

# GuildNews

VOLUME XIV

NUMBER 5

MAY 1996

## GUILD HAPPENINGS

*May 9  
Building Wooden View  
Cameras  
David Elder*

*June 13  
Mini Lathe  
Demonstrations  
John Tow and yet to be  
corralled unsuspecting  
members*

Sometimes we combine our skills to make something that is not purely a wood creation but catapults us in other directions. This is where our creativity and inspiration comes into play. Our May 9 Meeting focuses on a practical application of woodworking. David Elder earns a living as an instructor with Jeff State, but his hobbies and passions have led to his interest in wooden view cameras. He has combined his knowledge of wood joints to produce these works. Come to our May 9 meeting and learn more.

And of course we will have our question and answer man Dan. I learned such valuable things such as not to go ape over Gorilla Glue and how to get Frank Jones unstuck. Seriously I learn a lot from these guys, Frank got me addicted to dovetails.

I trust the event at HGH was a success--I did not get to go--a small matter of a trip to Costa Mesa, CA intervened--You know work really does get in the way of my pursuits!! No one has reported back, so I'll assume the lunches and exhibits were good (Note: the order of my priorities.) Maybe we can get them to donate some hardware to our Toys for Tots Program.

I was hoping for a little bit better turn out of jigs at our last meeting. I've been in some of your shops and I know the marvels you have that I've never thought of. For example, I saw in Bill West's shop the neatest thing for making your belt sander into a stationary tool. Frank Jones has given me a jig for making rounding wheels on a sander. This is your guild and I know there are quite a few of you that have the same passion for woodwork as I do.

As I did not get to my building of clamps--between work and making maple dovetail sawdust on my table saw. But I did promise you the directions on building the folding stool/table superbly crafted by Charlie Brown. He will be our Good Wood Neighbor and his write-up and plans will be included in an insert to the letter.

## Inside

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| <i>PRESIDENT'S LETTER</i> | <b>2</b> |
| <i>GOOD WOOD NEIGHBOR</i> | <b>2</b> |
| <i>THE FINISH LINE</i>    | <b>3</b> |
| <i>AND MORE...</i>        |          |

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Plans are going forward on the general woodworking classes that were discussed at the April meeting. Classes will be taught by the famous Fred Baker. Fred has taught several classes in the past and everyone that attended will tell you that Fred is the Best! As of this time, I am still not sure of the dates for the class, but I will keep you informed.

Ronnie's big sale and promotion is in full swing and the Guild is participating with demos every Saturday. During the promotion Charles Ard has been organizing the demos and a special thank-you should go to him for this. He is looking for all the help he can get, so if you haven't volunteered, please give him a call. His phone number is 956-1871. Ronnie has informed me that there will be something special for the Guild at the May meeting. The store will be open until after the meeting is over, so plan to attend and to take advantage of the sale.

Frank Jones pointed out at the April meeting that Jim Caldwell's name was omitted on the list of past Presidents of our Guild from the Guild Directory. We apologize for this oversight. We will get it right next time!

Now is the time to start your project for our annual show. The quality of work at the show gets better every year, but don't let that stop you from entering your work in the show. There are categories for all skill levels so everyone needs to plan on entering at least one piece in the show. Let's make this the best show ever.

See you at the meeting,  
Mike

This makes a folding stool or table for any number of uses, such as camping, fishing, watching sports events or just sittin', anywhere a sturdy, light weight, easily carried, folding stool or table might be used. By varying the dimensions it can be made any size from a large patio table to a small footstool. The details shown will end up as 11W x 14L x 15 1/2H stool which folds into a size 2 3/4 thick x 14W x 18 1/2H, with a convenient carrying handle.

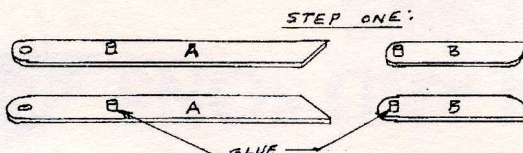
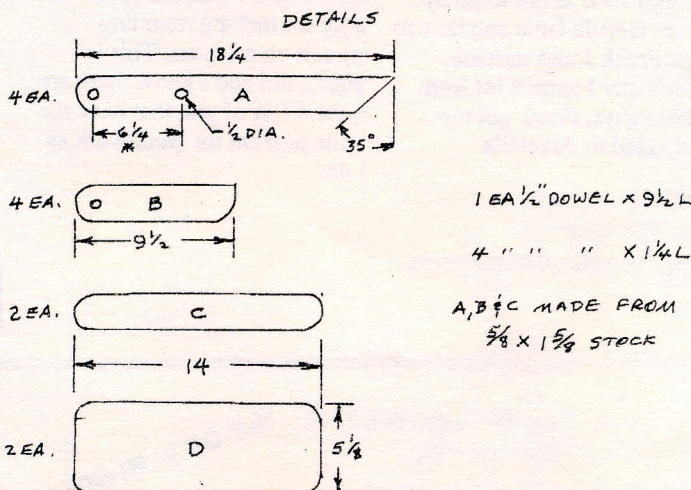
Suggest you first make a prototype from cheap wood, then refine the dimensions and details for the real thing. The prototype can be nailed together, whereas my final design used long wood screws from the back side, with glue. Decreasing the dimension \* between holes in the legs will increase the spread of the legs.

Except for the top and dowels, all the parts are made from 5/8 hardwood stock x 1 5/8 with lengths as shown. Radius all edges and ends to suit. The roundover bit on the router table works nicely for this. For assembly, I'm not going to attempt a drawing, but will note two sources of information for reference. One, I show something I ran across while writing this up. Lee Valley Tools at 1-800-871-8158, in their April 96 catalog, has plans for a folding table for \$7.95 plus \$4 for S&H. Second, I noticed that Waccamaw has a large and small table of similar design. They were made in China with tops of slats, pivots of screws instead of dowels, \$9.99, not nearly so sturdy, but fold the same as the one shown.

Suggested sequence of assembly:

1. Glue the four short dowels into the center holes of two legs A and end of two parts B. The protruding dowels need to be mirror images of each other. Note that a close fit of the dowels and all the holes is essential for sturdiness of the finished product.
2. Glue the long dowel to the other two legs A with the two parts B inside.
3. Dry fit all parts to be sure how they all fit and work together. Then add wax to the pivoting parts for smooth operation.
4. Loosely attach all the A&B parts to the top D parts, check for action, then finally fasten with glue and screws.
5. Attach cross brace C parts to legs with fasteners and glue.
6. Sand top again, then finish it all, remembering that the dowel joints need to pivot free.

I'll have one of my stools at the next several Guild meetings, if anyone is interested in looking at it again. Or call me with any questions. CDB. PS. I'll accept royalties.



GOOD WOOD NEIGHBOR

Q&A

Tool Tips

Tip #1 gathered by Mike Key and Alex Chambers, Wood Magazine, Jan. 1993, and the Nevada WoodChucks

When going dowel buying, it's good to take a sizing template, such as a small board with predrilled holes probably in 1/16th increments or one of those plastic drill bit gauges since measurements are not always exact. That way you will know what you are buying before you get home.

Tip #2

Before you go out and buy a new whatever. (You know that perfect wood gizmo without which your life is at a dead end--which you'll gladly bring to next year's tool auction that you hope an unsuspecting member has your same fever and will

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 PM at Acton Moulding & Supply Co. Information concerning the Guild may be secured by writing P.O. Box 506, Helena AL 35080 or calling Steve Onisick at (205) 942-8075.

purchase it.) Check your own shop, sometimes you'll find you can use something in a different way that you originally bought it for. Case in point: I bought a half-blind dovetail jig--after making one set, I was not pleased at the way they looked. Quite frankly, they looked mass produced, they fit great but gave me little satisfaction. Later I was looking for the right clamps to hold my wood while I adjusted some dovetails by chisel and mallet and I rediscovered this jig. It works great. At least it's a clamp.

You see how far I've had to go to get this last tip. So why doesn't some kind member hand me some of his tool tips at the next meeting.

Members please send any tips for next month to me either at 703 Morris Blvd. ; Birmingham, AL 35209 or email me at my internet address: StephanO@stv.org.

**The Finish Line**  
by John Tow

Last month's finishes were simple penetrating oil finishes. To hasten their drying time and to improve the resulting hardness of the finish, a small amount of Japan drier can be added to the finish prior to its application.

Please note: Japan drier will make subsequent coats require sanding before or during re-application. I just reapply second coats with a fine (maroon) Scotch-Brite pad section on softwoods and an ultra-fine (gray) on hard woods. You could clean the pad with mineral spirits to save it if necessary.

How much drier is enough? I have seen everything from a few drops of drier per pint of finish to a capful per ounce. It seems to have a threshold effect. The "Furniture Guys" on the Learning Channel use a lot of the drier in their mixes. I think they learned their measuring technique from the Cajun Chef! Seriously--experiment! I generally put a capful per couple of ounces of finish.

Japan drier will make the finish set up faster, so watch the finish. If it gets splotchy before you can wipe it down, rewet it with finish. The drier aggravates the spontaneous combustion problem too, so be very careful when disposing of those used rags.

A final coat of wax will preserve your finish. You can make a simple wax finish by shaving some paraffin with your dullest plane and dissolving it in some mineral spirits. Oh yeah, just shake the container and it will dissolve . . . only if you are Superman! The rest of us will need some heat. Put your glass container into an old pan of water and place it over low heat on an electric heater (no flames!!) and stir as it heats until the wax dissolves. The wax solution will harden up if the wax percentage is too high. A wet mixture is easier to apply. I generally cover a few shavings with about twice their depth of thinner. If you apply this wax wet, the excess can be wiped off. If it is too thick (too much paraffin), you'll need a scraper.

This wax is applied like other waxes. Rub it on sparingly, let it haze, and then buff it off. If it feels waxy and looks dull, scrape it off! This wax offers some protection. This wax is not as hard as the carnauba based waxes. You can tint it with standard tints, either powdered or oil based, while it is in the molten state. Wear gloves while mixing and applying or you'll wear your work!

Next time: edible finishes.

Boy I'm getting hungry already. (Editor wisecrack)

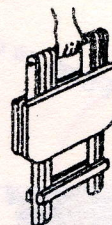
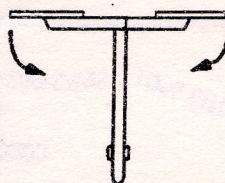
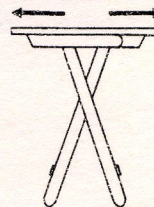
**E. Folding Table Plan** 

This is the best folding table design we have seen yet. Easy to build, it is particularly stable. There are no catches or slides that can accidentally let go. The 21" square top can be modified to any shape you want — round, octagonal, oval, etc. Folds to a thickness of about 3".

The center dowel doubles as a carry handle. The full-size plan includes a cutting list.

**05L12.01 Folding Table Plan**

**\$7.95**



**The Guild Officers**

**President:**  
Mike Key.....663-9036

**Vice President and Program Chairman:**  
John Tow.....854-0020

**Secretary/Treasurer:**  
Charles Yerby.....426-4320

**Newsletter Editor:**  
Steve Onisick .....942-8075

**Directors:**  
Charlie Ard .....956-1871  
Walter Barnett .....823-5951  
Dan Browning .....979-3799  
Dale Lewis.....668-0115  
Harold Phillips.....424-0819  
Hal Skalka .....672-7686

# ACTON **SERVISTAR**®

## HARDWARE

Record  
Marples  
Watco Stain  
Minwax  
Books  
Saw Blades  
Router Blades  
Electrical /  
Plumbing Supplies

CUSTOM / STANDARD  
MOULDINGS  
STAIR PARTS  
HARDWOOD LUMBER  
CABINET PLYWOOD  
HARDWARE — HANDTOOLS  
(TRADE DISCOUNTS)

POWER TOOLS:  
Makita  
Porter Cable  
Black & Decker  
Bosch  
Skil

### Guild Nite Special!!

10% off all items in store,  
except Sale items.



205-663-0130

1-800-228-0474

8 TO 6 M-F — 7 to 12 Sat.

The Alabama Woodworkers Guild  
P. O. Box 506  
Helena, AL 35080



928 North 28th Street Birmingham, AL 35203

## SAW WORKS

# JOS. THUSTON AND SONS

B'ham, AL 35201

P. O. Box 12264

Local (205) 328-4300

Call us Toll Free 1-800-289-SAWS

10% Off to all Guild Members.

H METER 437624

00.32



U.S. POSTAGE

MAY-9-98