

Knot Knews

Monthly Newsletter of the Collins Woodworkers

February 1997

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Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 18, 5:00 p.m. at Puckett Tools & Fasteners

February Field Trip

The February 18 meeting is another field trip; this time to the Puckett Tools & Fasteners store, 410 1st Ave. NW, for a professional demonstration of Bessey clamps.

Owner Darell Puckett says he will have special prices for us throughout the store. He also said he is working on providing refreshments for the event.

The store is planning a restructuring of their pricing to be competitive with catalogs and will be coming out with a new catalog of their own. Mr. Puckett also said he is willing to arrange future shows for us featuring the products of other manufacturers.

Not only will you pick up new techniques for holding your work and clamping up glue joints but you could also save a few bucks on tools.

March Meeting

Our March 18 meeting features a program on finishing techniques. Pick up tips on how to give your projects that "professional edge" with a finish other craftsmen will envy.

Also at the March meeting we will kick off our *1997 Toy Project*. Bring your ideas for all aspects of this important community service activity including:

- Suggestions for toys
- Ways to involve more members
- How best to divide up the work
- Volunteers to coordinate the project

Future Meetings

Plans for future meetings include: a program on the hazard of dust in your shop and ways to reduce it using dust collection (Apr. 15).

Other tentative meeting topics include picture framing and matting, biscuit joining tools and techniques, and tuning hand planes for precision work. And don't forget, we need your feedback on these ideas to help us plan the kind of meetings you'd like to attend.

Tool Show Report

By Emil Krepcik

Jim Parent arrived with the pizza just after 5:00 and Roger Thompson arrived with his cooler very shortly thereafter. (as noted herein, we were therein, and soon the pizza was in(us)). I had just shown a very brief bit of how I use the plate joiner/biscuit cutter for joinery in the modern method (a.k.a. sloppy/little work/easy) I also showed the small offset base which I made to hold my Dremel tool for some hinge mortising.

Bob Flood demo'd his PC Plate Joiner, and told of his problems with it. Roger showed his long router jointer jig used for making straight edges on a board. He then demo'd some clamps which he used in the antique restoration gluing. So we shifted to clamps for a bit. Dave Gulic showed us some clamps bought at the clamp factory in Dubuque. He said they were seconds/ blemished with names such as Garret Wade etc. on them. They were discounted for the smeared logo's etc.

We then changed topic to router fixtures. Dave Wetzel had his WoodSmith kit horizontal mortise fixture. Jim McCollum had his very nice router table (floor stand with good fence.) also a WoodSmith design. Kelly & Jon Kirtz brought their PC Profile sander. It sounds good and has little vibration in the grip (the grip is rather large).

We consumed all the pizza, had a good time with many participants, several new members signed, and there was groups of conversation afterward.

New Library Materials

Taunton's video and book on finishing techniques is now in the library along with Norm Abrams' (New Yankee Workshop) plans and video for building a router table. To check out library materials, stop in at Employee Services and ask Sandi Strike.

Intranet Tutorial

We all know that the *Internet* is a world-wide network linking hundreds of thousands of computer systems and millions of users. Everyone may not be familiar with the term *Intranet* meaning an Internet-like facility existing entirely *within* a business or enterprise. While Rockwell company policy prohibits any personal use of the *Internet*, we are encouraged, on personal time, to use the internal computing facilities known generically as an *Intranet*.

Sensing that everyone may not be making the best use of the opportunities afforded us, Wayne Hanson has prepared this tutorial for our members. Soon you will be engaged in electronic discussion with other members and getting answers for some of your more knotty problems.

Electronic Access to Information

By Wayne Hanson

Did you know that the Rockwell Network has a "rec.woodworking" just like the INTERNET? With a few simple instructions, everyone should be able to find it. The first thing you need to find is the NETSCAPE icon. On the network I use, it's in the Rockwell menu on the tool bar and also in the GENERAL folder.

-DOUBLE CLICK on the NETSCAPE icon. The BBS homepage will open and you'll see your regular BBS page.

-CLICK on the "location" line, type "news:" (don't forget the colon) and hit ENTER. A new window will open with a list of newsgroups that are current. You won't see collins.rec.woodworking yet so be patient.

-GO to the toolbar and chose "Options/Show All Newsgroups". All the newsgroups that Collins has subscribed to will be listed.

WARNING (OFFICIAL COMPANY INFO FOLLOWS) Current company policy does not allow personal use of the INTERNET. Accessing any of the newsgroups other than Collins.XXXXXXX, for personal reasons, violates this policy. Any of the newsgroups that begin with Collins are within the Collins network, so, access is allowed on personal time.

-CLICK on the box (with the + in it) to the left of the folder for Collins. All of the newsgroups on the Collins network will be listed. Actually, some of the newsgroups are company related so use your best judgement and browse at your leisure. One of the newsgroups I follow is collins.buy-sell-trade.

-TO find rec.woodworking, scroll down to the folder collins.rec and click on the box (with the + in it) to the left of the folder for collins.rec. The folder will open to list two newsgroups - birdwatching and woodworking. Once the two newsgroups are open, you will see a box to the right of the name. You can "subscribe" to the newsgroup by clicking on the box. A check mark in the box indicates that you subscribed to that newsgroup and it will show up in the list when you first open "news".

-CLICK on the newsgroup collins.rec.woodworking. All the messages in the newsgroup will be listed in the right hand box. At this point, my NETSCAPE is a small window format. If this is not to your liking, change the window to full screen to better see the messages.

-CLICK on a message and the message will open in the bottom box. While the message is open, you can reply to the newsgroup, reply to the originator, or write a new message to the newsgroup. Answering and creating messages is similar to EMAIL although the commands may be slightly different. Good luck and have fun. Happy reading.

Wreck Dot Woodworking

(Great thoughts from the Net)

A morticing attachment for a brace? That's the rumor. Check out this URL (web site) and see.

<http://jan.ucc.nau.edu/~dtb/mortice.jpg>

Air Drying Your Own Hardwood

Date: 21 Nov 96 14:37:33 EDT
 From: Steve_Bussell/Iris.IRIS@iris.com
 To: oldtools@listserv.law.cornell.edu
 Subject: AIR DRYING - RH and MC Numbers
 Message-ID: <9611212314.AA1810@moe.iris.com>

A few years ago, I started to collect and dry my own hardwood. Mainly I started doing this because I'm frugal (cheap). In starting this little venture I began to do some research as to how to go about drying and caring for air dried stock. As for reference in the art of air drying I used "Wood: How to dry it.", a paperback by Taunton Press and Hoadley's, "Understanding Wood". As to where to put your effort, someone else already stated that it's better to pay attention to how the pile is stacked and stickered than to worry about losing a few inches from each end due to checking. For storing lumber in your basement, I use a chart that I believe is in Hoadley's book (I have a copy of the chart and not the book in front of me) and a digital RH gauge from Radio Shack. These numbers are for white spruce, but most species fall close to these. At 50% Relative Humidity (RH) the Equilibrium Moisture Content (EMC) is about 9%. These figures will vary depending upon the species FSP, fiber saturation point. For white spruce, this is about 30%. Here's some basic numbers;

40% RH = 7.5% EMC
 50% RH = 9% EMC
 60% RH = 11% EMC
 70% RH = 13% EMC

So in order to maintain that 6% KD lumber at 6% your shop would have to at about 30% RH almost constantly.

BTW, when I say I'm cheap, I don't mean I'm saving \$.10 per bf. I mean I can get green hardwood at \$.65/bf for cherry, \$.35 or birch, and \$.40 to \$.50/bf for oak and maple. Sometimes it pays to be patient.

Steve

Then Again... Maybe Not

Editor's note: the following post was sent from the oldtools list server. In that group of old tools enthusiasts, they refer to themselves as galoos (GG's) or Neanderthals and to their wives as "she who must be obeyed" or SWMBO.

Date: Mon, 25 Nov 1996 16:40:32 -0500 (EST)
 From: eugene@ns.technonet.com
 To: oldtools@listserv.law.cornell.edu
 Subject: Oak tree (was air drying)-LONG
 Message-ID:
 <199611252140.QAA27257@ns.technonet.com>

GG's:

I couldn't decide whether to call the subject "Oak" or "Don't try this at home" or "Galoot/Wimp?" Seems like long ago (700 posts or so) I was seeking advice on making use of a big oak trunk. I've followed the collective wisdom of the porch denizens in stickering it up. But it has been a bit more of an ordeal than I expected. In a year we will know how it comes out.

Meanwhile, I want to add, for those who might be encouraged by my stupidity - Don't try this at home without supervision. Nice chunks of wood are available for worthwhile projects! Who needs to take the role of a gyppo logger?

Trying my best *not* to start at the beginning, I'll spare Y'all and start near the end: I never thought I was a wimp. I used to have my only source of heat delivered in full log-truck loads. I know how to use a monster chainsaw and sledge and splitting maul. I enjoy it. Macho-Macho y'know.

Last weekend I had chopped off a hunk of oak trunk I thought I could handle. (The local sawmills had refused to saw it so I decided I would). It took 3 hours to do those two crosscuts. I cut up some pieces (for a galoot who wanted to play with it) and weighed it. Extrapolating, the trunk piece weighs 2300 pounds. Not something I can roll over to get a better saw angle.

So I chopped a 4' long piece and quartered it. I really wanted to roll the small length over, so I put the truck bumper on it (carefully pushing with the frame part, not the edges. The log moved an inch and the bumper brace moved 3. A quarter was more than I could lever up into the truck. It mathematically comes out to 580#. The best I have done is a slab of granite that I believe weighed less. I got lucky when a family of YB tourists came around saying, "Hey, how's it going?" Ha! I didn't even respond, except for, "How's your back?" Together, that man with the bad timing and I got this piece into the truck.

At home I chopped more. Slice,slice. Then a 3" slab I rested on my foot for a second crunched it. I

was walking it along to get it to the pile and needed to get a better grip. \$150 for a doctor to say, "Yup, you crunched those little bones into much smaller bones. How did you do that?". I decided it was none of his business.

This weekend I went to the place where this log rested, toting my SS reworked chainsaw. Friday PM I felt very galootish ripping this thing into slices out in the woods, just me and the buzzards circling overhead. Within an hour, I made the wrong move and let the running chain touch an iron wedge. Hmmm. Immediately after, I noticed that some of the saw hardware was falling apart. Luckily, I found the loose bits in the sawdust pile with a huge magnet I carry. But they were Torx screws. Do I carry Torx drivers everywhere I go? Quit!

Saturday went into saw repair and a massive chain sharpening job. Sunday evening I visited again. Now the 4' length is a half trunk and I have another 600# at home. And another dull saw blade, just from the hours of ripping. I have a return call in to the mill operator this evening to ask if he won't reconsider slicing up this little hunk.

"Body all achin' and racked with pain..." (Richard: that's an applicable line from a slave song in the 'merican Southern colonies).

SWMBO has labeled this TLHBI (The Latest Hair Brained Idea). Never underestimate the wisdom of SWMBO.

Gene, (who once refused to join gyppo logger ex-FIL in the woods) ???

Points of Contact for the Club

President	Emil Krepcik	x52999
Vice President	Jim Parent	x53012
Finance Committee	Wayne Hanson	x55893
	Dave Wetzel	
Planning Committee	Emil Krepcik	
	Jim Parent	
KK Editor	Mark Clark	x53872