

GuildNews

VOLUME XIV

NUMBER 6

JUNE 1996

GUILD HAPPENINGS

*June 13 • 7:00 pm
Meeting at Acton
Moulding*

*Topic:
"Mini Lathes and Mini
Lathe Projects"
Featuring Own
Members.*

*July 11 Meeting
"Favorite Weekend
Projects"/ "Simple Toys
for Tots Projects"*

*August 10
Saturday - Setup for
Sloss Annual Show*

*August 12 - 24
Sloss Annual
Woodworker's Show*

Oops--Don't you hate it when your surgeon says that in the middle of your operation. Somewhere on the great Internet of Life we got a short circuit and had to cold boot on last month's delivery date. Being a veteran of 6 issues and Catholic, I'm almost ready to canonize Leonard for the excellent and timely manner of his newsletters--we miss you Leonard--sure you don't want this exalted position back?. Well so much for humble abashedness and shamefaced dejectedness.

Our next meeting covers mini lathes. The Guild's own Jessie Whitfield and Floyd Cox will demo mini lathes and mini lathe projects. The subject of penmanship will be discussed--I'm lucky I type. Type but don't spell.

On July 11 we will have some demos of projects that you can complete in the course of a weekend and sleep during the nights. We are aiming for projects that have a limited scope and can be reasonably undertaken for those of us that are not a Fred Baker type. If you have a favorite contact John Tow. Also part of this meeting will be spent on showing simple toys for tots that you can begin making. Avoid the rush start now!

This month's issue will have an entry form for the Sloss Annual Woodworkers Festival in August. Please return these to Mike Key, 286 Wilderness Trail, Alabaster, AL 35007. As of this time a Chairman for the Festival has not stepped forward into the limelight. If you think you could help, please give Mike Key a call at home 663-9036 or work 425-1614. I know he will be relieved. Remember it's YOUR Guild - Don't leave Mike holding the bag--he already does a tremendous amount for the Guild.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Last month's newsletter was a no-show, as you all know. On behalf of Steve and myself, I would like to apologize for this problem. Steps have been taken to correct this problem in the future.

At the April meeting, we discussed the purchase of Guild shirts and jackets. We are taking orders for both. The price is \$25.00 each. They come in three colors - oatmeal, blue and jade green. We need orders for 25 of each to break even at this price. We will be taking orders for them at the June meeting, so if you haven't signed up yet, plan to do so. If you can't attend the meeting and are interested in getting a shirt or jacket, call me and I'll see that your name is added to the list.

The annual show at Sloss Furnace is getting close, so if you haven't started your project yet, plan to do so now. Time's a-wastin! The dates for the show are August 12th through 24th. Set-up will be Saturday, August 10th. Entry forms need to be in no later than August 8th. That's Guild meeting night, so once again plan to enter. It is a lot of fun even if you don't win.

See you at the meeting
Mike

The Finish Line

Edible Finishes. No, we don't eat these finishes - not on purpose, anyway! These finishes are designed to cover and protect wooden kitchen utensils, bowls, and children's toys. The prime requisite is that the finish itself be non-toxic.

The simplest finish for toys seems to be the non-toxic acrylic paints. Most well-stocked hobby, craft, department and hardware stores will have a decent selection of such paints. Check out Acton's supply before our next meeting, too. These paints are easy to use for those brightly colored toys you wish to build for next fall - just follow the manufacturer's directions. For a more subdued and natural finish, read on...

The simplest natural finishes include oils and waxes. Please note: I said oil and wax, not or wax. Wax alone is a protective barrier used over an existing finish. Whether you use HUT, Minwax Wax, or some exotic carnauba wax, it is still protection over another finish. Wax will cake up in wood pores and remain easily soluble where a finish will seal such pores.

The object to be finished should be scraped rather than sanded if it is to be intentionally used with food (butcher block, salad bowls, etc.) since sanding always leaves some abrasive particles behind.

My favorite oil/wax finish consists of walnut oil and wax. I shave paraffin wax (Gulfwax in the canning section of the local grocery store) and beeswax (health

food store) in equal amounts into a margarine container floating in a pan of water over an electric cooking eye. I add a small amount of walnut oil (health food store) over the wax to just cover it for a thick mix (for open pores, open grained finish, end grain) to as much as three times the level for a thin mix (for finer finishes). I allow the mix to slowly heat until the wax melts, stirring occasionally. The mix can be poured, brushed, or wiped with a cloth (my favorite method since it forces the finish into the grain and pores) onto the object. The excess can - and should - be scraped off after it cools.

Cooking oils have been used by some for finishing. The should be avoided! They will turn rancid in time. The walnut oil seems to stay clear - if you rinse the utensil after use. A mild dish washing liquid solution can be used to clean butcher blocks, bowls, and utensils. The thin walnut oil and wax mix may be used to rejuvenate a finish when its protection is suspect. Warming it slightly will liquefy it and improve its refinishing action. Pure walnut oil can be used for rejuvenating very dense wooden objects (like maple spoons and bowls) if they were previously finished in the walnut oil/wax finish.

Shellac is another simple edible finish. As stated in early articles, it is used to make hard candies not melt in your hands....(M&M's!!). In order to be edible, the shellac must be mixed from washed flakes dissolved in grain alcohol. Flakes can be purchased from Behlen's (Highland Hardware) while grain alcohol is a bit harder

GOOD WOOD NEIGHBOR

Q&A

Bob Wesson's friend, Tim Allen, wants to buy a lathe. One that will turn a 24 inch leg for a table. Tim lives in Vandiver, phone 672-2929. Don't know how much he wants to spend. Some good woodchuck needs to find the spin on this thing.

For Sale

Bob Forman has the following items for sale:
A Ryobi 16 inch Scroll Saw Model SC162. Bran/Spankin New --Never been used for \$90.

A Sears Craftsman Contractor Series Belt/Disc Sander. Takes a belt 6 inches x 48 inches and a 9 inch Disc Sander. Perfect for working on an Ark if you anticipate lots of rain.

Bob can be reached at home at 985-0424 and at work at 988-8777.

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.

Glass Festival Entry Form

Show Nbr: Space Nbr: Last Name:

Work Phone: Home Phone:

Project Description:

Woods Used:

Category: Traditional
 Turning
 Carving
 Contemporary
 Small Objects
 Toys
 Tools

Skill Level: Beginning
 Intermediate
 Advanced

Design: Own
 Reproduction

Displayed: Floor
 Table/Pedestal
 Wall Mounted

Length:

Depth/Width:

Height:

Circular Objects Only:
 Radius:

Comments:

Entry Form

Rules of the game:

Fill out everything except Show Nbr and Space Nbr (these will be assigned before the judging).
 Circle the appropriate Category, Skill Level, Design, and Displayed Option. If the object is square like a box, chest or hanging
 fill out Length, Width and Height. If the object is like a Vase or Bowl fill out Height and Radius -- Remember Radius is one-
 half the Diameter.

to find. Some have suggested trying vodka and gin as solvents, but it seems like a waste to me. Most denatured ethanol is denatured with other poisonous alcohols, typically methanol and isopropyl. If memory serves me right, the Auburn labs back in the sixties used phenylphthaline to keep students from using too much of the ethanol. Symptoms of its ingestion were akin to too frequent visits to some of the off campus dining halls, but of course I have no first hand experience on this to draw from.

I have heard the old fashioned lacquers and polyurethanes will be fairly safe after several weeks of drying time' (time to allow their organic solvent base to evaporate). They should be safe for top coats on some toys. Never use them for kitchen utensils, however. Any finish with heavy metal driers (japan drier) should be avoided like the plague. Boiled linseed oil alone is a good, safe finish. Mix it with commercial shellac, turpentine, mineral spirits, lacquer thinner, or shellac thinner and it is unsafe.

Commercial salad bowl' finishes are available from several manufacturers if the aforementioned finishes don't suit your needs. Next Month: Preparing for a good finish.

MakingPicture Frames with Charlie Ard

At a craft show somewhere I saw picture frames made with a rail and style cutter set. Sort of a raised panel door with a picture for a panel. It looked easy so I tried it. Instead of a groove

for a panel I needed a rabbit for a picture. No problem, I set up the router table with a 1/2" bit, adjusted the fence and depth just right, and the phone rang. After deciding I didn't want my furnace cleaned, I came back and re-checked my set-up. All looked well so I started the router.

SHAZAAM!! The router jumped out of the base, came flying out the back of the table and started rolling around on the ground, gnawing up concrete and throwing chips into the air like a Tasmanian Devil.

I had forgotten to tighten the depth screw. My first thought was to catch it, but the spinning cutter changed my mind and I unplugged it. As I sat down to repent the error of my ways and let my pulse return to normal, I thought, "you are not given many chances to make a serious mistake with a router and get by unhurt, and I definitely just used one."

I was unhurt but I feared the worst for the new Porter Cable router. Though the outside was scarred up, the dial indicator showed the shaft was straight and even the bit was straight.

Brushing off the concrete dust showed that the bit was unharmed and still sharp! What kind of router could stand that kind of treatment?

None-- it was an end mill. I had learned from a guild member (Dan Browning - that perpetual experimenter and malcontent) that end mills make fine router bits.

End mills are the cutters used in milling machines to cut slots and flats in metal. Dusting off the speed chart on my milling machine reveals that I usually turn a

1/2" end mill at 695 rpm in steel, with maybe a 3/4" depth of cut, mid range feed speed, a steady stream of coolant and blue hot chips flying everywhere (into the shirt pockets of the unwary).

With zero rake angle and but little clearance angle it's one of the wonders of the universe that an end mill will cut wood at all at 25,000 rpm, but cut it will, and right smart, too. The end mill I was using was bought used and reground. How they regrind it to the same size I know not, but they do --mine is very near 1/2" (.501). Wholesale Tool Co. of Charlotte, N.C. (800-438-3580) will sell 1/2", two flute, spiral, reground high speed end mills for \$1.19, if you buy three or more. They are available in all sizes and are nice and sharp. How many router bits have you bought for \$1.19?

The picture frames? Forget em, I know when I'm licked. Besides, I'm going into the concrete cutting business. Now that would really be making a living the Ard way!

Tool Tip

Before I got my thickness planer, I thought Fred Baker was extremely wasteful when he told me that he got a 3/8 inch board for the tambour he was working on by planing down three quarter stock. My appreciation of Fred's methods (You sly dog)-have dramatically changed after I got my own Ryobi Planer. It's amazing now how often when I want a piece of stock a certain thickness, I use the old -- well let's run it through one more time and see if it's the right size method. God it's great to be spoiled like this-- How did I survive the old way!!!

The Guild Officers

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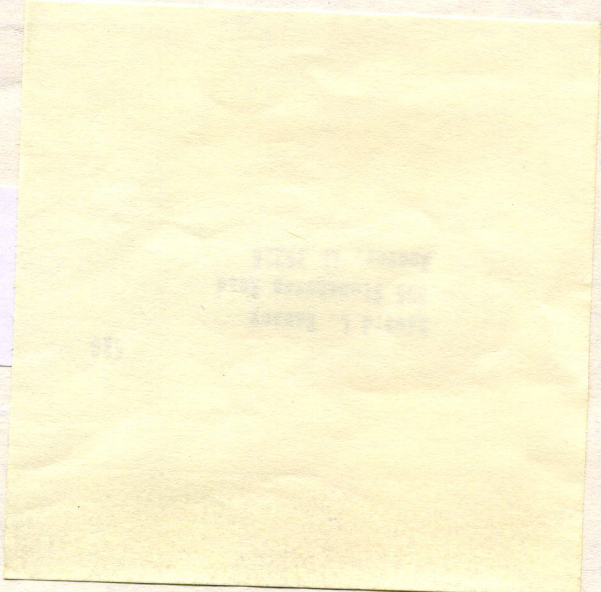
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