of what we do as a club. From simple, time-saving jigs and ideas to major projects, each of you learn from the experience and knowledge of other members. And tell us what you would like to do as a project — that generates ideas and solutions to problems as well.

This Saturday's meeting will also be your opportunity to tell the Board what you want. Clearly, some of you want something different, but we must know what that is to be able to deliver.

August Meeting Saturday, 14th, 9:00 AM
Show & Tell, Open Forum
Calcasieu Public Library
Corner of Ernest & W. Claud

September 11th, Saturday 9:00 AM
Entarsia Demonstration
Chuck Middleton



THE NEWSLETTER

I can only guess at what you want and the articles that are of interest to you. Is the Newsletter too long, not long enough, too detailed, short on tips, too many, want plans? I don't know and I need your feedback to make the Newsletter exactly what you want.

So give me a break. This is what I need from you: feedback. Call me at work (439-6383), or home (477-8474) or email me at bhumphus@laol.net and tell me what you want from your Woodworkers Club Newsletter. Thanks, Barry Humphus.

CLEANING BRUSHES

Cleaning brushes is not one of my favorite things to do. In fact, for most finishing jobs, especially staining, I use foam brushes. While they lay down a smooth even coat, the best part of using them comes when I'm finished staining... I throw them away. By the way, if you're cheap like me and hate to throw anything away, tear off the foam and save the handle — it will make a terrific stir stick the next time you're staining.

But there are times when you will want to use a fine bristle brush. When finishing spindles, moldings, and carvings, it's easier to get the finish down in the crevices with a bristle brush. Whatever job you use a bristle brush for, it's important that the brush be clean before you use it. If there are any traces of hardened finish or stain left on the brush from a previous job, they could make a mess of your new finish.

There are two ways to approach cleaning brushes. The easiest is to be conscientious and clean the brush right when you're finished using it. That's the ideal. But let's admit it. There are times when we don't quite get around to cleaning the brushes right away. Then it gets hard, and needs to be soaked in a strong solvent to get it clean.

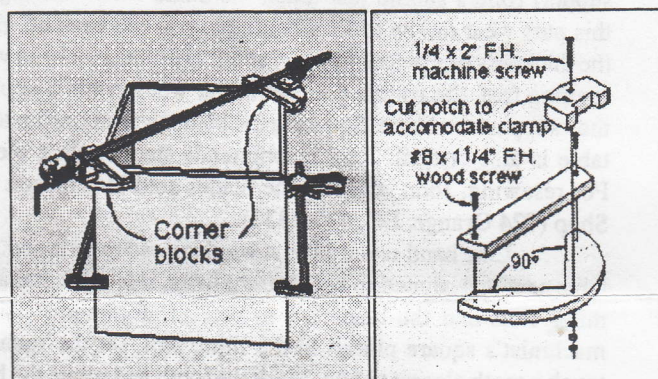
Let's assume you're going to clean the brush right away. Start by wiping the brush back and forth on some old newspaper or cardboard to remove as much of the finish as possible. Then pour about 3/4" of the correct cleaner/solvent (turpentine or mineral spirits for oil-based finishes, dish soap and water for water-based finishes) in a shallow dish and work the brush back and forth against the bottom of the dish.

A small glass bowl with tapered sides works well for this. While working the brush in the solvent, occasionally turn the bristles skyward so the solvent can get at and wash out any caked in finish that's up against the ferrule (the metal part that holds the bristles on the handle). If the brush is really full of crud, I

grab my "brush comb." It's actually a metal pet comb intended for dogs and cats. But the comb also works great for cleaning brushes and straightening out tangled bristles. After most of the finish is out of the brush, pour out the dirty solvent (save turpentine and mineral spirits in a capped jar for later use -- the used finish will settle out), pour some clean solvent into the dish and repeat the process. Only this time work the bristles between your thumb and forefinger.

Next, go to the sink and squeeze a little dishwashing detergent on the bristles. Then hold them under some warm tap water. The detergent won't dissolve any oil-based finish, but it will help wash away hardened particles. After washing the brush with soap and water a few times, rinse it with clear water and comb it out one more time. Then dry the bristles with a paper towel.

HOMEMADE DIAGONAL CLAMPING JIGS



When gluing up the ends of rectangular projects, placing a bar or pipe clamp across opposite corners assures everything will be square after the glue sets--providing you keep the clamp from sliding off the corners. It was a problem I had when making the legs of the pool table I built last Summer. Besides, metal clamp jaws can easily mar or dent the workpiece.

From 3/4-inch plywood, make a pair or more of the swiveling fixtures shown. Use dimensions that fit your projects and clamps. These fixtures work well without slipping or marring the work.

OUTDOOR SCR

This time of year, some of your woodworking projects are destined for the great outdoors, and there are some special considerations for projects that will spend the lives out in the weather. Obviously, a good wood finish is important (or no finish at all if you are using redwood, teak,

or cypress), but woodscrews can also suffer in the weather. There are three concerns when deciding on the screws to use: corrosion resistance, strength, and appearance.

Most woodscrews are made from either ferrous (iron-based) or non-ferrous metal. Ferrous woodscrews are strong and inexpensive, but they can rust very quickly when exposed to moisture. Even the moisture in the wood itself is enough to rust a plain steel screw. For this reason, steel woodscrews are usually covered with a rust-resistant coating.

Typically, there are a couple of choices in plated woodscrews: brass or zinc, with zinc being the most common. Either one of these plated screws provides adequate rust protection — if they're used on indoor project. The problem with ordinary plated screws is that the coating is very thin. So it can easily be scratched or worn off. When that happens, the screws will quickly begin to rust. Especially on outdoor projects. Recently, however, a couple of new rust resistant steel screws have come on the market. They are highly corrosion resistant, and not much more expensive than ordinary zinc-plated steel screws.

These new screws looks almost identical to a zinc-plated screw. It's made from steel with a coating of zinc-chromate (like an outdoor deck screw). On top of this is a thin coat of a clear, rust-resistant material, almost like a see-through raincoat. (available at Lowes and Stine's).

The second newer outdoor screw is also made from steel, but galvanized with several coats of rustproof metals. Both of these rust-resistant screws are rated to withstand a wet environment (in a moisture chamber with a 5% salt spray solution) for at least 500 hours. By comparison, ordinary zinc-plated screws are rated to last about 100 hours before the first red rust appears.

For many years, woodworkers have relied on solid brass woodscrews for exterior applications. They look good in the wood, but the best thing they have going for them is that they don't rust. The down side is that solid brass screws are relatively soft. So they can strip out or easily break, especially when being driven into hardwoods. Pre-drilling is required.

Another alternative to plated steel is stainless steel. Stainless steel is a chromium-alloy steel, and while not as strong as an "ordinary" steel screw, they're much stronger than solid brass (available at Stine's and A & L Bolt & Screw, Lowes, etc.).

For maximum rust resistance, there's a woodscrew preferred by boat builders — silicon bronze. As a sometimes sailor, I used these and they never discolor the combinations of fiberglass and wood on a sailboat. These screws are made from an alloy of copper with silicon included in the mixture for additional corrosion

resistance. Silicon bronze screws are stronger than solid brass, but they're not quite as strong as steel screws. However, they're plenty strong for any home outdoor project. And they look great with most woods. Like brass screws and even stainless, you need to pre-drill when inserting them into hardwoods.

ANNUAL TOY PROGRAM

Barry Humphus will have a few more toy templates for the August meeting. If you are needing a set, see Barry at the August meeting.

TREASURERS REPORT

Dick Hopes

Beginning Balance 1/1/99: \$352.40

Revenue

1999 Dues 840.00

1999 BBQ 255.00

Misc. .33

Total Income: \$1,095.33

Expenses

Postage \$218.00

Printing 146.00

Rent (Library) 45.00

999 BBQ 437.08

Misc. 23.73

Total Expenses: \$869.81

Ending Balance 6/30/99: \$577.92

Safety First —

"Respect the tool, what it does and how it does it. It cuts and it will definately cut you if you fail to respect its power."

— John Perry