



Wood Words

Kansas City Woodworkers Guild www.kcwoodworkersguild.org

Volume 20 Issue 3

March '02

Guild Meetings at:
Roanoke
Presbyterian Church,
1617 W. 42nd St., KCMO

March Raffle: wooden plane kit with Hock steel, Sears 3D sander and a 12 piece screw driver set.

Please thank associate members; Paxton's and Woodcraft, for supporting our toy project.

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Next Meeting Wed. April 17th, 7 PM
Program: To be announced at the meeting

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Sawdust: The Presidents Corner

Dave Kraatz

It's great to watch a professional at work. The program presented by Mac Dressler at our February meeting gave us all a chance to see how a restorer approaches a project. I got the message, that cautious examination of the original construction is the major learning process necessary for successfully dismantling and rejoining a piece like a chair. Thanks Mac, for a good program and a good lesson.

I want to personally extend my welcome to the guests and new members that attended our February meeting.



I believe that you give us the opportunity to live up to our name, Guild, and provide for you the fellowship of other woodworkers, the sharing of our experience and the learning environment that

you are looking for.

I heard several of our guests introduce themselves as "beginners who want to learn more about woodworking".

This introduction often makes us wonder, because we really do not know what you mean by beginner.

I think that we, woodworkers, in general, have two traits in common that prevent us from learning from each other. The first is that we are shy about our experiences and always think of ourselves as beginners.

Based on your show-and-tell items, we do very fine work and we should be proud to show it to others. It is true that gaining proficiency in all facets of woodworking takes a lot of time and effort, but each experience makes us better.

The second trait is that we think we do not have any thing to teach a new woodworker. This is certainly not true because we have crossed that formidable gap from non woodworkers to someone who has acquired tools and has used them to

build something.

However, sometimes when we try something new we are perplexed and do not know where to begin. I offer my advice to the true beginner to help you find a starting place.

First of all, do not be intimidated by the level of work of the experienced craftsmen. None of us was born with a dovetail saw in our hand. We all started where you are.

Don't let anyone tell you their technique is a secret that you can only learn

(Continued on page 2)

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

| | |
|--|--|
| | Clarence Teed Memorial |
| | Paxton Woodcrafters 816 483-0659 |
| | Woodcraft Supply 913 599-2800 |
| | Strasser Hardware 913 236-5858 |

(Continued from page 1) Presidents Corner

from years of work. Run from people like this. Find someone who is willing to share their woodworking. You will find many such people in our Guild.

Further, find a style of woodworking that appeals to you and learn as much as you can about it. From books, videos, builders and personal examination. Find out how it is built and why it was done that way. Find out what tools are needed to do that style of work and acquire the basic ones.

List the basic joints in the piece and try to make them in scrap wood. Do not stop with one try or even ten tries. Make the joint until you can do it consistently and comfortably. Success is based on a few basic techniques applied in combination.

Next, select a basic piece of work and try your new skills by building it. I would suggest a small table, bench, shelf or cabinet. The size is important, select something that is easily handled so you can concentrate on your work without having to move large pieces of material. This piece is for you, you do not have to bring it to show-and-tell, but you may want to because you may be very satisfied and surprised with your work.

Finally, build on your success and learn from your mistakes. You may want to enlist a mentor to help you find out how to improve your work and advise you on your next project. This should be a pleasant learning experience, not a critique.

Make your next piece more elaborate by adding a new detail, a different finish, different material or use a different tool. Carefully analyze what you want to improve

and focus on that part of the new project. Success at woodworking means repeating this exercise many times. Remember, when you want to try a different style you may have to return to practicing a technique that is new to you.

On selecting tools for your work, remember that you may not need everything at once. You can do a lot of woodworking with basic hand tools, if you learn and practice the technique. Most of the museum furniture that we copy was done with hand tools. Do not overlook hand power tools like drills, jigsaws or hand circular saws. These tools, used with proper guides and jigs, can do a good job on a small tool budget. A basic set of tools combined with a router and table can take you far down the path of successful woodworking.

A good router with some basic bits is one of the most valuable and versatile tools in your workshop. When you are ready for the stationary power tools, learn from the experience and expense of others. Buy the best quality that you can afford with enough power and features to serve your needs. Do not buy hard to use tools or poor quality, because you will spend valuable time compensating for them and or repairing and replacing them.

I believe that it is better to do without a tool than to suffer the frustrations of a bad one. Our tool talk sessions are a good place to learn about tools. Ask questions and even ask to see a demonstration of a tool from a fellow member or the tool dealers. Buy the tool when you are convinced that it will perform your job safely, comfortably and successfully.

I want to hear from you, especially you who are beginners. Tell us what kind of programs and activities that can help you learn what you want to know.

I urge our seasoned members to hear the questions of the new woodworkers and share your experience, your mistakes and your success.

I am looking forward to seeing you in our March meeting. Please bring your show-and-tell projects to share.

Thank you for the new Guild banner

Thank you Kansas City Tent & Awning Company for the new Guild banner that you provided for the Woodworking Show. This banner made our booth stand out from the crowd and I am sure attracted many people to our display. We appreciate the support of Mike Chael, son of Fred Chael, for his support of our Guild. Please call on KC Tent & Awning whenever you have a need for their products.

Opportunity to visit a Professional Cabinet Shop

Our fellow member, Jerry Jennings, has arranged for us to visit the shop of Smithville Custom Cabinets on the morning of March, 23 at 9:30 Am.

Jerry is asking that you who wish to go as a group meet in the parking lot of the former Montgomery Ward Auto Center at Metro North Shopping Center and form carpools from that point.

The carpools will leave the shopping center promptly at 9:00 AM to allow for arriving at the shop by 9:30 AM. If you wish to make the trip to Smithville yourself, the address of the shop is 113 S. Bridge Street. We appreciate this opportunity offered by Bob Mallett, the owner, to see the workings of a professional shop.

Shop Safety

Jim Ramsey

I was using my 12" planer to surface some 18" long boards to 1/4". I was feeding one of the boards into the planer, holding it with one hand, when the board kicked back. It dislocated the thumb of the hand feeding the board and hurt like crazy. I reset my thumb and finished planing the lumber before calling it a night.

When planing short thin boards, hold the board with two hands, one on each side - not on the end. If the board kicks back your hands will already be clear.

I had sharpened my planer blades and put them back in. Tightened everything up and was on the fourth board when one of the knives shot out of the machine and lodged itself into the ceiling. Luckily I was standing to the side of the machine.

After servicing a tool, run it and then re-tighten it.

I was preparing some lumber for my technology education class by running it through the planer. As part of the instructions for the classes, I tell the students to run only one piece of wood through the planer at a time.

This particular time, I was working in the shop area by myself. I had quite a few boards that needed to be surfaced to 3/4". (The average thickness was about 1".)

To save some time, I was running 2 - 3 boards through the planer at a time. I wasn't paying much attention to the boards as they went through the planer, looking around, standing behind the boards, and stuff.

Yes, it happened. One of the boards

was not quite as thick as the others. A kickback occurred. The board came back and hit me in the lower abdomen, just missing a part of me that would really hurt. I was in intense pain for a few minutes, but no permanent damage done.

Pay attention to what is going on. Know the safety rules and follow them.

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Turned Spindle Repair

Recently while turning an intricate spindle, my chisel caught the work piece and tore out a chunk of wood.

Rather than discard the turning, I came up with a simple technique to repair the damage.

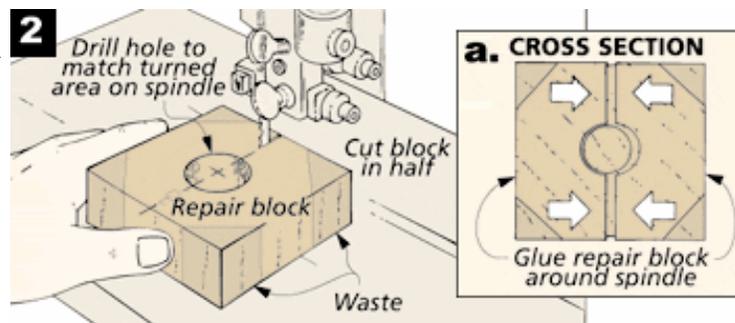
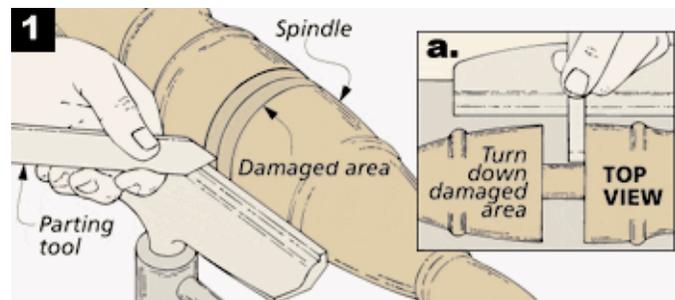
To start with, I used a parting tool to turn down the damaged area to a consistent diameter, as shown in Figs. 1 and 1a.

Next, select a block of wood with similar color and grain as the spindle that's being repaired. The

length of the block should match the width of the area that was turned down on the spindle. A hole is drilled in the center of the block to match the diameter of the area to be repaired.

The block is then cut in half on a band saw (or split with a chisel) and glued in place around the spindle, as shown in Figs. 2 and 2a. Once the glue dries, the spindle can be re-turned. If you take the time to carefully match the

grain of the block with the spindle, the repair will be hardly noticeable.



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P.O. Box 413922
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Minutes

Visitors and new members: Bill Donaldson, Carolyn Nasser, Denise Baker, Phil Voi, Bill Bysel, Bill Kuhlman, Tim Helfrey, Ken Sokol, Howard Hartford, Lonnie Smith, Daniel Dugan, Terry Van Dyke, Norman Rechlin, Dennis Maack.

News:

Special recognition was given to those who helped make the Guild participation in the Woodworkers Show a success: Jim Ramsey was tool show coordinator, and for special service: Ray Graham, David Roth, Wayne Wainwright and John Maciel.

Jim Bany has been asked to lead the effort to build either four or six houses for Habitat for Humanity this coming fall. If there is enough help available, he will go for the six. Look for further announcements.

David Roth invited especially new members to consult the Mentors list for help or advice when needed.

Dave Kraatz announced that the our Guild along with other Guilds in the city are planning a show for September. So get your good stuff ready. Also the Jazz fest, which is held the third week of July, may offer some Guild members the opportunity to show some of their good pieces.

Tool Talk:

Erl Poulin reports that the cord rack (those round orange things) works good. Russ Amos bought an Oldham saw blade that works half good. It's not as good as some others but is OK. Jay Nichols has a new router bit set which he is evaluating. Bryan Tedder found a Radi-plane at an estate sale and he is delighted that it really works.

Raffle / Name tag winners: The name tag winners - John Maciel won a pair of clamps and Denise Baker won the bar clamp. The brass back reversible saw went to Bill Webb, the router bit set went to Walt Coplinger and Bill Schechinger got the set of screw driver bits

Show and Tell

Jay Nichols showed us some China Cabinet Molding which he made. He used a shaper, a molding head cutter and a jig. The molding was oak, glued up from three separate pieces.

Ray Graham had his shaving table, which he made at the show and calls it his whittling table. It was made of walnut.

David Roth showed an Intarsia Shell made of walnut, cherry and red heart. It was finished with stain, shellac, varnish and wax. He reports it is difficult to apply the thin pieces of walnut vertically to the cherry.

Calendar

Executive Meetings, 7:30 pm At Fred Chael's home, 4821 State Line Road, KCMO.

Guild meetings, 7:00 p.m., Roanoke Presbyterian Church, 1617 W. 42nd St., KCMO.

Executive Meetings

Guild Meetings

2002

January 15th
February 19th
March 19th
April 16th
May 14th
June 18th
July 16th
August 20th
September 17th
October 15th
November 19th
December 17th

January 16th
February 20th
March 20th
April 17th
May 15th
June 19th
July 17th
August 21st
September 18th
October 16th
November 20th
December 18th

Fred has agreed to lend his home for the monthly board meetings. All members are welcome at any board meeting. A call to Dave Kraatz or Bob LaDue is all that is necessary.

John Maciel made a mallet from hedge wood and finished it with linseed oil. Apparently the recent ice storm provided him with the piece of wood that he needed.



Russ Amos had a Japanese lantern made of walnut with carbon black dye stain and then finished with polyurethane. He points out it is very light with rice paper shades. The joint accuracy was a challenge as well as the fact that he had to put the finish on each individual piece.

Troy Simonton showed a mountain dulcimer made of redwood, walnut, maple and western red cedar. He finished it with a wipe on Minwax poly which was a challenge. He especially likes the figured redwood soundboard.

Jerry Jennings showed us a flag box which a friend had made.

Bill Donaldson made a dulcimer and used the three head sander to advantage.

Don Inbody had a tea box made of cherry and finished with Watco. The spline joints were a particular challenge.

Show & Tell Pictures



Editors Notes:

Program: Mac Dressler on the subject of Furniture Restoration.

Bill Webb

Mack started off with a safety tip: Never take your eye off of the saw blade!

The first question one needs to ask is for what purpose is this restoration? Is it to return the piece to original condition or is it simply to make the piece functional again?

As an example he had an old Victorian chair of possibly 1890's vintage. To do the work one needs a suitable workbench as well as appropriate tools. A mallet of rubber or rawhide may be used to disassemble the item.

Macs' preference is a rubber cushion on a leather mallet. Sometimes heat and moisture can be used to soften Hyde glue joints. He likes to use hot Hyde glue for reassembly especially if that was what was used on the original.

One should never use yellow glue because it ruins the authenticity of the item. He has successfully used Superglue to tighten up a slightly loose joint. Dowels have been used often in the past. If they have to be re-joined, the dowel needs to be cleaned with a pocket knife to avoid making it undersized. Excess glue should not be used to tighten up a loose joint. The best solution may be an oversized dowel to achieve a tight joint.

Care should be taken to mark each part as it is disassembled. If the piece is to be upholstered and the tack strip is damaged, it can be built up again with several coats of liquid Hyde glue mixed with sawdust.

On re-assembly the order can be very important. One should always do a dry (without glue) assembly first to rehearse the order and check the fit. Mac tries to avoid restoring any painted fur-

niture. You can see him occasionally at Paxton's doing a Furniture Restoration Class.

It was a great program! Thanks Mac.

Tip from a fellow woodworker:

Welcome to our new "Tips" section. Here you will find a little tip from your fellow woodworkers.

If you would like to contribute a tip, just send me an email at wrig@kc.rr.com, or call me. I must receive the tip by the first of the month to include it in the next newsletter.

From member - Frank Layne: (who says he got it from another woodworker).

After the first coat of varnish, use a grocery sack to sand with to remove the dust specs and to make the finish smooth.

