

NEWSLETTER FOR THE

GUILD OF OREGON WOODWORKERS

OREGON WOODWORKS

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Portland Oregon



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NEXT GENERAL MEETING: ONLINE WITH ZOOM

The online invitation will be sent out 24 hours before the event.

AUTUMN PETERSON HERITAGE NATURAL FINISHES JANUARY 18, 2022

BOARD MEETING AT 5:30, SOCIAL TIME BEGINS AT 6:30,
GENERAL MEETING BEGINS AT 7PM

By: Joe Wheaton

A couple of months ago, one of our members recommended I contact Autumn Peterson, the owner of [Heritage Natural Finishes](#) for a presentation about the natural finishing products she makes down in Corvallis. It just so happened that this recommendation coincided with the building of a timber frame pavilion my wife and I were planning.

The opportunity to hear from Autumn couldn't have been better. We knew we would need a high quality finishing product, and we are always interested in products with the lowest environmental impact. It just so happened that we found both with the finishes from Heritage Natural Finishes. After talking to Autumn and checking out the company's website, we were able to get some of the Original Finish and some of the Liquid Wax End Sealer, for sealing the ends of the cut timber frame pieces.



Timbers arrive for the pavilion



Knee braces after finishing

Autumn's products use a natural solvent made from the skins of oranges instead of petroleum-based products, such as mineral spirits. The result is a reduced environmental impact and a pleasant orange scent when using the product. (Although, we like the orange smell, it can still be overpowering in the house, so we do all our finishing in my wife's art studio.)

Although the company specializes in exterior finishes, it also makes interior finishes, which could be used on furniture, something I intend to try once our pavilion project is either completed or paused because of the weather. I also can't wait to hear about the "Earth Finish." Hint: It sounds like finishing a dirt floor.

Autumn is a Corvallis-based maker of fine oil base wood finishes. She will present a photo-heavy slideshow with great photos of the beautiful woodwork of her clients as well as discussion finishing

techniques with plenty of time for Q&A. Autumn is also serving on the board of directors for the [Timber Framers Guild](#) and is active in community education of the craft of timber framing. She'll be presenting a bit more on the TF Guild as well along with some local upcoming timber framing projects on her historic farmstead at Bell-fountain Farm in South Corvallis. [Here's a great short video](#) on one of the Timber Framers Guild projects you might be interested in checking out.

Join us on Tuesday, January 18th at 7:00pm for our monthly meeting presentation. This presentation promises to expand your knowledge of not only timber frame construction but also on exterior finishing using environmentally responsible products.

NOTES FROM THE GUILD PRESIDENT

Ed Swakon, President



It's January of a new year, and the Guild has new leadership. I am honored, humbled, and nervous about assuming the role of President from Steve Poland. For the past three years, Steve has done an outstanding job of guiding the Guild through some difficult times. Members of the Guild were very fortunate to have Steve as our leader. The Guild is rich in history and has had many outstanding leaders, and Steve was one of the best. Thank you, Steve.

I mentioned I'm nervous about assuming the leadership role because I'm a relative newcomer to the Guild, but we have an outstanding Board in place to assist. It's a nice group of past board members and new faces. I want to thank every board member for their willingness to help.

Your Vice President for Programs is **Carol Boyd**. Carol is continuing in that role from last year. Carol coordinates the activities of education, shop operations, and communi-

ty outreach. Three essential aspects of what the Guild is all about. **Julie Boyles** is your Vice President of Member Support and moves up from the position of Membership Director. Julie coordinates membership activities, volunteers, and our communications. Rounding out the Executive Committee are **Tom McCloskey**, Finance Director, and **Michael Bourgo**, Secretary. Tom continues in his role as finance director from last year, and his guidance and organization over the previous year have been invaluable. I look forward to his ongoing advice. Michael is new to the Board this year. Michael has participated in some of the Guild's Board and planning meetings over the past several months and brings great enthusiasm and ideas. I'll talk about some of our other Board members in the coming months. I look forward to serving with all of you over the next year.

Finally, I will rely upon all of our members to continue the tradition of volunteerism. The Guild is entirely run by volunteers – hundreds of you. Over the year, we'll be asking for your help, and I would encourage you all to help when you can. I always welcome your feedback – good or bad – on any aspect of the Guild. Please don't hesitate to contact me at ed.swakon@guildoforegonwooders.org.

Thank you all for placing your trust in me.



The Guild of Oregon Woodworkers is...

..., a group of amateur and professional woodworkers committed to developing our craftsmanship.
Our Mission: To promote the craft of woodworking to the woodworkers of today and tomorrow.

Our Vision: A community of woodworkers that provide significant opportunities to develop, practice, enhance, and share skills.

The Guild offers many benefits for members, including:

- ◆ Monthly programs
- ◆ Monthly newsletter
- ◆ Weekly Volunteer Special Interest Groups (SIGs)
- ◆ An education program to help members develop woodworking skills through a variety of hands-on and lecture classes
- ◆ Sponsor discounts
- ◆ Woodworking shows (such as Gathering of the Guilds)
- ◆ Network of business partners.
- ◆ A woodworking shop
- ◆ A network of friends and opportunities to volunteer and make a difference in our community

What you can do for the Guild

- ◆ Volunteer your time to contribute, assist, organize, lead, teach
- ◆ Take a class
- ◆ Contribute your knowledge

For more information see the Guild website or visit the shop.

Guild Shop - 7634 SW 34th St, Portland, OR 97219

Guildoforegonwoodworkers.org



Many Guild members recognize that woodworking can be a lonely avocation. It's fun to get together with other woodworker's to swap stories, share successes and failures, and to ask questions. Come join the fun at the next MEET-UP ...

MONDAY, JANUARY 3 AT 11:30 AM
On-Line - ZOOM

To allow members to keep the comradery of our monthly lunch meetings going, we host a Zoom get together.

Since it's going to be difficult to eat lunch together in a restaurant, we thought we could go around the gathered group and briefly discuss what we may or may not have been doing in the shop. If you have any pictures of items you'd like to share, have them available on your PC or Phone (depending on what you're connecting to the meeting with), and we'll be able to share your screen.

For security reasons we do not publish the meeting information on the website. We will send out the invite by email the day before—watch for it.

For information on using Zoom, click [HERE](#)

Remember to have your favorite beverage and eats too.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our newest **54** members. We're happy to have you with us and hope you'll make a regular appearance at the monthly program (online at present), contribute articles to the newsletter, and volunteer in other ways.

Rebecca Amann, Duccio Ambrosi, Patrick Barker, Ethan Beigel, Lance Blankenship, Michael Braschayko, Davis Brent, Nathan Cutrell, Eli Drain, Kelila Eichstadt, Noelle Emery, Christopher Friend, Jennifer Frisbie, Sara Hass, Eamon Haverty, Christy Hediger, Heather Henderson, Erik Herzig, Jean Jenaye, Dwight Jerde, Nolan Johnson, Zachary Johnson, Scott Kelly, Anya Kwasnik, Sam Lawler, Zarin Lucero, Adam Luckey, Michael Malone, Reed Mckellar, Leighann Miko, Bruce Morris, Jonathan Nasr, Christina Newcomb, Andy Nicoll, Marcelo Norona, Autumn Peterson, Natalie Prins, Nikhil Rao, Kobi Saha, Niramay Sanghvi, Harry Saporta, Scott Schroeter, Joseph Shum Seruto, Vicente Shum Seruto, Joshua Sills, Brenna Smith, Nathan Smith, Donald Steward, Micah Stolowitz, Nate Travers, Matt Trueb, Javier Velasco, Keith Weiss, Jean Zylka

GUILD EDUCATION UPDATE

For the full list of education and shop training classes go to: [GUILD EDUCATION CALENDAR](#)

ONLINE

Monthly Special Interest Groups (SIGs), classes and gatherings

[Carving Guild: Advanced Mac Sutter Relief Carving](#), 3 sessions 1/8 9:30am

[Carving Guild: Grinling Gibbons UK Trip Report](#) - Chuck Rinehart 1/11 7pm

IN PERSON CLASSES & SIGs

Classes require a shop card and shop certification. SIGs only need shop Certification. Classes with openings are listed here; go to the [website](#) to add yourself to waitlists.

INTRODUCTION TO THE GUILD

New members: This is where you begin. This class is a prerequisite to all others and to participating in hands-on [Community Projects](#) groups. There is pre-class work, so bring your homework to class.

[Introduction to Guild Safety](#) 1/30 9:30am Guild Shop, Jeff Hilber

SHOP CERTIFICATION

If you are new to woodworking, we ask you to take "Getting Started-Shop Safety for Beginners: Hands On with Portable Power Tools" before taking Shop Certification classes. You must complete "Intro to the Guild Safety" before taking these classes.

[Core Tool Practice Training](#) 1/15 10am Guild Shop, Gary Weeber

[Core Tool Certification](#) 2/1 & 2/8 1pm Guild Shop, Dick Rohrbaugh

[Core Tool Certification](#) 2/15 & 2/22 1pm Guild Shop, Dennis Dolph

[Core Tool Certification](#) 2/15 & 2/22 5pm Guild Shop, TBD

ADVANCED TOOL CERTIFICATION

Prerequisites: Shop Certification Card. Some classes are for Shop Attendants Only and are marked as such.

[PantoRouter - SAs Only](#) 1/4 5pm Guild Shop, Mark Klein

CARVING CLASSES

Advanced Mack Sutter Relief Class, online, three Saturdays Jan 8-22, [click here](#)

Advanced Mack Sutter Relief Class, online, three Tuesdays Jan 11-25, [click here](#)

Beginner Carving (Incise), online, repeats monthly, [Feb 19](#), [Mar 19](#), [Apr 16](#)

Stropping for Beginners, in-person, repeats monthly, [Jan 12](#), [Feb 9](#), [Mar 9](#)

Carving a Green Man, online, three Saturdays starting Feb 19, [click here](#)

CARVING PROGRAMS (ZOOM)

Grinling Gibbons - UK Trip w/Chuck Rinehart, Tues Jan 11, 7:00 PM, [click here](#)

Large Sculptural Carvings - Kelley Stadelman, Tues Feb 8, 7:00 PM, [click here](#)

Tribal Carvings of the Columbia River Basin - Adam McIsaac, Tues Mar 8, 7:00 PM, [click here](#)

MEET THE GUILD INSTRUCTORS

Meet the Guild Instructors for our education program.

This month's Instructor Highlight is on...

Chip Webster



Chip Webster is the owner and operator of Furniture & Finishes, a boutique practitioner of antique and vintage furniture restoration, as well as a designer and maker of custom new furniture. Webster learned his craft working with a finishing master in Atlanta, Georgia. He moved to Portland and has built his business over the past 14 years.

Chip has been a very active contributor to the Guild education program throughout his time with the Guild. He teaches finishing for the Guild, where

he is a past secretary, a past education chair, and a member of the education committee. He is not only an instructor in a variety of subjects but is also a trainer for tool safety training. His expertise in use of the bandsaw has made him the Guild's go-to guy on the bandsaw and he currently teaches a Bandsaw Clinic.

One of Chip's great accomplishments has been the development of the Masters Series. Every year, he handles the challenging task of arranging for 2-3 Master woodworkers from around the country (and Canada) to come to the Guild and to teach clinics. These clinics introduce members to many of the world's premiere woodworkers and gives them access to knowledge and techniques that they would be able to attain nowhere else.

Next time you see Chip say, "Thanks Chip for everything!" He is a pillar of our education program and we are lucky to have him.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING A BIT OF LEATHERWORKING?

By: Tim Moore

Many have noted that, to do really well at woodworking, it's often useful to learn something about working metal. I agree, but have also found it is useful to have some basic skill in working leather, in order to make covers for the tools you lug around, for example.

When I was about 15 I used to take the bus to downtown St. Louis to visit the Tandy store, and that's when I began to make things like belts. Fast forward a few decades, and I found myself wanting a safe cover for axes and spokeshaves and saws, for when I needed to move around with them. So when I got some tools and leather from Bob Oswald's estate, I dropped back into leatherworking, this time with a bit of help from Internet U. The pictures show some of the things I've made in the last few years. I have gradually improved the fit and gotten a nicer finish on some pieces, and have learned enough that I don't think I would embarrass myself by passing it on.

So that is the question: is there any interest in arranging a class in leatherworking, through the Guild? Would enough people like to produce sheaths themselves to make it worthwhile? If so, there are a few follow-up questions.

1. Do you just want a demo and a chance to ask questions?
2. Would you like to pay a bit more and go home with a basic toolset? You can start to do a saddle stitch with about \$100 worth of tools, plus a few things many woodworkers already have.
3. Would you like to pay even more, for some leather, and go home with your first sheath?
4. And how about an advanced class, to make your own stitching pony?

If your answer is "yes" to any of these questions, please let me and/or Gary Weeber know. If there is enough interest, we can try to find a way to work basic leatherworking into the Guild education schedule, sometime in the coming year.

Maybe when it's warm enough that we don't mind leaving the doors open.



Sheath for Witherby Spokeshave



Stitching Pony



Dovetail Sheath



GUILD SCHOLARSHIP

By: Tim Moore

The Guild Scholarship Committee is pleased to report that, after a slow period earlier this year, several people have applied for scholarships in the last month. The awards range from a simple waiver of the \$75 annual membership fee to several hundred dollars, which will be enough for the two recipients in question to become qualified in all of the shop's core tools.

You can find more information about our program on the website, under the Community Outreach tab: [GOOW Scholarships](#). If you have any questions, please contact the program coordinator at scholarship@guildoforegonwoodworkers.org.

We are particularly interested in helping future wood-working professionals or instructors or, since that is the goal of one of our donors, the Oregon Community Foundation.

NOTE FROM A SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Tim and the Guild,

Thank you so much for all your time and consideration. I'm incredibly excited to start this journey with all the help and knowledge of the Guild by my side.

Thank you for this opportunity to further educate myself and find liberation in such a fantastic skill and community, and for taking a chance on me and financing this part of my dream for me. Thank you Helen for your willingness to mentor me. And I am more than willing to allow you to share this information and story with our community.

I will be sure to reach out with any and all questions.

Marin Seven

WOMEN'S SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG)

By: Ruth Warbington

There are still open spots on January 6th. You can work on your own project or practice/learn skills via on-going kumiko or small table projects.

Shop certification is required to use the shop machines on your own. If you have had safety classes you can work in the bench room and may be able to accompany others to gain more familiarity with machines and skills.

We will have a brief presentation by Carol Boyd from 6:30 to 7:00 in the bench room for registered attendees. Carol

will show us how she is using routers and templates to do wood inlay. We'll ask for work to stop in the bench room during that time so we can learn from Carol without distractions.

Looking forward to seeing you at the shop!

Please contact me if you have any questions or ideas.

Thanks, Ruth

LIFE IS A KALEIDOSCOPE

By: Gary Weeber, 2022 Chair, GOOW Education Program
Ainslee Young is quoted as saying "Life is a Kaleidoscope – Ever changing, intricate and beautiful."

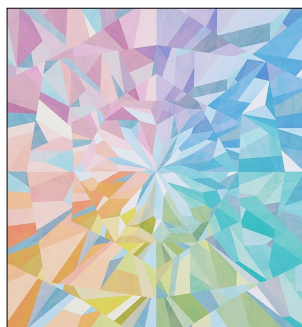
As we approach 2022, we are indeed faced with a kaleidoscope that changes almost daily. It may not always be beautiful. What types of classes should we provide in 2022? What is the willingness of instructors to teach as we approach the new year? How willing are members to take classes? What is happening with COVID and how does that affect our ability to plan and prepare for the classes that will best serve our members?

I don't personally recall a time in my life where planning has been more difficult. We

have the passion and the capacity to provide a full slate of training sessions and classes for 2022...but will reality provide us with the opportunity.

Please bear with us as we navigate these unpredictable waterways. As the Yiddish proverb states (translated to English). 'Man plans. God laughs.'

We will do our best to plan but we will only post classes and training sessions after we are reasonably certain that it can happen and the Instructor/Trainer is agreeable. Because things change, it is still possible that something can be cancelled but we will try to limit that as much as possible.



GETTING STARTED WITH PORTABLE POWER TOOLS, A HANDS-ON BEGINNER'S CLASS.

By: Jeff Hilber, Instructor

Woodworking is safe, but not as safe as not woodworking. Having an understanding of where to start is not always obvious. It takes education, dedication, and some bon esprits. Believe me, nothing can humble the best craftsman like wood. It will also provide some of your best experiences using your hands. That you have joined the Guild of Oregon Woodworkers implies some desire to do well. To learn how to make the long edges of two boards come together with no gaps, right?

Every craftsman started as a beginner. Join in the tradition. No matter when you begin, there is a time when you will be wanting to hold a tool. Never done that? Within a few minutes of hands-on instruction, the confidence builds.

Whether new or experienced to the Shop, all Guild members take the *Introduction to Guild Safety* class and become members of the Take Ten Home Club (fingers, that is). Before any tool instruction, students are taught how to apply the correct safety protocols to each step of their disciplined, woodworking process. Wood and fingers are hard to put back on.

The only thing you've done with wood is hold a pencil? The Guild offers classes specifically for beginners. These classes, lead by experienced woodworkers, will teach you how to plan and make your project, even if you only want to make pencils.

Getting Started is the practical application of the concepts discussed in the *Introduction to Guild Safety* class. Success in woodworking depends on starting at the right point. These mentored classes bring the beginner into the woodworking process at a beginner's pace and understanding.

Getting Started is four hours of instruction and practice with these portable power tools: the drill motor and acces-

sories, jig saw, trim router, and orbital sander. Including the basics of a shop drawing, the six levels of accuracy and attention to our Personal Protective Equipment, affectionately known as PPE.

If you are a member of the Take Ten Home Club (fingers that is) and would like to explore these portable power tools and the projects made with them, *Getting Started with Portable Power Tools* is a confidence building, four hours of instruction and practice.

Our abilities are not infinite, but our ability to improve them is.



Four students in the Guild's Getting Started with Portable Power tools class. Applying what they have learned to their first woodworking project. In like lambs, out like lions. Students and Instructors have fun in this interactive class.

Getting Started is offered Tuesday mornings, 2-3 times monthly. All tools, practice wood and project material provided by the Guild. **Next Class is Jan 4.**

TAKE TEN HOME CLUB



The **Take Ten Home Club** (fingers that is), otherwise known as *Introduction to Guild Safety*, meets Sunday mornings. Where the new Guild members gain a special interest in their fingers.

Two Board members showed up for a Take Ten Home Club (fingers, that is) meeting and photo. TTHC, otherwise known as an Introduction to Guild Safety. Next class is Jan 2.

Center back, Mike Sandmann from Membership. Second from right standing, Gary Weeber, Education Chair.

The Guild charges \$2 a finger to join the Take Ten Home Club (fingers, that is).

LEE JOHNSON AWARD - WOODWORKER OF THE YEAR - ABOO BALGAMWALLA

By: Ed Swakon, VP Membership

Each year the Guild selects one of its members for outstanding service to the organization. The award is named in honor of one of our Past Presidents, Lee Johnson. This year's recipient is Aboo Balgamwalla.



Aboo has taken charge of our shop's maintenance for the past several years. Every Monday night, a group of volunteers, under Aboo's leadership and guidance, get the shop ready for the rest of us to use. Shop maintenance is a thankless but vitally important aspect

of keeping the shop functioning. The shop maintenance activities consist of cleaning the dust collection system, adjusting the alignment of the bandsaws, tweaking the sanders, or performing major "surgery" on a machine to keep it running. Aboo's dedication to that task alone would be reason enough to bestow the award to Aboo. But wait, there's more!

Aboo is a part of the Guild's IT group. His vast programming skills have made the Guild's website shine. He has

worked closely with the Guild's education group to establish our Education YouTube channel and updates to its calendar. Aboo is also coordinating the activities of the Guild Safety Committee, reviewing the safety manual, and making recommendations on the safe use of the Guild's Shop. Aboo's greatest weakness is his inability to say no when someone asks him for help. Aboo is a past recipient of the Volunteer of the Month award. For all of the above, and I'm sure I've neglected to mention many reasons, the Guild of Oregon Woodworkers is pleased to award the Lee Johnson Award; Woodworker of the Year for 2021 to Aboo Balgamwalla. Thank you, Aboo!



PS. A group of the Guild board members met on Monday night (while Aboo was preparing to conduct his shop maintenance) to present the award to him. A video of the presentation was made and will be shown at our next general meeting on January 18th.

2021 GIG LEWIS VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

By: Ed Swakon, VP Membership

The Guild is an organization that is run entirely by volunteers. Each month we try to select an individual whose effort stands out. This past year we selected ten individuals as recipients of the award. This year we also lost the Guild's most prominent champion for volunteerism and a past President, Gig Lewis. In his honor, we named the Volunteer of the Month award in his name. Every recipient should be proud of their contribution to the Guild of Oregon Woodworkers.

The Gig Lewis Volunteers of the Month recipients for 2021 were:

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Linda Howarth | Jim Garrison |
| Bob Hargrave | Jeff Hiber |
| Bill Tainter | Chris Corich |
| Steve Anderly | Alison Reyes |
| Dennis Brown | Tom Rich |



Thank you all.

STORAGE SPACE – UPDATE

By: Roger Crooks & Ed Ferguson

OVERVIEW

We have a new web page to purchase storage spaces in the annex -

<https://guildoforegonwoodworkers.org/Buy-Storage-space>

The storage shelves are located in the annex and are 20” wide and 4’ deep. They are meant for storing work in process, not long boards. There are 20 spaces for rent.

- ◆ Purchase blocks are for three months. For longer periods, renew at the end of three months. This will preserve your space.
- ◆ After payment, your receipt will include your purchase date, your name, and email.
- ◆ *On the receipt there is space to indicate the expiration date. Please add three months to your purchase date and write it on the receipt (see example below)*
- ◆ *Please post this receipt on your storage unit in the plastic folder to indicate that it is taken.*
- ◆ At the end of three months, your options are to buy another three months or clean out the unit for another member to rent.
- ◆ Left-over items will go into the Guild’s inventory.
- ◆ **Managing the rental space is your responsibility.** No emails will be sent to remind you of your renewal date which you wrote on your receipt and posted on your space.
- ◆ There will be a two-week grace period after the expiration date for you to renew or clean out the storage space.

WHAT IS CHANGING

All the storage spaces are now viewable on the website at <https://guildoforegonwoodworkers.org/Buy-Storage-space>

Purchase is for three months. Price is still \$8/month for a total of \$24

Payments are only available through PayPal. Checks and cash are not acceptable.

Payments must be done through the website. Shop attendants can no longer take payment or assign a space.

At the end of the three months, you have the option of buying another three months or vacating the space

Monthly recurring payments (autopay) is no longer an option.

Management of the storage space is the member’s responsibility. No emails or notification will be sent at the end of your expiration.

There will be a two-week grace period. If the space is not renewed, anything left will go into the Guild’s inventory or trashed.

WHY THE CHANGE

The current process is very manual and difficult to manage

There was no visibility of which spaces are available
Shop Attendants cannot manage the storage spaces.

For questions on the purchase process or web issues, please contact Roger Crooks - www.guildoforegonwoodworkers.org

NEW RECEIPT FOR STORAGE SPACE - SAMPLE

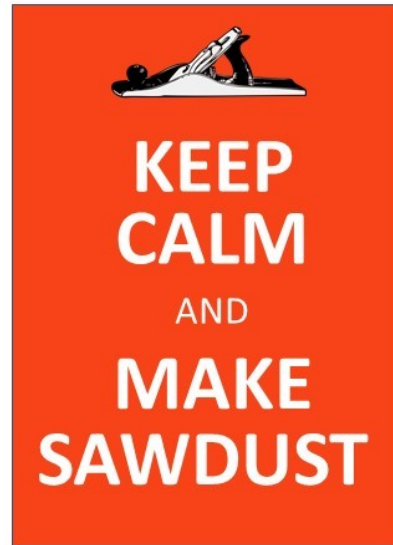
Payment for:

Date	Document	
17 Dec 2021	Invoice 13368 Annex Storage Location #2 - 3 Months × 1	Settled amount \$24.00 Invoice total \$24.00 Due \$0.00

Total settled: \$24.00

Available balance: \$0.00

STORAGE SPACE INFORMATION - IF THIS WAS FOR STORAGE SPACE, YOUR RENEWAL DATE (OR MOVE OUT DATE) IS 3 MONTHS AFTER 17 Dec 2021. PLEASE ADD 3 MONTHS TO THIS DATE AND WRITE IT BELOW
EXPIRATION DATE = 17-MARCH-2022



There is just something photogenic about the Felder bandsaw that generates cool images.

It is a terrific tool for re-sawing and gets regular exercise in that role. Here is Jesse Smith doubling his tray turning fodder. While it is a bit fussy to set up the fence parallel to the guide slot, to shim the tall fence perpendicular to the table, and to clamp it down, once that is done there is virtually no “wander”.

Lately folks have been helping it along by doing deep preparatory cuts along the top and bottom with the table saw, which seems to help by reducing the bandsaw’s work and even providing a bit of guidance to the blade.



Michael Pekovich opens a tea box with table saw.

THE SCOOT STOOL

By: John Sheridan

The Scoot Stool (copyright) was originally designed by John Sheridan and published in *Woodwork* (Feb., 2004). Presented here is a revised, 2016, version with a simplified process and made from available scrap material. This was also one of the introductory projects that students at the San Francisco WoodShop complete within their first few weeks.

The material used in this version was salvaged plywood from packing crates. Originally 3/8", the ply was laminated, doubling the thickness to 3/4". Any similar scrap plywood can be used, laminating if necessary for an adequate thickness.



INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

The "Scoot Stool" is the handy kitchen, bath, garage, and shop companion that you will find yourself using all the time to get the paint roller up to the ceiling, the serving platters down from the upper cabinet, and the scrap wood off the highest rack. I have built many of these with recycled plywood and a few with solid wood, all with Lamello biscuits and a Lamello cutter but certainly it can be made with other joinery. Whichever joinery you choose, the angled sides that provide the exceptional stability need to be cut carefully and accurately.

The stool is a tiny ladder, designed to be sturdy, dependable and as light as possible with simple, fast joinery carefully laid out and executed. I also wanted it to look elegant so that it could sit comfortably in any room. I worked through a series of prototypes that were first hastily constructed and appeared clumsy. But that journey through various iterations is essential to the designing process. In later versions, the footprint of the base was moved outside the perimeter of the top, which improved stability, safety and appearance. The current version now has a narrower top than the version I originally published.

This is the procedural outline for making the revised "Scoot Stool" with a simplified process and made from available scrap material. Guidelines of both laminated plywood and solid wood versions are included and we will discuss both limited production and one-of-a-kind construction.

TOOLS

- Rasp
- Angle Gauge
- Table Saw
- Protractor
- Straight Edge
- Hand Plane or Jointer

- Panel Saw or Table Saw with a Slider Box
- Lamello Biscuit Cutter
- Sanding Block

JIGS AND SPECIAL EQUIPMENT FOR LIMITED PRODUCTION RUNS

- Tapering Jig #1 & #2
- Step 2008 Layout Gauge
- Top 2008 Layout Gauge
- Handle Jig

PROCESS SUMMARY

- Mill and sand 8 to 10 board feet of timber to the thickness preferred.
- Cut the top to a snug fit for the special handle router jig (square edges)
- Cut and round over the handle.
- Rip cut the lower step to 8 3/4" width with a 12 degree bevel.
- Joint and rip the sides to a 12" width.
- Crosscut the sides and step with a 7 degree bevel on the edge. The sides are 15 5/8" on a side, and 15 3/4" overall. Fit to the tapering jig. The step is 13 7/16" long.
- Taper the sides. Place a side in the first jig and mark the line. Bandsaw 1/16" outside the line. Rout the edge. Place in the second jig to mark, remove to cut, rout. Repeat.
- Lamello. Check the longer instructions. Cut the lower step first. Dry clamp to find the correct spacing for the top/side connection. Lamello the top and sides.
- Sand and Assemble.
- Finish.

DETAILED STEP-BY-STEP PROCEDURE

Preparing the Recycled Plywood

My plywood materials are the 3/8" sides of the shipping cartons in which the Swiss company Caftec sends its



continued on page 12

SCOOT STOOL... continued from page 11

\$14,000 automated espresso machines to California and around the world. Other than these remnants, which I laminate for thickness and strength, virtually any material that is at least 3/4" thick (except MDF or particle board) could be used.

The first step is to dismantle the crates and strip the wood of any hardware (screws, nails, etc) and stickers that might interfere with gluing. Trim off ragged or unusable edges if necessary.

Pair pieces of similar size together and apply wood glue thoroughly to one side of a piece. Working quickly, sandwich the two pieces together and tape the edges at each corner to keep the boards from sliding out of alignment. I place mine in a vacuum press overnight at the standard 14.7psi. The glue is Titebond "Extend" to allow more assembly time.



Once the pieces have been removed from the vacuum press and the glue is set and dried, peel off the tape to prepare for surfacing and thickening of the boards. Remove any edge roughness with a rasp or coarse sandpaper. I have a wide belt sander so I send each board



through 3 passes for each side at 60 grit, and one pass each side at both 80 and 120 grit. The final thickness is approximately 11/16" from our original thickness of 3/4

Trimming and Sizing the Rough Stock

From the lot of prepared plywood, we used two sheets of approximately 18" x 33" in size to yield all four pieces of our "Scoot Stool" with some extra left over. This size may vary depending on the original material available to you. The important thing is to have enough original stock in either solid wood or plywood to yield the following rough-cut sizes:

(2x) 17" x 12" for the legs (1x) 16" x 6" for the top
(1x) 15" x 9" for the step

Note that for strength, the grain of the solid wood or of the outer veneer of the plywood should orient along the length of each of these pieces.

For the Laminated Plywood Version:

As previously mentioned, before the first cuts can be made the uneven edges from the laminating process have to be trimmed off. To do this, first take a rasp to one of the long edges of the board to clean off the dried glue beads. This edge can now be smoothly run along the fence of the table saw.



Rip first one long edge, then the opposite edge on the table saw to produce two clean, square edges on each board, trimming off only about 1/2" each time. Now the boards can be ripped to width. Trim one board to 12" for the legs and one to 9" to accommodate both the top and the step.



On the panel saw trim off the remaining uneven edges and cut the boards down to pieces of appropriate lengths. An additional cut to width will yield the 6" wide top piece.

For the Solid Wood Version:

You will need less than 8 to 10 board feet of 1" thick wood per stool. If you do not have wide stock you can rip to any convenient width. Your available wood will vary. When rip cutting for safety always set the blade height first- one tooth above the work height- and then the ripping fence.

Follow standard milling techniques with the jointer, planer and table saw to flatten, square and trim your solid wood.

If necessary given the width of your original stock, glue up oversize panels to the sizes above. To ensure that the glued panels are flat and tight, the edge joinery of the wood is "accordion-folded". That is, after laying out the wood to be glued up, paired edges are run through the jointer to offset any small deviation from 90 degrees to fence/bed alignment. Test the accuracy of your technique. Put a straightedge across your work and look for gaps. For

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ease of alignment when gluing panels, one can add a couple of Lamello biscuits. Be careful where you place them so that they are not revealed when the tapers or hand hold are cut.

Rough Cutting and Routing the Handle in the Top Piece

Again, my shop has a jig for layout and routing of the handle in the top piece, useful for small production runs. Either this jig or any suitable slot template can be used or made for this purpose.

If not already done, rip and cross cut the top piece to its final dimensions of 5 1/2" x 15 1/2".

Center a template on the top piece (or place the top piece in the jig) and mark the outline of the slot.

Take the top piece to the drill press and, using 1" or 1 1/16" bit, drill out overlapping holes inside the handle marking. Start from either end and work your way towards the center.



Place the template back on the top piece aligning it properly to the marking (or replace the top piece in the jig). Using a straight cutting bit with a bearing, use the template or jig as a guide to rout the slot.



Choose a round-over bit and repeat the routing from both the top and bottom of the piece to give a comfortable internal radius to the slot. A 5/16" radius bit works well.

**Cutting the Beveled Edges on the Legs**

The beveled edges along the width of the legs allow them to splay out when the piece is assembled, providing stability. Be

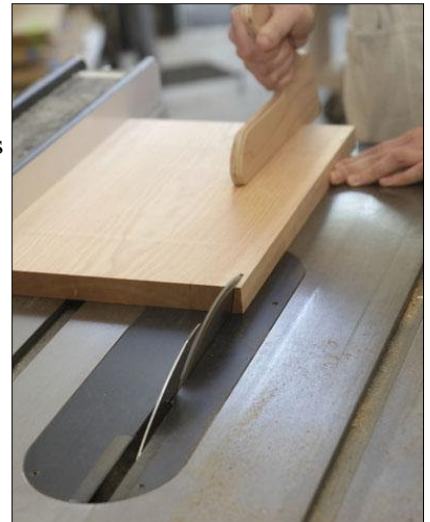
sure to carefully observe orientation of the work pieces during this step as it's important that the planes of the bev-els are parallel to each other.

Set the blade of the panel saw to a 7-degree angle. Use an angle gauge to check the tilt of the blade against either a protractor or a pre-existing template piece.



For each leg, trim one edge along the width—enough to produce a full bevel while leaving plenty of material for the final size.

Flip the piece over end-to-end so that the opposite edge is presented to the blade and the opposite face is upward. This will produce two bevel cuts that are parallel to each other.



Before making the second cut, set the length of the cut to 15 5/8".

We used a pre-existing leg template for this purpose. When placed on the saw bed, the edge of the template should just touch the teeth of the blade when the guide is set at the right distance. Lock the guide in place and make the final cut-to-length on each of the legs.

Check that both legs fit into the first tapering jig. If the fit is too tight, trim the edge again on the panel saw, removing the slightest amount of material until the piece slides in snugly.

Layout and Cutting the Taper on the Legs

The taper cut of the legs that produces a wide, stable base and a simple but refined look can be accomplished with careful layout and use of the bandsaw for a one-off version. However, to expedite the process for limited production my shop has two leg tapering jigs for the router table. These jigs make cutting the tapers on the legs quick and repeatable. Both process are covered here and you can refer to whichever method you prefer.

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SCOOT STOOL... continued from page 13***Layout and Cutting the Taper Without a Jig***

On each leg, measure and mark the centerline that divides the piece lengthwise. At the top of each piece (that is, at the edge that will join to the top of the stool) mark off a distance of $2\frac{3}{4}$ " on either side of the centerline. At the bottom, mark off a distance of $5\frac{1}{2}$ " on either side. Draw a diagonal line from each of the top points to each of the corresponding bottom points. This will produce a layout of the 11" to $5\frac{1}{2}$ " taper from the bottom to the top of the legs.

On the band saw, trim off the excess material up to approximately $\frac{1}{16}$ " outside of the taper layout lines.

Cleaning up the tapered edges of the legs can be done in one of the following ways:

Sandwich the two legs together—inside face-to inside face—being sure the center markings at the top and bottom are aligned with each other. The legs can be taped together for convenience to keep them properly aligned.

Place them in a vise and using a hand plane, plane the sides down to the layout lines.

If using solid wood, run the sides of each leg through the jointer. Multiple passes on each side may be necessary to bring the edge down to the layout lines.

Plywood can be trimmed with a router bit that has guide bearing and a straight cutter, using a straightedge as a guide.

Layout and Cutting the Taper With a Jig

Check that both legs fit into the first tapering jig. If the fit is too tight, trim the beveled edge again on the panel saw, removing the slightest amount of material until the piece slides in snugly.



Place one of the legs in Tapering Jig #1 and mark the backside of the piece along the edge of the jig. This line demarks the first taper cut.

Out of the jig, trim away excess material on the band saw up to $\frac{1}{16}$ " outside of the line.

Place the piece back in the jig and use the routing table to clean up the band saw cut and produce the final edge. The jig acts as a guide for router so be sure to choose a router bit with a bearing beneath the blade to run along the jig's edge.

Now, place the leg in Tapering Jig #2 and repeat as before: mark, trim and rout the second taper.

Repeat this process to cut the tapers on the second leg.

Cutting the Beveled Edges of the Step

The step has two bevels along its width at a 7-degree angle and two bevels along its length at a 12-degree angle.

The 7-degree angle matches the tilt of the legs; the 12-degree angle matches the taper of the legs. All bevels taper into the same face, producing a trapezoid when viewing on-end.



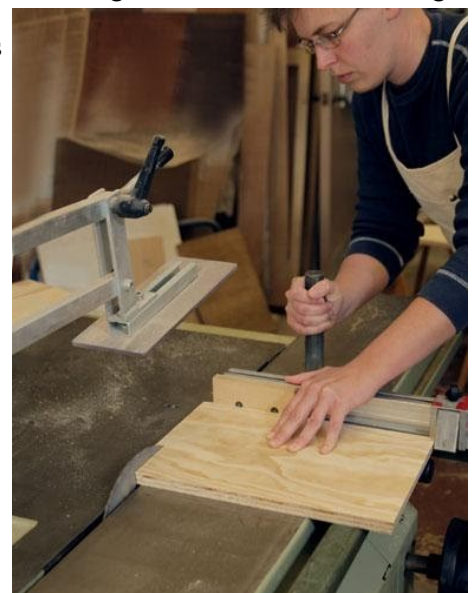
For the width-wise bevels that will join to the legs, keep the tilt of the panel saw blade at the same 8-degree angle as when cutting the legs.

Make the first cut as before, trimming one edge of the step width-wise and taking off just enough material to produce the full bevel.

Rotate the piece (rather than flipping it over) to present the opposite edge to the blade while keeping the same face upward on the sled. This will produce bevels that taper into the same face.

For the second width-wise bevel cut, set the stop on the panel saw so that the final length measures $13\frac{7}{16}$ " along the 'long' face. (If you're using the jigs and templates you can use the 'Step Template 2008' for setting the length of this final cut).

Layout a horizontal line on the inside face of the legs that is parallel to the top and bottom edges and is at $\frac{1}{2}$ the height of the final stool (including the thickness of the top piece— $16\frac{1}{2}$ " for a stool constructed of $\frac{3}{4}$ " material). This should fall at $8\frac{5}{8}$ " from the bottom inside edge of the leg. This line represents the location of the bottom edge of the step when the stool is assembled.



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Lay the step flat on top of the leg, aligning the beveled edge with the just-marked horizontal line. Center the step by eye and mark on the edge of the step the location of the sides of the legs. This marks the final width of the step.

On the table saw, set the angle of the blade to 12-degrees for the length-wise bevel cuts. Again, use an angle gauge to check the angle against a protractor or against the taper of one of the legs.

Set the fence so that the cut aligns with the first width marking. Be sure that the correct face of the step is facing up when setting up and making the cut such that the bevel tapers into the same face as the previous bevels.

Rotate the piece (don't flip it over!) and repeat the previous step, re-aligning the fence to match the blade to the second width marking. Make the final cut-to-width.

Double check the width by laying the step back onto the legs with the width of the step aligned to the horizontal line and the top face of the step facing upwards. The corners of the step should just reach the tapered sides of the legs.

Cutting the Biscuit Joints

The joinery of the Scoot Stool is done entirely with "mid-panel" biscuit joints cut with the Lamello cutter. For this style of joint, careful attention to orientation and reference surfaces is important. Proper reference marking will help get the biscuit slots accurately aligned.

First, before any cutting is done, mark the final orientation of the two legs with respect to each other by placing the two inside faces back-to-back. Mark one edge with a triangle. This helps keep track of which face is towards the inside of the stool and where the biscuit slots belong.



Likewise, mark the appropriate face of the step with "up" and "down" to help keep track of the correct orientation of the step in the final piece.

Start with the biscuit slots for the step-to-leg joints. For this joint, your reference surfaces are the 'inside' of the leg and the 'underside' of the step. Lay one leg on the table so the 'inside' face is upward. Lay the step on top of the leg so that the face marked "up" is visible. To double check that your orientation is correct, the short beveled edge of the step should be sloping away from the face of the leg, creating a 97-degree angle between them.

Align a short edge of the step with the horizontal line marked previously on the leg at the half-height distance from the bottom. Center the step left-to-right on the leg. The corners of the step should just hit the tapered edges of the leg on either side.



Clamp down both work pieces. Layout and mark three locations for slots for #20 sized biscuits—one at the center and one 2 5/8" inches from the center on either side.

Cut the 6 biscuits slots with the Lamello cutter. Note that when cutting the slots into the beveled edge, the base of the Lamello cutter needs to be tilted up so that its face is flush against the bevel. Leaving the cutter flat against the leg when making these cuts will produce slots at the wrong angle for assembly.



Repeat this process with the opposite end of the step and the second leg.

For the side-to-top joints, the process is similar but first requires some layout and marking. The reference surfaces are the 'inside' of the leg and the 'underside' of the top. Mark the layout by dry assembling the step and legs. Lay the top piece in position, properly centered and mark a line at the inside, top edge of each of the legs on the underside of the top piece. The markings should be equidistant from the center.

Disassemble the stool and lay the top piece face down (underside face up). Now lay one of the legs with the *outside face* upward on the top piece. Align the top edge of the leg to the line just marked on the top piece.

Clamp down the work pieces and mark two locations at 1 1/4" from the center for two #20 size biscuit joints. Cut the four slots with the Lamello cutter. Again, angle the cutter so that its face is flush to the bevel when making the cuts into the beveled edge of the leg.

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Gluing Up and Finishing

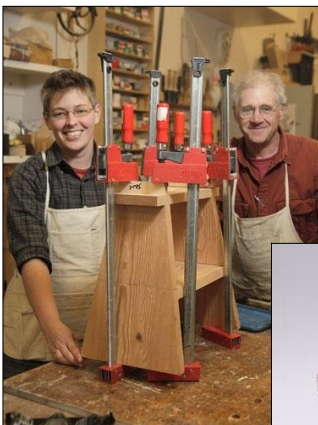
Sand the interior, hard to reach surfaces prior to gluing the piece together but being careful not to sand the mating surfaces in the joints.



Assemble with four clamps as shown. Note that for clamping the leg-to-step joint, angled blocks that keep the face of the clamp perpendicular to the step are required. This ensures the pressure applied by the clamp is acting to properly pull the joint closed and keep it flush and tight.

After approximately 15 minutes, scrape off any jelled, excess glue that has squeezed out from the joints.

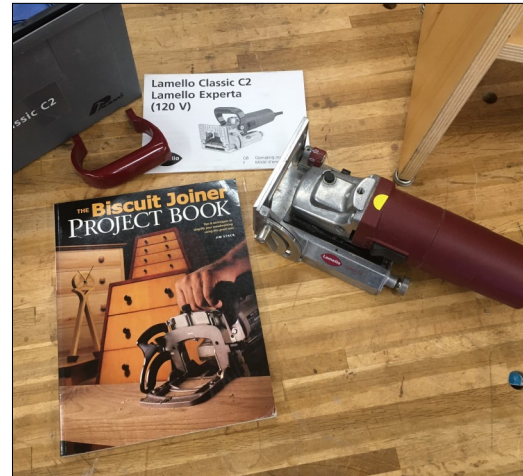
Once the glue has set, complete the piece with a final sanding and a coat of finish of your choice. Knots and other defects can be filled.



If any members would like to make Scoot Stools John Sheridan (415-647-9190) is pleased to lead a tutorial.



Guild member, John Sheridan, has had a Cherry wood stool accepted for the Gallery section of Fine Woodworking magazine in an upcoming issue. He is not a subscriber. If anyone sees this issue he would love to have a copy. John's email is johnsheridan1944@gmail.com in Portland.



To help Guild members become aware of one of the most precise and useful power tools in the shop for making cabinets, Jim Stacks 2002 project book on the biscuit joiner has been added to the library.

THE TOY TEAM IS KEEPING BUSY

A donation of toys goes to the Milwaukie American Legion Mike Wilson commander



RICK'S SPOTLIGHT ON A GUILD SPONSOR



By: Rick Martin

I recently took advantage of a cool and very rainy Saturday to pay a visit to the Rockler store in Beaverton. Rainy Saturdays mean no classic car drive outs in my book, so a good time to be indoors looking for tools or some nifty wood for that next project. But I also took some time to gather a bit of information to pass along to Guild members who may not be aware of Rockler.



I chatted with Rich Niederhoffer, the assistant manager. Rich is relatively new to Rockler but has been a woodworker for a long time. Almost all of the employees are woodworkers-it's pretty much a requirement.

Rocklers beginnings go back to 1954. Back then it was called Minnesota Woodworkers Supply Co. started and owned by Norton "Nordy" Rockler. It was mail order only -yeah, and no Amazon back then. In the early '70's



The Guild is grateful to be supported by numerous local businesses, our sponsors. Please patronize them when you can. Most offer some kind of discount to members, with some restrictions. We hope you will thank them for their support when you are at the cash register.

Check out the last page of the newsletter to see all our sponsors. Each week we will highlight one of our sponsors.

they opened their first store front and in 1996 the business was renamed Rockler. Norton Rockler passed away just last year at the age of 98. The Beaverton store has been here for



over 23 years now and just a year and a half ago they acquired the space next door to them which gave them almost 50% more floor space. One of the big gains in their addition is a dedicated area for classes. Currently they have lathe classes, router classes for sign making, and a newer idea called "make and take". This is a class where folks come in for a 2- to 4-hour long class that starts and finishes a project that you

get to take home. These are done usually on a Sunday morning. In fact, I did one of these classes making a super-sized cribbage



board. Great idea for those whose vision is not what it used to be or their eye-to-hand skills are challenged. I thought the class was fun and well taught.

Rich also wanted all of us to know that Rockler carries quality tools, jigs, hardware, and finishes. They welcome woodworkers of all skill levels so if you know what you want, you can shop on your own, uninterrupted. But if you need help or advise the staff has a very large amount of experience to draw from and they are happy to help.

So do stop by. Remember they give card-carrying Guild members a 10% discount.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!!

By: Linda Howarth

I would like to thank everyone for your support and caring this year. I know the year has been weird and crazy for all and I appreciate the extra efforts many of you have made on my behalf.

Special thanks go to...

Don Cline, who made a lovely rack for my hats and Tula's leash – I thought I could make it but Don showed me better ways of doing it and he was so much faster at it then I would have been. Perfect!



Michael Rothman, who took a piece of Koa that Gig bought on our last trip to Hawaii, book-matched it, and turned it into the piece of art Gig and I had envisioned when he bought it. If you look closely it even has a tiny hole in the middle of the heart that was natural to the piece of wood. Perfect!

Charlie Meyer and John Middleton, who came out to Gig's shop to give me an estimate on the value of everything there for my tax purposes. Once Gig's son Nate and I work out which equipment we each want, I will contact the estate team to help organize an estate sale to clear out all



the wood, tools, books, and DVD's that are left. Perfect!

Nancy Oswald and I have been sharing lovely walks, talks, and support for the last few years. Cheers, Nancy!

Bill Keay, who took a beautiful piece of live-edge walnut that **Colin O'Reardon** had given to us a few years ago and completed the work that Gig had begun. Gig had put in many butterflies and had reamed out most of the



cracks and holes in the wood to be ready for epoxy but was not able to complete it. Bill did the final work on it and in the new year will install it on top of the half wall in my living room next to the front door. It will look beautiful and the wood tells so many stories. Perfect!

I asked **Ken Vetterick** to make me a quilt rack using oak that Gig had in his shop. I planned to pay him for his time and expertise. Ken then gathered a group of Project Build Team members and they built it for me. It was

delivered as a wonderful Xmas gift from the group on Dec 21. What a lovely surprise! Thank you so much, **Ed Ferguson, Ken Hall, Mike Sandmann, and Ken Vetterick.**

Perfect! Plus they plan to make more to sell. I will tell my quilt guild about them.

I know there are other small jobs and kindnesses folks have helped me with this year but it was when my brain wasn't



quite working so I apologize for not acknowledging all here.

To all of you who attended the July Celebration for Gig in the garden, thank you so much for coming, and a special thanks to all who shared stories.

Here is to a new year, good health, and more gatherings.

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