

OREGON WOOD WORKS

SHARPENING—A BIG HOW-TO



Tool of the Month

What's the difference between flat ground and hollow ground? Which one is better? Should you use a machine system or stones? What's the difference between water stones and diamond sharpening tools? What's the best way to sharpen? What's the least expensive way to sharpen?

What's the fastest way? Which one gives the keenest edge? Which approach gives the longest lasting edge?

Darned if I know. So come to the next Guild meeting and get a whole lot of opinions. Then sort it out for yourself !!!

NEW DATE FOR THE MEETING - - - THANKSGIVING

OUR NEXT MEETING—NOVEMBER 14, 2007 7:00 PM

The November Guild meeting will be at Franklin High School. Due to Thanksgiving on the following day, the normal meeting will be moved earlier one week to November 14. Mark your calendars

We will be having a "sharpening school" meeting, where members of our guild are invited to bring in whatever means of sharpening woodworking related tools they may have and do a demo of it. Any form of sharpening is welcome and requested, so bring your fancy tools or your sandpaper or anything in between and show the rest of us how you do it. If you can, consider allowing others to use your methods and tools; however, this is absolutely NOT a requirement as some people will prefer not to, and that will be respected.

Once a tool is sharp, it can be dangerous, so let's display our means of storage and care as well. Pouches, blocks and specialized containers that are useful for sharp tool storage are as necessary as the sharpening itself. Sharp tool care is an element that may be addressed as well.

Anything related to sharpening is requested and welcome. We will set up stations of differing styles so we may mosey around and see them all. Teaching is every bit as necessary as learning, so let's get involved and have some fun.

Board meeting starts at 5:30.

Please call Brian at 503-366-7925 or kingnomad3@yahoo.com and tell him what system you'll be bringing to help us configure the shop. You **DO NOT** have to be an expert.

Directions:

On the east side of the Willamette River, head east on Powell to 51st avenue. Turn north a few blocks

Social time begins at 6:30. General meeting at 7.

Bring a chair if you want a place to sit.

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EVEN THE UGLY DUCKLINGS ...

BY LEE JOHNSON, PRESIDENT



And it has been handed down and kept because it was made by "his" hands.

Last Spring a man came into my shop with a photograph of a piece he wanted to have reproduced. It seems he was getting divorced, and a shelf that had hung over the fireplace was made by one of the to-be ex-wife's immediate ancestors, and so it would be going with her. He had grown used to it and asked if I could make a replica.

I looked at the photo and saw (probably) grandpa's Shopsmith at work. The three-shelf unit had pierced work (I suspected a scroll saw) back brackets, some turned columns between the second and third shelf that were not bad, but installed upside down, "s" brackets between shelf #1 and shelf #2 with somewhat shallow relief carvings of some C-scrolls with leaf motif and some strange finials hanging from the inside top of the S like cozy little sleeping bats.

Yes, I told him, I can reproduce that. Then I named a price designed to frighten him away, but he simply agreed.

As with most of my commissions, I

was late starting his.

Too much really fun stuff started happening. The association with the Museum of Contemporary Craft started up, and I blew away three weeks making cool center-pieces for them to auction off at their opening gala (One of the three actually sold, and I was able to self-talk that small success into making me an important emerging Portland craft artist.) Then Art in the Pearl. Fun stuff.

Then the project upon which I was working this summer began to be difficult, but present some artistic possibilities, so I fooled around endlessly with stubborn warping, twisting, bowing and bucking western black walnut to tame it into some book matched frame and panel -- some with some live edge left in for effect. Very artsy.

Then we did the Guild project for the Architectural Heritage Center; another artsy, albeit late 19th century artsy, project that has drawn critical acclaim so far.

Flying pretty high.

(Continued on page 3)

PEARLS...

FROM ARIEL ENRIQUEZ

I'm staining a customer project tonight. Looks pretty good but when bidding your work and when it comes to finishing, estimate just that part and triple it.

The other half of the fun of a project is fixing the mistakes so they don't show.

I'm learning stuff I need to know to help others, but I hate to be learning it on an expensive piece of furniture that I carefully crafted and could now screw up at the very last minute.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We've acquired a few new folks recently, several at the Tool Show. Welcome to the Guild people. Take part in what we do and you'll find great rewards.

Nick Brandt, Darrell Davis, Scott Lee. Larry Rasmusson, Greg Weigel, David Thorness, Ray Freidhoff, Ira Justus, Mike Unger, John Lawce, William Kinnune, Andrew Johnson-Laird, Jay Buechler, Merrill Johnson, Ed Bierman, Larry Piper, David Witter

GUILD SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Event	Date	Activity
Basics of Fine Woodworking	Start 9/26. Limit of 5	7 session class on the basics of Woodworking.
Carving	10/27	Decorative and Detail carving with Lee Johnson.
Table Construction	March—2 days. \$215	How to build a table with Bill Bolstad

DUCKLINGS (CON'T)

(Continued from page 2)

Then Jim (not his real name) called me to ask about progress on his shelf. No progress at all, Jim. Been real busy. OK, I can get at it in September, but only have part of a work month because of family visits, obligations, etc., etc.

"I miss it," he said. (I miss my wife, I think he meant.)

Crap! I'd better get it done for him. Don't have much enthusiasm, though, for this ugly duckling project. Oh well. Pays the rent for a while. Better get it done.

OK. Resaw the walnut. Cut the shelves. Get out the scroll saw -- buzz, buzz there's the pierced back brackets. Make some turning blanks -- chopita, chopita, whrrrr. Ok, there are the turnings and the finials. Carve, carve. Hmmm. Carving is a little more sophisticated than I thought at first. Carve carve some more. Small bandsaw for the funny, frilly little under-shelf décor, clean up with carving tools better than the original.

Hmm. Somebody put a bunch of evenings or weekends or retirement time on the original. Lots of elements here.

OK, let's slap this puppy together, slop some finish on it and get it out of here before too many people see me making it.

Hmm. There's a gap. Fill it or leave it? Hmm. (The voice in the back of my head -- not being little, shouts,) "Fill it, of course, you stuck-up horse's behind! Who the he-- do you think you are?"

Maybe it was grandpa making it for granddaughter, or dad making it for mom, or maybe grandpa making it to fill some of the time emptied by grandma's departure from this world. Somebody made it, and what he lacked in art sense he more than made up for with sincerity and effort. And it has been handed down and kept because it was made by "his" hands.

And now Jim wants something just like it to help him steady his topsy turvy world.

So who are you, Mr. Big Shot-trying-to-be-an-artist-again-too-many-years-later? Who are you to make fun of this shelf and the humanity it pours down the years into a faithful copy of itself? Instead, try to understand what an honor it just might be to have the skills and the tools to make that passage possible.

It still isn't pretty. Or sophisticated. It will not be shown in a museum. But it's getting my best effort, because being pretty isn't the point, is it?

A PAINFUL LESSON

BY BOB OSWALD

Sometimes a lesson learned brings more pain than humor. I was finishing up a custom wine tasting bar. Proud of the construction, conquered the finish, ready to attach to top, pocket screws well hidden in the upper structure, drilled, ready for screws. Align the top and triple check centering, clamp in place. Grab a screw, insert the square drive and-squeeze. Like a gopher popping out of the hole this screw burrows a quarter inch through the glassy surface. Guess what -- the box was 1 1/2" not 1 1/4" I didn't know I owned any longer screws. So another hour spent, on delivery morning, working the wood fibers back into the hole, drop of stain, drops of varnish, touching, drying, smoothing, polishing. Looked fine but what a sinking feeling.

AIR FILTRATION

BY BOB OSWALD

Procrastination is a wonderful thing. You have the enjoyment of buying a new tool and then months later you amplify that enjoyment by actually using it. This Jet Air Filtration system made its way to my workshop a few months ago in the middle of some major project (Christmas 2006 to be exact!). I pushed the box into the corner; get to it tomorrow. Having to hang it from the ceiling caused installation to be delayed, and delayed. Then, standing on end, it became a very convenient work surface.

In a recent project, shop filled with dust, time came to stain and varnish. I'll wait a day for the dust to settle. *The filter coughed quietly behind my back.* So I popped it out of the box, set it back on top of its box and turned it on. Ten minutes later all visible sign of pollution was gone. Wonderful, and on with the project

Next day, working alone on a step ladder it took twenty minutes to install eye bolts, cut chains to length and hoist it into place.

The purchase of this Jet Air Filtration system was driven by the absolute need to improve air quality in the shop. So a product review—what is there to say. It collects dust. In less than 10 minutes this machine can turn a cloudy shop into a crystal clear environment. A remote, as easy to lose as all little things unless you chain it to something, sets one of three different speeds and a timeout period of 2, 4 or 8 hours. The default power up mode is low speed, run forever. Very quiet running and effective. Love it!!!



LAST MEETING: HARDWOOD INDUSTRIES, INC.

BY BOB OSWALD



General Business

Position	Candidate
President	Lee Johnson
Vice Pres	Open
Secretary	Larry Butrick
Treasurer	Dick Pettigrew
Meetings Chair	Brian Warrington
Communications	Bob Oswald
Shows	* to be determined
Education	Gig Lewis
General Rep	Doug Siemens
Professional Rep	Bill Bolstad

Slate of officers for 2008 is:

♦ Gary Bangston is current chair but may be unavailable. Clyde Hastings is available.

If you are interested in helping or know someone who is, please contact Lee Johnson before the next meeting. The election of officers will occur at the next meeting by a general vote.

Lee Johnson et al

The Sponsor Board for the Architectural Heritage Center was completed last month. Lee reviewed some of the construction details, pointed out invis-



ble patches, and shared the glory in pointing out the many different, complex parts and who made them.

Show & Tell

Four outstanding presenters showed us what has kept them busy in the shop last month. Thank you very much for sharing with us.

John Semm

... needed a project for his new multi-router. So he made two of these stunning cherry tables that will become end tables in the living room.



Gig Lewis

... displayed the results of a multi-day course at Northwest Woodworking Studios. Great mortise and tenon work in this oak stool



Bill Wood

... has always wondered what it's like to do dovetails in plywood. Also, other joinery tech-



niques have always been a question. So in his quest for solutions for a home cabinet project, he made numerous samples and brought them to share. What a contribution to my education.



Feature Program

Doug Wirkler and Joe Kinney led a discussion about lumber, species, purposes and answered a number of questions from the floor.

They conducted a tour of Hardwood Industries corporate office. The niche for this company is the customization they do for their customers. This includes filling orders that require grading, selection, meeting certain dimensional requirements or adding value through milling, panel assembly and a number of operations. An array of industrial sanders, saws and glue systems can produce high volume product for customers with specific needs.

They carry top quality grades of a



Doug Wirkler



Joe Kinney



John DuBay-Never enough clamps!

number of species including Walnut, bloodwood, maple, lacewood, wenge, cherry and many more.

The company has grown over 25 years to a productive and profitable organization.

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Alder is a fast growing segment for furniture and cabinet construction in home building. What used to be a cheap wood is taking a place in homes today.

Their outlet at Teton Avenue caters to the retail trade including the average woodworker. Current Guild members receive a discount. Stop by 19723 SW Teton Avenue, Tualatin 541-389-2236 for end cuts or fine lumber. Open weekdays 8-5



Miles of lumber—Superior Grades



One group listening to details about the grading process.

ROUTER SAFETY

BY BOB OSWALD

With this one little corner of the newsletter left to fill, searching the archives for something to print, this photo popped into view. Triggers a lot of thoughts. I remember doing this dove-tail job with a wood that really caused me breathing problems. This dual filter mask is a life saver. I've used it for painting at a time when I was still experimenting with spray systems.

So article possibilities are spray systems, router safety, respiration systems, lumber characteristics... We'll see what comes next month.

Naturally, contributions and suggestions are always welcome.



IRWIN COMES TO PORTLAND

BY BOB OSWALD

A number of Guild members had the opportunity to participate in a test marketing program with Irwin Industrial Tools. I was fortunate enough to be one. Irwin is planning a new clamp and this was an opportunity to put it to use on a real project. Two great people from North Carolina were in town for a few days and visited workshops throughout the area. I think my remote rural location was a challenge, but GPS is a wonderful thing.

Kristin Martin, Project Manager, Hand Tools and Jay McCrory, Packaging Engineer spent the better part of an hour discussing applications, techniques, pros and cons of the new clamp as well as clamping solutions in general. Look forward to more innovative new products from Irwin. It's interesting how much we take for granted in clamps until you start to analyze what you do and why you do it in the shop. It was fun to be a part of new product development. Thanks very much to Irwin, Kristin and Jay for a great opportunity and a wonderful visit.



CUTTING TALL AND THIN

BY BOB OSWALD

In a prior life I never imagined doing this trick. Rob Lewis taught me many things. We were making some thin slats and recently a project at home demanded the same results.

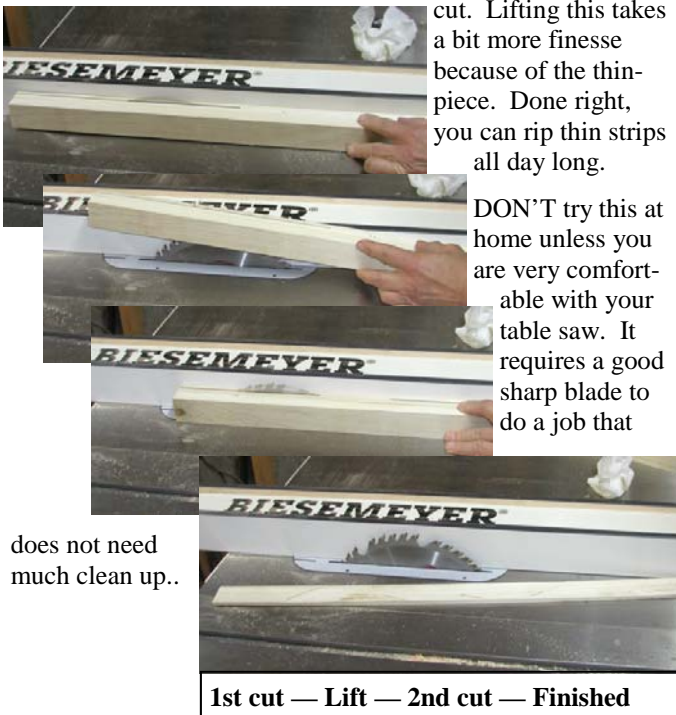
The job is to cut 2" wide strips 1/8" thick. Sounds like a bandsaw project. It could be, but it's really quite easy and fast on a table saw, up to the limits of the blade diameter.

It's a bit scary at first, whenever the saw blade is elevated to maximum. It's even more intimidating when it's close to the fence at full elevation.

So here's what you do. Raise the blade as far as necessary to rip the thick lumber. Set the rip spacing to the fence just a little proud. Rip the board, leaving ample uncut to hold onto. Back the piece up an inch and carefully, squarely, raise it off the blade by pushing down on the uncut heal. It comes right up just fine. Flip it end for end and finish the

cut. Lifting this takes a bit more finesse because of the thin-piece. Done right, you can rip thin strips all day long.

DON'T try this at home unless you are very comfortable with your table saw. It requires a good sharp blade to do a job that



does not need much clean up..

1st cut — Lift — 2nd cut — Finished

I LEARNED ABOUT ...

BY DICK EMMEL

was making a rabbet for a top of a wooden box on my router table. The rabbet was not wide enough for the un-rabbeted portion to fit inside the box. So I moved the fence closer to the router bit. Still not wide enough so a little closer to the router bit. Gosh, why is this rabbet not getting any wider, move it closer. Its not getting any better, duh @\$%^^! Finally decided the fence needed to be moved away from the router bit. Yeah, and of course, I moved it too far away and now the the fit is looser than I had intended!!!

CLAMP RACKS

BY BOB OSWALD

Clamp storage systems. There are a ton of them, although there are never enough clamps, as they say. My shop is an unfinished basement so it give more opportunity than normal to nail things up, use the studs.. Over the doorway into a small storage area a simple board with slots cut makes a fast access home for squeeze clamps. A quick reach overhead to either retrieve or replace.

The pipe clamps have been getting more use lately,



so they moved from a pile behind the drill press to a home in the stud bays. A simple 1x2 spanning a number of studs makes for easy storage and access.

If there are any ingenious clamp storage systems out there, I'd like to see what you have. Send me an email and a photo. bobnan@teleport.com

FEEDBACK (ON SEPT PROJECTS)

ARIEL WRITES..

I found myself nodding in the affirmative when you wrote about how how projects like this grow not only in their size but the impact on folks and how their participation grows and the social barriers drop ("..a big change from guarded involvement at the start.").

I wonder if the common themes of the three project reports jumped out at you as it did with me. The joy of it all is obvious. The personal growth both in talents and friendships. The fact that volunteering nearly always yields us much more value than what we give. That making mistakes is a universal condition: and that fixing them elicits a certain kind of pride. That good work, shared by many hands, is always more enjoyable than a solitary effort (although work-

BIDDING YOUR WORK

BY BOB OSWALD

I'm learning, sometimes too slowly in the school of Trial and Error (thanks to Dick Emmel for that). People want an estimate when you take a project. You obviously have not thought out the details so in your mind it's a ballpark estimate. YOU know it's an estimate. Reality is this; the customer walks away with that figure as the final price.



So I'll start here and end later saying "bid high". If the job seems too simple to overbid it, bid high. If the customer balks and you really want the job, you can offer to see how it goes and lower it later. If you do offer this, you've just set yourself up for a fall.

You can not bring the final price in higher at the end without incurring some customer 'tension'.

I did a simple job recently. I mean, simple as in, *it can not be any easier to do*. A 6 inch square piece of walnut with a 1/4" cove cut around the top. I mean, ten minutes if you drag your feet. S3S stock ready to use, no sanding required by customer. Rip to width and length, it's square, no reset of the saw (assuming you're using an adequate combo blade. Then four quick cuts on the router table.

Here's the task. Cut a 6x6 inch piece of 3/4" walnut and route a cove around the four top edges. Such a simple task. My mind goes through the motions. Mill it – joint an edge, 6" crosscut, 8" rip. Slip a cove bit in the router, 4 sides around (starting on straight grain). Done. 10 minutes.

First rule is that "nothing takes 10 minutes". And if your mind says "an hour easy!", then the rule changes to "nothing takes just an hour".

So here's how it went....

Purchase the stock; I was at the store anyway. Toss it in the truck and head home. Carry it to the shop, check dimensions, pick up the board. Ten minutes have rolled by. Recheck the cove dimension on the notes sheet. It says 1/8" but it doesn't say cove. Ok, I'm sure it really was a cove !? Grab a piece of scrap and prepare to run a test cut – oops, the router is still set up from the last job. Change the bit and do a test cut. How much time spent so far? Probably 20 minutes.

Get ready to cut the stock. Oops, had a rip blade set to 28 degrees left from the last job. Reset the blade to zero and check square. Change out the blade to a cross-

cut.. Nut falls into the dust bin. That has never happened before. Just on this job. Who pays for that?

Square it up – where did I put the square. Seconds tick by... minutes tick by.

Rip and crosscut a 6-inch square piece of stock.

Run the cove cut.

Estimated time 10 minutes. Actual time spent, an hour. To have bid it as an hour would have seemed way too high for this little project. Of course you have to look at your own procedures. When do you clean up all tools and put away things? Which job pays for it. You can donate it to the good of the order, but it's time spent in the shop, on business, without getting paid.

And the bigger the job is, the easier it is to be off a LONG ways. Many details are part of the project, details that don't enter into the bid.

The big bottom line in all of this is efficiency. Clearly you can't charge the customer for every nickel and every second. You must have an organized shop, able to go to work immediately on the next job.

In this case, I charged the customer the original bid, a half hour. He paid me double. What a wonderful customer to have.

If they balk and don't like the price, walk away. Every time I have had a customer accept the bid, even when I thought it was high, even when I had misgivings about writing the invoice for that amount, they have paid it without a word.

Rules of thumb.... "Take your best guess and double it." Estimate the finishing and triple that part." Sorry folks, there are no best rules of thumb.

Nothing succeeds like experience. My recommendation, what's working for me, is to make a detailed list of the tasks and estimate them. Bid the job and get it. Then do it, but keep notes along the way of the steps you actually performed and the time required. Compare them to your original estimate. Are there areas you want to apply your own rule of thumb? It's ok if they are your rules. Can you get better at anticipating the tasks and bidding them well? You must!

I can say that I'm starting to meet my shop rate now, and that's a good thing. A year ago I was off more than double.

Just did another 20 minute job. I thought it through in the seconds in front of the customer. Visualized the shop, the procedure. Good news. It took 20 minutes. That's one out of one....

THY SHOP COMETH CLEAN

BY BOB OSWALD

This month in the shop..... the ongoing saga, keeping the shop clean and organized. So two events occurred that help make this shop the best it's been in quite a while.

A visit from Irwin followed by The Guild Basic Woodworking class. It was time to sweep the floor and put away a few things anyway. And finally there was enough motivation to build a decent storage cabinet for jigs and hand tools. There was enough material remaining from a custom job that was just completed. Almost a full sheet of 3/4 birch plywood— first class shelves.



Welcome new storage.

First a huge pile of lumber shorts had to be moved out of the storage closet. That was half an afternoon sorting, burning and storing with the other lumber. For a while it looked like the clutter was getting worse instead of better.

A quick trip to the big box for a couple of pine boards for the sides (the one application where I'll capitulate on lumber) and a sheet of 1/4 ply for the back. About an hour with a router for dados and the back

groove and assembly. This time skip the glue; screws in the shelf dados and pin nails in the back. Get it done. It was standing tall in the storage closet within an hour. An incredible gathering of stuff that sat in piles for months is now casually organized. It will get fine tuned ... 'later'..

And the floor is clean; the shop even got dusted. Have you ever done this... grab the air hose and hit every dusty corner. If you do it fast enough you don't need the gas mask, just hold your breath.

Then turn on the (newly installed)

air filtration unit and leave the shop for half an hour. Wow..... Looks great! A little frugal preventative measure was to tape a cheap furnace filter over the intake to the air filtration unit so the Jet supplied one (slightly more expensive) wouldn't load up.

So what's happening in your shop? Are you getting a handle on organization? Suggestions and tips are always welcome!!



You can see the floor.

GUILD — BASIC WOODWORKING CLASSES

BY BOB OSWALD

Forth in a series of seven classes, the session on Routers and Techniques was held at Bob's workshop Saturday, October 20. Attending were Bruce Palamountain, Nick Brandt, David Thorness and Gig Lewis, coordinator. We talked, demonstrated and had a coffee break. Reports were all very positive. Skill levels varied but there is usually something for everyone. Gig reported that another session has been planned and is already sold out.

This class covered router selection and differences, applications and a lot of demonstration of technique. Quite a bit was mentioned about safe approaches to use of the router and fortunately there were no live demonstrations of bad technique.



LIFE IN A CUSTOM SHOP

BY BOB OSWALD

Here is a little story in pictures of the kind of work that is available all over town. I happen to be fortunate enough to be located in an area where the works comes walking through the door. While there aren't any perfect pearls of wisdom in this column about how to acquire work, a whole subject in itself, this article is hopefully of interest in showing the kind of work that can be done aside from the high end furniture woodworking.

Projects are as varied as the seasons in Oregon. A lot of little projects that can be fun, are typically quick to complete (see pricing your work) and always expand skills or result in more tools.

Read the captions.



Extend legs on two chairs.



Phone stand for wife



A new leaf extends the table



Rebuild a broken leg



With offset half blind dovetails—yikes:)

Craig's list restoration.



Wine tasting Bar



Three wine racks for a new cellar



Add lettering to a souvenir



Scene cut from customer plans.

The Guild of Oregon Woodworkers is a group of professional and amateur woodworkers like you, committed to developing our craftsmanship and woodworking 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

CLASSES, SEMINARS, DEMOS, AND SUCH....

Northwest Woodworking Studio 503-284-1644, www.northwestwoodworking.com

Rockler Woodworking 503-672-7266, www.rockler.com

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

Woodcraft 503-684-1428, www.woodcraft.com

Woodcrafters 503-231-0226, 212 NE 6th Avenue, Portland, www.woodcrafters.us



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Guild of Oregon Woodworkers

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