

WOODWORKERS

CLUB OF HOUSTON

VOL. 3, NO. 4

APRIL, 1987

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MARCH MEETING

Need more donuts! A big thank you to our Refreshment Committee.

U of H is not shutting down the Technology Department. If you're interested in courses, talk to Doc Forkner.

Caps and membership cards can be obtained through Ron Kuenning.

Words of caution from our Safety Coordinator, Zatis Murphy: Keep alert - don't get too comfortable with an operation. If you have to take a safety device off a machine, rethink your design. Don't use a radial arm saw as a buffer - it's too powerful. The new Sears dado blade can grab wood between the blades in a radial arm saw. Wire paint strippers are unsafe. (Look for a series of safety articles from Mr. Murphy beginning in this edition of our newsletter).

Bill Beggs, Founder of our club, was presented to the members in attendance at the March meeting. Mr. Beggs, in turn, introduced twelve of the Charter Members to the group. The Woodworkers Club of Houston was founded February 12, 1983. Its first newsletter was published February 28, 1983.

SHOW AND TELL

The lineup for Show and Tell was varied and interesting, and revealed more of the creativity and skill within our club. (Whether you all know it or not, we're a rather talented group)! Steve Procter displayed a photo of his Rocking Horse. Lewis Vallette showed us a lamp he constructed of 31 pieces of wood, including mahogany, white oak, red oak, walnut, padouk and maple. Chuck Maxwell brought in bookshelves. Chuck Louder (Arkansas member) sent a photo of the walnut cabinet he built to house a TV and VCR, with bookshelves

below. Also on show was Bill Hatherhill's block plane and coffee table.

Show and Tell is one of the more enjoyable portions of our meetings - we're already anticipating next month's contributions!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

"MY NEST" by Bob Soderblom

When I occasionally feel a twinge of guilt for not producing a quantity of items in my workshop, I recall another strong interest I have in watching the outstanding TV programs on nature and animal behavior.

There are obvious strong similarities between the nest builders (them) and some workshop builders (me, and possibly you):

Once we build our "nests" (workshops) some of us spend the rest of our lives moving them from one place to another. In my case, from Jacksonville, Florida to Birmingham to Attsburgh, to Tulsa to Houston to (who knows where). While they are not being moved, they are constantly being re-arranged, added to, modified, messed up, cleaned out and looked at by others.

We leave them frequently for feeding and other necessities only to return and start the re-arranging, improving and cleaning process over again until...on rare occasion, with the patience, understanding and encouragement of our mates, family or friends, something is produced in the "nest".

Since contentment is "doing something you like to do," if we are content to build, modify or just re-arrange our nest and, on occasion produce something, we should not feel guilty...that's nature!!

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Some suggestions regarding drying problems encountered with the use of Watco oil:

***Clean the piece with lacquer thinner, restrain and wait until cured, then apply lacquer or polyurethane.

***Drying: The piece can be sun dried for two hours. (A tip to aid the drying process is to mix Watco oil and urethane 2:1).

***Regarding the problem with Sears' table saw fence - push fence against bar when tightening. Also, wax the fence rails.

***Wood can be bleached with laundry bleach. Use a nylon brush.

***A tip on cutting dovetails in plywood - use a high quality, multi-tooth cutoff blade or cut by hand.

***Following is a procedure for best results in APPLICATION OF A DANISH OIL FINISH:

1. Sand wood as necessary - up to 220 grit.
2. Wipe wood with damp sponge or cloth to raise the wood fibers.
3. Let dry and sand smooth.
4. Apply first coat of unblended Danish oil liberally, using a soft cloth.
5. Allow to soak into wood for about 15 minutes.
6. Apply second coat of unblended Danish oil and rub in with 600 grit sandpaper.
7. Allow to set for 24 hours.
8. Swab on the blended Danish oil.
9. Let soak in and then buff out the excess with a clean, lint-free cloth.
10. Apply additional coats as necessary for the sheen desired. Allow each coat to dry for 24 hours.

BLENDING DANISH OIL AND POLYURETHANE

Soft Woods - 1:1 Ratio
Hard Woods - 2:1 Ratio (2/3rds Oil)

GUEST SPEAKER

As promised, our guest speaker at the March meeting was Peter Hutchinson. His presentation included slides of the exhibits in the show, "Vessels and Forms," currently on display at the Cullen Center at 1600 Smith Street. Peter gave a running commentary on how to photograph a piece for exhibition or show. He also demonstrated how to sharpen lathe chisels. Our thanks to Peter for this enriching and informative presentation.

BUY AND SELL

Harry Jacobsen wants to buy a miter gauge. He would also like to know where to buy machine knobs.

Bob Soderblom has a few books to sell.

SAFETY FIRST!

by Zatis Murphy, Safety Coordinator

Practicing safety in your shop is like breathing. If you stop, the results may be irreversible! An accident can cause injury to you, other persons, machinery or the product you are making. A serious accident could ruin your life. As Safety Coordinator for our club, I will present a series of short articles in the newsletter covering safety. My hope is that these articles will rekindle our safety awareness and help prevent accidents.

Probably the most important aspect of good safety practices is that of planning the work...**BEFORE STARTING**. Good planning will reduce or even eliminate much potential danger. Never hurry when working with machines. Accidents often happen when someone tries to do things too fast or fails to follow instructions. Planning and outlining the various steps of your work will reduce your need to hurry. Think back on those times when you've run into problems. What went wrong? How could you have prevented the problems?

It's wise to make yourself a checklist of questions such as: Do I have the right equipment to do the job? Will I need help in handling large pieces of work? Are all the tools in proper condition? Do I know how to use the tool or machine properly? Is the workplace clear of litter? Do I have the proper safety equipment...goggles, face shield, gloves, push-sticks, clamps, etc.? You may want to develop separate checklists for specific machinery such as power saws, lathes, planers, grinders and drill presses that have special hazards associated with them. Attach the lists to the machines or post them in a conspicuous place in the shop. Make your lists evergreen; as you think of new items, add them to the lists.

Once you've developed your lists, **USE THEM!** Remember, airplane pilots do not rely on memory to ensure their safety. They use checklists.

NOTICES

M. Chandler & Co. still interviewing for full-time outside sales representative for sales of industrial and general woodworking machinery and supplies. Contact M. Chandler & Co., 683-8455.

Woodturners' Exhibit - "Vessels and Forms" - Peter J. Hutchinson, Curator sponsored by The Houston Festival containing works by America's woodturners is on display in Cullen Center off the main lobby at 1600 Smith (corner of Smith and Pease).

Hours are 7AM/7PM Mon.-Fri., and 7AM/1PM Sat. through May 1st. If you appreciate beauty in wood you should not miss seeing this outstanding display of the best in the art of woodturning. Our own Doc Forkner is distinguished as having been one of the judges of this juried exhibit.

Don't forget - before going to bed Saturday night on April 4th, following our next meeting, to turn your clocks ahead one hour. Daylight Savings Time this year begins the 1st Sunday in April (April 5th).

SELLING WOODWORK AT CRAFT SHOWS

by Hebert Wilbourn

Last month's article in our series discussed the commercial craft show. In this third article, Mr. Wilbourn shares his ideas about pricing your woodcraft.

For the professional woodworkers, I have no intent to tell you how to price your wares. Your knowledge of your field is far better than mine.

As stated in my first article, I am a woodcraft hobbyist who likes to sell enough to pay for my hobby. These thoughts are for others in the club like me.

How do we determine a price for our wares? I can't give you a positive formula for that, but I will tell you how I arrive at my prices. You take it from there.

My basic price is established by doubling the cost of materials for a piece made of exotic or expensive hardwood. For pieces made of white pine I might triple the cost of the materials. If the cost of material in a band box, wood screws, hinges, etc., is \$3, my price for that band saw box becomes \$6 before I even begin to make sawdust. The same item made of pine costing \$.75 is priced at \$2.25. These are basic prices. If the project turns out to be good quality I add 25%. For wear and tear of tools I add another 10% of basic price. Time and labor are not factors in my prices. I spend too

much time looking for that tool I just laid down to charge the customer for it. I round off to the nearest \$.25.

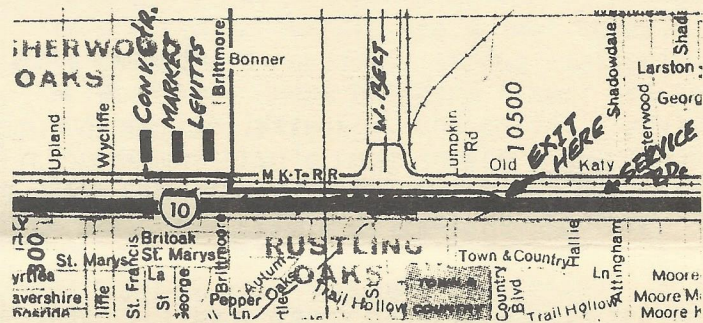
Therefore, the \$6 price becomes \$8.25 and the \$2.25 becomes \$3. This is not absolute. Some items with specific appeal, such as my miniature piano music boxes, are priced at what I think the traffic will bear. At the better sales I might increase prices a little, but items should be priced to sell.

I do not take items to a sale to show them to people. I would rather bring home dollars than woodwork, so don't get greedy, Hebert, you will just have to load up all that stuff and bring it back home.

Next month Mr. Wilbourn will share some specific techniques for selling at craft shows, including display, greeting potential customers, manning your booth, etc.

APRIL MEETING

We are having our meeting in conjunction with the Woodworking World 3rd Annual Houston Show, Saturday, April 4, at the Houston West Convention Center, 10950 Old Katy Road. (Wilcrest Exit off Katy.)
 9:00 a.m. - Business Meeting, 10:00 a.m. - Woodworking Show.



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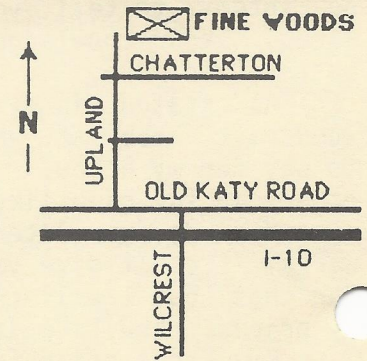
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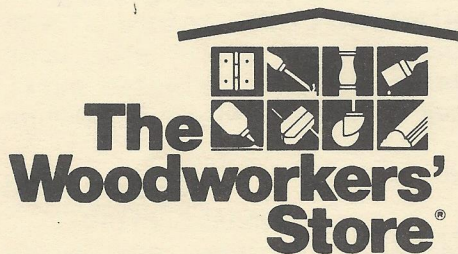
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