

THE ALABAMA WOODWORKERS GUILD

October, 1983

Pelham, Alabama

Gentlemen

I'm sure that if you attended our last meeting you were very impressed with our speaker, Mr. Graig Nutt. The man has an unbelievable talent. I know we all got alot out of his program. We hope to have him back soon for another meeting and possibly for a weekend workshop.

There are a few things we need to take care of at our next meeting. We need to approve the by-laws that James Stevens has drawn up for us. He plans to have them at our October meeting. We also want to settle had a few entries but we need some more to choose from. We are going to decide on a logo in October so if you have a design make sure you bring it or send it if you cannot attend. We need the logo so we can print membership cards, charter member certificates and order some stationary.

Interest in the Guild is still high and our membership is still growing. We've also gotton a few suggestions from some of you as to what you would like to see the Guild do or provide. We still need more input so we can make this a better organization. If you have suggestions please put it in writing and bring it with you to a meeting or mail it. We won't forget it if you write it down See you in October.

Spruce McRee

NEXT MEETING

Where: Pelham High School
When: Thursday, Oct. 13, 1983 at 7 p.m.

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Subject: **This month's program will be on plane making. The talk will be given by John McGee. This seminar will be one you can get off on.**

If you're interested in attending a plane making seminar, call Jim Stevenson at 987-0975(H) or 871-3451(O).

WORKSHOP REVIEW

Several Guild members recently attended a workshop on wood finishing conducted by Greg Williams of Mohawk finishing Products, Inc. Completed but unfinished projects were brought to Acton Moulding on September 10, where participants were instructed by Mr. Williams in staining, sealing and filling wooden surfaces. First-hand experience was also gained in lacquer spraying techniques. We appreciate the efforts made by Ed Snow, Ron Acton, and of course Greg Williams in presenting this workshop.

One other point seems worth mentioning--workshop attendance was lower than expected. An ongoing workshop program will need the support, enthusiasm and participation of our members. So why not plan to attend future workshops in order to learn more about a facinating hobby/profession and to make new wood-working friends. If you have specific or general workshop ideas, **we would like to hear from you.**

AWWG LOGO

Guild Members: Submit your design of a logo for your Guild by October's meeting. Logo will be used on newsletters, stationary, etc.

HAZARD PAY

A pair of safety glasses are so inexpensive and are worth a fortune. In case you've taken it for granted lately remember; you only get one pair of eyes. Buy and wear safety glasses for all woodworking and handyman activities. A member of my family got a piece of nail head in his eye from a simple nail. He's had some eye surgery and will be ok. If something flies into your eye you may not be as lucky as my brother-in-law was. Use your head and protect your eyes. You may not appreciate them until you've lost them.

Shellac is an organic material derived from the residue of a small bug found predominantly in the far east countries. This bug, called the lac bug, lives and breeds on the branches of trees found in these countries. It secretes a resinous substance through body pores which finally encrust it. The innumerable secretions of these insects gets heavily encrusted on the branches. The branches are harvested in the fall or winter.

The branches are then broken up into short twigs 2 to 3 inches long. The shellac in this form is known as stick-lac. The twigs are further crushed, milled and sifted to remove the bodies of the insect. When this has been accomplished it is referred to as seed-lac.

The seed-lac is placed in long cotton tubes and heated over charcoal fires. The cotton tubes are then twisted in opposite directions and the melted shellac is forced through the cotton to form sheets of shellac. While the tubes are being twisted some of it falls to the ground to form little buttons. The buttons are referred to as button-lac.

The sheets of shellac resin are then broken up into flakes and sent to processors to remove waxes, to lighten the color and to remove any impure residues.

DRY AND LIQUID SHELLAC

Pure shellac is normally available in two forms—Dry Flakes and Liquid. In the dry state, a variety of shellac flakes are available and are classed and priced according to their degree of refinement. Liquid shellac is classed and priced according to the pound cut of the mixture. The higher the pound cut the higher the price.

Orange Shellac flakes should be dissolved in denatured alcohol. If you dissolve one pound of shellac flakes in one gallon of denatured alcohol, you will have a one pound cut of liquid shellac. Two pounds of shellac flakes in one gallon of denatured alcohol produces a two pound cut and so forth. When using the lower grades of shellac such as stick-lac, seed-lac and button-lac, the liquid should be strained through fine mesh cheesecloth prior to use to remove the impurities present.

In order to make white shellac, the orange shellac is bleached under special processes. After bleaching, it is milled and ground into white granules. The white shellac in this dry condition has a very short shelf life on the order of three to six months. This short shelf life may be extended somewhat by storing in a refrigerated space. Because of its rapid deterioration, the white granules are usually dissolved by the processor, in denatured alcohol, thus producing a white liquid shellac and other such products shortly after the bleaching is accomplished.

Shellac as a finish has many advantages over other types of finishes, however, it does also have some serious shortcomings. Some of the major advantages are that it can be sprayed or brushed at two or three pound cut, it is durable, elastic and flexible, it may be used for sealing resinous wood when necessary. Some of the major disadvantages are that it is not waterproof, is not heat proof, is not alcohol proof and has a short shelf life when compared to other types of finishes.

APPLYING SHELLAC

The same work, work place and brush care should be taken when shellac is to be the finish as previously noted under varnish finishes. A possible exception is the need to be overly cautious about a dust problem. Shellac, when properly applied, dries dust free in a few minutes.

As previously mentioned, shellac should be at a two to three pound cut viscosity when either brushing or spraying. When brushing, it is far better to apply many thin coats rather than heavy ones. Application of heavy coats will reduce dry time and brush marks will be more readily apparent. The brush should be dipped about 3/4 of the way into the shellac and gently wiped off against the rim. Shellac is not as susceptible to air bubble problems as varnish is. Apply the shellac in long full strokes with the grain. After the piece has been fully shellacked, wait a few minutes and gently sand with fine sandpaper. If the shellac is dry, a powder will form on the surface and the paper will not clog. If the shellac has not dried sufficiently, it will sand tacky and the paper will clog. Dust the piece off and re-apply the shellac again lightly sanding after each coat. After the desired number of coats have been applied, the shellac finish may be rubbed, buffed or waxed in the usual manner.

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FIDDLING AROUND

August's monthly meeting brought to the club, Dr. Westley Miller, a professional violin maker from Homewood, Alabama. Dr. Miller shared with the guild many of the strato-various skills, unique tools, techniques and materials he has used in handcrafting violins, violas, cellos, etc. and bows. There were many displays of tools and various instruments in different stages of completion. Dr. Miller performed on the dulcimer and his wife played the violin and viola. A salute goes to Dr. Miller for his skills and diligence in the crafting of these hand made treasures. Why not give violin building a try. There's always room for cello.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Here's a chance for you Guild members to make suggestions on what you would like to see the Guild doing. Send your ideas in or bring to the October meeting.

Suggested Speaker Topics (Name of Speaker and Phone if known).

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Suggested Workshops and Events

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Would you pay an extra \$2 - \$5 to help pay the expenses of a nationally recognized craftsman to come talk and/or give a demonstration/workshop?

Yes No

Would you like to become more involved in the Guild's activities? Which areas?

List below other ideas you have for the Guild or the Newsletter.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Your Name _____

Home Phone _____ **Office Phone** _____

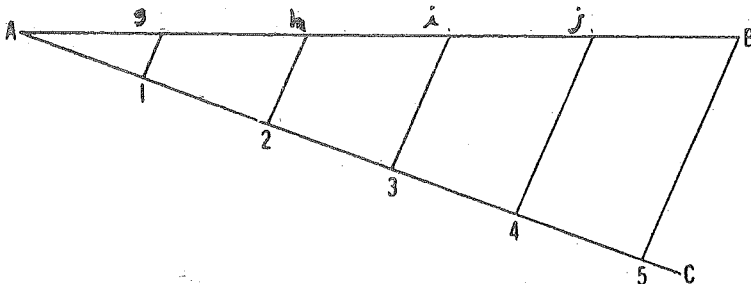
CRAFTSMAN CORNER

1. When drawing an ellipse with string and two tacks, the pencil tends to slip out of the string loop. This problem is corrected if you place a small washer under the string before you begin.

2. You can easily make your own sanding dishes. Simply set a pair of dividers to the exact radius and trace and score your circle out on the back of the sandpaper. A piece of cardboard or scrap plywood makes a good work base. Pop out your finished disk.

3. To divide a line into a number of parts refer to diagram below. If AB is to be divided to 5 equal parts draw a line AC to any five units in length. Join BC at point 5 then points 1,2,3 and 4 draw lines 1g,2h,3i, and 4j all parallel to BC. AC is now divided into 5 equal parts.

(see sketch)



To divide a line into a number of equal parts.

CHISELERS CORNER

For

Sale:

1. Craftsman 10" Radial Saw - \$200.00
 2. Dado Set, 5 blades
 3. Planer 1/2" chuck
- Call Jim Stevens at 871-3451-O or 987-0975-W

4. Black & Decker Circular Saw 7 1/4", Price \$15
- Contact Spruce McRee, Jr. at 871-0237

Looking to find personalized branding iron or tip which will thread onto existing woodburning head. Call Larry Aaron at 595-7844(H) or 254-4654(O)

Do you have or do you know of any shop equipment, supplies or lumber for sale? Are you trying to locate a particular item? Put an ad in our Chiselers Corner.

A SCREWY ANNOUNCEMENT

Let me ASH you something. Do you just LATHE around and PINE away? Does your head FILL like a HAMMER? WOOD you like to PLANE CHISEL out of your GROOVE? Then let me give you a BIT of VISE. Get up off your CEDAR. BRACE up and NAIL down a new BRACKET: WOOD WORKING. You never SAW how this will make you CUT up. PUTTY soon, if you CLAMP down and endure the STAIN, you may even become a CRAFTSMAN.

Richard Wash

Editor's Reply - Hey DADO head, CUT out the SCRAP. You're KNOT that funny.

A SLICE OF LIFE

How does a carpenter overcome the anxiety of being put down?

Cut Up!!

The Alabama Woodworkers Guild
P.O. Box 327
Pelham, AL 35124

MR. MICHAEL J. WENDEBORN
4759 WIND RIDGE LANE
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35244

