

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME IX NUMBER 11 NOVEMBER 1991

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

TOYS, TOYS, TOYS — I hope all of you are producing them at a high rate! I look forward to seeing all the new designs at the November meeting.

A lot of you missed an outstanding seminar by Jack Harich on October 12. We must be doing something wrong since the last two Saturday seminars have been poorly attended. What is the problem? Wrong subjects? Is Saturday a bad day for seminars? Have we just had too many of them? The officers need some feedback on what type of seminars you want. Is it worthwhile to have seminars at all? We were trying for a diverse menu of professional craftsmen so we could learn the tricks of the trade from a variety of view points. The hands-on dovetail seminar was relatively well attended although we did not get a full class for the Friday-Sunday combination. Would one or two day hands-on sessions for 5 to 10 people be better than demonstrations? If you want any seminars at all in 1992 let us know what type, the subjects that interest you and the format you like best.

I want to thank Ronny Acton for his outstanding support during the seminars we have had this year. Ron has provided space and equipment and kept the place open after hours. Without his help the seminars would not be possible. From the entire Guild membership, THANKS!

Make plans to come to the Christmas party Friday night December 6 at the

Helena United Methodist Church. Anyone who has been to the Guild's Christmas pot-luck dinner can testify that we have as many good cooks in the family as we do good woodworkers. You will have a chance to see samples of all the toys made for Toys-For-Tots, win a prize and eat some of the best food there is any where. Don't miss it.

NEXT PROGRAM NOVEMBER 14, 1991 • 7:00 PM

So you have always wondered how Ed Sheriff gets those magnificent mitered joints; that superb finish; those expertly installed hinges and other fittings; those lids that fit when closed? Well, now is your chance to see a truly talented craftsman do the things he does best — make jewelry and other boxes. Ed has entered several of his boxes in our shows and has consistently won ribbons for them. The editor has learned that Ed has prepared a really fine presentation for us, so do your best to attend.

LAST PROGRAM - OCTOBER 1991

Beginning with our regular program on Thursday night last month Jack Harich, from Atlanta, was with us all weekend. On Thursday we were introduced to his approach to furniture design and construction. To just begin to build a chair would not occur to Jack. First he would create this chair in his mind then transfer the images to paper. Later he would make

patterns of each segment of the chair of cardboard and practically assemble the chair from the cardboard parts. Only then will he begin to make this chair. We were treated to a slide presentation of some of his early efforts, which incidentally, began with cedar chests. He has "graduated" to tables and chairs since then, and now makes truly uniquely designed furniture. It was interesting to learn that he uses white glue almost exclusively, primarily because he doesn't want the joint to set up too fast, or before he has checked to see if it is square or true. He also uses, mostly, Formby's Poly Finish on his pieces. It appears there is no length to which he will go to make a joint that does all it is supposed to and still look great when finished. We are indeed indebted to Jack for paying us the honor of this visit.

TOYS FOR TOTS

Ben Neighbors, Toys Chairman, again reminded and prompted us to get with the program and make the toys for this program as only our Guild has in the past and will in the future. He introduced Sgt. Hopkins of the Jefferson County Sheriff Dept. who has been associated with the Toys for Tots program for some 25 years. We remember him as being with the Birmingham Police Dept. in the past, but he has now retired from them and joined the Sheriff's Dept. He thanked us for our participation in the past and hopes for our continued help. Our toys, he says, are set aside when they come in and are directed to "special" children, those that will take

care of them and appreciate them. Now with a reputation like that don't you think we should try even harder to not only make our toys but make good and attractive ones. It doesn't take much longer to do it right (make it good) than to just do it. Ben wants us to bring our ten toys apiece (since that is the number he assigned each of us, and we don't have the nerve to buck him) to the November meeting. The F.O.P. will have a truck there to receive them and take them to the central warehouse where they are packaged and distributed. Ben will take one of each type of toy for display at our Christmas party so the families may see what the Guild has produced. Surely you want to be a part of our annual, and only effort to be a good citizen in the community where we live. So finish up your toys, bring them to the November meeting, and enjoy that special feeling we get when we do something for someone else.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

President Caldwell introduced Wallace Williams, Chairman of the nominating committee, and the "slate" for 1992 was presented as follows:

President	Fred Baker
Vice-President	Dale Lewis
Secretary-Treas.	Cliff Saxon

The election of these officers will be held at the November meeting.

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.

This is getting to be a favorite part of our meetings. The members come up with some of the darndest things. Not only that, but some very lovely pieces worthy of display. Last month Richard Brewer presented a truly fine hand mirror made of several woods; Dale Lewis had four bowls, one of Buckeye, one of Boxelder, one of Sassafras, and one of Apple; and Fred Baker had a sturdy stool utilizing box joints. Thanks to all of you, and hopefully more of you will show and tell us about your work next month.

As you know, the door prize is awarded by lottery to those members who sign in on the attendance sheet. Some of you do, and some of you don't sign in, and if you don't you can't participate in the drawing. Last month Patrick McRee, son of (a gun) Spruce McRee won the adjustable clamps. Both of these gentlemen were able to be with us for that meeting, though they can't make many of them due to their business schedule. Hurry back, men.

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Regluing a chair with cyanoacrylate

We have a family heirloom chair that has loosened in all the joints. Because of its delicacy and sentimental value, I am very reluctant to attempt to disassemble the chair to reglue it. Is there any way that the chair can be reglued without taking it apart?

—Roberta Munsey, North Hollywood, Cal.

Randy Jenkins replies: Recently I was faced with a similar situation: repairing a friend's set of six dining chairs that had come unglued. After disassembling the first chair and regluing it, I realized that the time and trouble involved far exceeded the money available for the job. The remaining chairs waited for some other solution.

Some time later, I was turning a cherry bowl and repaired a small crack with cyanoacrylate glue. (I use Jet brand, available nationwide in model, hobby and craft stores.) I was struck by the capillary action that literally pulled the glue into the crack. This seemed to offer hope for regluing the dining chairs without time-consuming disassembly. I started on chair number two immediately. First, I used a scraper and an awl to remove any old glue from joints that were already separated. The chair was then dry-assembled with nylon web clamps and bar clamps, and the screws in the glue blocks on the underside of the seat frame were tightened. Then, using the very fine tip of the glue bottle, I ran a line of glue along one tightly clamped joint line. The glue disappeared into the joint immediately—capillary action at work! I continued to apply glue to all sides of the joint that I could reach until excess glue began to run out. The joint line was then sprayed with a cyanoacrylate "accelerator" (available from hobby stores) to set the glue more quickly, and one more light application of glue was made to thoroughly seal the joint. All the other joints in the chair were treated the same way.

When the clamps were removed, the chair was as solid as the first one repaired by traditional methods. As an added test, I brought the second chair in and let my teenager test it for a week; there was no indication of glue failure. Since cyanoacrylate glues make long-lasting and strong bonds with wood, the test here was primarily of the method of application, which proved successful. The chairs have been in daily use for some months now with no joint failures. Approximately 1 oz. of glue, about \$2.50 worth, was used per chair. Work time averaged less than 30 minutes per chair, so even with the much higher glue cost, the work was done within budget. Eliminating the risk of damage due to disassembly was also a solid plus.

[Randy Jenkins is a woodworker and retired compressor-systems specialist in Lafayette, La.]

FALL SEMINAR

The session began at 9:00 with an introduction of Jack Harich, who had been the speaker on the regular meeting program two days before. There were ten of us eager to learn how a professional makes a living from his woodwork. To most of us, to be able to make a living doing what we enjoy most — woodworking — seems a little out of reach. Apparently there are two ways of accomplishing this — mass produce a product and make a small amount of profit on each, or make one-of-a-kind objects and charge enough to make a living from it. Jack Harich is in the latter group. His creations are completely different and unique. He doesn't just make joints, he makes exquisite joints. He began by demonstrating how he makes a chair seat. It is glued-up of enough boards to meet the width requirements and thick enough to be sculpted to make a comfortable seat. After assembling the number of pieces needed, and of the correct thickness, he then bandsaws the edges of the pieces so as to reduce the amount of material to be removed when sculpturing the seat. Bandsawing speeds up the process and cuts down on the waste in the air and on the floor from the coarse (24 grit) circular disk. Inlaying different colored materials at various junctions and joints in another of his "things" and adds immeasurably to the appearance of the object. Taking advantage of the special results of stacking various woods and inlaying a different (lighter, usually) layer, results in a most appealing

design of the stacks. By making the joints curve, or blend, into the surface of the joined tangent, the appearance of the piece is enhanced considerably. As for finishing, he relies almost entirely on Formby's Poly Finish — Low Gloss. He employs two methods. One — WIPE ON — WIPE OFF. This method is just as described. You wipe on a coat and after five minutes wipe it off. Repeat this three or four times, or until you are satisfied with what you are getting. The Second — WIPE ON — LEAVE ON, and this is just what you do. Flood the object several times, four to seven coats, and leave it on. It is well to use 0000 Steel Wool between these coatings. Jack's method of eliminating all particles of dust or trash requires several steps. He highly recommends the use of one leg of a pair of panty hose, rolled into a ball and dipped into a bowl of mineral spirits and squeezed out at least six times. This removes all lint and dust from the rag. Then filter the Formby's through a lacquer filter (auto store). You should also be in a "clean" room so the piece is free of dust and lint, but if you can't do it that way, at least wipe it clean with a tac rag before coating. You are now ready to apply the coats of finish. Dip the rag (you have just cleaned in mineral spirits) into the filtered Formby's and wipe on with a light touch with the grain. If all has been done properly you should have a tac-free finished object in about two hours. Of course, if you have chosen to follow the LEAVE ON method of finishing you won't be through in two hours. This is about as simple a method of

finishing as we have seen at any of our meetings. The evidence is overwhelming that his methods work, because if you examined his table and chair you know the walnut was as rich and beautiful as it should be. We are sorry more of you didn't take advantage of this opportunity. We are indebted to President Jim Caldwell for discovering Mr. Harich (a few blocks from Highland Hardware in Atlanta) and selling him on the idea of coming to our Guild and making his really fine presentation.

AN APPEAL

Our good and faithful member, Harold Phillips, requests any information you may furnish him concerning PHILLIPS FAMILY HISTORY THROUGH THE EARLY 1930's. Someone borrowed this document from him and he doesn't remember who it was. If anyone has any information that will help Harold, please call him at 424-0819.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

There will be more about this in the next issue of the NEWSLETTER, but this is a preview. The party will be held at the Helena United Methodist Church at 7:00 on December 6, 1991. We have moved the time to 7:00 so more of you can get there. It will be a covered dish affair and we look forward to those super dishes you girls always bring.

Difficulty dyeing maple

I've been trying to dye a maple table I built, but I can't get the color as dark as I'd like. What can I do?

—George Matelinas, Hunlock Creek, Pa.

Michael Dresdner replies: Wood accepts dye to varying degrees, depending on the wood species, type of dye and its carrier (water, oil, alcohol). Maple is one wood that is reticent to accept dye—especially oil-soluble dye. You will get the deepest and darkest color on maple with a water-soluble aniline dye. Make sure that the wood is clean of any oil or wax and that the stained areas are resanded. Control the intensity of the color with the mixture of dye powder to hot water because subsequent applications of dye won't make the wood darker. [Michael Dresdner is a contributing editor to *FWW*.]

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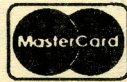
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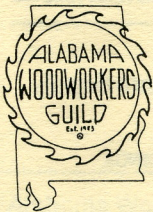
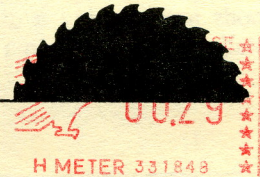
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