

# GuildNews

VOLUME XIV

NUMBER 10

OCTOBER 1996

## GUILD HAPPENINGS

### October 10

Monthly Meeting at Acton's on "Inexpensive finishes for wood projects". John Tow, newsletter expert on finishes will demo and talk about some old timey finishes that we seem to have forgotten. If you have one you are particularly fond of—bring it and tell all.

### November 7

Election of a new newsletter editor and other Guild Officers. Now is the time to let Walter Barnett know you've been secretly coveting that Guild Post and can't live without being so connected. And wouldn't Charlie Ard make a great newsletter editor.

My how time flies when you're having fun. Let's see—there is this newsletter, then the November newsletter, then election of a new newsletter editor. My, how quickly the 8 editions, 2 postcards, 40 hours of typing—err—I mean the last year has passed. Leonard, how did you do it for 8 years?

### *Congrats to Ed Sheriff*

Congratulations to Ed Sheriff on receiving the "Best In Show" for 1996 Annual Sloss Furnace WoodWorker's Festival. What a table! You had to be there to see it.

### *Weekend Woodworking Projects*

*by John Tow*

The key requirement for a weekend project is that it be completed in one weekend. To reach

this goal you must be reasonable in your aim—don't try to make a show stopper of a buffet or that wooden cruiser you expect to spend your retirement on. Try a simple table, bandsaw box, rack, tool tote, or a couple of toys for Christmas. Remember, this is fun—it's a hobby.

First step—cheat. Use the preceding week (or month) to clean off some workspace in your shop area. If you can swing by Thurston's Friday PM to see the guild denizens who coagulate there and seek inspiration from them, so much the better—I think! Friday evening you should spend time laying out your project and gluing up stock. Wouldn't a real set of plans be nice about now?

Saturday morning—time to get at it. Remove the clamps from your glued up stock and get started. Rip and crosscut your boards as required. Plane them and or edge joint them as needed. Most edge routing can be

done now. Glue up any subassemblies you can at this time with a rapid setting glue (Titebond II). Complete a cursory cleanup and then break for lunch. Break for several hours after lunch—this will permit the subassemblies to cure (most shop accidents occur just after lunch). You can also go pick up those pieces you forgot or cut too short (Hurry, Ronnie isn't open all day on Saturday!).

Saturday afternoon you can spend sanding your pieces, if possible, you can start your stain and finish process. It

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

October is the month that we present a new slate of officers for the coming year. Walter Barnett is Chairman of the Nominating Committee and will present the nominees at this meeting. If you would like to run for one of the positions or know someone that would, your name can also be placed into nomination. The election will be held at the November meeting. We will be electing a President, Vice President, Newsletter Editor, and two Board Members, so be thinking about it.

Toys for Tots is in full swing and we need everyone to participate. This is the only community service project that we officially take part in and it is worth the effort. I can't think of anything more satisfying than making a child happy on Christmas. So everyone please do what you can to make this year the best ever!

See you at the meeting

Mike

would be best if you could stain Saturday night, allowing two coats of finish for Sunday.

If you get up early Sunday AM, you can actually apply two coats to your project before the day is up since most stains and finishes require no more than 8-12 hours between coats. This leaves much of Sunday for your usual Sunday fare. Stay out of the shop—you don't want to raise any finish impairing dust now. A coat of wax Monday AM and your project is done!

This process would lend itself quite well to a small assembly line type project of spice racks, cutting boards, bandsaw boxes, and even those treasures—the toys we make for Christmas. Choose an attainable goal and you will have completed your projects with the attendant boost to your ego.

### *The Finish Line*

by John Tow

*Finish Blemishes.*  
More appropriately,

finish boo boo's. We have all made them—unsightly glue remnants, dents, uneven stains, shining spots, uneven surfaces, ... even splits and warps after a few weeks. I will address both the prevention and the repair of the problems.

If you apply the proper amount of glue to a joint and apply clamping pressure, some glue will ooze out along the joint. That would be normal. Too much oozing represents either a glue starved joint, one that will ultimately fail, or too much glue. Most people wipe the excess with a towel. That just pushes the glue into the fibers causing a glue spot in the finish. I wait until the glue cures and scrape it with a well tuned cabinet scraper. Since the cured glue is harder than the wood, sanding the joint removes the wood around the dried glue faster than the glue thus leaving an uneven surface. The hardness will also quickly dull your plane so don't even consider hand or power planing—a scraper is a lot easier to re-edge than an iron or a knife.

## GOOD WOOD NEIGHBOR

# Q&A

### Tool Tips

Tip #1: You can use those nasty old grates on the sides of your saw to clamp wood for various operations like routing. A bar clamp fits nicely though the grate and the grate can be used to clamp onto.

Tip #2: If you have two grates—one on both sides of your table saw—Lose one. Then drill matching holes in a piece of lumber or pieces of glued lumber with a mounting for a router. That way you can use your table saw fence with your router. You can use the one you took off for a paperweight.

Tip #3: If you are using a sanding sealer: First make sure you have the right type for the finish you want to apply—e.g. use a varnish sanding sealer with a varnish finish—a water-based one with a water-based finish. Second apply any stain before you use the sanding sealer. Third, after sanding, the surface gets a whitish look—Don't try to clean it off with a solvent—Leave it whitish and spray or brush your finish on. If you try to wipe it off you may get a goeey mess—I have done this. The sealer will dissolve with the proper finish and make the work look terrific. Also, don't try to completely sand it off—you'll be losing some of the benefits of the sealer.

Ivan Kronberg will be selling his lathe shortly—he has just purchased a new one and is waiting for it to arrive. The old one must be a humdinger judging from what Ivan has turned out. If your in the market for a lathe give Ivan a call at 988-8278. Also if you just have questions about turning, carving or exotic and domestic wood—Ivan's your man.

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.

*Dents.* Even maple and cherry can be dented. The prevention—be more careful! Swirls—be more careful with your random orbital sander—don't turn them on unless they are on the wood. Also, the disk is under more stress then and can actually be thrown off the sander. The cure—well, the attempt at the cure—use a damp-dry towel over the dent or swirl with an iron set on a medium heat positioned over it. Be careful or you will raise a bunch of grain—and then scorch it. A photo dry mounting tack iron or an RC plane monokote iron (the same thing just cheaper!) can also be used. This won't repair all dents and swirls—you can always sand some more!

*Uneven stains.* Usually the most uneven staining occurs at the edge of a piece where end and side grain are together. The end grain sucks up stain and finish. Dissimilar boards will also show an uneven stain. The prevention is simple—use a thin shellac coat (1:5) to seal the dissimilar woods and

the end grain before staining. The cure is much harder. You will have to seal the darkened end grains and the dissimilar woods so they won't absorb more stain and then use a darker shade of the same stain over the sealed surface. Repetitive sealer/stain applications may be necessary. Professional refinishers use toning sprays made up of tinted lacquer.

*Shining spots.* These are usually either gobs of penetrating oil finish in pores or silicon contamination. The first problem can be prevented by carefully and repetitively rubbing off the oil finish during the finishing process or by filling the pores prior to applying the oil. It can be fixed afterwards by wet rubbing (use the same oil finish) with 0000 steel wool or ultra-fine Scotch-Brite pads and then rubbing down completely.

Silicon contamination is a real problem. Many aerosols for protection and lubrication contain silicones. Wiping your project with naphtha

and clean paper towels prior to finishing is the best prevention. The cure is hard—sometimes requiring refinishing with a different finish entirely. Try rubbing out the damaged finish with 0000 steel wool and naphtha, dry with clean paper towels, wipe down again with paper towels saturated with naphtha, dry with clean paper towels, and refinish with the original finish.

*Warps, splits, cracks.* These are almost always because the wood was not allowed to exchange moisture with its environment at an even rate. Wood expands more across the grain as it absorbs moisture. If it is constrained too tightly it may warp or split. The physical prevention is simple—allow for cross grain movement in large panels. Also finish your project on all sides! I have seen several beautiful tables warped because the underside was never finished.

There is no cure for a badly warped or split table top. You could put one with an unfinished underside in a dry area

for several weeks to allow the boards to dry out and then finish the underside. You could cut contrasting dovetail keys and install them to hold the cracks together. You could disassemble the project and joint and replane the boards flat. You could also do as Charlie suggested about the firewood. . . .

This concludes what I know about finishing. My future columns will be on mechanical and chemical fasteners (screws and glue).

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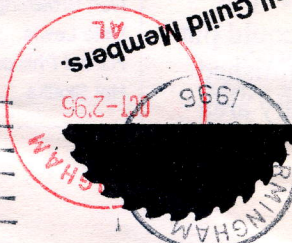
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