

OREGON WOOD WORKS

RECLAIMING YOUR SHOP

BY BOB OSWALD & ASSOCIATES

Last month I asked for ideas how to 'reclaim' your shop. I wasn't specific and didn't intend to be. And my thanks to Marilyn for raising the question; it's a great topic. My own shop issues are clutter, lumber storage and off cuts, if I were really able to summarize it that succinctly. Actually I have every problem that exists, so there is nothing but opportunity in the words that follow.

Reader response to my request was sadly light. But the kind people who did respond were a great offset to the otherwise silent members. Thanks so much for their insight and suggestions below.

Brian says, "Is it really possible?"

So having this subject on my mind all month caused me to think about solutions. Some are obvious but it's just hard to get going. And that is one issue that must be overcome, inertia. We start on one area, move something, get sidetracked, see a

grander solution, shift to a new topic, etc, etc and you pretty much blow the day moving a few things and generally accomplishing nothing. There were common themes as you might expect. There were also differences. So here are the highlights of reader's responses, all outstanding suggestions.

Inertia

Pick something and JUST DO IT. Do not be distracted. Even if you have to re-do that solution later as the shop evolves, you will be better off now to accomplish one step and move on.

Off Cuts

Don't burn it, give it away. AKA transfer the problem to someone else. Other Guild members, kindergarten, REI bird-house project, schools, churches, day care centers – all can use what you don't need. You know how it goes "one person's trash,"
(Continued on page 3)



TOOL OF THE MONTH

Inside this Issue:

<i>Reclaiming Your Shop</i>	1
<i>From the President</i>	2
<i>A bit of a Curse</i>	3
<i>Our Last Meeting</i>	4
<i>The AB's of Glue-ups</i>	6
<i>Woodworker?</i>	7
<i>A Member Writes</i>	7
<i>Workshop Solutions</i>	8
<i>Stress Management</i>	8
<i>Understanding Pigment</i>	9
<i>Cheap Piece of Plastic</i>	9

OUR NEXT MEETING — MARCH 21, 2007 7:00PM

The next meeting will be at Woodcrafters in Portland. 212 NE 6th Ave Portland, OR 97232 (503) 231-0226

A factory representative will discuss and demonstrate the Festool products. Festool makes many handheld power tool products including drills, planers, routers, sanders and jigsaws. Learn the inside story of many of these tools from the experts who sell and support them.

Directions:

Cross the Burnside bridge into Portland on the east side of the river. Proceed to 6th avenue, a few short blocks and turn north. Woodcrafters is two blocks north of Burnside on 6th. Park as soon as you find a spot. Parking is limited, so don't shop around. It's only a block or two at most to walk.

Social time starts at 6:30.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY LEE JOHNSON



LEE JOHNSON
PRESIDENT

I have to tell all of you that it was a good experience to be back to a regular Guild meeting the other night. You surprised me with how many of you turned out. I sort of figured that after the long mid-winter dark, not many of you would remember it was Guild meeting night, but you did. Good crowd, good program, good company. It's fun, just like it's supposed to be.

The down side is that these night things make me realize I may not be as "recovered" as I might like to think. Last week it was two night Guild things in a row. Tuesday night was the last of a three-night basic carving seminar. (It was a very nice and interested group of Guildies -- really fun. I sort of like the night seminar idea -- don't have to burn a whole Saturday.)

Next night, of course, Guild meeting. I'm never exactly sure why I enjoy the meeting so much. I think it is just my delight in seeing so many other people who enjoy something I do too. And of course I always have to stay to the bitter end -- gripping and grinning.

Thursday, however, was a day to pay the price. I had to meet a new client Thursday mid-morning, but I still have to get up early with my wife to get her out the door (poor thing is still in the working world that requires time discipline -- unlike me who is free of such foolishness.) Got to the shop late in the morning, immediately took my heart-healthy walk, ate lunch and finally got to work about one in the afternoon.

Now even though my work is a second career, for which I set my own hours, take leave whenever the heck I want to, have a generous schedule of breaks, I still get the guilties when I take forever to get to work of a day. Then I get in a hurry.

What was that line from the movie, "Pretty Woman"? "Mistake. Bad Mistake!" Tired and hurried in a woodshop is a poor idea altogether. In my case, it was placing a quarter turning in the chop saw to trim an eighth inch off the top. Not enough caution about placing the piece caused it to be tossed away from me across the room, jamming the end of my right index finger in the process. I think it broke the end of my finger. It's very sore, very swollen, and each time it twinges me, I feel very stupid.

But that wasn't enough for the week. Oh no. What's a little stupid injury without adding a nice, big stupid mistake?

So I come in the next day, still dragging some, finger wrapped up, but determined to get in a good day's work. Get there late, of course, because there was a bunch of Guild traffic on the e-mail, have to take my walk because the rain was coming, and darned if it wasn't 11:00 or so before I could really get to work.

Well, it was time to get started hanging doors on the big French breakfront (yep, I'm still working on that one -- it is, I think, my own private Perdition). The clients furnished their own hinges -- very nice ones. Heavy, lovely finials on the hinge pins, great antique finish. Two of the tall doors require three hinges each, so I decided to start on those -- you know, go big or go home.

Set up the knife marking gauges. Set my modified scrub plane -- modified as a mortising plane -- to exactly the right depth for the hinges. Sharpen one of the really good Japanese chisels. Chuck the door up in the bench & cut those three mortises & the hinges fit perfectly. Congratulations, Johnson! You'd never get a fit like that with machines. You clever devil, you.

OK, now let's transfer the hinge positions to the cabinet. Just the right shim at the bottom. Find a steady hold on the door. Get out the double-edge Japanese special marking knife. Something's wrong here.

##\$%^\$\$#@!!!! The hinges, so beautifully mortised into the frame and panel (all solid wood -- no plywood here), were beautifully mortised into the latch side of the door, rather than the hinge side of the door. Oh you clever devil you.

It was then I realized just how tired I really was. Before I left the shop to go home and have a nap, I humbly made the patch pieces and patched them in -- oh, so slowly to make sure I was doing it right.

Moral of the stories? Get a clue about your limitations. The woodshop is unforgiving when one hurries too much or works when too tired. I'm going to the shop this morning after a weekend of rest, and I'll nurse my sore finger, and double check which side the hinges are on, and quit when I get tired.

The woodshop is unforgiving when one hurries too much or works when too tired

RECLAIMING YOUR SHOP

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(Continued from page 1)

another person's treasure". I dropped off a binocular donation to Jackson Bottom Wetlands recently. While chatting I learned that they also need craft/art supplies for children's projects. I'll check with them on a box of small wood samples, a BIG box.



Make a bunch of little things – birthdays, Christmas, the next Guild show-and-tell. Try this book for great ideas *The Wood Stash Project Book*, Kelly Pierce, Popular Woodworking

Jewelry boxes take quite a bit of material, perhaps two to three

board feet of material. So what if you used all those scraps. Laminate, stack, randomize – you can have even more creative designs than the ones shown.

Build jigs. Am I the only shop in town that has pure cherry, walnut and curly maple jigs? You know you love to work these hardwoods. Small pieces go a long way. A scrap of baltic birch and a handful of exotic shorts makes an awesome miter sled.

Make breadboards. Let's have a contest. You'll hear more about this in the near future.

Clutter

Probably the biggest single area. Let the suggestions below speak for themselves.

Brian Warrington

While not completely cured, I have managed to cut down the clutter with a change in attitude...cool, huh? My best suggestion in reducing clutter is to do one task at a time, and then take the time to clean up and straighten out the place when said task is completed. S-L-O-W, but it does work. Also, I put tools away when I am not going to use them very soon and keep a small workbench available for those I leave out. The tricky part is a your interpretation of "soon"

Ian Jamieson

Most things in the shop have a home in a drawer or a closet but are put "temporarily" on the nearest horizontal surface (NHS) when we are working. This rapidly accumulating clutter is a major problem in a small multi-purpose shop. I have minimized the problem by having a permanent (if somewhat inconvenient) home for everything - plus a small

cart. This cart is available for \$40 at the website:

<http://www.harborfreight.com/cpi/ctaf/displayitem.taf?Itemnumber=5107>

The cart is used as the NHS while I'm working and at the end



of the job everything is returned to it's permanent location, or dumped in the trash barrel. The system works fairly well as the there is more incentive to clean off the cart (needed for the next job) than the other surfaces. And of course, being small and mobile, it can always be the NHS.

Bill Fox

I found that the best way to have a clean shop was to invite the Guild to have a meeting there. Some how my shop was always swept and dusted, with everything in it's place, when the Guild was coming.

Bob Oswald

- ◆ I find two kinds of clutter – active and permanent. Active is the project underway. Permanent is things that don't have a home. Not everything has a home – so make one. Shelves, cupboards. Put all tool accessories in a cabinet built under or located close to that tool.
- ◆ The floor is my favorite storage place. It's so convenient. There is one everywhere you look. So in the areas where you find a pile on the floor, buy or build a storage

(Continued on page 5)

A BIT OF A CURSE

BY BOB OSWALD

How many times do I have to do a stopped router cut and have it come out one bit diameter longer than planned? We learn from our mistakes but that doesn't stop them from happening again. Set the right and left stops on your router table for the width of the cut by positing the work at each extreme. But unless you're careful, the cut will be 1/2 the diameter of the bit longer on each end.

Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again

Don't know what I'm talking about? You don't spend enough time in the shop.

OUR LAST MEETING

BY BOB OSWALD

A nicely eventful meeting. Lee announced the slate of officers for 2007, a bit behind schedule due to many diversions and health situations last fall. See the website for details..

Show and Tell

We had more presentations than normal. Outstanding efforts displayed and discussed by members willing to help others to learn. Unfortunately I was so engrossed in watching that I failed to take notes or photos.

Steve Philips talked about building a piece of furniture to match an heirloom. Taking a number of lessons from Lee Johnson, they actually made some steel shaping tools to fabricate some of the intricate design.

Ariel Enriquez featured a grand little box that include tight, small drawers fitted closely within the case. Finger joints, a great finish, and he demonstrated that fine furniture can even include MDF. It's more stable than 'real' wood in close tolerance applications.



Attention riveted on great topics

Dave Dimoff showed a great little hand plane he had made of brass.

And I think there was someone else but memory fails me now.

Sherwood Bowmen

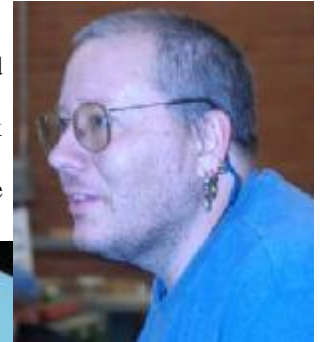
A highlight and a true delight was seeing the culmination of a grant that the Guild gave to a couple of students at Sherwood High School. Dedicated shop teacher John Niebergall brought two of his students to show the results of their work.



Mitchell Hanks and Charles Meier built a handsome table with hardwoods that were funded by their grant. The young men skillfully answered questions from the audience, sharing their experiences at building such a project. It was a treat to have them here at a Guild meeting.

Our Guest Speaker

Steve Knight of Knight Toolworks gave a great video presentation showing many of the hand made planes he has produced. Very colorful, very attractive and very reasonably priced. He talked about the process and took us on a little visual tour of his shop. In the post meeting mingle time, everyone circulated for



quite a while, admiring the planes that Steve had brought. And a great treat was yet to come.



Mingle & Raffle

The evening concluded with a raffle and three lucky folks took home a T-shirt from Sherwood High School, a Marking Knife by Dave Jeske of Blue Spruce Toolworks and a hand plane by Steve Knight .

What a treat.



RECLAIMING YOUR SHOP

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(Continued from page 3)

cabinet. Go vertical with that location.

- ◆ Same goes with shelves. A cupboard typically has a 10 to 12 inch high shelf. How many places do you have a 2 inch pile with the rest of the space going to waste. Buy some plastic storage boxes to go vertical on the shelf
- ◆ Use scrap barrels. Sort scrap that has possible use on the next project (Dave Miller suggested this a year ago). Dedicate another to a burn barrel. Packaging material, floor sweeping, truly useless pieces of wood, rare as those are. I dedicated a third barrel to recyclable material.

Dave Stere

I finally am starting to take my own advice! (That may be dangerous in many instances, but in this instance, I think it's a sane idea.)

Figure out just what sizes of off-cuts you really can (and, likely, will) use in your shop. Stick to that size - give away, burn or throw away EVERY piece that doesn't fit the plan!

Check with other Guild members to see who can use small pieces (smaller than you can use) & GIVE them to those people...you might come up with another friend too.

Dick Pettigrew

It seems that no matter what size space we have, we fill it to overflowing. The last time I moved my business was about three years before I sold it. We had double the space of our previous location. Even though we added a couple of machines, which only took about 400 square feet, we were packed in about one year. Never have figured it out.

I find what helps me is to put everything away at the end of each day and sweep or vacuum the floor. It only takes about 15 minutes, but the next day the place is clean and I don't spend time trying to find a tool I need. **MY motivation to keep it that way. Clutter breeds clutter.**

The biggest problem is wood storage and especially shorts that are left from a project. I hate to throw them away. After a while though they really clutter things up, as I'm sure you are aware. I have **taken to marking the species** (if it isn't obvious) and the date on the end. If, after six months it is still there it is firewood. Granted, as soon as it becomes ashes I need a piece of it. However, it has reduced clutter and if I can't find a use for a scrap in six months I don't keep it.

Tom Angel

Here's something that is working for me. I have a large table saw with the 52-inch rip fence and extension. I also have a work-table of very nearly the same size. I turned the table so it is oriented the same direction as the saw and moved it back

about 3 feet. I then put a 4 roller stand between the two. Now by lowering the blade on the saw and removing the rip fence, I have two more work areas which I can move completely around.

Vern Malen

I have a lot of stuff that is indispensable. What works for me is a shelf around the ceiling, pretty much on every wall. On the shelf are inexpensive plastic storage containers filled with like things. Put a big label on the end of each box and when you look up you can see and quickly find whatever you need. Valuable floor space is not used for storage in this shop.

Bob Oswald

Dedicated bins are tempting to build. They will cost more than plastic and they are certainly more professional and esthetically pleasing. However, there's an important fact that has started to take over part of my life.... Get it done! Or "Just Do It" as someone says. In other words, you can plan to build the right solution for years or you can buy something cheap to get by for years.



Shelf storage is the best for quick access and visibility but too many things take one layer and use only 10-20% of the vertical space. Use clear plastic storage bins on shelves to offer portability and better use of the vertical space.

Notice that I mention buying plastic boxes frequently. Another resolution I have made is not to hold off in favor of building a nice one. It's never going to happen. This is one of those examples where you can build better things later but for now, get the job done.

Clamp racks - most of you probably have them. I have THREE clamp storage locations. Two wall racks and a big drawer under the lathe. And one is behind the dust collector. So it's simple, get them all together.

Power tools - all have their accessories. What has worked for me, an article from two years ago, is to build storage cabinets beneath any power tool that has an open stand. That becomes a place for all the accessories for that tool.

Similar things- how many places do I store sandpaper, way too many!! Sandpaper, grinding, sharpening, knobs, hinges, nails, screws. Gather all the items of each of those things into one location. Buy a plastic storage container. Combine and label them. Dedicate one bookcase style storage shelf to 'parts'.

Floor space - cabinets, shelves - the mass market home supply stores have tons of inexpensive bookcases. Not the Hilton of furniture but for now it gets the job done. Some day you can replace them with rail and stile cabinets, donating

(Continued on page 8)

THE A-B'S OF GLUE-UPS

BY BOB OSWALD

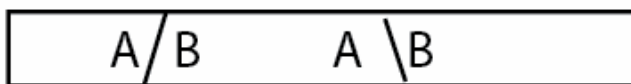
And we start again with “Have you ever...”. Laying up a panel by gluing several boards together by their edges seems a pretty simple task. Run each board through the jointer, lay them side by side on a clamp bed. Apply the right amount of glue to one edge. Slide two boards together, spreading the glue. Repeat the process until all boards are joined with wet glue. Then start tightening the clamps, sliding the ends to match, lifting the surfaces to be flush, end to end and in the middle. And it looks pretty good at this point. But if you lay a straight edge across the panel, is it flat? For a long time mine weren't, so I'd groan, live with it and take it out on the drum sander later.

Then in a flash of brilliance (actually an article somewhere), the truth was revealed. Most tools, make that all tools, are pretty close to square when you set them up.



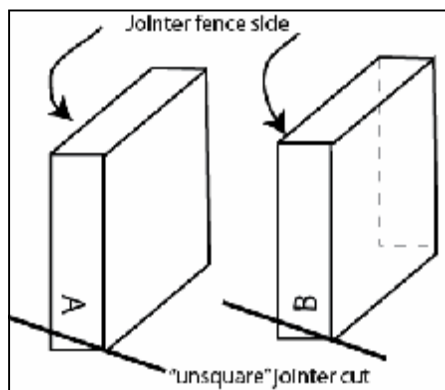
The operative words are “pretty close” You check the jointer fence and there's no daylight on the square. And your square is perfect because you checked it with a marking knife. But the reality is that *square* is as good as your eye. So what if the square is off 1/4 of a degree and the fence is off 1/4 of a degree, and they are adding to each other. Then the fence is out of square 1/2 degree. Doing the math reveals that a 6" tall 3/4" board, when jointed, laid flat and aligned with a perfect neighbor will be 0.05" off the table at the other edge of the board. If they all add up in the wrong direction and there are, say, 4 boards, you are out of flat by 0.2". Almost a quarter inch. This is NOT negligible for what started out to be a small error.

So the solution is actually very easy. Each board must be jointed to match its neighbor so that the angles cancel. The easiest way to do this is lay out the panel pieces as they will be when you do the final assembly. Then mark “A” on

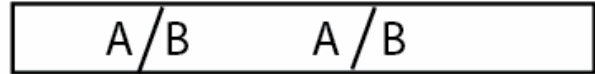


one end and “B” on the neighbor as shown in the sketch.

Next, each board must go through the jointer as shown in the diagram below. Each “A” will have its feet against the fence. Each “B” will have its head against the fence. When you lay them up again, the angled



jointed will cancel. It's staggering to me how little error it takes to add up to a big mess at the end of the day.



The same scenario holds true if you would rather use the tale saw to true up the edge instead of using the jointer. In this scenario, “A” side gets it's cleanup cut standing on its head and the “B” gets it's cut going through upright.

To better visualize this, you can take an eleven inch strip of paper an inch wide and make the A and B marks and the finished diagonal lines. Then cut them apart at the lines and play the games against your jointer fence or your saw blade.

TRY YOUR HAND...

1. Who does not host a REAL woodworking TV show?
Scott Phillips, John Sillaots, Tim Taylor, Norm Abram
2. Which wood is the least suitable for staining?
Oak, Poplar, Walnut, Maple
3. Which is the weakest type of joinery?
Mortise and Tenon, Sliding Dovetail, Butt Joint, Dado
4. What is a "hook angle"?
An architectural necessity for colonial style furniture
The angle used to determine cuts in Crown molding
The angle at which a saw tooth is set
The angle a chisel is held at while sharpening

Answers elsewhere in the newsletter

GUILD WORKSHOPS

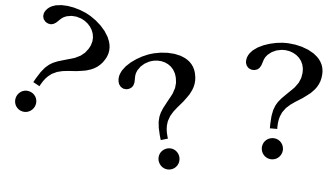
Event	Date	Location
Darrell Peart— Green & Green Style	Saturday March 31	Franklin HS Woodshop
Furniture Design and Construction with George De- Bois	Saturday April 21	Franklin HS Woodshop SE Portland
Make a Picture Frame with Bob Oswald	Saturday May 5th	Franklin HS Woodshop SE Portland

Further details and registration form are on the website. Or call Bob O'Connor at 503-774-5123.

WOODWORKER?

Amateur - Student - Hobbyist - Professional

OR



BY GEORGE E. DUBOIS

In 1964 my wife and I bought our first home. We were happy and proud of our new tract home in the mid-western suburbs. After settling in for a few months, putting the lawn, planting bushes, trees and flowers we decided that we should have a family room in the basement and we wanted a patio and a fence around our yard.

I bought a radial arm saw with all the attachments, built a sturdy workbench and set up a shop in the basement. I did not have any routers, drill press, jointers, planers or even sanders. I built that patio, I built 260 lineal feet of redwood fencing 6ft. high and then I built the family room in the basement. I then started building furniture. Bureaus for the bedroom, small nightstands for the in-laws, blanket chests and rolling TV stands.

What was I? An amateur woodworker, a hobbyist woodworker or a do-it-yourselfer. I guess I was all of those. I was not a professional because to be a professional you are supposed to get paid for it, and it was also generally considered that you should be doing it to make a living. In those days one really never thought about the titles as we know them today.

Some thirty odd years later I decided that I wanted to take up woodworking again. I wanted to do something I enjoyed when I retired. I had enjoyed it when I could do it over the years but never had much time for it once I was busy raising my family, moving around the country trying to make a living.

I bought some equipment and started building. Tables, chairs, dressers, beds and other things both small and large. After a few years I retired and woodworking became my hobby. I was now woodworking hobbyist. I so much enjoyed the craft and I wanted to learn more, that I decided to take

some woodworking courses. There was an adult education program near my home and they had a very complete shop with two teachers. One was an accomplished and renown wood turner as well as a cabinetmaker and furniture builder. The other was a master of finishing and restoration techniques. What a wonderful find! Now I was a student woodworker.

Over the next few years I was building a lot of pieces of furniture and cabinets. I was thoroughly enjoying the creation and construction of a fine piece of furniture. I was having fun at my woodworking and I was also making a profit, I did not need the profit to make a living. I was building at my own rate of speed and enjoying my exciting retirement.

I entered shows, county fairs and a professional woodworkers exhibition and earned ribbons and prize money and sold my pieces and accepted commissions to build more. I was also still going to school. I would answer surveys and they would ask if I was an amateur or a professional. How should I answer that question?

What am I? What shall I call myself? I am still going to school so am I a student woodworker? I do not have any degree so am I still an amateur? I am having fun with my craft, so am I a hobbyist? I get paid for making furniture and cabinets for people, so am I a professional? What label shall I use when people ask me what I am? I guess I am all of these things all rolled into one. I don't think I am still an amateur. Yet I am still a student woodworker or a student woodworker trying to become a professional. Maybe I am a professional hobbyist woodworker or a hobbyist trying to be a professional. Is it possible that I am a professional? Why can't I just be a woodworking "ENTHUSIAST". How's that for a label?

A MEMBER WRITES

I really wish I lived nearer to Portland so I could enjoy the company of all of you. However, there is no place in Oregon farther from Portland than Jordan Valley. No Joke, just a fact. Ontario is our county seat and we have to go through Idaho to get there. We do all of our shopping in the Nampa/Caldwell/Boise area because there is no where else. It is a major metropolitan area and we can find everything we need, except of course the company of wood workers. We are 62 miles from Nampa and 83 from Boise. Needless to say, we

don't run into town on a whim. We had hoped to participate in the big show in December but orders kept me busy and I couldn't find time to build items for the show. Maybe next year.

Yours for more sawdust,
Tom Angle

Ed: Thanks Tom. Some of us are spoiled.

WORKSHOP SOLUTIONS

“WOOD MAGAZINE”

I received a request from the Editor of Wood Magazine regarding a new publication they're putting together. This could be fun to participate in...

“It seems every woodworking club or guild has one or more members who have impressive workshops, filled with clever, problem-solving ideas. If that's the case with your guild, we would like to see those shops and consider them for publication in our upcoming America's Best Home Workshops, Volume 2. (On June 27 of 06, we are rolling out Volume 1 of America's Best Home Workshops, which showcases 15 unique and idea-paced shops.)”

Size doesn't matter ... we're looking for down-to-earth, hard-working shops full of problem-solving ideas. The shop doesn't have to be big or nit-picky clean. It could be set up for general woodworking, box-making, woodturning, or some other interest. The ideas could be storage solutions, task-specific jigs, shop tips, or the special way the shop was designed, built, and outfitted. To be considered, send us your materials by 05/1/07; the first 100 to respond will receive a free Best-Ever Workshops magazine, a \$6.99 value. Woodworkers can submit fellow woodworkers' shops, with their permission.”

What we need

- ◆ 3 to 5 photos showing the overall interior layout of your shop and 1 exterior photo if applicable
- ◆ 5 to 10 close-ups of your problem-solving ideas, or dedicated machining or storage areas
- ◆ A rough-sketch floor plan that shows overall shop dimensions and the locations of doors and windows, tools, storage cabinets, workbenches, and wood storage
- ◆ A quick summary of shop specifications, including the type of structure, with details about lighting, heating/air-conditioning, electrical service, and dust collection—whatever applies.
- ◆ A short paragraph about why the shop is great and how it serves your woodworking interests

Mail your submission to:

Best Home Workshops, Volume 2
WOOD magazine
1716 Locust St., LS-221
Des Moines, IA 50309-3023

Or e-mail to homeworkshops@meredith.com

Submissions cannot be returned, but please include your name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address if available.

Furniture Fact: Mission and Arts and Crafts are interchangeable terms, also called Craftsman or Cloister.

RECLAIMING YOUR SHOP

(CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 5)

the old bookcases to charity or another Guild member..

Hand tools – These are easy to have lying around. My De-Walt cordless drill knows a new home ever half hour, stored on another surface that's currently not in use. So another cabinet just for hand tools.

Floor space – so buy all of these cabinet and there's no room for tools.... Well, each shop needs a little plan of its own. Perhaps just one cabinet can handle multiple needs. But it's there, installed, used and dedicated to the purpose, not full of clutter. In the small shop, an over-bench cabinet can hold many of the things we talk about, with plastic cabinets inside to optimize that space.

What have I done since last month in my own shop?

- ◆ Resolved to give scraps to a couple of charities
- ◆ Bought a number of plastic storage bins and located them. Haven't filled them yet. Too busy.
- ◆ Moved a lot of stuff from one place to another... but I promise I'll do better. Heck, this was the month for ideas. Next month...

Once again, thank you very much to you who found the time to respond. May your shop grow spotless overnight and may all of your off cuts be useable on the next project. If anyone has additional insight to offer, please send it to me. This topic can easily use a follow up.



Have a Woodworking Day!

STRESS MANAGEMENT

I ran into an interesting fellow recently who shared with me his secrets for a happy life. Well maybe not so much happy as more stress free. How much of our lives are under control of emotions, things that don't go well, things that rub you the wrong way. And how often does the stress that sometimes occur ever accomplish anything? Occasionally, but probably seldom. So we fret about things that ultimately lead no where. Here in order of annoyance level are his later in life philosophies. I'm finding that it helps and hope it does for you too.

- ◆ Forget about it
- ◆ Deal with it
- ◆ Get over it

UNDERSTANDING PIGMENT STAINS

BY JOE CORNETT, ROCKLER WOODWORKING

Pigment stains are made up of three parts:

- ◆ A colorant that is ground earthen partials or a synthetic colorant.
- ◆ A binder, like varnish that glue the color to the surface and open pores of the wood.
- ◆ A vehicle or solvent such as mineral spirits that allows for easier manipulation of the stain.

Oil-base Penetrating

Advantages – Available, the majority of off the shelf stains you can buy at any home center or hardware store. Easy to apply on intricate detailed surfaces. Highlights the open grains of wood such as Oak and Ash.

Disadvantages – Slow dry time, messy, mineral spirits odor. Can cause blotching on woods like Pine, Fir, Hemlock, and Cherry

Never dispose of oily rags until dry. Lay them out flat away from combustibles until dry.

Oil Base Gel

Advantages – Non-blotching, less messy and easy to use. It has a Better color build-up with a second coat then penetrating oil stains. Because it's so versatile gel stains are by far my favorite stain to use.

Water base

Advantages – Fast drying time, water clean up, additional coats build color very well.

Disadvantages – Fast drying time (a problem in hot dry weather because the stains dries before it can be applied evenly) it can raise the grain, the color is slightly more muddy than oil stains.

If you're confused about the difference between stain and glaze think about it this way. A colorant applied to raw wood is a stain. A colorant applied to sealed wood is a glaze.

This procedure works well with both oil gel stains and water-base stains. It works like this: Stain the raw wood, apply a thin coat of finish (this will allow you to manipulate the colorant applied to the top), scuff with a gray scotch pad and apply a different color stain as a glaze, then top coat for protection.

Answers: Tim Taylor—Poplar—Butt Joint - The angle at which a saw tooth is set

A CHEAP PIECE OF PLASTIC

BY BOB OSWALD

I recently purchased a new drill press, a Delta 16" variable speed. As I was assembling it, I came across one of those attitude setting discoveries. Included with this model is a tray, a simple, cheap piece of plastic with a collar attached to the column to support it. I have been "struggling" for years with finding the chuck key. I tried one of the 'dog leashes' and it was more annoying than losing the key. Likewise, the center punch, scribe, a temporarily removed drill bit... all needed a home.. And the home was usually on a nearby tool or in a pocket. I spotted this tray at one of our sponsors, an after market add-on. I held off the purchase, not sure it was worth the money. So when this new Delta included one, I was ecstatic. And my expectations have been wildly fulfilled. The needed items are ALWAYS



where I can find them. The mount can be anywhere but I find the left side most convenient. Amazing how the simple things in life are often the best. The drill press, by the way, is great. The variable speed control is so much nicer than rolling belts. I have knowingly used the wrong speeds way too often because of the belt change inconvenience.

MISSING MEMBER CARDS

Well, every once in a while, more often than less, the computer goes awry. Or maybe it's the operator, but one or two of you may not have received your membership cards. As far as I'm concerned, at the time you read this I will be totally caught up. So if you have paid your 2007 dues and have not yet received your card, call or write to me. Hearing nothing I will naturally assume that I cleaned up the little foopah and will drop the subject. Bob Oswald 503-985-7137 or bobnan@teleport.com.

The Guild of Oregon Woodworkers is a group of professional and amateur woodworkers like you, committed to developing our craftsmanship and wood-working business skills. The Guild offers many benefits for members, including

- *monthly educational meetings*
- *monthly newsletter*
- *mentoring program to help members develop their skills in specific areas*
- *discounts*
- *woodworking shows*
- *network of business partners (the key to our development as members and as a Guild, providing additional learning opportunities)*
- *and a network of support.*

For information on how you can become a member, contact Guild President Lee Johnson at 503-292-4340 or email leejohnson13@comcast.net

GUILD OF OREGON WOODWORKERS

P.O. Box 13744, Portland, OR 97213-0744

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Oregon College of Art and Craft 503-297-5544, www.ocac.com

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* Some sponsors offer discounts to current Guild members. Refer to the website under *Benefits/Discounts* for details and restrictions. Remember to thank them for their generosity.

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