



San Fernando Valley Woodworkers since 1988

<http://sfvw.org/>

Meeting Minutes

by Eitan Ginsburg

SFVW – Minutes August 17, 2023 meeting
Club President Stefan Dusedau started with announcements.

Announcements

Gregg Massini said that he has a jet lathe stand that he is giving away for free.

Grant said that he has been collecting vendor business cards from companies related to woodworking that are based here in the valley and offered to share them with people.

Grant also brought a box of 2" wooden wheels if people want them for toys.



Stephen said that we need more help with toy builds period there are only a couple months left these are great opportunities to build skills and get to know each other. We will post the names of the Toy Committee members in the newsletter, and which toys they are working on.

Mark Collins said that Swaner Lumber is now open on Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Stefan said that club logo shirts are available for purchase.

Reports

Finance: Jeff Bremer said that we are doing OK. He also said that he has cards for members to get a discount at Rockler and other business cards we have had printed up that tell about the club for potential new members you might meet.

Toy Committee: Jim Baldrige Just said that things are going OK. Jim Kelly will be getting more lumber after August 24th.

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Our President says...

by Stefan Dusedau

When we build our toys for the kids, what are the benefits? Other than being adorable, and fun to play with, wooden toys are timeless, non-toxic, eco-friendly, and can last for multiple generations. The wood we use for the toys that is donated by Swaner Hardwood and Anderson Plywood, is from North America, and is 100% renewable and bio-degradable.

A recent LA Times article talked about how quality wooden toys are becoming much more in demand by the new generation of parents, since they are more eco-friendly than plastic toys. How about that, wooden toys are back in fashion again!

In these times, most children only have experiences with plastic toys and digital games. Our handmade wooden toys require imagination and hands-on play, which is what good interactive toys do to encourage positive child development.

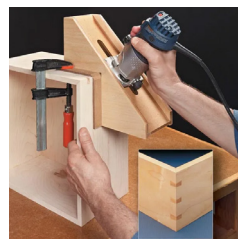
As a side benefit, we hope the experience with handmade wooden toys may spark a future interest in woodworking,

See "President" on page 4

September Presentation:

Jigs and Fixtures

All members are encouraged to bring to the meeting their favorite jig(s) and/or fixtures(s) to share! What better way to learn about shortcuts and aids that might help you do tasks with ease. Many of our members are great at developing these for the woodshop and I am sure this year will not disappoint.



Who We Are

The club was formed in 1988 for the purpose of enhancing skills, providing information and sharing the joys of working with wood. The membership reflects a cross section of woodworking interests and skill levels - both hobbyist and professionals. Annual dues are \$35. Full-time student dues are \$15.

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The quilt show boutique will be on October 14th. Please bring things that you are donating for the club to sell to the next meeting so that Jeff has a chance to price them.

Upcoming presentations:

- **September:** Jigs & Fixtures
- **October:** Chisel Techniques by Chuck Nickerson
- **November:** Toy Contest & Mega Show & Tell
- **December:** Holiday party

Safety Talk

Eitan Ginsburg mentioned that there was a special-topic podcast on Shop Talk Live focusing on hearing protection and hearing loss in the wood shop.

Jeff Bremer showed push sticks he us on the jointer.

Stefan presented a talk on lathe safety:

- First, know your tool, don't push it beyond its capacity.
- Wear proper clothing (nothing loose, which could get grabbed and pull you into the turning workpiece).
- Use protective gear -- safety glasses or a face mask, as well as a dust mask or respirator, and ear protection.
- Dust collection is important, because turning on the lathe produces lots of chips and dust.
- Using sharp tools is very important. You don't want or turning gouges to have broken, worn, or chipped edges, and the handles need to be tight.
- Understand the properties of the wood you are turning, such as if it is brittle or prone to chipping.
- Make sure that the work piece is properly secured in the lathe using drive centers, faceplate or chuck.
- Keep your arms and hands away from spinning wood.
- Cut your finishing rags into small pieces because these can get caught and pulled into a spinning work piece.
- Be careful of the gap between the tool rest and the wood. The tool rest should be close to the wood and just below the centerline of the work piece.
- Be aware of your speed setting. The bigger or thicker the

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work piece, the slower the speed you should be using.

- When working on a square piece, try to cut the corners to bring it closer to round.

Club Members' Challenge:

The challenge from June was to make something from the piggy bank blanks that Ed Sheenan brought in. Eitan Ginsburg was the only person who completed the challenge. He made an egg-shaped box he made using a blank, canary wood, walnut, and bloodwood.

The challenge for October is to cut a Gottschalk block. There will be two competitions, one for blocks made with hand tools and another for those made using machine tools.

Q&A

Gary Hirsch asked what he could use to dye white oak black. Suggestions included using India ink to get a good deep black, but one should use gloves. He was concerned the ink or dye will soak through the edge, since white oak is fairly porous. It was suggested that he create sample boards and try shellac, epoxy, or tape to try to control the bleeding.- **UPDATE FROM GARY ON PAGE #5**

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Upcoming Wood-related Events & Important News

from Jim Kelly

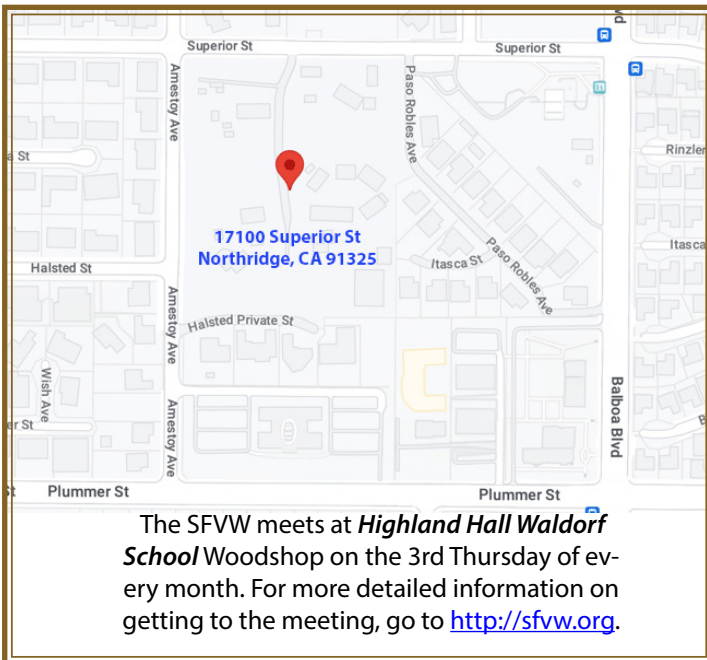
The following items of potential interest were found in the recent publication of Woodworker West.

Woodworker West is a great source of events, sources, and items of interest for woodworkers of all types and abilities focusing on places in the Western US. For more information go to <http://www.woodwest.com>.

Upcoming Events

September 1 – 30: The online gallery Wood Symphony presents: Small Treasures. More information at: www.woodsymphony.com/.

December 1 – 31: The online gallery Wood Symphony presents: Art of Giving. More information at: www.woodsymphony.com/



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Jeff Bremer said that he has old Forstner bits and router bits that are not worth sharpening. He asked if anyone had ideas what else they could be used for. The consensus was that at this point they were just junk.

Emily Lichtman asked how to seal pieces of wood before casting them in resin, to avoid bubble in the casting. Stefan suggested referencing the presentation that was done last year. The presenter, Kate Harrow, uses a vacuum chamber with totally dry wood. The wood sucks in the resin. Then the wood is baked in an oven overnight at 200 degrees. You can go to the website <http://turntex.com/> for equipment and books. Kate Harrow is from Bullseye Turning Supply in Duarte. Stefan also said that epoxy resin works a little better with a little moisture.

Tips & Tricks

- Jonathan Nail offered a tip on measuring.
- Mark Collins said that Amana Tools has a very small router bit with a tiny brass guide bearing. These are useful when you are trying to route in a tight space for a small radius.

Show & Tell

Tom Ferkel showed two dulcimers that he made, one from koa and the second from koa and cedar. The small work was done with dental burs and picks. They were finished with nitrocellulose lacquer. He explained that different woods convey different sounds and tones in an instrument.



Toy Build NEEDS You!

October 21 and 22: TOY BUILD weekend at EL Camino High School. All members are encouraged to take note and participate if possible.



Jonathan Nail showed a Paul Sellers router plane that he made from cherry and maple.

Gary Coyne showed frames that he made from English walnut for Pasadena Heritage tiles. They were glued in with caulk. He explained a tip on

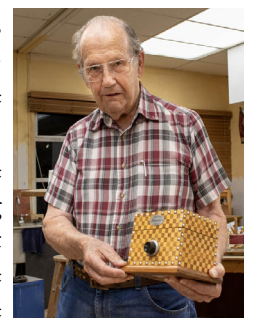
how he used screws through the back to level the tiles in the frames. He said that Pasadena Tile carries Batchelder original and reproduction tiles.



Calvin Sov made 3 cherry cutting boards for the quilt boutique. He used a whale pattern and butcher block finish.



Jack Robbins showed a checkered box that he made for his wife's recipes.



Mark Collins showed a dust hood he fabricated for his belt/disc sander using schedule 40 ABS plastic. He used a heat gun to shape the plastic and ABS glue to put it together. Marc said that if he was going to do it again he might use schedule 60 plastic, which is a bit thinner.

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From the Web

📌 A genius trick no one shows
<https://tinyurl.com/4tznddv>

📌 Make a beer caddy
<https://tinyurl.com/ytbt3awv>

📌 Making Abe Lincoln's Mystery Mallet! // "IMPOSSIBLE" Woodworking Joinery
<https://tinyurl.com/565vm62b>

📌 How to Template Route and Flush Trim Extra Thick Boards
<https://tinyurl.com/2p97zamn>

📌 3 Low-Stakes Ways to Cut Closer to Templates Before Flush Trimming
<https://tinyurl.com/346zt3v4>

📌 9 mistakes beginners make at the bandsaw. What to do instead.
<https://tinyurl.com/yc3kybtm>

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Jeff Bremer showed a wooden jointer plane he made. It has a fence and a Norris adjuster. He explained that he can clamp this plane upside down in a vice and use it to joint or plane small parts.



Ed Sheenan showed a walking stick that he made. It was fabricated from a series of glued up cherry and walnut segments that he cut out using a hole saw. The segments were glued together and aligned using a dowel through the center of each segment. Ed also explained a technique to keep the hole saw from burning the workpiece, by having the cut kerf right at the edge of the wood, which provides an escape route for the sawdust that would otherwise clog the cut.

Presentation

Chuck Nickerson, Eitan Ginsburg and Jeff Bremer offered a presentation on crosscut sleds.

Chuck introduced the topic by defining a crosscut sled:

- A crosscut sled provides a platform for carrying a piece of wood through a cut on a saw, similar to a miter gauge.

📌 How to Buy Hardwood: What to Know Before Going to the Lumber Yard
<https://tinyurl.com/3d6ufzru>

📌 Four Glue Tricks for Tricky Inside Corners
<https://tinyurl.com/22mxvbut>

📌 Seven Tips for Better Miter Joints and Seamless Mitered Boxes
<https://tinyurl.com/2cj9xskt>

📌 Your router can do this too
<https://tinyurl.com/npff7w3k>

📌 Vice-held End-grain Guide | Paul Sellers
<https://tinyurl.com/yck2zy6m>

📌 MDF Verses Water Resistant MDF | Woodworking
<https://tinyurl.com/3xrat5yc>

📌 Why jointers/planers do NOT make boards flat + square
<https://tinyurl.com/rtd9hu4p>

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whether for the child or the parents.

Let's make sure this year is another great one for our toy build!

Save the dates October 21st and 22nd for our group toy build at El Camino High School.

We also have the Quilt Boutique on October 14th where we need contributions of sale items, and volunteers to man the table.

Stay Safe and Happy Woodworking.

Stefan

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Jeff Bremer is building a flag case for a friend to hold his fathers flag. A drawer will hold his medals and hat.



Luke Wyatt is building a set of washer boards in the theme of the Pittsburg Steelers for his golf buddy, Eddie.



- The sled's alignment to the blade is provided by the miter slots.
- A fence and stops define the position of the wood on the sled.
- He said the benefits of using a cross-cut sled include:
- The work piece is fully supported through the cut – it isn't rubbing on the table, possibly pulling it out of alignment, especially with long or heavy pieces.
- Angles can be locked in – basic 90 or 45 miter or any other you make – once they are locked in (screwed down) they won't change, lose alignment.
- Repeatability - stop blocks can be used to lock in cut lengths (be aware of saw kerf!).
- Can incorporate replaceable ZCI (zero-clearance inserts) for base and/or rear fence.
- Can cut small pieces more safely.
- Can use stops, clamps, hold-downs, wedges, and sandpaper attached to the sled base or fence to clamp the workpiece or change its angle of alignment to the blade.



Eitan explained that building a crosscut sled starts with a plan -- what is the purpose of the sled, what are you going to use it for? It might be better to make a smaller sled that will accommodate the moderately sized boards (say up to 10" capacity) that make up 90% of your work. Large sleds that can handle very wide boards get heavy, bulky, and harder to move and store.

He explained that the basic parts are the base, fence or fences, runners, and safety block. You can also incorporate zero-clearance inserts in the base and fence, and T-Track and a stop block. The base needs to be flat, so it is usually made from MDF or Baltic birch plywood. The thickness of the base can be 1/2" or 3/4", but 1/4" is usually too thin (but can be reinforced by the fences). The fences can be made from plywood or solid wood. For runners, he recommended using commercially made metal ones, which have adjustment screws to snug them to the miter slots. You can use wood, but that can shirk and

swell with changes in humidity.

Because most of the meeting attendees had prior experience building crosscut sleds, Eitan didn't go into further detail, but offered to talk with anyone who wanted to do so in the future. There are many good outlines for building and squaring a sled online. Eitan said one is at: <https://kmttools.com/blogs/news/simple-crosscut-sled>.

Jeff Bremer showed examples of types of crosscut sleds. These included a long-lumber sled w/extension fence, a small parts sled, a dado sled, a fixed 45-degree miter sled, an adjustable angle sled, a Rockler "Dubby" sled that uses one runner and allows for adjustable angles, and an Inca fine-adjusting angle sled. He also showed several special-purpose sleds, including a picture frame sled, a sled to cut diamond-shaped inlay pieces at 60 degrees, a one-runner sled to cut box or frame keys, and a sled to cut dovetails and pins.



Upcoming Shop Tour!

Hello fellow woodworkers, Our next shop tour will be a treat for all woodworkers especially those who are interested in guitar making. We will be visiting the shop of renowned luthier Matty Baratto in Burbank on October 14 @ 10am.

Matty has been a guitar maker, restoration expert and innovator for over 30 years and has fine tuned his shop to maximize his productivity. Although he's still trying to improve his shop layout, he's found a happy mix of whimsy and business. He has many jigs and specialized woodworking machines along with many familiar faces. Matty is a warm and welcoming guy and is looking forward to showing us his workspace.

RSVP to Dave Feinner at david@feinner.com as space (and parking) is limited. Lunch to follow. P.S. I'm working on an afternoon shop tour but haven't nailed anything down yet.

White Oak to BLACK:

by Gary Hersch

During the Q&A portion of the August meeting I asked for suggestions/advice on applying color to a guitar I am building. The person for whom I am building this particular instrument requested that it be black. While I could build using just ebony wood, that would prove to be prohibitively expensive. Moreover, in addition to be black, he requested a guitar that's a replica of a Leadbelly 12 string, which I learned after research meant a top of spruce and back & sides of white oak. The neck will be mahogany, and as I learned from photos in online galleries and a book on the subject, the fingerboard and

bridge could be walnut (left its natural color). So, again, the need to color the wood.

The questions/concerns I brought to the group were as follows: What to use that would provide a) an appealing color with great coverage (and not be paint), b) would cover evenly without being blotchy and c) not bleed into the bindings and rosette that would have colors other than black.

The process I usually use to finish a guitar is to wipe on, and then off, a coat of West System epoxy, followed by a dozen or so coats of Tru-Oil (again wiped on, and then off). In the past, I've attempted to dye wood after applying the epoxy coat, but without success. The spruce for the top of the guitar is pretty tight-grained, but the white oak can have big pores, thus the worry about blotchy uptake of color.

There were a number of suggestions at the meeting. Chief among them was to do some test boards before coloring the actual guitar (which I did....more below). I had tried using TransTint with water, but those results were too transparent. When I asked about India Ink, some suggested that there would be too much bleeding, but perhaps Frog Tape might solve that issue.. A suggestion was also made to use Lamp Black. The Lamp Black idea was interesting, and Tom Ferkel generously sent me some. I researched a little more, and found that india ink is actually made from lamp black mixed with water. Regarding the possibility of a blotchy application, someone in a guitar forum suggested using a washcoat of shellac before applying the color. The shellac should also help to correct any possible issues with bleeding.

I did find a product (again, more online research) that furniture makers use to "ebonize" wood, namely Speedball India Ink. This is India Ink that has some shellac mixed in. Something about the idea of shellac being applied on shellac appealed to me.

So, a couple of test boards. Again, the woods I'm using (and dying) are mahogany, spruce and white oak (left to right in the photos). In the first photo below, I applied transtint on boards washed with shellac. As you can see, the results were less than optimal. In the second photo, I again applied a coat of shellac, then brushed on Speedball India Ink. Achieving a much more satisfactory result, I decided to take these boards further, and applied first the epoxy, and then over the course of a couple days the Tru-Oil. I was very happy with these results.



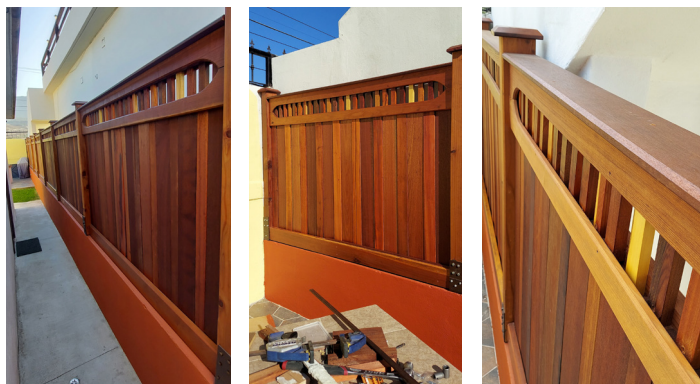
Then the ultimate question is, how did this work on the guitar? To find out, you'll need to come to the club meeting on 9/21 where I plan to show the guitar during Show and Tell.

Working with IPE & Redwood

by Albert Jimenez

I've been taking ipe and redwood down to Mexico, a little at a time, for about four years. Originally, I planned on using the Ipe for a deck. Being located by the beach, the existing fence, made out of pine, wasn't looking so good. So I decided to use the ipe for a new fence. Why not?!! The idea of a building a redwood and Ipe fence combo really got me pumped! Plus, I was able to use up a lot of misc wood scraps to make up the 1x2's.

It was a lot more work than I had anticipated, as it took me 10 days straight to build it alone. I did a lot of prep, sanding and sealing. I felt like I was never going to finish! I actually lost eight pounds! A woodworking bootcamp!! Lol. In the end, it was very satisfying to have this project come to fruition.



There were too many details to list on here. But I did put together two short clips on tiktok and YouTube to view. Below are the links

<https://www.tiktok.com/t/ZT8j9eUEF/>

<https://youtube.com/shorts/fv4hBkJWuAw?si=QT0ZOgJRkR4YTCzaa>