



## San Fernando Valley Woodworkers since 1988

<http://sfvw.org/>

### Meeting Minutes

by Eitan Ginsburg

SFVW – Minutes August 15, 2024 meeting

Club Vice-President Emily Lichtman welcomed everyone to the meeting. She said that President Jim Baldrige is out of town. There were no new attendees.

#### Announcements

Eitan Ginsburg brought earplugs, four 8mm threaded knobs, and some red oak cutoffs from his workbench build, all of which are free to any who might like some.

Greg Rogers said he found a good company for air-powered nail gun repairs. Fastener World FSV, 10755 Sherman Way, Unit 8, in Sun Valley.

Jonathan Nail brought a number of box-jointed boxes that had been used for DVD promotions. They are made from laminated mahogany and are free if anyone wants some.

Greg Golden brought about 100 brass-colored cabinet knobs, free to members. He got them via the Home Depot Seeds program, which asks him to review products.

Bob Biliyeu brought an old #3 hand plane he bought at a garage sale for \$5. It was suggested that it could be refurbished, and he may want to swap out the blade with one from Hock.

Jeff Bremer noted that the next Old Tool Swap Meet will be this Saturday (August 17th), starting at 6 AM, at Anderson Plywood in Culver City.

#### Committee Reports

Toy Committee: Chuck Nickerson said we are moving along well. We are on track and will have our big toy build weekend on October 19-20 at the El Camino High School woodshop. We will also need two or three members to help

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Jeff staff our table on October

### Our President says...

By Jim Baldrige

Have you ever wondered who or why someone designed a door in the particular way they did? If you have, then you are very in touch with your surroundings. I have traveled many times to Italy. I have asked myself this same question: "Why is that door the way it is?"

Here in the United States, most of us consider doors functional devices that keep pets out, the Mertz's from walking in, and the bad man from helping himself to our stuff.

In Italy, I have watched thousands of people walk by a myriad of doors and not give them a second thought. But there are those who stop and look, touch, and pose for photos in front of them. Ask yourself that question the next time you look at a door: "Why is it the size it is?" The answer is more than likely that it conforms to a specific building standard.

In the United States, we see periods of styles based on the type of building being constructed.

But overall, standards seem to remain constant in the US. For example, the front door on most homes, condos, etc., is a raised six-panel door.

I have yet to see a hollow core door outside the US, though I have seen a great many ornate doors.

I would venture to guess that a few

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### EMILY IS BACK!!

### September Presentation: Jigs and Fixtures.

This month's presentation is a group collaboration on Jigs and Fixtures where members are encouraged to bring in examples from their shops. There is an art to making a good Jig or Fixture and hopefully this meeting will provide you with inspiration to make one for yourself. If you are not sure what exactly a Jig or Fixture is, have no fear, 30+ woodworkers will explain it all at one time in unison.

## 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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19 at the Quilt Show Boutique (10 am-4 pm). He asked for volunteers to help transport batches of the finished toys to some of the 14 charities that receive our donations. We also need help sewing the dolls for the cradles.

Finance: Jeff Bremer reported that the club is doing fine for the year. New members who join from now through the end of the year pay just \$20 in dues. He reminded people they can buy SFVW-branded items through our website. He asked members to continue making and donating items for us to sell at the Quilt Boutique.

Program Committee: Emily listed the planned meeting programs for the remainder of the year:

- September – Jigs & Fixtures, All Members
- October – Calvin Sov - CO2 laser in woodworking
- November – Super Show & Tell, All Members
- December – no Thursday meeting, club holiday party, location, and date TBD.

### Questions, Tips, Tricks:

A member said he bought a Harbor Freight dovetail jig and needs help using it. Mark Collins said to make sure that the boards you put into the jig are square and perpendicular to each other. He also suggested that the member bring it to the meeting next month so we can take a closer look at it.

Jeff Bremer said that a regular white rubber eraser works well to clean the surfaces on his diamond sharpening stones.

Gary Coyne made a small wooden tray to hold his sourdough starter. The side and the base are the same thickness. When he did the glue up, he simply shimmed under the sides to lift them up just enough to create a small lip.



## Club Officers

President:	Jim Baldrige
Vice President:	Emily Lichtman
Secretary:	Eitan Ginsburg
Treasurer:	Jeff Bremer.
Photographer	Luke Wyatt
Publisher:	Gary Coyne
Librarian:	Grant Christensen
Web Master:	Ed Sheanin
Toy Chair:	Jim Kelly
Toy Distribution:	Sheila Rosenthal
Refreshments:	Greg Golden

### Show & Tell and Announcements:

Chuck Nickerson made a simple rack for spring clamps from an off-cut and an eye hook. The clamps grip onto the off-cut, and the whole thing hangs from a hook in the ceiling. He also made a museum exhibit-style holder for an art piece he made. He struggled to figure out how to hold it all together when he realized he could have the different wires coming together in a simple wooden block behind the art piece.

Emily Lichtman brought an array of wooden earrings that she made with different woods, veneers, colors, and patterns. She said arranging each of the laminations took a lot of work. She finished some with three coats of wipe-on



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**Balboa Recreation Center Location**  
Map courtesy of Google Maps

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polyurethane, sanding with 600 grit between coats. However, she wasn't satisfied with that method and now is using the Bealle buffing system and simply finishing with wax. She said one of the hardest steps is holding the tiny pieces while sanding. One suggestion was to make a jig to hold her random orbit sander in an inverted position or to create some holding clamp for the earring parts.



John Fischer said he is in the process of setting up a new shop. He brought in some bendable aluminum tubing, which is aluminum clad with high-density polyethylene piping (HDPE) and comes in different colors. He will use it for piping his air system.

Eitan Ginsburg described the workbench he made for the club and thanked Swaner Lumber for donating the red oak. He designed it so that it can be stored in our rec center closet and set up fairly quickly. It needed to be sturdy enough for demonstrations, such as tonight's turning demo, sawing, planing, or chopping mortises. The bench

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## From the Web

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

- ✎ **Chamfers and Stopped Chamfers | Paul Sellers**
  - ♦ Using chisels, planes, & spokeshaves  
<https://tinyurl.com/5n6zw6yv>
- ✎ **Learn the Secrets of Crafting this Stunning Wooden Bench**
  - ♦ This also has a number of good design and construction tips.  
<https://tinyurl.com/429su5bv>
- ✎ **Sanding sucks...until you do THIS**
  - ♦ Some observations on the type of pad and active dust collection.  
<https://tinyurl.com/4v9c9cnh>
- ✎ **Dealing with Wood Movement**
  - ♦ A good collection of how to deal with wood movement for most situations where it could cause issues with your furniture, frames, cutting boards, etc.  
<https://tinyurl.com/ucc86nt7>
- ✎ **Woodworking Tool Cabinet Build | Rob Cosman**
  - ♦ While many are not likely to make his cabinet, watching his design and decision process is worth the look.  
<https://tinyurl.com/2p8bha95>
- ✎ **I Build 3 Cutting Boards - 5 Min vs. 5 Hour vs. 5 Day**
  - ♦ Showing options. I was amazed at the size of his shop and the range of tools, and it was interesting to watch his decision-making process for his self-made challenge. Plus, you get to watch how he deals with a mistake.  
<https://tinyurl.com/58ps4k3n>
- ✎ **I wish i'd known this sooner, How to use calipers like a pro**
  - ♦ A variety of tips on how to use a vernier caliper. Some really good ones in here.  
<https://tinyurl.com/3bt8ev3t>
- ✎ **I Built an INFINITELY ONE-SIDED Violin??**
  - ♦ OK, the gauntlet is thrown for any dulcimer/guitar/ukulele maker here.  
<https://tinyurl.com/3axrtscm>
- ✎ **Intro to Joinery - Understanding the Basics to be a Better Woodworker**
  - ♦ A lot of basic ideas, techniques, and approaches to wood joinery. Something for everyone.  
<https://tinyurl.com/bdbxan5z>



*"President" from page 1*

European countries still struggle with building standards. The reason is a constant struggle between functionality and beauty. Beauty seems to rule the roost!

In this article, I have provided various photos that display the spectrum of doors one can see in Italy. The doors speak for themselves in their beauty and artistic form. I scratch my head constantly when I come across a door with an entryway as ornate as the door itself. What limits the door in size and functionality is the size of the building and opening, the designer, what the structure is used for, and how much money was available to create the door.



Many of the largest doors have smaller personnel doors for daily use, and the larger door is opened for special events. All in all, it is amazing how some of the doors built 200 or more years ago can be opened with little effort. Our predecessors paid great attention to every detail, even to the size of the hinges, strength of the doorway, and balance. I encourage you to look around and find these doors in your environment.



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is assembled with matching mortises and tenons, and the stretchers are secured with tusk tenons. The vice is removable and can be mounted on either side of the bench to accommodate right-handed and left-handed woodworkers. He also made a box to hold the vice screws, wedges, assembly mallets, and work-holding items.



Marc Collins made cornhole games with stenciled designs. He used a final template and gel stain to do the stencil. The leg sets have maple leaf drawer pulls for decoration, just for fun.





## August Program:

### John Fisher & Offset Turning



John began by showing a few pictures of historic lathes, including a bow lathe, spring Paul lathe, and treadle lathe. He said he was recently at the Portland, OR, woodturning symposium, where he attended workshops focused on multi-center and off-center turnings.

He showed a few examples of these types of projects. He said he used a variety of mounts and chucks to do the turning. There are commercially produced eccentric chucks, or you can use this method on your own, for example, by loosening the screws on a faceplate Chuck and then remounting the workpiece. You can use these techniques to make scoops, bowls, cabriole legs, or off-center bowls. He said you want to remove the bulk of material from the block when it is centered, then move the workpiece to the off-center mounting. You always need to use sharp tools, and you should bolt down your lathe. In some circumstances, you might want to use a counterbalance on the workpiece. It helps to have a light backing and strong light to see the shapes and shadows when the workpiece is spinning.

It's fun to experiment with different amounts of twist, the



distance you mount something off center and shapes. You can also use these methods to decorate pieces.

He mentioned several books for those interested in learning more: "Multicenter Spindle Turning" by Barbara Dill and "Woodworking Wizardry" by David Springett.

To mount small turnings, get centers with smaller diam-

eters. John likes using spring-loaded centers, also known as step centers.

He demonstrated turning a spindle with a twist.

First, you need to turn the blank to round. He likes using roughing gouges for this type of work because they are so sturdy.

After the piece was round, he took it off and laid out divisions on the ends. In this sample, he was doing three twists. He used the indexing feature to mark and draw three parallel and equally spaced lines along the length of the blank. He marked the ends from the center point to the parallel length lines. He also noted each of these three lines on the end as "1," "2," and "3," matching the same numbering on the other end of the workpiece.

He then decided how far off-center he would remount the workpiece. He made that measurement and marked each line on the end of the workpiece. He said the farther out from the center you make these mounting points, the deeper the twist and the workpiece will result.

He then remounted the workpiece between the center "1" on one end and the center on the "2" on the other. He started the lathe at low speed and then increased the speed until it felt comfortable and safe. He used a roughing gouge to make light cuts up to the point when he cut all through the line. Then he remounted the workpiece between center "2" and center "3," turning it again, then remounted it a third time with the ends mounted at center "3" and center point "1." He also demonstrated how to use this method to turn a cabriole leg. First, he rounded the blank, leaving the mounting block at the top square. He then turned the foot pad. The next step was to re-mount the piece off-center to turn the tapered leg down to a solid visual line. This produced the off-center curved leg.





## Portable Workbench

by Eitan Ginsburg

When our club meetings moved back to Balboa Park Rec Center, we had a couple demonstrations that suffered from being done on rickety plastic tables. I used a poor excuse for a bench for about 30 years (a hollow core door on 4x4s with no vise) until I build a solid workbench about five years ago. So, I thought building one for the club would be a fun design challenge and could benefit from what I'd learned from my prior project.

The first stage was determining the parameters of this project:

- Its purpose and use is for demonstrations, so it needed to be sturdy and functional for planning or sawing or chisel work, but not full size.
- The bench needed to be heavy enough to not move around if you were sawing or planning or chopping mortises, but not so heavy that one or two of us couldn't handle the pieces and put it together.
- It needed to include a vise and other ways to hold workpieces.
- I like making the legs flush with the front and back edges of the benchtop so they can be used as a clamping surface.
- A few rows of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " round dog-holes would accommodate bench dogs, holdfasts, surface clamps, planning stops or other helpers.
- Ideally, it would fit in our rec center storage closet (19" x 17" x plenty high), so the legs had to fold or be removable.

After playing around with a few sketches and ideas, I settled on a bench that was about 15 inches deep, 40 inches long and 32 inches high, including a 3-inch-thick benchtop, with a pair of removable leg-sets on either end, secured by stretchers and tusk tenons.

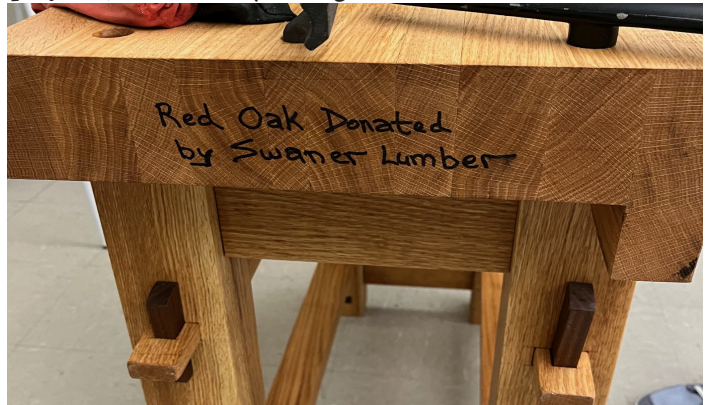
The general dimensions provided rough estimates of the parts' sizes and I tallied up a total of about 30 board-feet of lumber. That was going to be about 60-90 pounds, depending on the wood species.



The last issue was the vise. I considered and abandoned the idea of a simple cast iron face vise – it would add a lot of weight and would be permanently attached to the benchtop – awkward. I have a leg vise on my own bench, but didn't seem like a good option for this build. I hunted around on the internet for ideas on the topics of "portable workbench" and "removable vise." I finally found a portable workbench video on 3x3 Tools website that used twin-screw vise hardware from Taylor Toolworks. The concept was simple, removable, light and inexpensive.

The vise decision guided last elements of the design. I added a 5" apron to the front of the benchtop to provide a broader clamping surface for the vise. The benchtop was heavy enough to sit securely on tenons on the tops of the leg-sets without needing to bolt it down. The vise screws turn through pair of square nuts and I ordered an extra pair so the vise could be mounted on either end of the bench to accommodate left-handed people. To secure the stretchers to the leg-sets, I decided against using nuts and bolts in favor of tusk-tenons, a quicker and more elegant method for woodworkers.

Jim Kelly arranged a donation of 8/4 rough red oak from Swaner Lumber (thank you, Jim! Thank you, Swaner!). I had some walnut left over from another project to use for the vise chop and wedges (I like a little accent in my projects). I was ready to begin.



The trickiest aspect of the build was setting the nuts in the benchtop and drilling the clearance holes for the vise screws. The vise screws needed  $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter holes drilled 7-8 inches deep into the side of the workbench, but I only had a bit that had about 4 inches of effective cutting depth. I wound up gluing up the benchtop in sections, drilling the first section and mortising the nuts, then using those holes to transfer the center points to the next section. My test-fitting showed me that the holes needed to be slightly larger – I found that  $\frac{13}{16}$ " provided just enough wiggle room. A new bit of the right size, longer shank was needed. I got a split point bit to help center the bit in the existing holes.

There were a few adjustments to the design and corrections to the build along the way, such as the needing to trim the tenons a little more than I originally thought – a little looser was better than a little tighter. I was glad to



have the help of Ed Sheanin and his radial arm saw to cut the benchtop to final length and again when I realized the legs needed to be a couple inches shorter than I originally made them. Tusk tenons were something new for me but a couple of jigs helped make cutting the wedge-shaped loose tenons and the angled mortises easier.

Finally, I was concerned that tossing the vise screws into a cardboard box with the other loose parts would lead to damaging the threads and making the vise useless. The end-result was a small box with French-fit compartments for these parts, using mostly left-over oak and walnut scraps.



We tested out the bench at the August meeting. The initial assembly took a bit of figuring out and the tenons that the top fit onto need a bit of tweaking due to post-completion wood movement. But it worked great as a solid base for John Fisher's lathe during his offset-turning demonstration and disassembled and went into the closet quickly. A success!



## David Feinner Finishes Table Years in the Making

When David's kitchen was remodeled years ago, he was able to save the redwood sub flooring. After gluing the planks together to make 2x6's, he saved these pieces for the future, as we all do. Well 20 years later that project finally came a calling! After legs were made for another project that was never completed David figured the time was right to make a patio table. He designed the table top around the legs because the legs already featured a mounting system. He hopes that several coats of Satin Spar Urethane will protect the table for a long time. To finish the mission David paired the table with some old dining table chairs and really enjoys dinner outside under the patio.





## Dust collection in Special Places

by Luke Wyatt

As I continue to learn and work with wood, dust collection is something I'm always trying to improve. At a meeting last year Calvin mentioned an armed device that was easy to maneuver and I think he used it to hold lights.

Since hearing that I've had the thought in the back of my mind to try and implement something like that for special dust collection scenarios. I would bet that we've all seen products for special locking arms with dust collection tubes built in. They are awesome, but also \$300. Calvin's arm is \$20 - So that was a no brainer.

I got the arm and pretty much immediately realized it was going to work. I tested quickly and found out that if I trained the hose along the path of the spring loaded arms there would be very little strain on the head and it would hold perfectly. My first setup was to go right over the top of the table saw blade. It worked perfectly and thus solved one of my biggest dust collection woes: Top suction while using the cross cut sled.

The second placement was on the router table. Sometimes you need the entire top of the table to route a workpiece. Which usually removes the back fence with built in dust collection port. Now with this arm and hose I can put dust collection anywhere above the table. **PROBLEM SOLVED!**



This is V1 which features the circle to square attachment for the vacuum hose. My next job is to get a circle mount. The square piece fits really well inside the arms included iPhone holder with some double sided tape and zip ties.



So if you want to get a vacuum in a really interesting location then you should try this arm and tell Calvin how awesome he is!

Here's the link to the product:

<https://a.co/d/9sUc5G8>

