

## **EMGW Cutting Board Project Instructions**

December 2022 – 2023

Jeff Clunie

To date, five Guild members have expressed an interest in participating in the proposed group workshop project to make a cutting board. There are two intended purposes of the workshop: 1) to learn the techniques involved in making a relatively ornate cutting board; and 2) providing an opportunity for increased social interaction amongst Guild members.

Jeff Clunie will serve as the coordinator of this workshop and plans to have an in-person "kickoff" meeting in January. It should be noted that Jeff will ask attendees to wear a mask. If wearing a mask will be a problem, arrangements can be set up for a Zoom call.

During December, Jeff will contact all the individuals who have expressed an interest in participating in the workshop to determine a starting time and day of the week which will work best for the group. Consideration will be given to whether the individuals are still working or are retired, as well as their driving distances and peak traffic hours. The group will decide whether a weekday or a weekend day works best for all involved.

Prior to the initial meeting, each participant will decide if that individual wants to only observe Jeff showing the initial steps involved or if the individual would like to do some practice cuts while attending the initial meeting

For the initial meeting, participants will be encouraged to bring the following:

- 1) A piece of one inch thick maple that is the approximate size of the final cutting board that the participant plans to make
- 2) A 3/4 inch thick piece of MDF that is at least three inches wide and 4-5 inches longer than the piece of maple. The MDF will be used to make a template for routing the cutouts for the strips of hardwood discussed below.

If the participant wants to make some practice cuts at the meeting using the participant's own router, the participant should bring an additional piece of 3/4 inch thick MDF, with such a piece being the approximate size of the base of the participant's router.

- 3) Pieces of one inch thick hardwoods that are at least two inches longer than the piece of maple. Different types of hardwood can be used if the participant wants to have different colored strips in the cutting board. Examples of different types of hardwood could include, but are certainly not limited to, purple heart, sapele, mahogany or any other type of hardwood that will provide contrast to the maple. During the meeting, the hardwood can be cut into 1/8 inch thick strips for future use.

It should be noted that this project involves an extended period of time to complete the entire cutting board because the process requires that each installation of a strip/strips of hardwood includes all of the following steps: cutting the maple board into two pieces; installing the strip/strips of hardwood; gluing the pieces back together using pipe clamps; allowing the glue

to thoroughly dry (at least three hours); bringing the two sides of the cutting board back to being perfectly flush; and then repeating the process for the next strip/strips of hardwood. Each step of installing the strip/strips does not require a great deal of time to perform, but proper time must be allowed for the glue to dry. A minimum of three hours should be allowed for each drying sequence because the piece is under a good deal of pressure because the pattern for the strip/strips is curved.

For those participants who may want to do some woodworking at the first meeting, they should also bring the following:

- 1) A piece of scrap 3/4 inch pine or other softer wood that is about five inches wide and the approximate length of the cutting board. This will be used to make a practice cut(s) with the participant's router and the participant's newly made template
- 2) A router, which preferably does not have a plunge base.
- 3) A 1/4 inch wide straight cutting router bit
- 4) A 1 inch long 1/2 inch diameter flush cutting router bit with a ball bearing mounted guide at the top of the router bit

At the end of the first meeting, the group will decide if they want to have a weekly meeting to make the necessary additional installations of the strip/strips or would prefer to do the work in their own shops.

When all the hardwood strips have been installed, the group will reconvene at Jeff's shop to go over the shaping of the ends of the cutting boards, the rounding over of the edges and the making of finger grooves on the ends of the cutting boards. This will involve making an additional MDF jig and the application of a special router bit. The group will decide if they would prefer to do all their boards at this final meeting, using Jeff's two different router bits and jig, or if they would prefer to perform these functions in their own shops.