



Wood Words

Kansas City Woodworkers Guild www.kcwoodworkersguild.org

Volume 22 Issue 6

June 06

Guild Meetings:
Jacob's Well Church,
1617 W. 42nd St.,
KC Mo. 64111

Mac Dressler
Hand Cut Dovetails
Part of the
"Learning" series

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George Rexroad

Editor/Web:
Wayne Wainwright

June Raffle: Bill Evans will have his usual assortment of items

Next Meeting Wed. June 21st, 7 PM
Program: Mac Dressler—Hand Cut Dovetails

Sawdust: The Presidents Corner

Jim Bany



Hello everyone.
So what are you
working on in
your shop?

I have put a hold on
working on my
wife's dining room chairs
(five down and three to
go) to build the mockup
table for the basic wood-
working class.

This puts me in a reflec-
tive frame of mind. I built
this Shaker hall table in
about three hours. I can
recall a time when it
would have taken me
more than three weeks of
struggle and hard work.
So I have asked myself
how and why did I be-
come a better wood-
worker? Where does the
desire to improve come
from?

I think first, I have a
sense of gratitude to the
people I've learned from.
My Dad and I spent a lot
of time working with ba-

sic tools to build every-
thing from barns to
toys.

I grew up in that kind
of environment. One of
my Dad's friends was a
carpenter who had the
attitude that "I can
build anything" and I've
always admired that
point of view.

An instructor I had in
the military, General
Colin Powell, was al-
ways grateful for the
shoulders he got to
stand on and the people
who showed him the
way. He felt obligated
to pass it on.

In the past ten years
that I've been a member
of the Kansas City
Woodworkers Guild,
my understanding of
better woodworking is
what I've strived for.

Seems to me that is the
primary function of the
Guild. To teach mem-
bers how to improve
and get better. That's
my goal both individu-

ally and collectively.

At Christmas time I had
a conversation with Dave
Kraatz about how he

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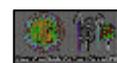
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(913) 599-2800



Woodline
(800) 472-6950



Microplane
800 555-2767



Ozark Lumber
479 253-5994

wants to build a small workbench inside a bottle.

The challenge is what intrigues him and he believes he has it figured out. I do not have any idea how he is going to accomplish this feat. And I'm not sure I'm ever going to try this myself. I do know that with an open mind I'll learn something new.

So, Dave go for it! I know I'm more proud of projects that have pushed my abilities than the easy projects that look good. My function is not to judge anyone's motive, but to encourage each of you to expand boundaries. What project have you been reluctant to take on because of the challenge?

So I'm looking at this Shaker hall table and I appreciate that I've become better. It's easier and I enjoy woodworking more than ten years ago. Just thought I'd pass that along. Now, back to the chairs.

Lumber Update

Wayne Wainwright

As you know, the Guild is in possession of a significant amount of lumber that we are selling for a "song". This column will update you on "quantity" and "quality" so you can make an informed decision.

Thanks to everyone who came up to buy material over the last 2 weeks and help give me back some space in my shop, however, there is plenty more to go so don't miss out on this opportunity!

We have identified some other species of lumber in the pile as we sorted through.

It was reported that we had Walnut and White Oak. After going through some of it, we have determined there is more than just those species. So far, we have identified the following:

Walnut
White Oak
Cottonwood
Sycamore

This is not likely to be the end of it either so I will keep you updated.

Walnut

Most of the "quality" Walnut has been sold. There are however some 2 X boards that are a bit "rough" around the edges but, cut into smaller pieces, will make some nice boxes or other smaller projects.

Sycamore

The Sycamore is also 2 X material. Most of it is very long (14ft or 16ft), and 4-6" wide (although some are wider), with lots of "warp", but again, short board needs would be great. If you are making lots of drawers and need side material or have another need for "secondary" lumber, Sycamore is an excellent choice. Because of the warp, you will get 3-4ft lengths at best with most of it, but some are fairly long, wide and straight.

Chuck Slagle turned some of his Sycamore into a bracelet for his daughter. Come to the June meeting to see how rich and beautiful this lumber can be - it was a surprise to most people at the Officers meeting this month.

White Oak

Most of it is at the bottom of the pile so I might not get a good read on it until next month when I expect some of you will have helped me to get to the bottom (smile).

Cottonwood

Does anyone know what to do with Cottonwood? I hear it makes good paint stir sticks - what else can it be used for? Call and let me know. We have a few large boards (2 X 8 X 14) and a few smaller (2 X 4 X 12)

Program: Bob King - Spraying Basics with

David Roth

Bob has been a member of the Guild for three years. He is retired from TWA and American Air lines. He worked with them for 36 years. And for 20 of those years he painted air planes. So he knows his way around a spray gun. In fact, Bob finished all of the chairs for the chair project for Andres Restaurant.

Bob built a spray booth in his basement around 10 years ago and he showed us some pictures. His booth has double doors and has white fluorescent lights inside. His finishing booth is seven feet tall, 21 feet deep and five feet wide and his spray area is five feet wide by 43 inches.

If anyone wants to build one he has the location were you can order the filters. Bob has an explosion proof exhaust fan set up too. He had to cut a hole in his house to put the fan in! Bob likes to use HVLP (High Volume Low Pressure) sprayers.

HVLP sprayers use about 40 percent less material when finishing. Bob thinks the HVLP guns are easier to use and a whole lot easier to clean up.

Adjusting the gun: You have three adjustments:

- Air adjustment
- Fluid needle adjustment
- Fan adjustment

Bob runs the pressure as low as he can. He just wants to atomize the material just enough to break it up and to get to the surface. Bob usually finishes small items (like boxes).

Atomize pressure is about 30 psi and when he is spraying it is around 8 psi, that is what works for him.

Bob uses a porter cable 6 gallon air compressor and has the regulator on his compressor. Bobs gun runs around three hundred dollars and this type of gun is used for automobiles.

Bob says you can buy one from Sears for around one hundred and ten dollars. Bob backs the valve all the way back and leaves it set there and forgets it.

Your finger and your eye will take the place of the adjustment. With painting, you don't have to have it set in granite.

You have the freedom to put more or less paint on your project when squeezing the trigger. And that is the way to learn. You won't be pulling that trigger all the way back all the time, but once you get into the rhythm of spraying your finger muscle memory will kick in and your finger will repeat the process every time.

The top adjustment is the fan. If you ran it all of the way in and you trigger, your spray pattern will look round. The easiest way to adjust it if using a water based spray is to thin it and hold it up and run the air and trigger and hold it up to the light and you will see it fan out on you. You want to continue backing the adjustment until you reach the proper arch. Then, that is were you want to leave it. What

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you are doing is adjusting the air wing ports in the cap. You have little holes in the wing ears on both sides and all it is doing is spreading the paint out.

When you adjust it properly, the spray pattern will look fanned out and if you back it out too far, it will look like a peanut. The less air coming out the more of a circle the paint will be. The atomize hole by the center is what actually breaks the paint up into Droplets.

The trick to spraying is you have to have a show-down. You have to see what you are putting on - no guess work. If you are spraying 8 foot by 8 foot, your first pass is 50 percent of your spray pattern. Each lap is covering 50 percent so you eliminate dry spots. The pattern will be wet and will dry together and you will have a good uniform spray.

You want to have your light positioned so you can see the reflection while you are spraying. You don't want a bright light, a fluorescent light is just perfect. That is why Bob has his lights built into his doors.

As for holding the gun to the work, 8" is a good starting point, just as long as you have a reflection to see what you are doing.

If you have trouble with your finish coming out of your gun the first thing to check is the cap. You have to make sure it is "surgical" clean. A tiny spec will clog it up. Some asked a question about the needles.

There are 1.3, 1.4, and 1.5, needles Bob uses a 1.4 needle. That is pretty well standard. That should be the one to start out with. Experiment and see what works best for you. There are different guns with different needles. The needle controls the amount of finish coming out.

Bob keeps his respirator in a plastic bag. It extends the life of the filters and he always uses a pre-filter.

He changes the filters about every 6 months. But he also has a booth that pulls a lot of the finish out so he doesn't breathe a lot of the finish in.

Norton is good brand and 3M also makes a good one.

If you use a tack cloth on your projects, rub the tack cloth on it very gently. If you rub the tack cloth too hard you will get the sticky compound on your project and your finish will not stick to your work piece.

Thanks for an exciting program Bob!

Shop Safety

Accident Description



It was getting on towards quitting time and I was hurrying to get done as I was nailing in some blocking for a shower surround. I stuck the nail gun up to the stud, because it was a smaller than normal stud bay, I was forced to put the tip near the edge of the stud. My other hand was holding the block in place at the other end about twelve inches away (just in case it shined out).

I pulled the trigger and heard the ricochet. I glanced around to see where the nail went thinking I heard it bounce off a couple of walls. Then I realized it went into my hand. It basically nailed my thumb to my hand.

Being the only one on site, I had to drive back the 2 miles to the shop were one of the guys took me to the hospital. I lucked out for once. It only was under the skin and I didn't hit anything important. Other than embarrassment and a little soreness for a few days no ill effect will come out of this mishap.

Advice to other Woodworkers

Slow down and make sure you know where the tip is and your other hand is clear. One little knot can make a nail do a 180.

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Shop Tip

Using Wood Plugs

Woodscrews are a sure-fire way to assemble a project securely. The problem is there are times when I don't want the screw heads to show. Simple problem right? Just counter bore the screw hole and then use a wood plug like the ones shown above to cover up the head of the screw.



The type of plug you use and how you install it can make a big difference in how it looks. For instance, most store-bought plugs are cut from the end of a dowel. So they absorb stain or finish like a sponge. This makes the plugs darker than the surrounding wood so they end up standing out like a sore thumb.

An easy way to get around this is to cut your own plugs. This way, you can cut a face grain plug that will absorb finish more easily. Another advantage is that you can use the scrap pieces remaining from a project to create an almost invisible plug, as shown in the upper photo at right. Or maybe you'd like to highlight the plug by using a type of wood that contrasts in color, as shown in the lower photo.



Regardless of the look, you still want the plug to fit the hole like a cork in a bottle. To do this, I follow the simple six-step process detailed below.



1. With a plug cutter chucked in a drill press, cut the plugs in a scrap piece from the project. Be sure to make a few extra. This way, you'll be able to select a plug that best matches the color and grain of your project.

2.

The next step is to free the plugs from the work piece. To do this, I clamp a tall auxiliary fence to the bandsaw table and cut the plugs so they drop free



3.

With a pile of plugs in front of you, it's tempting to start gluing them in place. But take a minute to select just the right plug for each hole that matches the grain and color of the surrounding wood.



4.

To avoid a big mess, don't apply glue to the plug. Instead, brush glue around the sides of the hole. Then tap the plugs in place. Just don't overdo it. The plug doesn't have to "bottom out." All you're looking for is a snug fit



5.

Now it's just a matter of removing the part of the plug sticking above the work piece. To avoid scratching the work piece, slip a scrap of poster board (or plastic laminate) with a hole in it over the plug as you saw off the waste



6.

With the excess waste removed, all that's left to do is sand each of the plugs flush with the surface of the work piece. A block and some sandpaper make quick work of this



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Newsletter Deadline: 1st of the month:

**Please send all submissions for articles, tips, want ads announcements and anything else to Wayne Wainwright: 816 635-9815 email: wwrig01@mail2web.com
18424 Plattsburg Rd, Holt MO. 64048**

Tool of the Month

Don Kruse

are several pictures of his Nobles braces and information on Nobles, Amidon and Backus. He has given me permission to give you the links to his site.

OLD TOOL OF THE MONTH

This month we will look at three braces that have what is called a “shoulder-lock chuck”. The frame of the brace for this type chuck has a hole that is square in cross section and tapered along its depth inside the chuck. This shape matches that of the tapered square shank of the bits that were (and still are) in common use at that time. The chucks work by gripping the shaft of the bit above the shoulder and forcing it into this square tapered hole. This action keeps the square shank of the bit firmly in the square hole in the brace.

The pictures below show three of the many patented chucks that were common from the mid 1860’s to 1970.

The first one on the left was patented by Milton Nobles of Rochester, New York. This one was patented on Dec. 19, 1865 and was manufactured in Elmira, New York by the Nobles Mfg Co.

Charles H. Amidon was granted a patent for the center brace on Sep. 16, 1884. It has a small disk on each half of the chuck to grip the shaft of the bit. This disk can be rotated to one of three different positions, each for a different size of shaft. It is tightened by turning the large wing nut which forces the two disks to clamp the shaft of the bit. Amidon was one of the founders of the Millers Falls Tool Co.

The brace on the right was patented by Quimby Backus around 1872. This brace is not marked but there are examples of it that are. The bit is slipped between the two halves of the chuck which are turned to tighten the jaws onto the shaft of the bit. Backus was granted patents for several chucks, including one for use as a wrench.

Sandy Moss has a good web site for information on braces and he also has some tools for sale. There

Tools for Sale list at

<http://www.sydnassloot.com/tools.htm>

Brace Collection at

<http://www.sydnassloot.com/brace.htm>

A standard reference for braces is: THE AMERICAN PATENTED BRACE 1829-1924, by Ronald W. Pearson, D.O. This book is still available from Astragal Press and there is always a copy for sale on eBay for \$12.95 plus \$4.25 shipping.



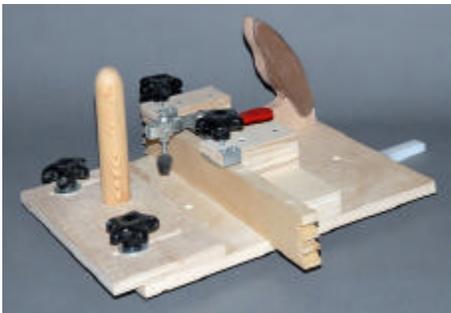
Show & Tell



Phil Akers Fir plywood Rocking horse with a poly finish



Bob King Photo Boxes. Maple and Lyptus and Walnut and Wenge.



Russ Amos Coping sled made from scrap material that has no finish.



Brian Kemp Picture frame of Red oak and walnut with a lacquer finish.



Anthony Harris Acorn box of boxwood and bi-metal nut. **Bill Jones** Box, of boxwood and 2 whistle tops of boxwood and walnut.



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Meeting Minutes

New Members: Guest: David Knight, Bill Coomer

News:

The Novice training class was held at Woodcraft on June 10th and was quite successful. 8 Members attended.

Dave Wright has 300 board feet of white oak for sale at \$1.35 cents a board foot.

John Freeland mentioned that if you buy a Rigid tool, they have a 3 year warranty, but if fill out a form on the web, it can have a life time warranty.

NAMETAG RAFFLE

Parker Nicholson - 20 pack sand paper, Mac Dressler - Scraper, Bill Webb - set of clamps, Hubert Wilburn - foam brushes, Bob Hiller - Safety glasses, Bob Miller - Screw driver set

RED TICKET RAFFLE ITEMS

Larry Morse - Safety Glasses, William Johnson - Chisels, Steve Erickson - Floor mats, Ken Sokol - Diamond sharpening set, Ron Sheldon - Set of clamps, Ken Grainger - Strait line set, Vince Ditrach - Set of medium sized clamps, Mark Hooper - Set of large clamps, Aaron Menning - Sanding Block, David Roth - Tool belt, George Dixon - Set of clamps, Kevin Thomas - Soldering gun

Show and Tell:

Brian Kemp made a Picture frame of Red oak and walnut that has a lacquer finish.

Bob King brought in two Photo Boxes. One made from Maple and Lyptus and the other one made from walnut and Wenge.

Russ Amos brought in a coping sled made from scrap material that has no finish. The points of interest are it is made from an existing sled and the idea came from a current Shop Notes Magazine.

Phil Akers brought in a Rocking horse "keeping up the family tradition". It is made of Fir plywood and has a poly finish The points of interest are the splayed legs and the challenges were assembly.

Wayne Suter brought in a Cherry and White oak box that has a lacquer finish.

Calendar

Executive Meetings, 7:00pm Kansas City Public Library 1410 W 10th St. KC MO 64105

Guild meetings, 7:00 p.m., Jacob's Well Church, 1617 W. 42nd St., To reach us "during the meetings, call: KCMO. (816) 561-8177

Executive Meetings

Guild Meetings

2006

January 4th
February 1st
March 1st
April 5th
May 3rd
June 7th
July 5th
August 2nd
September 6th
October 4th
November 1st
December 6th

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

All members are welcome at any board meeting. A call to one of the Officers is all that is necessary.

Wayne also brought in three band saw boxes, one of Cherry, one of Curly maple and Walnut and one of Curly Maple and Madrone. It has a wipe on poly.

Anthony Harris brought in an acorn box made of boxwood and bi-metal nut. He also made a Bill Jones Box, made from boxwood and also made 2 whistle tops of boxwood and walnut. The points of interest are cutting the whistles.

Merle Krugman brought in a sample of the note paper saw with a scroll saw. This is what the sample would have looked like from last month program. But we ran out of time .