

Guild News

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JUNE 1998

President's Letter

If you missed the May meeting you missed a great time—lots of hot dogs, chips and drinks with an added bonus—a DeWalt Tool display and demonstration. As usual we had lots of help from members and wives in preparing the hotdog supper. Thanks to everyone who assisted. A special thanks to Ronnie and Sue for all their assistance and support. I believe everyone really enjoyed seeing the DeWalt Tools and the opportunity for some “hands-on” experience. The DeWalt Representatives were all impressed with our turnout and interest in the tools. The evening was “topped off” with a drawing for DeWalt Tools and accessories. Lots of folks walked out with some nice “goodies.”

We're continuing to make plans for our annual woodworker's show. This year's show will be at the Art Gallery in the Hoover Library. It will be held the week of August 15-August 22. I'm looking forward to the biggest and best show ever—only you can make that possible.

A number of members have suggested we resume the Question and Answer session at our regular meetings. Well, we're ready to do just that. So, bring your questions to the June meeting and hopefully we'll find someone with an answer.

Speaking of Question and Answers, our program on June 11 should generate a lot of both. A representative from Rainbow Paints will be on hand to provide all the inside scoop on getting that perfect finish and certainly able to answer your finishing questions.

See you June 11!

Dan

Next Program— June 11, 1998 • 7:00 PM

We are very fortunate to have Mr. Bobby Michaelson, owner and operator of RAMWOOD, a furniture designer and manufacturer. We very much enjoyed having him four years ago in March, 1994. If you remember him, you will certainly want to hear him again.

Last Program—May 1998

The last “program” wasn't a program as we have become accustomed to. It was a great time, however. It was the night of our annual Hot Dog Supper (you see, if you have something two years in succession, it becomes an annual

affair). There certainly wasn't any shortage of hot dogs and all the necessary trimmings, and they went like hot cakes (a little humor there, very little). After the enormous consumption of the food, the DeWalt people entertained us with a display of their tools. There were some 125 people there which tells us if there is food for the taking our bunch will be there. DeWalt set up three work stations with their people to operate the equipment so we could watch. If we wanted to we could use the machine so as to get the feel, and thus get the urge to have one for himself. The stations set up were Miter Saw (chop saw), Scroll Saw and Planer. Scattered all around were Routers, Jig Saws, Saber Saws and Sanders. There was an excellent display of cordless tools as well. Each attendee was asked to fill out a questionnaire card indicating what tools we use frequently which we were glad to do. There were favors handed out by DeWalt such as 2 circular saw blades, a dozen or so jigsaw blades, and several screwdriver sets. The grand prize was an electric drill, and it was won by Bob Free. Present was Mr. Pat Elliott who was a charter member of the Guild and is now 90 years of age. He still does woodworking making the same

thing he has made for many years, little trains. The Editor would like to invoke a moment of personal privilege here for he has known Mr. Elliott since 1949 when I first met him as an employee of Southern Services. Among the guests was a group of wonderful people who travel around assisting churches in building programs. This group known as Alabama Campers On Mission has been assisting Sue and Ron Acton's church with its building program.

Riverchase Print and Copy

These are the nice people who have been doing all the necessary work to print, assemble and mail our GUILD NEWS each month. They have been doing so for a good many years now, and we are so grateful they put the time and attention necessary to have it come out looking as it does. The hot dog, soda can, catsup and mustard replicas were inserted by them and dressed up our news letter considerably. We want them to know how much we appreciate the personal attention they apply to our GUILD NEWS.

The Show

We hope you will not be offended by hearing about the show again and again. It is so necessary we dare to bend your ear again in hopes something we say will prompt you to take up a tool or two and some wood and make something for the show. Just think how proud you will be

when you attend the show at the Hoover Library to see your work with a blue, red or white ribbon attached for all to see. It is quite fun to compete for those ribbons, much like you compete in sports for a winning prize. It is not difficult to make something—you do it all the time for friends, neighbors and family, why not for the Guild? Not only for the Guild, but for yourself. The Show is in August and we will be telling you the exact dates later. Just you get on the stick and get your entries done.

Dovetails vs. Box Joints

The following is copied from the Lee Valley Technical Bulletin of January 1998. The Bulletin is published by Lee Valley Tools Ltd. The article is entitled DOVETAILS VS. BOX JOINTS.

“In many parts of the woodworking community, it is almost sacrilegious to promote finger joints/box joints in lieu of dovetail joints. The dovetail joint has a long history in woodworking and is still viewed as the signature joint of a fine craftsman. The joint was valued because it provided a form of mechanical lock when glue failed. With today's much stronger and more durable glues, the joint has become more decorative than functional. In fact, the most elegant joints with the slimmest pins are the weakest of the dovetail joints, substantially weaker than alternative joints.

“With box joints, you can

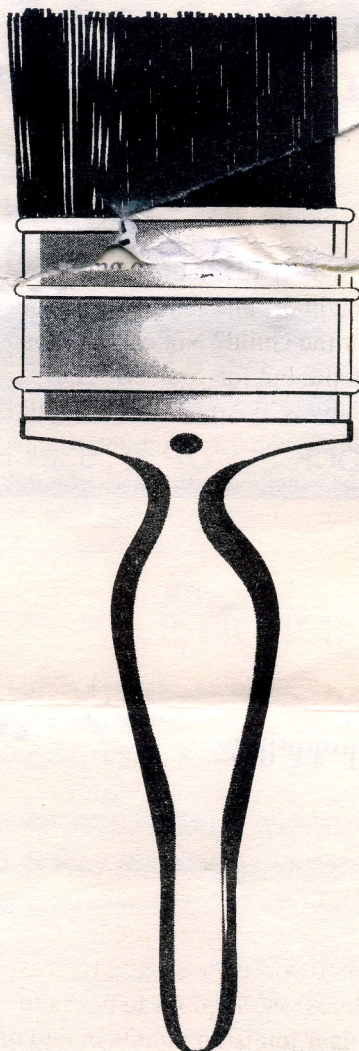
easily get greater surface area for gluing, and the joint will have much greater racking strength than a dovetail joint. In simple tests we performed, there was a fairly direct relationship between joint gluing area and strength. This is what you would expect and is the reason that so much trim today is made from finger-jointed stock with very fine fingers. In addition, the fingers are tapered, not only to make it easier to assemble the joint, but to minimize the weakest part of it, the tip, which has the same strength as a butt joint.

There is a new and interesting development in this field. A number of years ago, one of our customers (a commercial box maker) told us he was assembling his boxes before gluing the corners. With the use of a low-viscosity glue, he was able to paint the corners with glue, which would then have a tendency to wick into the joints. Equally important, it wicked directly into the end grain of the wood, causing it to swell, which created a mechanical lock that would let him tap his boxes into perfect squareness and be confident that they would remain that way since they locked up quite quickly. What he had done

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.

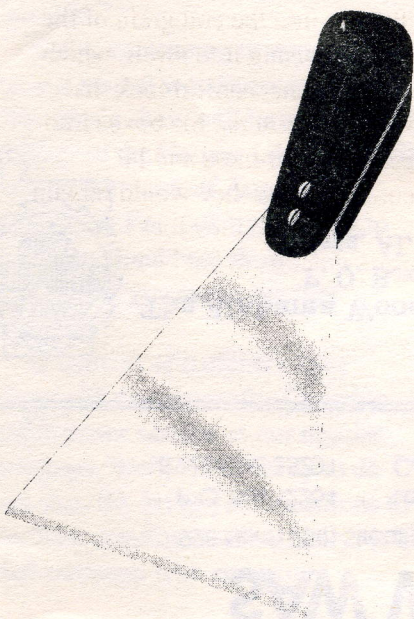
was create a combination dovetail joint/box joint since the tips of all the fingers were somewhat thicker than their bases. After curing, he sanded the box on all sides to remove surface glue.

“Since we developed the Chair Doctor (TM) glue with low viscosity and low surface tension, this whole process has become much more effective. It is particularly effective on softwoods where you get a mechanical lock almost instantly when you apply the glue, but it is also effective on hardwoods because the much slower penetration of the end grain allows for longer wicking time between the finger surfaces. For most small boxes, there is more than adequate strength in this type of joint. In commercial production, it is a godsend to be able to glue after assembly.”



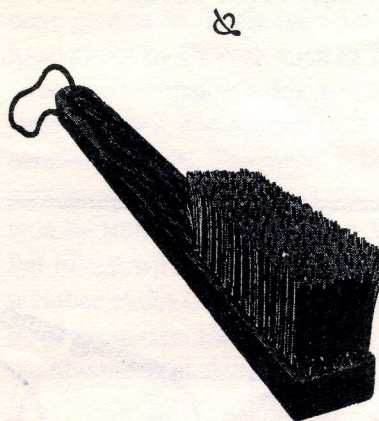
A Little Story

A woodworker asks for advice on a special job. He says he recently lost a 100 year old pine tree that Grandpa used to play in when his Ma sent him to the spring to get a bucket of water. Well Grandpa is gone and the pine succumbed to just plain tiredness, I guess. When it came down, I had it sawed into boards that I plan to use to build a “Grandpa’s tree” table. Here is the problem: I’ve made some small stuff with the wood already, and it has so much resin in it that it clogs up a sanding sheet in about two minutes. I don’t mind that because I can get more sandpaper. But some of this resin-impacted wood is just like bone, especially in the knotty areas. So what would you suggest would be the best finish I should use for this table? The answer offered this writer was: In most cases, a sealer coat or two of shellac applied over the particularly resinous areas will prevent the pitch from leaching out. We thought this might be useful to some of you if you should have a similar problem with pine.



Library

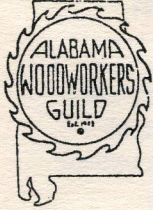
Keep your eyes open for our rolling library. It is alleged we are going to have one, and we are not going to let them (whoever they are) get away without providing us with a rolling library. We aren’t misleading you when we say there is a wealth of pertinent information on most any woodworking subject you may want. Ask Frank Jones, he knows.



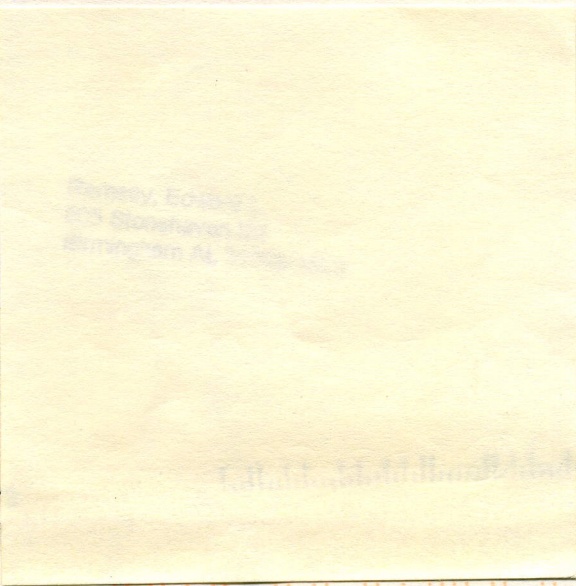
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