

**Meeting Notice:**

- **March meeting: Tuesday the 17th at 5:00.**
- **A1 Precision Sharpening**
- **March Project: Accurate measurement.**
- **Door Prizes!!**

**A-1 PRECISION SHARPENING**  
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# Knot News

COLLINS WOODWORKERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

## A1 Precision Sharpening

Last month we talked about sharpening “edge tools”. That would include chisels, planes, knives, axes and adzes. That still leaves a lot of tools that we use all the time. Most of us have a table saw and maybe a chop saw that use carbide blades. Even sharpening a steel circular saw is a task best left to a professional service.

Sharpening a conventional hand saw is no big deal but the carbide table saw blade that most of us use presents challenges. There are tools and techniques out there that can let you take care of them yourself but most of us let someone with the knowledge and equipment to do it right. It’s pretty easy to mess up the profile of a carbide toothed blade with an attachment for a Dremel tool and

tie up enough money in saw blades that it’s probably not worth it.

A1 can replace teeth in a carbide blade too. It may not be worthwhile for a cheap blade but before you trash it check it out.

They can handle straight blades too. Jointer and planer knives can be sharpened at home but you need specialized jigs and wheels for your grinder.

They can sharpen both carbide and steel router bits. Steel bits are generally cheap enough that it’s worth just replacing them but good quality carbide bits can be sharpened. So can matched pairs of bits like rail & stile sets and they will still match when

they are done.

There are some sharpening tasks that work you generally need to perform yourself. A1 can sharpen your chainsaw chain but you do that frequently and it’s easy enough that it’s not practical most of the time.



## April Project:

Most of us have a table saw. Its not quite a universal thing but pretty close. They make a lot of sawdust very quickly and with very little effort. Table saws have some limits. They’re pretty much made for straight cuts and can be dangerous if your work

isn’t well supported. You never want to free hand anything.

That’s why we make and buy jigs. They let us perform more tasks accurately and safely without a dedicated specialized tool. Most of us use a crosscut sled and sometimes we have one dedicated to a task that we do a lot.

Table saws have one feature that lends itself to fixtures: the miter gauge slots. They run parallel to the blade the whole length of the table. It’s easy to make runners that fit the slots

## Table Saw Jigs

and setscrews take up any play. You don’t need to be a machinist to be very accurate. Beyond the miter gauge slots the fence adds possibilities. Before the ‘80s fences were a joke but they have become precise, solid features that can be exploited for fixtures too.

The possibilities are almost endless and that’s why we want to see what you use. If you have a table saw jig that you think is pretty slick bring it in and we will take look.



**March meeting**

Last month we talked about sharpening edge tools. Several people brought in their favorite methods. We had a couple of variations of ceramic shafts, an old standby Arkansas stone and a diamond plate with loose abrasive.

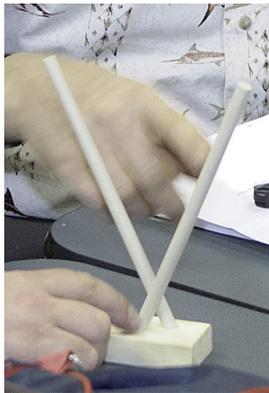
Sharpening edge tools isn't rocket science.

You polish the back whenever you sharpen to be sure that the area behind the bevel is flat and smooth then work the bevel side until a wire edge develops. When you have a uniform wire

edge move to a finer grit and repeat the process. It works whether you use sand



paper, water stones, Arkansas stones, diamond plates, or any other abrasive. You only need to grind if you need to remove a lot of material; for example to take out a nick or reshape the blade. You can grind a hollow on the bevel side if you like. It makes sharpening faster but isn't strictly necessary.



Stones generally need lubrication. Water stones use water, oilstones use oil — go figure. It floats the bits of steel away from the surface of the stone so it cuts a lot faster. Dave's diamond plate on

**Sharpening Edge Tools**



the left has the lubricant in the paste.

Stones require very little maintenance. Wipe them down when you are done. That just keeps them from being a mess in storage. They need to be flattened occasionally but you can do that with sandpaper. Water stones generally need to be kept wet and not allowed to freeze.

**Sharpening**

Ok, we get it: our tools need to be sharp. Most of us give it some real effort but we have other things going on. Projects to get finished, taxes need to be done, and the grass doesn't cut its self. Maintaining tools seems to be one of the things that get's put off until it just doesn't cut. It's a hassle to take things to the sharpening shop too. A1 isn't exactly on the beaten path and neither are the others. Besides that when your jointer knives are being worked on the jointer is down and you get to put it back together when the shop is done.

We can and should do some of these things our selves. Nobody but the professionals are really set up to handle carbide. The stuff to maintain carbide is prohibitively expensive and even that needs to be maintained. You can touch up a blade

with diamond hone but even then you risk wrecking an expensive blade.

These things do benefit from cleaning. If your saw blade or router bit is burning the wood rather than cutting it try cleaning it before you take it to be sharpened. You will be surprise how well that works. Of course there are times it's pretty obvious that you need to sharpen. Right after you cut through a couple of drywall screws is a good time (mea culpa).



So how about the less common stuff that we use? Forstner bits can be sharpened but remember to sharpen the inside of the rim

and not the outside then sharpen the raker.

Other drill bits can be sharpened. Spade bits can be touched up with a file. Auger bits have a special file but a conventional triangular file will work. Twist drills need a fixture but the club owns a Drill Doctor that works and you can check it out.

A conventional hand saw is easy to sharpen but the pros can do it too. You have to be careful because they really don't know how you like your saw set up. It's always best to ask for very little set and open it up if you need to. It's more difficult to take set out of a blade but easy to add more. They can grind new teeth in a saw. If you have an eight tooth crosscut saw and want a five tooth rip it's easy for A1 and a real pain for you.

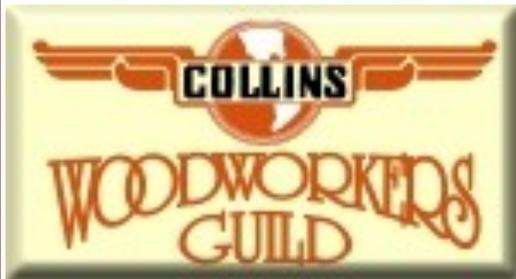
**Upcoming projects:**

May: Router Jigs

June: Hardboard

July: Crosscut Sled

We need ideas for new projects. Here is an opportunity to show off something that you have made. Suggest it as a project of



The Collins Woodworkers Guild is a club dedicated to preserving the age old practice of creation using the medium of wood. CWG members gather monthly to share tips, ideas and experience to further the knowledge of all members. From creating heirlooms for their families to Toys-For-Tots, members help each other get the most out of their woodworking experience.

Membership in the Collins Woodworkers Guild is open to ALL Rockwell Collins, Inc. Employees, Spouses, Retirees, and Contract Employees, AT ALL ROCKWELL COLLINS LOCATIONS!! Everyone is welcome at our meetings and yearly dues, renewed each September, are \$15.00

#### GUILD BENEFITS

- Access to our EXTENSIVE library of books, magazines and Tool Collection
- Open exchange of ideas, from project help to house building; and a hand when needed
- Social Activities
- Workshops
- Toys-For-Tots and other Programs to help our Community
- Educational and Informative Presentations
- Open Houses
- Tours

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