

# OREGON WOOD WORKS



Tool of the Month

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## GETTING SMARTER

BOB OSWALD, PRESIDENT

It's hard to believe another year is fast coming to conclusion. Of course I still get to the write some eloquent end of the year message. I'll try to get inspired by then..

This month we're wrapping up the Toys for Tots project. It's been very rewarding for me and for everyone who participated. I've been fortunate enough to have a few people ask for my advice. I love helping people and, with all I have learned by participating in Guild activities, it's a great feeling to give back.

A treasured comment from a friend at the last toy session, "I have gained so much confidence by working here. ". It's what making sawdust is all about. He made mistakes, I make mistakes, we all make them. And it's in those mistakes that you get smarter. I revel, perhaps a little too arrogantly, in the last two custom projects in my shop. They went exactly as planned. They were not so trivial as to be no-brainers. But I was able to

think them through, one step ahead of the cutting tool, foresee the potential trouble spots, and avoid them. It feels so good. Of course that's the precursor to a major screw-up on the next job. But what it means is that the last hundred blunders are making a difference. Confidence that never used to exist allows for progress without spending all day planning the next step. Imagination to solve unusual problems is improved. I keep preaching to all of you, "make sawdust". Don't be afraid to make a mistake.



So this month a little shorter newsletter, eye surgery yesterday, Wednesday. Where I'd normally pop out a couple more ideas, less mobility, a patch, vision limitations in the other eye.... as they say "get 'er done".

Hope you all had a great Thanksgiving.

**NEXT MEETING—DECEMBER , 2008 7:00 PM**  
 Hardwood Industries 20548 SW Wildrose Place, Sherwood, OR

The December meeting is our annual Christmas party, this year graciously hosted by one of our sponsors, Hardwood Industries. Doug and his crew will provide their conference room for us to have our pot-luck meal at, as well as a gift exchange.

All members and spouses are invited. Please bring a favorite dish if you can. Bring a gift to exchange if you like; no obligation to do it. if you bring one, you take one. Handmade gifts are suggested, limit purchased gifts to the 20-30 dollar range. Drinks, plates, utensils will be provided. If you aren't able to bring in a dish or a gift, please come anyway and enjoy the party The party starts around 7pm, and will last until about 9. No meetings.

Directions— Take I-5 to the Tualatin exit and go West on the Sherwood-Tualatin Highway about 3.3 miles to SW Wildrose Place, and take a right. There is a traffic light about a block further at Oregon St. You've gone too far. Go North about a block, and turn right into a large parking lot. Lots of parking!

If you can't make it, then accept our wishes for the happiest of holiday seasons, and we'll see you next month!

# FINAL EVENING: THE TOYS COME TO LIFE

BOB OSWALD

The roar of machines was no less significant on this last evening. Still milling, making final rabbit cuts, and a lot of glue spreading. Some folks made a new friend. Some learned more about using a router, some gained confidence that was lacking. All by-products of a wonderful time together.

Oregonian photographer Brian drifted quietly around capturing action. Reporter Laura had been out for a fact gathering session a few weeks prior. The Oregonian will run a nice feature Tuesday or Thursday after Thanksgiving on the cover of the How We Live section.

The final days include pickup of any remaining Guild contributions first week of December. A trip to three high schools, Franklin, St Paul and David Douglass, accompanied by a Marine in dress blues in a Humvee, to collect their toys. Final delivery to the Swan Island Center will occur the second week of December.

would like to see better participation. This project is one of the easiest things you can do. I fail to



**Work in progress**

understand the low interest by so many of our members.

But in the spirit in which this program was undertaken, we produced within the guild, about 300 toys. Thanks particularly to a couple of people who went way beyond the call



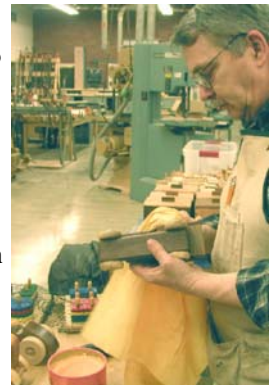
**Fleet of boats and trucks**

of duty in the number they produced.

And thank you to every one who participated. Whether one toy or a dozen, what mattered was getting into the shop and doing something for someone else.

The most touching scenario was one member building a few toys with his grandchildren. A time to be together. A time to share and teach.

A lot of children will have a happy moment this Christmas when a Marine arrives at their doorstep with more than would have otherwise happened.



**Al Quattrocchi donated a large variety of toys.**

cur the second week of December.

It was a very nice project. A limited number of Guild member participated. I would like to do it again next year. I



**Some of the dedicated: Gig, Peter, Bill, Jerry, Dennis, Brian, Dave, Bob, Chuck, Earl. Others missed the last night.**

## ROUTER JIGS—ACCURACY AND TIME

BOB OSWALD

It takes time to make a jig. You question whether the investment will pay off. In the long run, the payback is accuracy, repeatability and control. Those attributes are measured in both time and quality. You might take a manual approach and find it faster, but often the quality isn't what you hoped for.

When there are many cuts to be made, it's usually a no-brainer. Shown here are two jigs made to route a series of repeated spline slots in a base and in the bottom of a handle.

The handle jig is a 1/4" plywood base with a vertical face board glued on to hold the handle.

The rear face board forms the clamping surface for the handle. The handle angle is 60 degrees, so the front face board was cut to that angle and glued to the back face board. That assembly was then glued to the base at a solid 90 degree angle. To assure the right angle, a gusset block could have been attached to the back side. In this case it was not necessary because the face board base was so wide.



The slot required a little fiddling to get it centered right/left and front/back on the handle. Once determined, stops were set on the router table fence. Routing simply required clamping a handle in place, lowering the jig onto the spinning bit and routing the slot, about 3/16" deep, left to right between the fence stops..



It worked very well and was precisely repeatable and consistent.

The base had 15 slots to be routed, to match the 15 handles that would ultimately be splined to the base.

The base jig is essentially a T-square with a slot for a router guide bushing. Fairly straightforward to locate, the factors to consider were location from the edge of the board and the length of the slot. Quick calculations for a 3/4" slot with a 1/2" guide bushing made the slot 1 1/4" long. The "T" was glued to the edge of the jig base and slides along the display stand.



Normally one would index the slots with 2" spacer blocks. But it was just as easy and sufficiently accurate to mark the base board with a ruler. The jig was then visually centered over each mark, clamped in place and plunger routed.

The spline method was used to guarantee that all handles were exactly parallel and exactly spaced from the rear of the base. The end result was perfect (for a change).



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kathryn Wong, Phil Harris, Rod Kerr, Jeb Doran, Jay Johnston, Larry Wade, James Viglione, Robert Johnson,

We're happy to have you with us. Please introduce yourself to me at the next meeting. I don't know who you are, and I'd like to say Hello.

## BAD EMAIL ADDRESS

The following email addresses have been failing for several months. Please log in to your account using this address, and then update it to the correct one.

lesterh@hevanet.com , tomandmarie@iinet.com, lawce@copper.net, Dylan.Lyons@tetrapak.com

## VACUUM LOSS DOWN 67%

BOB OSWALD

Perhaps I have more dust collection ports than the average Jane but hey, it's me. At last count there were thirteen ports: router, planer, lathe, two bandsaws, etc, etc. Well, the ports leak. It's a pretty much unavoidable by-product of a sliding joint made inexpensively.

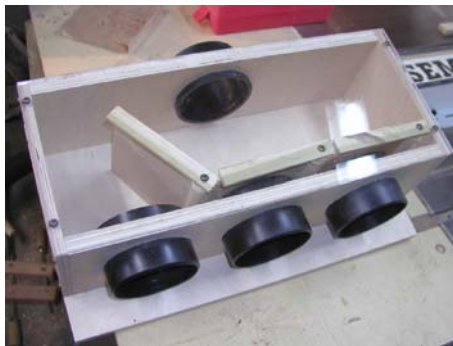
I'm using metal gates and there are two significant sources of leakage, the slot at the back of the gate and around the slide itself. When the gate is closed, the metal slide plugs the slot in back, but it's not air tight. An easy solution to that is a piece of tape across the slot. Doing that to all gates showed a noticeable improvement.

But, the best way to get reduce leakage is to eliminate gates. Here's a cheap and effective way to do that. Look at the 3-gate monster assembly in the sanding station corner. Sanding machines generate only fine dust. It doesn't take high pressure or flow rate to be effective.

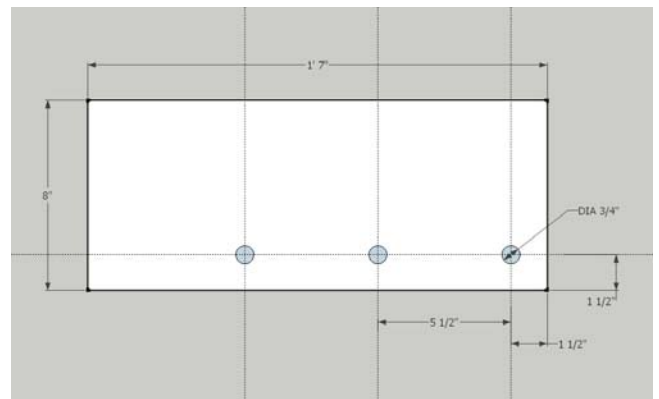
So I invented a manifold, one port and gate in, three ports out. The manifold here has a bit of leakage around the flapper valves, more than a normal blast gate, but it's trivial considering the volume of air flow available and the very light nature of the sawdust. This would not be the best approach on a table saw or planer where the chips are much larger and you want all the suction you can get.

Construction was simple, a box of mostly scrap plywood and screws. The box is 8" high, 7" deep and 19" long. Plywood panels are 3/4" on the top and bottom, 1/2" on the sides and 1/4" on the back. The front is covered with 1/4" Plexiglass because this was a prototype and an interior operating visibility was valuable.

The valves are 3/4" dowels, slotted to accept



some scrap paneling. Alignment took a little effort to get the best closure possible, so the dimensions shown around the valves should be observed closely. The critical dimension is consistent height of the plastic ports inside and the location of the hinge holes. The ports were made by sawing 4" splices in half. After cutting 4" holes (scroll saw in this case because of no hole saw the right size) the 1/2 splices were pressed into the plywood top and bottom. Then the protruding collars were trimmed on the inside with a bandsaw and fence to get them to be the same height. A tighter seal could be obtained by putting a soft face on the 'flapper', but it's not necessary.



A cute effect of this design is that with all valves closed, when the vacuum comes on, they self open a ways. As soon as you open one the rest of the way, the others settle back into place. You can leave the most commonly used port open so you only have to operate the main valve.

**LOOK AT THE SAVINGS !!** Three ports and three sets of leakage have been replaced by ONE. You could extend this concept further quite easily if it suited your application.

There will be a second one in place soon, combining two band saws that also generate relatively fine dust. The router table will always be dedicated as there are often large chips passing through that port.



## 2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOB OSWALD

At the November general meeting, the following people were elected to the 2009 Board of Directors.

President	Bob Oswald
Vice President	open
Secretary	Larry Butrick
Treasurer	Dick Pettigrew
Meetings Chair	Brian Warrington
Communications Chair	Bob Oswald
Education Chair	Gig Lewis
Membership Chair	Norm Michaud
Shows Chair	open
General At Large	Doug Siemens
Professional At Large	Bill Bolstad

## LEE'S PATCHING CLASS

BOB OSWALD

You HAD to be there. Like so many things we do, patching isn't all that difficult. But if you don't treat the process with the appropriate amount of respect, you don't get good results. On the other hand, it IS that hard. Some things you don't know unless you learn them from someone else.

So here's the dope on a simple patch. A long grain situation, you join boards to make a 'table top' scenario. And one of them had a little 'wobbly' in it so there's a crack in the joint. We learned how to pare down a piece of matching wood to a sliver edge, often shaped to fit the elevation contour of the final piece. I now finally have a bench hook in my shop. Test fit, apply glue, rub it out, hammer it in place and let it dry. Then carefully chisel off the bulk of protruding material, VERY carefully observing grain so you don't dig below the surface and ruin the patch. Touch up with a plane to get close to the surface. Then a scraper to polish down the surface. TOTALLY invisible. And if this doesn't make sense in words, you had to be there.

And this long grain patch was the easiest. We learned end grain patching, peening, tearout patches, flat surface gouge repair and the ultimate, the Dutchman. When the router slips and digs a pothole in the edge of your work, all is not lost. But to learn this patch, well, you had to be there.

Coincidentally, I was doing a glue-up a few days later and found a slight tearout after glueup that I didn't see beforehand. Applying this new found knowledge left this surface absolutely perfect. I was so proud of myself, and grateful to Lee Johnson.

"The only thing that delineates a Professional from an Amateur is that the Professional never admits that he patches."  
-- Marilyn Welter

## FOR SALE

**D**elta Midi-Lathe with 22" bed extension. 1/2 HP, 37" between centers, 10" diameter over the bed, 6" over the tool rest. Less than 20 hours use. \$225. 360-573-5918. Paul Garneau.

NEW, LIGHTLY USED PROFESSIONAL ENGRAVING/CARVING SYSTEM including COMPRESSOR (Sells new for \$895 without compressor) SCM System Three, Featuring the 400XS, Includes:

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For more information, visit

<http://www.scmsysteminc.com/index.php>

## CALL FOR ARTISTS

Good Samaritan Ministries has openings for artists. No booth fee. 75% to the artist, 25% to GSM. Fourth year.

March 13-15, 2009.

Tigard Armory, 6700 SW Oak St, Tigard.

Contact 503-644-2339

[www.gsmusa.org](http://www.gsmusa.org) Click on events and go to March.

## GUILD SEMINARS

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## LAST MEETING: SKETCHUP SOFTWARE

BOB OSWALD

Lloyd Johnson gave an outstanding presentation of Google Sketchup. He covered the basics of what each tool does, then created a simple table design. This was followed by a more complex design where we just watched what 'can' be done with SketchUp once you've unlocked the features of basic use.

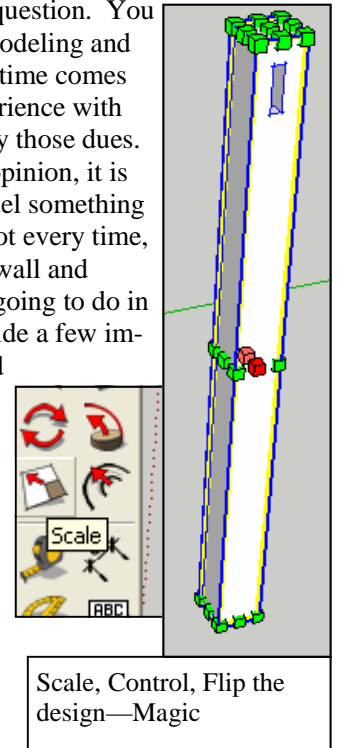
I was most taken by the concept of scaling and reversing an image. This applies, in one common instance, when you make a table leg and then make three more copies of it for the rest of the table. I have never been able to get the features to replicate properly. When I modify one leg, add a mortise for example, on one copy it appears on the outside back and on another copy it appears on the outside front. The scale tool, used in a not so obvious way, fixes that problem.

We will be schedule Lloyd to do a seminar in the spring. Here's one guy that will be there for sure. BUT, the big learning opportunity is that you MUST have used it for a while yourself. Otherwise you're just hearing words and you won't remember enough or be able to apply it when you get home. Download and install a copy. Go through all the on-line tutorials provided by Google. Try them. Use one tool and one technique at a time. Then play with building something useful. By the time the class comes around, you'll have a dozen questions about why this or that doesn't work the way it's supposed

to. And you'll be able to immediately apply the new knowledge when you get home.

Someone asked, considering the time he was spending building the model, "so do you actually spend any time cutting wood?". A fair question. You can get too hung up on just modeling and 'computing'. Some of that time comes from not having enough experience with the program. You have to pay those dues. Once you do, in my humble opinion, it is very, very worthwhile to model something before you go to the shop. Not every time, but when you hit that design wall and aren't sure just what you are going to do in the shop, it's a lot easier to slide a few images around on the screen and get a better idea, rather than standing there in front of the saw trying to figure out what to do next. I'm a believer.

If you still haven't tried it, you're missing a good bet. Find it free at [www.sketchup.google.com](http://www.sketchup.google.com)



## MEMBERSHIP RENEW TIME

BOB OSWALD

**T**ime to renew your dues for 2009. Your membership runs to January 15. The best way to renew is on line. Log onto the Guild website and at the top of the left menu, click Join/Renew. It's a good time to verify that your information is correct. We seldom need address or phone numbers, but when we do, it is nice to have it be correct.

General membership is still \$35 and Professional membership is \$45. If you choose to renew through the postal system, send a check and your name, address, phone and email to:

Norm Michaud  
1041 Chandler Road  
Lake Oswego, OR 97034

Your membership turns the wheels of the Guild. I hope we are doing things that help you to be a better woodworker. If you have suggestions for improvement, or if you just like something we do, it never hurts to let me know. You know where to find me... right? Website, Board of Directors.

## ROB'S TIPS AND TRICKS

BOB OSWALD

**A**bout a dozen people enjoyed a great three hours hearing from Rob Lewis, Wood Studio Manager at OCAC, about how to do things with a table saw and a router that make life so much easier. The really fun part of this class for me was watching Rob spring into action. No wasted motion, no long minutes spent thinking about what to do. He moves from tool to tool like a gazelle. You begin to learn how to do things just by watching that action.

Did you know you can cut circles on a table saw? Did you know that 80% of blades sent in for sharpening just need cleaning... and that EzOff does the job in 5 minutes?

Everyone there came away amazed at the simple things you can do without buying expensive equipment. Things for which it seems you need to buy expensive equipment, can be done with a few plywood scraps, a few screws, occasionally a nail gun. And it makes all the pieces reusable. I can't believe how easy it can be to align the two miter slot guides on a sled.... If you know how.

This was a morning incredibly well spent. We're hoping to have another class with more new tricks in the near future.

## SHOP TOUR: MARK SCHROEDER AND AL CRONK

BILL WOOD

Today is October 23, 2008. I am in McMinnville at the Gnarly Wood Shoppe. Craftsman Mark Schroeder and Al Cronk call this shop their sanctuary. These two men have been friends for years. Al is a retired consulting Forester. Mark is a Forester for a local tree farm. For years they have worked with trees in the woods managing the growing of forests for eventual harvest. Today they work the lumber into beautiful pieces of furniture for charity and profit.

Mark, a Guild member, is an Oregon native and Al has been in Oregon for over 40 years. Today, they work together building furniture. The unusual fact is that they build most all of their work for friends, relatives, and charity. Today, they are building fancy candleholders for a church. One



So, Al decided to hang them around the perimeter of the shop.

Mark has been woodworking for more than 25 years and Al says 70 years. This seems hard to believe when he looks to be in his early 60's! They consider themselves as "advanced highly skilled woodworkers". If you look at their web site pictures, you will agree. (gnarlywoodshoppe.com)

Their shop woodworking equipment is very complete with the Grizzly brand most evident. Their favorite tool is the Multi-router. Mark says you can't beat it for making chair mortise and tenons joints. They even have a downdraft table for sanding. I say this because I have seen many shops with many power tools but without sanding dust collection.

This shop is 36'X48' more than 1700 sq. ft. They have a woodstove for heat, which is centered on one long wall. They both love this space; it is a sanctuary away from the cares of the world.

The biggest challenge they face, it seems, is making doors with glass panels. The worst part about woodworking, they say, is sanding and finishing. The satisfaction Mark receives from woodworking is the "satisfaction of seeing myself do better with each project". Al says his satisfaction comes from discovering the grain and color that lies beneath the rough exterior



of a piece of wood.

They save space by creating drawers for small hand tools under their workbenches. They also store screws and nails etc in cabinet drawers. They organize their fine hand planes and tools in a wall mounted glass door cabinet.

This shop is very interesting. With a shop full of tools, two friends create fine furniture for: friends, relatives, charity and profit. I really didn't want to leave. Thanks for the hospitality guys.



is a single long column, which holds a single large candle at the top. The other is a votive candleholder with many candles and differing heights spread in a straight line.

Mark's hobbies are hunting and woodworking, while Al is a collector. His shop is filled with animal heads, antlers, plumb bobs, and old tools. This collection is extensive and amazing. Some of the pictures show some of the plumb bobs. They used to hang from the ceiling but Mark could just imagine one of the sharp bobs coming loose and striking his head.



*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, see the Guild website listed below.*

## 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](http://www.northwestwoodworking.com)

**Rockler Woodworking** 503-672-7266, [www.rockler.com](http://www.rockler.com)

**Oregon College of Art and Craft** 503-297-5544, [www.ocac.edu](http://www.ocac.edu)

**Woodcraft** 503-684-1428, [www.woodcraft.com](http://www.woodcraft.com)

**Woodcrafters** 503-231-0226, 212 NE 6th Avenue, Portland, [www.woodcrafters.us](http://www.woodcrafters.us)

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### Guild of Oregon Woodworkers

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