



NEWSLETTER

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February 2009

From the Editor

by Chris Kovacs

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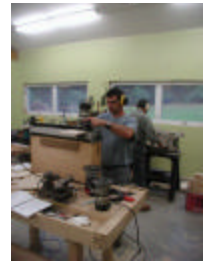
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We are well into our 2008-2009 Guild season and the meetings have been a great success. This year the Board of Directors has decided to use some of our funds to bring in a variety of outside speakers, a real benefit from your dues. In November, Phil Lowe, director of the Furniture Institute of Massachusetts and author of many woodworking articles, presented "Chair Making Joinery and Design Elements". Will Neptune, former North Bennet Street School instructor, and author of many *Fine Woodworking* articles, presented "Building Strategies" in January. Coming up in February is a meeting with Will Hunt, a well-known turner, in March, Loren Manbeck, and in April carver John Magnan. Phil Lowe's and Will Neptune's hands-on demonstrations and explanations were extremely informative. Our remaining guest speakers will be just as exciting and educational.

In September, Jim Tartaglia, one of our own members hosted a meeting on his property called "Backyard Logging". Jim cut down a tree, hauled the log out of the woods, and turned it into planks on his portable saw mill. Seeing a logging operation really makes you appreciate the hard work invested in harvesting trees. At another meeting, we covered shop safety, tool modifications and tool set up at Chris Kovacs' shop. Later this year we will be doing a hands-on sharpening workshop with Peter Wilcox. And to finish off the year we will be judging Tom Fama's skill at the grill during our annual BBQ and yearend meeting.



During the past two years, the Guild has given back to the community with charitable projects. The first was a credenza for the Molly Bish Institute at Mt. Wachusett Community College. This was a great teamwork project with several members coming together and working toward a common goal of building a beautiful credenza.



Our second project was for the Clinton Early Childhood Resource Center. For this project members built twenty sets of toy blocks that which were distributed to children whose parents had sought assistance from the Center. For 2009, Charlie DiAntonio and Jack Murphy are spearheading our latest project: a display case for the Milford, MA Senior Center. Charlie has put together a wonderful plan for building a cabinet that will be used to display artwork for sale that was made by the members of the Senior Center. The construction date has not been determined, but when it is we will be looking for volunteers to help acquire materials, build, finish, deliver, and install the cabinet.



Double the Capacity of Your Jointer (Flattening Wide Boards without the Fuss)

by Tom Fama



If you are like most woodworkers, you probably have a jointer with a capacity of half your thickness planer. Typically, I would rip wide boards to the width of my jointer to face flatten them. Then I would joint and glue the edges of flatten boards back, matching grain direction, clean up the glue joint and feed the wide board through my thickness planer.

The technique described here eliminates ripping, gluing, cleaning up wide boards. You can flatten and thickness boards as wide as your thickness planer's capacity; typically about twice as wide as your jointer's capacity.



To begin, remove the auxiliary table and the guard from your jointer. Set the fence to the maximum width of the jointer table. Take your oversized board and run several light passes over the jointer until it is flat. In effect, you are rabbeting the board on its face side. The oversize width will remain rough and hang beyond the cutter (and below it). (Top Left).

You will need a piece of Melamine or similar flat sheet for a bed on which to place the flattened surface of the board. The flattened side of the board will face down on the bed with the rough half overhanging the bed (Top Right). The feed rollers in the thickness planer will keep the board flat during cutting. The bed may need a stop to prevent the board from slipping.

The bed/board package is fed through the thickness planer, rough side up, until the second side is completely flat (Bottom Left). Remove the bed, flip the board (Bottom Center) and finish off the face side that was half-jointed (Bottom Right).



Q & A

By Chris Kovacs

Question: How do I restore an old rusty chisel found at a flea market? The rust has left pitting in the back of the chisel. Is the pitting a problem and if so, how do I remove it?

Answer: The pitting will result in a less than sharp edge. Ideally, the backside of a chisel would be perfectly flat with no imperfections. When the bevel is honed on a stone the two surfaces (bevel and back) meet in a perfectly straight line and produce an extremely sharp edge. If there is pitting on the backside, the edge will appear serrated where the back meets the bevel. The serrations are caused by the pits and may only be visible using a microscope or jeweler's loop. The edge may feel sharp and will likely cut well at first, but the serrated nature of the edge will cause it to fail sooner and become dull quickly; it will also not cut as cleanly. Since this problem is on a chisel, I would not be concerned. In most cases, a chisel is not used to produce a finished surface. If this were a plan iron, or a chisel used for finish work, I would start with a coarse stone and then move to finer grits until the backside is perfectly flat and polished like a mirror. A plane is designed to produce a smooth surface and a serrated edge produced by pitting on the plane iron will leave you with disappointing results. You will know if the edge of your plane iron is serrated if the shaving comes off in strips instead of a smooth, full width shaving.

Question: How do I get started using spray-finishing equipment? What kind of equipment is recommended for a small home workshop?

Answer: For someone starting out with spray finishing equipment, I would recommend a relatively inexpensive gravity cup HVLP gun connected to an air compressor. The spray guns can be purchased for about \$120. These guns spray very nicely and can be adjusted for a range of different finishes. I use the gravity guns for spraying shellac, conversion varnish, waterborne clear finishes and primers. The gun is easy to clean and maintain. The cups typically hold a quart or less of fluid. I usually fill my gun about $\frac{3}{4}$ full of finish as they can become heavy and tiresome to use after a while. These guns are ideal if you only need to spray a small amount of finish. You will however need a compressor capable of producing the proper airflow required by the spray gun. I operate my HVLP guns using a 60 gallon 5 hp compressor. You will need to check the CFM requirement of the gun you purchase and make sure you have a compressor that can meet the air flow requirements. If you are planning to do a lot of spray finishing, the next step up is a pressure pot system. These systems can cost \$1,000 or more but produce a better quality finish than gravity cups, have a capacity for 2.5 gallons or more of finish and since the liquid sits in a pressure pot on the floor, the gun weighs much less and there is significantly less strain on your arm while finishing. These spray systems push the finish through the gun under pressure and can therefore apply more finish quicker than gravity feed spray guns. Pressure pot systems are best suited for the professional cabinet and finishing shops.

Question: I was doing a complicated glue-up that involved many parts. The glue began to set before I could finish clamping all of the parts. How do I avoid this problem on future glue-ups?

Answer: This is a problem that can be very frustrating and the solution is to have a variety of different types of glue in your workshop. Glue manufacturers have specialized their products. No longer can one type of glue solve all of your gluing problems. If you have a complicated glue-up, you will need glue that has a long open time. Yellow glue (Titebond Original or Elmer's yellow glue for instance) has a working time of about 3-5 minutes. White glue has a slightly longer working time. Titebond III, which is also waterproof, has a working time of 10 minutes and Titebond Extend has a 15 minutes working time. If 15 minutes is still not enough time, then epoxy may be the best solution. Once applied to the joinery, epoxy will have a working time of 45 minutes or longer. Every workshop should have a wide range of glues specific to different tasks. In my shop, I have Titebond Original, II and III, West Systems Epoxy, hide glue, three different types of cyanoacrylate (Super Glue) glues with accelerants, contact cement, hot melt glue and for some situations, two sided tape.

The Next Meeting

Saturday February 14, 2009
9:00 am until noon

Guest speaker Will Hunt - Segmented bowl turning

The meeting will be hosted at Jack Murphy's Shop in Bolton, MA

Directions to Jack Murphy's House and Shop

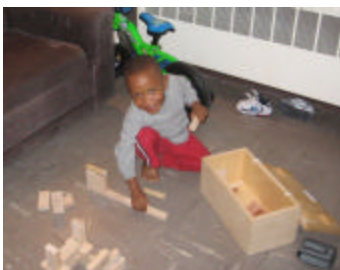
64 Coventry Wood Road,
Bolton MA 01740
978-779-0547

From the intersection of route 495 and route 117 in Bolton

1. Head east from Main St - go about 2 miles
2. Turn left at Eastend Rd - go 0.3 miles
3. Turn left at Sugar Rd - go 0.4 miles
4. Turn left at Coventry Wood Rd - go 0.2 miles
5. Arrive at 64 Coventry Wood Rd
6. Please park on the street



Peter Wilcox demonstrating bent lamination.



2007 Guild Boxes of Blocks project recipient.



Membership

If you would like further information about the Eastern Massachusetts Guild of Woodworkers, please email Phyllis Jaffee at pgjaffee@29designs.com. Annual dues is \$40, payable each September.

Officers and Board Members

President	Tom Fama	tomfama@comcast.net
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Schedule

What:

Backyard Logging
 Safety, tool modifications and set up
 Chair making joinery
 Building strategies
 Segmented bowl turning
 Topic TBD
 Carving
 Sharpening
 BBQ

Where:

Jim Tartaglia
 Chris Kovacs
 Phil Lowe
 Will Neptune
 Will Hunt
 Loren Manbeck
 John Magnan
 Peter Wilcox
 Tom Fama

When:

Sept. 13, 2008
 Oct 11, 2008
 Nov. 15, 2008
 Jan. 10, 2009
 Feb. 14, 2009
 Mar. 14, 2009
 April 11, 2009
 May 9, 2009
 June 13, 2009

FEBRUARY 2009						
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MAY 2009						
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