

WOODWORKERS

CLUB OF HOUSTON

VOL. 4, NO. 5

MAY, 1988

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APRIL MEETING

KEN MC BRIDE---HAND PLANES.....

This was an excellent presentation on the basics of hand planes. It is impossible to write down all of the information we received in his presentation. Fortunately he will be giving classes on sharpening, tuning hand planes, dovetailed footstool and a sofa table at M. Chandler & Co.

Ken maintains that you can always improve the fit and finish of wood with hand tools. There are no magic tools---magic is in the mind. Pleasure is in the doing, not just the finished project.

Antique planes can make period moldings, quickly. You can make your own simple plane from scratch stock---a mild steel cutter and a wood holder.

Camillia oil on plane bottoms will minimize drag, especially from pine tars.

There are many substitutes to plane-cast iron seasons, warps. The components must be adjusted.

Planes can produce surfaces smoother than sandpaper, in much less time. This was vividly demonstrated on several different woods which were passed around. (Next meeting we will have a short course on how to effectively and efficiently pass objects around the room !)

A hand plane and winding sticks can be used to accurately remove warp from a board.

Properly sharpened and adjusted, the plane is a wonderful tool !

Our thanks to Ken Mc Bride for an excellent program.

Bob Soderblom demonstrated inner tube clamps. They are cut with tin snips from truck tire inner tubes, cut as a band or a long strap. By wrapping several times around the objects to be clamped, a considerable amount of force is generated. They clean up from glue readily, don't mar the surfaces, are cheap (often free) and last forever. They work especially well

where uneven clamping surfaces are involved. Faster than a web clamp.

Zatis Murphy spoke on Table Saw Safety: Don't gang wood on the saw, use a fixed stop block. Use proper blade insert. they can be readily made of scrap wood. Make a variety for angle cuts, dados etc. A Close fitting insert will also minimize cross grain chipping. on Sears saws make inserts from thin plastic.

Don't use the ripfence for a stop---it could lead to binding. Instead, add a block to the fence. Use a block of known thickness, and adjust fence on guage accordingly.

Use the right blade---sharp, aligned, adjusted, with no more than 1/4" above stock being cut. Use the guard.

Unplug the machine when adjusting or cleaning. Keep work area clear, wear eye protection and DON'T STAND BEHIND THE BLADE. A hardwood block thrown by a 3HP motor turning at 3000-4000 rpm (top speed about 120 mph) can dent a wall at 20 feet. What will it do to you?

NEW BUSINESS

We are planning a field trip to a Wood Kiln near Lake Livingston, possibly in June, schedules permitting. There will be wood available for sale at the Kiln.

WOODSHOP AND CLINICS

CLINICS:

Saturday April 23 Leonard Ekholm : JIGS

Saturday May 21 Steve Procter: Simple Drawer Joints.

Saturday June Chuck Maxwell: Raised Panels

LIBRARY

Woodsmith books have been disappearing. Sign out cards in each issue will be used to track these issues. Remember: Woodsmith graciously donates the library issue to the

club. Don't abuse the privilege of borrowing from the library.

GROUP PURCHASES

Leonard Ekholm is the new chairman, let him know what you want to buy and also when you find a good price.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Sharon Buckley

I would like to introduce our newest Board Member--Andy Anderson, he is replacing Doug Blodgett who had to resign do to other commitments. Andy is already in charge of the Library and has been giving me a lot of help as Program Chairman.

We have received some ideas for programs from the members and the officers.

Lewis Vallette gave me the name of a Custom Furniture Maker that he ran across while going to All-Tex Hardwoods.

Louis Fernandez told us about a Panel Manufacturer, we were hoping to go to this month but they have not completed a visitor facilities to accommodate us---But we will keep trying.

Remember 158 sets of eyes looking around the Houston area are better than just a few. If you hear or run across wood related subjects, let me, Andy or Kent Moore know and we will follow up.

I hope by June to have a Shop Tour organized---we have some volunteers and we have volunteered some members and their shops--if you would like to share, let me hear from you. The Shop Tour would be on a separate Saturday from our Business Meetings. The idea is to Tour Shops in the same general area and assign a specific time for each shop so even the members sharing their own shops will be able to visit the other shops on the tour. Size doesn't matter--one tour will be a very compact shop to a 30' x 50' shop.

If you would like members to visit your shop and if you know of a member on your side of town why not get together and sign up.

Enclosed is a current roster, the Membership Book is in the works, setting it up the first time is taking a little longer than expected.

Well if you missed last month's program on Hand Planes presented by Ken McBride, you really missed one of the best programs we have had.

Ken is one craftsman who loves to share and teach what has taken him years to learn by trial and error.

Ken will be offering courses as Steve mentioned at M.Chandlers, normally I wouldn't recommend someone but of all the members who have taken classes from Ken, there has been only praise at what that member learned.

Ken said he will be at the May meeting with a list of classes, dates and times.

I also have a commitement from Ken to do another program for us at a later time.

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Don't use a radial arm saw to rip cherry turning blocks. Find a club member with bandsaw. The club discussed the apparer. mystery of uneven Watco finish on identical wood blocks.

SAFETY

By Zatis Murphy

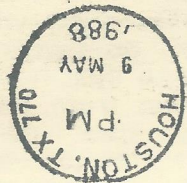
Sight is a precious possession that we often take for granted! If we're near or far-sighted we can go to our nearest optometrist, and for a nominal fee, have our sight restored. There also are techniques available for surgically removing cataracts, correcting myopic vision, transplanting cornea, and such. We can even buy contact lenses to change our eye color! Whether or not I would be a better woodworker with blue eyes rather than brown, remains to be determined. One thing is for certain. There are some things that can happen to our eyes that cannot be repaired.

What's it like to be blind? Not only would we have great difficulty in woodworking, we also would have enormous problems just coping with the everyday events of life. Protect your eyes! Working with power equipment is very dangerous. Small pieces of wood or metal could kill our sight in the twinkling of an eye (pun intended).

Safety glasses, goggles and face shields can protect our eyes from such hazards in th workshop. Most eye glasses today have shatter-proof lenses. But this in itself does not make them safety glasses. Safety glasses have special frames which prevent the lenses from being pushed back into the face when struck. Some safety glasses have side shields to prevent debris from entering the eye from the side. If you have any doubt as to whether or not the glasses you use are safety glasses, check with your optometrist. Safety glasses offer a minimal amount of eye protection.

There's good news and bad news about goggles. The good news is that goggles offer more protection than safety glasses because they are completely enclosed. Thus, our eyes are protected not only from solid materials, but also from liquids. the bad news is that goggles have a tendency to fog, especially in the high humidity of Houston. There are a variety of anti-fogging compounds that can be bought to help the situation. An easy home-ready is to apply a small amount of shaving cream to the inside of the lenses and wipe it off with a soft rag untill the lenses are clear; liquid detergents also will work.

Face shields cover the maximum area, relative to glasses and goggles, and one might think they offer the maximum protection. This may not be the case, however. Certainly shields protect more of the face, but they are worn fairly far in front of the eyes, and it's possible for objects to ricochet off the body up into the eyes. For that reason, I always wear



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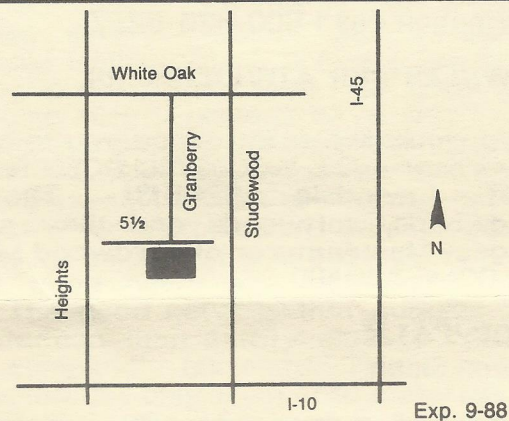


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