



San Fernando Valley Woodworkers since 1988

<http://sfvw.org/>

Meeting Minutes

by Eitan Ginsburg

SFVW – Minutes July 18, 2024 meeting

Club president Jim Baldrige called the meeting to order. He announced that club vice president Emily Lichtman had a baby boy, named Bennett. Mother and baby are both healthy.

He asked new attendees to introduce themselves. Bob McClave lives in Woodland Hills and is a retired engineer looking to work on his house. Larry said a neighbor of his cut some claro walnut which is available for those who do turning. Jarrell is visiting from Bishop.

Committee Reports

Toy Committee: Jim Kelly said Wood for the toy projects has been distributed, and the builds are underway. We are still looking for someone. He announced that Karen Lobell would coordinate the doll-making

Finance: Jeff Bremer reported that the club's finances are fine for the year. We need members to make items to sell at the quilting boutique this coming October. Membership is at 55, almost our all-time high.

Program Committee: The August presentation will be "offset turning" by John Fisher. September is our jigs and fixtures meeting. October will be Calvin Sov talking about using a CO₂ laser in woodworking.

July Program: Gary Rogowski

Gary Rogowski lives in Oregon and, since Covid, has been running an online learning program via his Northwest Woodworking Studio. His presentation was on fixing problems. He presented videos and answered questions addressing several problems. We watched and participated via Zoom.

The first example was a tearout at the bot-
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Our President says...

By Jim Baldrige

Ciao a tutti! (Hello to all)

For those who do not know me that well, I am of Italian descent on my mother's side, which results in numerous cousins in Italy. I also have a wife who is a fine artist by education and trade. So, this past June, we traveled to Italy so she could attend a two-week workshop in Cortona and Assisi, Italy.

The question arises: What does Jim do while the artists are off painting? The answer is that I wander the streets of the city. I am always looking for interesting, "out



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August Presentation:

John Fisher: Offset Turning.

The lathe is a good tool for making things round, but by also turning on different axes, you can create items from the very practical to the "very interesting". This presentation will be a brief overview of various multi axis and off center turning, with a little bit of actual turning demonstrated.

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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tom of a drilled hole. His solution was to re-cut the hold larger and cut a larger-size plug with similar color and grain. He placed a taper on the plug using a shim under the replacement disk's edge while sanding it on a spindle sander. Once the plug is glued in place, he planes and sands it flush.



Another problem is dealing with tearout in plywood when



the top veneers break off. If you save the shards that splinter off, they can be glued back in with very small visible differences.

One way to deal with a dent in your wood is to put a little water on it, cover it with a wet rag, and then heat the area using an electric iron. The moisture and heat un-compress the fibers.

Another way to fix small damage in a piece of wood is to make a patch that mimics a streak of darker grain. This can be done by mixing some sawdust with epoxy. Expand the small hole to create an uneven "grain" crevice, fill it with the epoxy, and sand it flush.

Sometimes, the tannins in wood can react with iron,



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such as a pipe clamp, and leave a black stain on the wood. This iron oxide stain can be bleached out using oxalic acid, which is available from paint stores. Make a thin solution with warm water and then use Q-tips to apply it to the wood. This will even work through a finish. After you have bleached the wood, neutralize the oxalic acid by flushing it with water. It can take several applications to accomplish the bleaching.



Small gaps in dovetails or box joints can be filled by cutting small wedges from matching wood aligned with the grain. If needed, the gap can be opened slightly to create enough room to fill with a wedge. If the wedge is too thick, you can hammer it to compress the fibers. You can also make a thin

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Balboa Recreation Center Location
Map courtesy of Google Maps

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glue applicator by chiseling the end of a toothpick.

If you have cut your tenons too thin, you can glue a scrap piece on the tenon and then recut it. He recommends taking more off the first piece (1/16 – 1/8”) to avoid recutting to the glue line.

If you have uneven legs on a table or chair (assuming the piece will fit on your table saw top), set it on your table saw top and see which are the two longer legs it is rocking on. Using a flat grind blade, raise the blade to 1/64-1/32” height. Run the two long legs over the running blade to “mow” the leg bottom. Don’t hit the short legs.

Announcements

Jeff Bremer said he has space for one more person in his upcoming wooden handplane class.

Calvin Sov said that SolidWorks for Makers, a 3D CAD software, is on sale for a few more days. [This information went out to all members.]

Luke Wyatt said that the Los Angeles Woodshop in downtown LA will have an open house on July 28th.

Show & Tell

Chuck Nickerson brought in a set of small sanding sticks that use sanding belts. They are available from 2sand.com and come in a variety of grits. They cost \$70 for five bands, each in seven different grits.

Mark Collins said he got a new 3D printer and brought samples of several useful projects he made: bandsaw throat plates, a dust shroud, a center finder, and a battery holder. He said that Bambu makes top-quality 3D printers. You can 3D print in various plastics, including carbon fiber-infused and ABS plastic.

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From the Web

----- Tips, Tricks, and How Tos -----

Magnets: Your Secret Weapon For Precision Hand Sawing (Quick Tip)

- ♦ An easy tip to help get 90° cuts
<https://tinyurl.com/58ytjvdt>

This LITTLE KNOWN tip will cut your sanding time in HALF!

- ♦ Who knew that clean sandpaper helped with sanding? Dust collection is important!
<https://tinyurl.com/5e9tyyur>

The Four Most Common Types Of Belt Joints And What They Mean For You

- ♦ This is an advertisement for Uneeda. However, this breakdown of how sanding belts are held together is very interesting.
<https://tinyurl.com/2ydbf9xr>

Don’t buy it! 25 useful woodworking hacks that will save you money.

- ♦ This guy is constantly showing off a bunch of great creations. This is just one more (well, 25 more). Around the 13th minute, you’ll notice his own drill press—yeah, he made it.
<https://tinyurl.com/mra33pdu>

Swedish lap vise

- ♦ I found several instructions on this, but this one was the simplest and covered greater variations than the others.
<https://tinyurl.com/ddcwbzj7>

Nesting Snack Trays with Angled Box Joints

- ♦ This is a bit short on details and depth, but does go through the entire process for making angled box joints.
<https://tinyurl.com/vbb84zdp>

Choosing Hand Planes

- ♦ An excellent breakdown of all sized hand planes
<https://tinyurl.com/mb7pwu2r>

Scientists discover entirely new wood type that could be highly efficient at carbon storage

- ♦ Besides hardwoods (deciduous) and softwoods (evergreen), there is a new category now.
<https://tinyurl.com/sjzk6ymc>

A little workbench changed everything for me

- ♦ Another in the line of Moxon-type of small bench plans. Good design and variable height capabilities. Free plans.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YPoEdqP4dCo>

Efficient Shop Wiring

- ♦ Explains how to have both 240V and 110V coming out of the same cable to the same 2-gang wall box.
<https://tinyurl.com/bdhey43y>

Safer table saw methods for tricky cuts

- ♦ Mike Pekovich of Fine Woodworking leads you through a number of various tablesaw operations that could have dangerous potential outcomes and shows safer ways to come away with all ten fingers.
<https://tinyurl.com/37tyfpez>

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of the way” places that are not overrun with tourists — you know, those annoying and bothersome folks from the United States. Quite frankly, we are loved and appreciated in most parts of Italy.

You are probably wondering why I am rambling. On this particular day, I was wandering the streets of Assisi and came across an artisan making cut-out name plates for tourists. His medium appeared to be 10mm thick clear pine. I tend to turn away from and walk on as I find it generally bothersome to see. I am a “purest” in that the fair-ground “artists” should be at the fairground, not on the historic streets of any country.

But, as it was quite warm and I required a refreshment, I had sat at an Osteria, which is a tavern with outdoor seating. You guessed it, my table was right next to the artisan I had just walked by.



Editors note: Jim took two photos of the front of the “sewing/scrollsaw-machine”, but from different perspectives. I put them together as best I could (and still have time to get this out. I apologize for how this image is a bit “Frankensteined.”)

To my surprise, he was in the process of closing up shop. It was then that I realized something peculiar about his power tool. I introduced myself to Massimo, my new friend.



I explained that I, too, was a woodworker. This created an instant bond and conversation. He told me he had converted an old sewing machine into a scroll saw powered by a 12-volt battery. It was an old sewing machine once used by his wife. The balancing wheel now has a small drive belt with a 12-volt electric motor mounted on the front side. The needle bar that typically moves up and down now holds a scroll saw blade, not a needle. Below the tabletop is a device that receives the blade as it moves up and down, placing the appropriate tension on the blade. All the motion is provided by the old needle bar. Everything was super compact and designed to fit in the back of his small Panda, the size of a late-model Ford Horizon.

The photos show the simplicity of the “power tool.” Massimo looked as rough and ready as the tool and his car.

These experiences and discoveries are always pleasurable, especially when you are not looking for them. They show us that with the simplest ideas and tools, you can still make beautiful things. We do not always need to have flashy name-brand tools!

Keep the sawdust flying! Jim

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Monthly Challenge – Make a Kitchen Item

Tom Ferkel brought in several pairs of toaster tongs he made from maple and rare earth magnets. (See plans on page xx.)

Dave McClave brought in a two-sided cutting board/charcuterie board shaped like the Golden Gate Bridge.

Mark Collins brought a pizza peel he made for his smoker/BBQ, which was declared the winning entry.



Editor: As most of you know, our Vice President, Emily, is on leave because she and her husband (Jonathan) had a new baby. I asked Emily for a photo of her and the new Bennett. Well, we got her hands and Bennett’s stunning face.

Mazel tov you two.

Toaster Tongs

By Tom Ferkel

I brought a couple of toaster tongs to share at last month's meeting. They are not difficult to make, don't take long, and don't require much stock. In fact, the two that I made were fashioned from one piece of maple that I picked out of my scrap box. Here's what you'll need and the dimensions to duplicate the examples I presented.

Begin with a piece of hardwood that is at least 6-½" long by 1" wide by ½" high. Use a type of wood with a bit of "spring" or flexibility when thinned. It should also have tight grain that will run the length of the piece that you've chosen. Maple, mahogany, cherry, or similar woods should work well. Spruce may also work.

When removed, the throat will be 5 3/16" long and 5/8" wide. How you create the throat is up to you. Ultimately, about 5/8 should be left on each side of the throat.

At this point, you want to round off the top and sand all the surfaces smooth. This won't be the final sanding, but you should get it to where it almost is.

The last design element will be shaping the inside tips of the arms along the inside of the throat. When the arms are squeezed to the point they'd be grabbing the toast, try to have the tips parallel on the inside. To achieve this, take a file and put a flat face at the inside tip of each arm.

It's time for the final sanding and finishing.

I highly recommend adding a magnet as an option. I used a Forstner bit and epoxy to inlay (see the photo) a round, 5/8" flat disk magnet on the top face of my tongs. That way, I can stick them on the side of the fridge, and they're always in easy reach.

These measurements were used because the example that I copied used them. If you decide to vary them, you'll probably be fine. You may even come up with an improved model. As far as the finish, maybe somebody will have some suggestions for the next meeting. I also recommend that if anybody knows of wood that should not be used for food contact or any other reason, they can share that at the next meeting as well.



My Continuing Projects

By Dave McClave

For the second year, I had a table displaying my "wares" at the Art Fair. Although I received a compliment or three, no one came forward with a commission. Thank goodness, I haven't given up my day job since 2015, when I had the good sense to retire.



Almost no scrap of redwood and cedar is too small to throw away in my shop. Last summer and fall, I visited Ireland, where my people come from. I was taken with the country and decided to represent the island in pieces of wood. Can you identify the symbols of the two countries in the photo? Part of Ireland still belongs to the UK. Hint: at the very bottom is a Nobel Laureate in literature.



A Great Tip

By Gary Coyne

Having a marking pen in the shop is handy. Yes, you do not want to mark wood for a project with it's non-removable ink, but you also do not want to write on masking tape only to have the ink fade as time marches on. Plus, if you leave the cap off...

Well, in comes a pen from all folks: Milwaukee. The INKZALL pens come in black, blue, green, and red. You can get them a variety of colors. I got a Four-Pack of black for \$3.38 at Home Depot, for the shop and in the house.

The Pens give a black-black, write on just about any surface, and claim to survive with 72 hours *with the cap off* (not tested). Overall, I'm impressed enough to want to share this with you folks. (<https://tinyurl.com/57ydsp7t>)



Using setup blocks on the Drill Press

By Gary Coyne

I mentioned this tip several months ago, but waving my hands around trying to explain the tip only seemed to confuse folks. So, here is a proper write up.

The situation was I needed to drill two holes in a piece of wood that were EXACTLY 2-1/4" apart. The reason for this is that I was making a custom fence for my Microfence. The actual length for this was not critical, the width was not critical, and the thickness was not critical. The ONLY thing that was critical is that the holes for the screws that will attach this to the MicroFence was very critical.

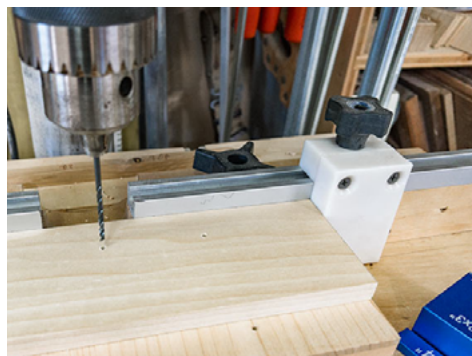
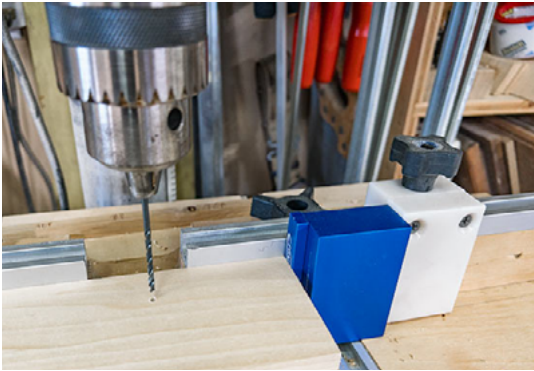
I found a piece of scrap oak that was 3/8" x 2" x 7". Perfect, and it was scrap!

Finding the perfect piece so easily, I started to over think how I was going to drill the two holes to attach to the Microfence's fence. Then, it was obvious:

I marked out the middle of the piece across the length, then measured out 1-1/8" from that. On my drill press I set the fence a good distance from the edge of the wood to where I wanted the holes.

First I pulled out a 1" x 2" x 3" and a 1/4" setup block to make a "setup block sandwich."

I put these against the stop attached to my drill presses fence and aligned the drill to inside line I drew at 1-1/8" from center



(close was good enough), and drilled the first hole.

Then, it was a simple matter of pulling the two setup blocks and drill again for the 2nd hole.

The result? Two

holes exactly 1-1/4" apart.



The moral of the story is use the tools you have to do the job you need.

Below are some samples of John Fisher's Offset Turning. He will be the speaker at the August 15th meeting.



Dust collection for chop saws

By Gary Coyne

At our July meeting, Marc showed off the benefits of 3D Printing. One guy took advantage of 3D Printing and has started a business creating better dust collection for the worst dust creators in our shop: chop saws

You can either buy his 3D printed output or you can buy the plans to print your own. Either way, he also provides the parts necessary to connect it all. He has products and/or plans for Bosch, Delta, Ridged, Dewalt, and Hercules (but not all blade sizes of those manufacturers).

I've not tried any of these yet, and so I've no idea how good they are, but anything is better than what the manufacturers provided.

He provides very good video instructions on how to install them on his site. If anyone tries one of these, please let us know how it works out!

<https://tinyurl.com/4evjj2km>



Blue Spruce Tools Jigsaw Blade Handle.

By Chuck Nickerson

On occasion small and/or tricky cutting tasks arise. Blue Spruce Tools (BST) is making a quality handle that allows you to take advantage of the wide range of jigsaw blades made by other manufacturers. Designed to work with the bayonet-style blades the collet is well machined and functions smoothly. The handles are beautifully finished and fit comfortably in the hand. BST provides the handle with five Starrett blades, all meant for cutting wood (6 TPI - 14 TPI). The provided blades all cut on the pull stroke, but you can buy push blades as well.

To get full value from the tool, buy additional blades for cutting metal, plastic, leather, glass, and ceramic. The only drawback is jigsaw blades have very aggressive tooth geometry so you need to develop a light touch to take full strokes.

<https://tinyurl.com/5xfw47t3>



Who wins!?!?

Dealing with Heavy Equipment

By Jim Kelly

As we get older, we aren't as capable of wrestling heavy woodworking machinery as we were when we were younger. In assembling my table saw, lathe, workbench, and, most recently, a new combination disc and belt sander (Laguna DB12/5 Sander), I have found my engine hoist an invaluable assistant.

With it, I have been able to assemble these tools by my-



self, not depending upon finding a fellow woodworker with hours to spare to assist a fellow woodworker. The accompanying photos show the sander assembly immediately after I hoisted it out of the shipping container, and after I set it on the pre-assembled base. All that remained was to carefully remove the hoisting straps and bolt the assembly to the base.



Finally, I needed to attach one dust collection port and the two tables, and everything was complete. Not bad for an

afternoon's work.

I'm also providing photos of it opened for work and collapsed so it can be put away and not take extra space. This is one of those handy tools that you may not think of, but once you have one, you'll be glad you have it.

