

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME IX NUMBER 3 MARCH 1991

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are planning the spring show for Saturday May 25, 1991 at the Sloss Furnace. We are planning on having working demonstrations and a display of our work. Judging will be on Saturday. Sloss has a small but well equipped gallery. The ribbon winners will be given the opportunity to exhibit in the gallery for a couple of weeks. More details to come. I know all of you can turn out a nice project for this show.

The seminar schedule is shaping up. Randy Cochran from Decatur, Alabama will tell us the secrets of chair making in June. Randy was our judge for the spring show last year.

Jack Harich from Atlanta will do triple duty in October, discussing his furniture designs at the Guild meeting, describing his building techniques in an all day seminar on Saturday October 12, and giving a 2 day hands-on dovetail seminar for a class of 10 on Friday October 11 and Sunday October 13. I have visited Jack's shop and seen his work. It is truly outstanding.

The Woodworking Show will be in Atlanta again this year, April 5 through 7. They have finally moved from the Lakewood Fairgrounds! This show will be downtown in Inforum, a large high rise building at Spring St. and Baker St. Parking may be a bit of a problem but the show space will be a great improvement over the fairgrounds.

The woodworking and carving classes got off to a good start despite a power

failure on the first night. I think we were able to accommodate everyone wishing to take the woodworking class after all. If there is sufficient demand we do plan to follow this class with another.

NEXT MEETING MARCH 14, 1991 • 7:00 P.M.

The program for March will be of interest for two reasons. First, the speaker is Randy Cochran whose program will be on the subject of CHAIRS; and second, Randy is going to conduct our Spring/Summer seminar in June. Mr. Cochran will be familiar to a lot of you since he was the judge of our show last year. Randy lives and works in Decatur where he is a successful professional woodworker. After seeing our show last year he said he wasn't hard to convince we would be a good audience and he is looking forward to discussing the making of chairs with us. This also is a good chance to preview him for the upcoming seminar in June. Come prepared to ask him questions about difficulties you may have encountered while making chairs.

LAST MEETING • FEBRUARY 1991

The program was advertised as, and indeed was, on the subject of adhesives. Tom Hudson, owner of HUDCO, together with his chief chemist, startled us with adhesive information most of us didn't know existed. HUDCO is a manufacturing

enterprise who will create whatever adhesive you may need. They primarily form epoxies for industrial customers, and their products are not currently available on a retail basis. Mr. Hudson did say, however, they are currently studying the entry into the retail market. One of the epoxies HUDCO has created is waterproof. In fact it has been used under water on a submerged project. They have made one that stuck steel to steel which withstood a 3,800 lb. test on a length-strength test. They have made one that was used to build an airplane; an epoxy that was used to adhere a flange to a 5" pipe and which withstood 200,000 lbs. of pressure; he warns not to expect epoxy to stick wax paper to wax paper — it won't stick (we know a lot of you are disappointed to learn this); when mixing the two parts, if too much hardener is used in proportion to the glue it will slow down the setting up process; to be successful, glue should penetrate the fibers of the wood. Mr. Hudson displayed several applications where wood parts were laminated on an angle and practically guaranteed not to separate, even if wet. We are indebted to Tom and his colleague for bringing us this excellent and timely program.

SHOW AND TELL

What a fine display of objects made by our members. First, there were two mahogany end tables with cabriole legs, one made by our woodworking class, and the other by veteran woodworker, past

Secretary/Treasurer and Board Member, Walter Barnett; two really lovely hand mirrors, one made of maple, ebony and pink ivory, and the other of purple heart, maple and pink ivory, and made by Richard Brewer; two bowls, made in the usual competent manner by Frank Jones; and several relief carvings by Ivan Kronberg. We continue to enjoy the production of our members and hope more of you will bring and share with us in the future.

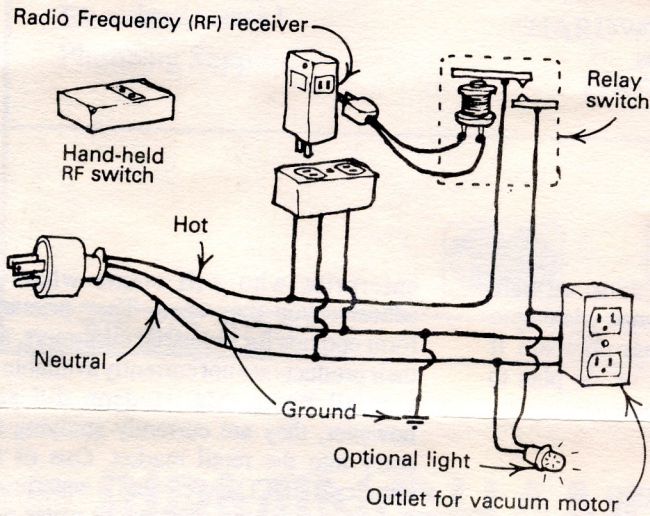
BUY - SELL - SWAP

We still have a Craftsman 8" table saw, with stand and casters left over from last month — call Harold Phillips at 424-0819; then if you are interested in some 8/4 Purple Heart, Sterling Brewer has a few feet he will let go at \$8.00 a BF. Y'all call 'em.

THE WOODWORKING CLASS

We are pleased to report the general woodworking class, under the tutelage of David Traywick, is under way with 15 promising students. The first meeting was interrupted by a power failure, but that didn't dampen the enthusiasm and they were back the next week. After a short interlude, the CARVING CLASS is back and running. Ivan Kronberg and Jerry Vines are guiding the young carvers.

Wireless vacuum switch



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In articles about dust-collection systems, several workers have proposed some rather complicated methods using reconstructed transformers and bell-wire switches for turning the vacuum unit on and off. I've developed a simpler approach based on a device constructed from stock parts, and which has worked well in my shop. It combines a power relay with a wireless radio frequency (RF) switch to supply power to the vacuum motor. The power relay is a Potter & Brumfield 25-amp model with a 120v rated coil (#PR1AY-120 VAC. SPST N.O. from H&R Corp., 401 E. Erie Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. 19124-1187, catalog #TM25K042). The wireless RF switch (#61-2667) is from Radio Shack.

The simple schematic shows how I wired the relay. Please note that this wiring approach is fine for 120v motors, but won't work with 240v motors. The RF switch can be used by itself to control motors up to 1/3 HP, but I used the relay because the 1-HP motor on my vacuum draws up to 20 amps at start-up, which is too much current for the RF switch alone. I keep the RF controller in the pocket of my shop apron and turn the vacuum on and off while standing at the particular shop machine in use at the moment. I can keep one hand on the workpiece while operating the switch; moreover, I avoid a great deal of walking to and from the dust collector.

—Peter Loft, Rochester, N.Y.

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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SPRING SHOW

We are going to continue to remind you to begin your projects for entry in the Spring Show. We have reserved space at the Sloss Furnace, a place we have been to before. They have an excellent gallery for displaying art objects (and that is exactly what our show contains) and the gallery has excellent security. We will have a one day show with some of our members demonstrating various types of woodworking, and that will be held on May 25, 1991. The show will be judged (more about this later), and the winners will be left on display in the gallery for up to two weeks. While there is traffic through there on week days, the biggest traffic is on weekends. Now about this matter of having your work judged. This seems to frighten some of you. No need for this. Having our work judged is just another step to be taken in perfecting our woodworking. Whether we "win" anything, or not, is not the important thing, it is what we learn about our efforts from having them judged. The judge will follow a judging sheet, on which are several categories of questions to be answered on a one-to-ten scale. They deal with the overall object and its appearance, taking into consideration whether the object is an original or a copy (made from plans); the structural integrity is judged; and the type and quality of finish are judged. When you are given the judging sheet and study it, you will know what a professional (who doesn't know you) thinks of your work. It is at this time you benefit from having your work judged. From the sheet you are told whether your object is structurally sound, will do the job for which it is intended, and whether you did a good job with its finish. Now is that anything to be afraid of? Of course not. Having this under your belt, get with your project. It doesn't matter what you make, large or small, square or round, just make something for us to see. We learn from each other when we have a show, not only what to make but how to make it. A feeling of pride comes over us as we see someone, Guild member or visitor, admire our object or objects. There are quite a few new members in the Guild, and they are encouraged to participate too. We will continue to prompt you right up to the May 25th deadline, so let's get started.

GROWTH

What are we going to do about the size of our Guild? We are going to stick our chest out with pride. There were some 98 who signed the attendance at the last meeting, and we know there were several who didn't sign in, so we had over a hundred in attendance. This is presenting a

seating problem, and your officers are looking into providing seating at our meetings. We need to remind our new members, as well as you old(er) members we get a discount on purchases at Acton's, and the discount varies with the item being purchased. Also, you may help a friend out by buying for him so as to get the discount, as well as get the quality merchandise sold by Acton's. A newly added attraction is that Acton's is tabulating purchases by Guild members each month, and a percentage of those purchases is given to the Guild for use in defraying a portion of the costs associated with putting on seminars. There must be a need for a Guild, such as ours, for it to continue to progress and attract new members. Your officers and directors are always on the prowl for any way to make the meetings better and provide a forum for advancing the knowledge of woodworking of its members.

LIBRARY

There may be some of you, especially our newer members, who are not aware we have a growing library for your use. You may check out books and periodicals on meeting nights, and of course they must be returned on meeting nights. Frank Jones is the librarian (they only one we have ever had), and he will help you find what you need and check it out to you. We have textbooks, reference books, sets of plans and magazines. There are several magazines who donate a subscription to us, and they are: FINE WOODWORKING, POPULAR WOODWORKING, WOOD MAGAZINE, WOODSMITH, and WOODWORKER'S JOURNAL. These publications continue to arrive and you are missing a good bet if you don't use them. It is probable you will end up subscribing to one or more of them after being exposed to them (your editor subscribes to six such magazines).

FALL SEMINAR

A little advance notice and information about our fall seminar. The gentleman is from Atlanta, and will present our regular meeting program on Thursday night, a hands-on seminar on Friday and Sunday, and a demonstration program all day on Saturday. A lot of what he will demonstrate deals with how much can be done with hand tools. All of us do not have a lot of power tools, and this is our chance to see what all we can do that we did not know we could do with hand tools. The seminar will be in October, and there will be more about this later.

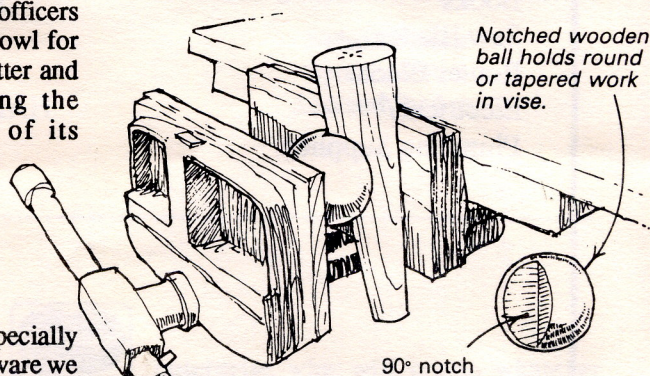
NEW MEMBERS

Since last month's NEWSLETTER, there have been some more new members. We welcome them and hope they will enter into the spirit of our Guild like our old timers do. They are as follows:

Little, Marvin
McCarthy, James
Piper, Tom

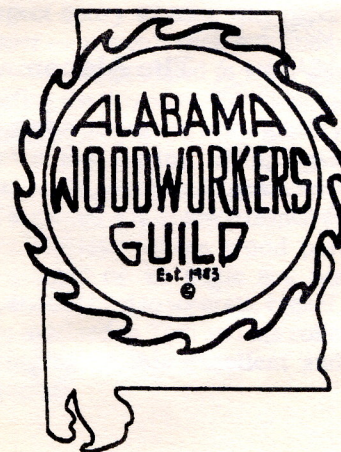
Tobias, Kenneth
Tow, John
Whittington, Allen

Holding round tapered work



To hold round tapered work, such as a table leg, in your bench vise, cut a 90° notch in a wooden ball, as shown in the sketch. The ball, which I bought from a hobby shop, applies even pressure to the leg and holds it securely. —Albert T. Pippi, Baltimore, Md.

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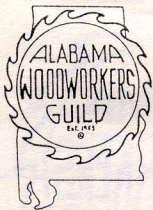
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