

# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VIII NUMBER 12 DECEMBER 1990

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## OFFICERS

Jim Caldwell . . . . . President  
Gene Benitez . . . . . Vice President  
Roy Bates . . . . . Secretary-Treasurer

## DIRECTORS

Frank Jones  
Mike Key  
Dale Lewis  
Ben Neighbors  
Harold Phillips  
Bill Purson

## EX-OFFICIO DIRECTORS

Nelson Brooks  
Spruce McRee  
Leonard Sanders

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# *Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

We have been talking about our annual Christmas party for months now and it is finally here. There are those among us that were not members last Christmas and are not familiar with our party. You new folks are in for a lovely evening for yourself and your family. We meet at the Helena United Methodist Church at 6:00 p.m. on December 8th and as soon as the covered dishes are in place, forming the buffet line (chow line), we eat. The Guild furnishes the tablecloths, paper plates, plastic utensils, coffee and tea. You bring the food: a covered dish, your wife's favorite will do fine, and make it enough for you and your

family. It has been our experience that it is not necessary to designate what each should bring, and it is amazing how we always have plenty of meats, vegetables, salads and desserts. Bring what you will, but do come and bring something. After dinner we draw for the prizes for the Toys for Tots participants; then after that we draw for the great group of prizes given us by our advertisers which all members are eligible for. Then if time permits, and we are in the mood, we might sing a few carols. It is altogether a splendid way to spend an evening getting to know each other better. (You might be surprised how some of our

members look all scrubbed clean and dressed up.) This is our last meeting of 1990, and on behalf of the officers and directors have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and may your 1991 be better than your 1990. Here are the directions one more time: The road in front of Acton's is Hwy. 17. If you are coming from the East go three blocks past Acton's and turn right on Hwy. 58. Coming from the west, turn on Hwy. 58 some three blocks before you get to Acton's. After getting on Hwy. 58 go about a mile and the church is on the right, and being lighted you can't miss it.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

I want to thank everyone who built toys this year. We have had a good "production run" with top quality products. WELL DONE! There will be a lot of happy kids on Christmas day because of your efforts.

I hope to see all of you at the Christmas party. You don't want to miss it. We have a lot of good cooks in this organization! I am not sure if the woodworking quality matches the cooking or not. Come to the party and taste for yourself.

On behalf of the new officers I want to say thanks for the vote of confidence (AKA "Railroading") in electing us for 1991. It looks like a good year, good programs in the offing and hopefully a couple of good seminars. We will have a spring show so now that all the toys are complete you can start planning that show quality project.

Linda and I hope all of you have the very best Holiday Season. Let's all look forward to making lots of sawdust in '91.

Jim Caldwell

**LAST MEETING**

Our revered member, staunch supporter, Woodworker of the Year for 1989, Ivan Kronberg brought us our program. If there is anything he doesn't know about wood, he doesn't let us know about it. No doubt he has forgotten more about wood than most of us will ever know. Using an easel with paper pad and felt marker he sketched the inter-workings of trees during growth; showed us how sawmills produce quarter-sawn lumber; how they produce flat and rift sawn lumber; how to recognize the dark splotches on the end cut of logs indicating there is barbed wire or nails buried in the tree; showed us with scraps how you can see light through an end slice of red oak, and can't through white oak; how "reaction" wood comes from leaning trees; how hard wood is also referred to as "tension" wood; how conifers is where the center of the tree is off center and produces compression wood; and how to resaw a slab of wood (preferably figured) and by turning them properly you produce what is called "bookmatching". There was much more, including a slide presentation to demonstrate his remarks. Ivan also had several pieces of wood, of various kinds, to demonstrate his descriptions. We very much appreciate his taking the time to prepare this program for us, and since Elsie is what makes Ivan run, we thank her too.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 1991**

The nominating committee made its report at the October meeting, and this report was published in the November Newsletter as required by the By-Laws. It was then appropriate for the nominations to be acted on at the November meeting. The President put it to a vote of the membership, and the following slate was unanimously elected for the Year 1991:

**Officers:**

- President . . . . . Jim Caldwell
- Vice President (programs) . Dale Lewis
- Sec'y-Treasurer . . . . . Roy Bates
- Newsletter . . . . . Leonard Sanders

**Board of Directors:**

- Gene Benitez
- Frank Jones
- Mike Key
- Ben Neighbors
- Harold Phillips
- Bill Purson

**Ex-Officio Directors:**

- Nelson Brooks
- Spruce McRee
- Leonard Sanders

**DOOR PRIZE**

Having signed in, like you are supposed to, Paul McPhearson was the recipient of the door prize, which this month was a spirit level.

Officers are automatically members of the Board.

Alabama Woodworkers Guild Newsletter is published monthly for its members and other interested parties. Guild meetings are held monthly on the second Thursday at 7:00 P.M. at Acton Moulding & Supply Co. Information concerning the Guild may be secured by writing P.O. Box 506, Helena, Al 35080 or calling the Editor, Leonard Sanders, at 822-6876.


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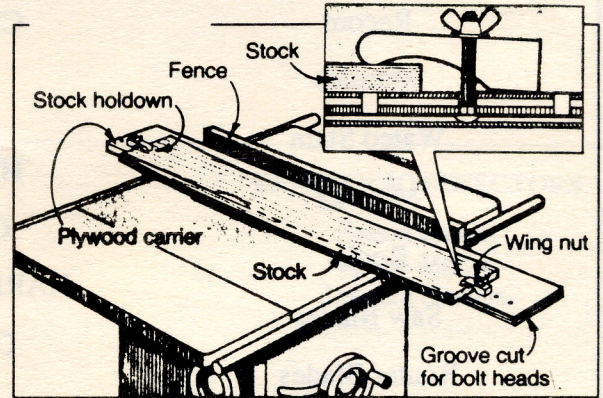
Interestingly, having just heard Ivan give his program on recognizing and appreciating wood, Fine WoodWorking is offering a book on wood. It is entitled "Identifying Wood, Accurate Results with Simple Tools", by R. Bruce Hoadley, Ph.D. Dr. Hoadley has been a consultant to archaeologists, antique dealers, police investigators and others, all of whom have a keen interest in wood identification. The publication date is October 31, 1990 and the price is \$39.95. It is in a hard cover, 240 pages, 241 b/w photos, 152 color photos, 34 b/w illustrations and 15 tables. If you are interested you may call Donna Pierpont at 800-283-7252 for a review copy. This is a Tauton Press publication.

Having forgotten to mention this in the front page article, if you have an unusual collection of wood, tools, plans, or whatever, that you think would make a nice drawing prize at the party, please bring it (them).

Once again, we had a fine collection of show and tell items. Randy Hall had two carvings — a woman and her jugs, and a man on his horse (both asleep); Jim Carnason had a jeep, an auto, and a splendid world globe on a turned stand; Mike Healy had a very well made end table using the 1,2,3 type finish we learned about at our fall seminar. Thanks, men.

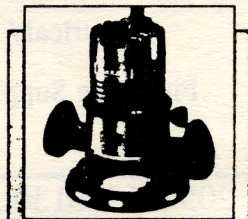
### This jig quickly straightens edges

*Attempting to rip a straight edge onto a board with irregular edges can be dangerous or downright impossible. One solution: Tack a straight board to the irregular board with finishing nails. Unfortunately, this method leaves small nail marks in the top surface of the workpiece.*



**TIP:** Construct a carrier board from 3/4" plywood to a width and length to accommodate most of your boards (14" x 7" works for me). As shown above, you can quickly clamp the workpiece to this carrier board, then rip one edge. Remove the workpiece from the carrier board, place the jig aside, and position the just-ripped edge along the fence to straighten the other edge.

—Thomas Bruzan, Des Plaines, Ill.



For his tip, Tom receives the Makita model 3606 router shown above.

## EARN CASH, PRIZES FOR YOUR TOP SHOP TIP

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### A simple guard for your router-table's router

*A router table can be an indispensable tool, but if a router-bit shank breaks, look out! Any pieces falling into the router housing can cause damage to the router's cooling fan and motor.*

**TIP:** Place a piece of fiberglass window screen over the bottom of the router to block any broken bit pieces. Small drops of cyanoacrylate (instant) glue will hold the screen in place.

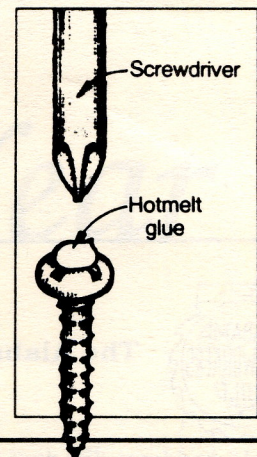
—Roger Ronald, Sachse, Texas

### A sticky solution for a screw problem

*Sometimes, tight quarters restrict you from steadying a screw or bolt with one hand while you turn a screwdriver or ratchet with your other hand. Hopefully, the fastener will stay attached to the tool as you position it and attempt to drive it in. If the fastener falls, you might be in for an aggravating experience.*

**TIP:** Drop a small dab of hot-melt glue onto the head of the fastener, and attach the screwdriver or ratchet. When you finish driving the fastener, the tool will release easily. A little scraping removes any residual adhesive.

—David J. Casolino, Milford, Conn.

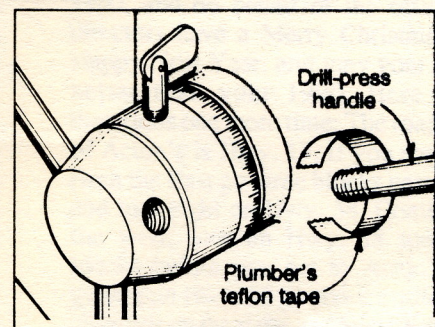


### An end to loosened drill-press handles

*Drill-press handles seem to loosen by themselves. Constantly retightening the handles because of machine vibration can unnerve even the calmest woodworker.*

**TIP:** Remove the handles and wind two revolutions of plumber's teflon tape around the threads. Now, replace each handle and tighten it for a no-slip fit.

—Dave Godlewski, Sparks, Nev.



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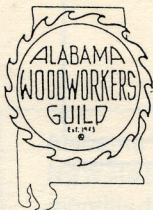
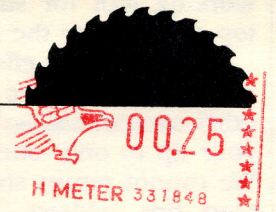
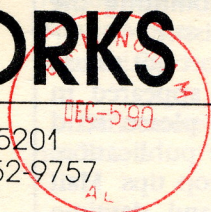
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