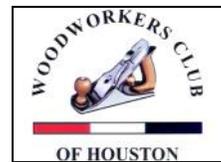


The Sawdust Sentinel

Monthly newsletter of Woodworkers Club of Houston



Volume 39 Issue 6

June 2022

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WWCH Calendar

Monthly Meeting	11 Jun
Scroll saw Meeting	TBD
Hand tool Meeting	26 Jun
Furniture Meeting	TBD

Splinter Groups

Scroll Saw Splinter group: Norm Nichols
(scrollsaw@comcast.net)

Furniture/Finishing Splinter group: Ron Kirchoff
(kirch76@gmail.com)

Handtool Splinter group: Mark Bolinger
(marksmbth@gmail.com)

CNC Splinter group: Bill Teague
(wateague@gmail.com)

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We're getting close to the all-day July meeting. Last week, a group of us paid a second visit to St Stephens Church to more thoroughly plan the meeting set-up and check out the AV system. Everything looks good for an interesting day that will be something a little different from our normal activities. More details will be forthcoming at this month's meeting.

Lunches will be provided for those who want one (sandwich, chips and cookie). Please sign up as early as possible for lunch, since we need to know how many to order. Cost will be \$8 if you pay in advance, \$10 on the day. We can probably still get you a lunch if you sign up at the meeting, but there are no guarantees.

Journey of a Woodworker, part 6

Let's talk about moving parts. If you're a furniture builder like me, unless you are doing some really clever stuff, this most often means doors and drawers. My stories about making doors tend to be about how I wish things had gone better. That might be depressing, so I thought I'd say something about my experiences making drawers.

How I tend to make drawers has changed over the years. Fundamentally, I am after four things: 1) Strong construction that will stand the test of time 2) An attractive look 3) Easy opening and closing and 4) Making the best use of the available space to maximize drawer capacity.

I would say there are three aspects of point 1 - what kind of joinery do you use for the drawer construction, how do you fit the drawer bottom and how do you attach the drawer front to the rest of the drawer (I personally have never made a drawer that did not have a separate front attached to the drawer box, so I have nothing useful to say about that).

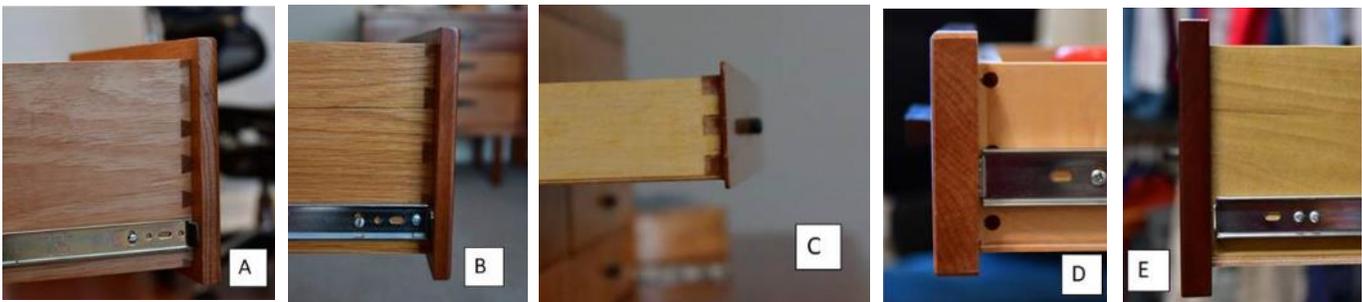
I have used multiple methods for the corner joinery over the years – router cut dovetails (A in the picture), router cut finger joints (C), hand cut dovetails (B), dowel joints (D), and tongue and groove - where the drawer sides are set into grooves in the drawer front (E). For versions A, B and C, the joinery at the back corners of the drawer box is the same as at the front. For D and E, though, it is simplified to a tongue and groove arrangement, where the drawer sides are made over long, and the drawer back fits into a groove cut into the side. I tend to use this faster approach when a project

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT (Cont.)

involves a lot of drawers.

I always use plywood bottoms on drawers, and I always glue them in place. Unless you are using solid wood bottoms, there's no reason not to glue and the finished result is very strong. This is especially true with the simplified tongue and groove construction method, because you are sacrificing some strength in the corner joinery itself. Notice in the pictures that the drawer bottoms on examples C, D and E are glued and nailed to the drawer sides (nails are usually ½" brads – drilling pilot holes is advisable if you are working with thin drawer sides). I do this to avoid cutting the grooves, and because it adds ¼" of useable depth to the inside of the drawer.

You will notice also that almost all the examples use metal drawer slides. These obviously are very strong and durable, but another reason I use them is that I like the look of drawers with thin sides. To use a traditional wooden slide requires a groove cut in the drawer side. This sets a minimum thickness for the drawer sides that, in my opinion, is thick enough to look a bit clunky on smaller drawers. Purely a personal choice, of course.



Often, I find that the least fun part of making drawers is that final step of attaching the drawer front. If you are gluing the fronts on to a completed drawer box, the tricky part is getting them exactly positioned, so the gaps around the drawer come out even once it's in place. One advantage of using a construction method that sets the sides into grooves in the drawer front is that it tends to prevent the front from sliding out of position during glue-up. Another thing I find helpful is to drill for the drawer pull before attaching the front and then put bolts through those holes to hold the front in position as you glue. It's easier to clamp a dry front in precise position than it is one with slippery glue all over it.

And then, of course, you fit all your drawers to the rest of the piece, and you find that your joinery isn't as good as all those articles you've been reading in *Fine Woodworking*, and you have to try and adjust so your mistakes are not too obvious. But that's a whole different skill set. More next time.

Peter Doe

WWCH President

Toy of the Month

A link to the Toy of the Month file can be found on the WWCH Web Site

<http://www.wwch.org>

Program of the Month

We had two presentations during our May meeting both covering topics that would make our work in the shop efficient and safe.

Denis Muras spoke about why all woodworkers should document their work and offered tips and suggestions on how to do that.

Alan Bachrach spoke about why all woodworker should have a first aid kit in their shop and what should be in the kit.



We have a two-part program for our June meeting:

Squaring the Circle

Forstner bits and hole saws make quick work of small circles. But what about something larger? Join David Janowitz as he shows us a variety of ways to cut circles large and small using tools we already have in the shop.

Community Workbench Update

Presented by: Jeff Larsen

Show and Tell

Toy train with blocks of walnut, maple, cherry, then finished with Danish oil. — **Rod Griffith**



Turnings — **George Graves**



Woven serving boards of walnut, maple, cherry, and makore. — **Mike Hardy**



Child's toothbrush holder and 3D cutting board. — **Andy Tofuri**



Child's chair, finished with Hydrocoat, and Roubo workbench dogs. — **Fred Sandoval**



Rustic cross of reclaimed wood. — **Jack Bailie**

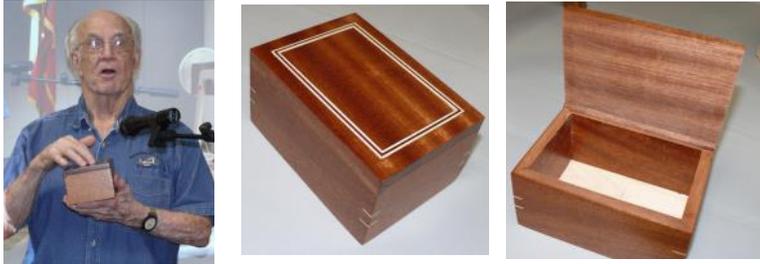


Hedge letter opener of Osage orange. — **Dan Schmoker**



Show and Tell

Box of mahogany. finished with Deft. — **Hugh Parker**



Bowls of mesquite, cedar and maple. — **Dave VanDewerker**



Night stand of walnut and maple. — **Mike Belovsky**



Planter of cedar, obelisk, and saw blade holders. — **Bernard Bynum**



Memorial bench from tree planted to commemorate the heroic sacrifice of a pilot who crash landed his plane to avoid hitting homes. — **Furniture Splinter Group**



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NEXT MEETING

Saturday June 11th (9am—12pm)
Bayland Community Center
6400 Bissonnet St, Houston, TX 77074

<http://www.wwch.org>

Newsletter Publication: Do you have an announcement or item for the newsletter? Send it to Sankar Padhmanabhan, WWCH Newsletter Editor, at sankarnkp@live.com. Please submit the item before 1st of each month to be included in the newsletter

We're on the web!

www.wwch.org

**Join our FacebookGroup!
Woodworkers Club of Houston**

WWCH PURPOSE: The Woodworkers Club of Houston is a group of men and women of all ages and skill levels who promote, educate, and share the craft of woodworking. The club meets the second Saturday of every month from 9-11:30. Guests are always welcome at no charge. Membership dues are \$36 per year, or about the price of one good clamp!