

January presentation:

John Fisher on how to turn a Nutcracker doll
(see the photo below!)

Meeting Minutes

by Eitan Ginsburg

Club members, spouses, and significant others gathered for our annual end-of-year lunch on a sunny Southern California Saturday, December 14. President Jim Baldrige thanked Emily and John Lichtman (and Baby Bennett) for hosting us at their home. He spoke briefly about the club's accomplishments over the past year, particularly the toys we have made to donate to children's charities.

The gathering also featured a spectacular lumber sale at discounted prices, including domestic and exotic species, from Alan Boardman's shop (he is scaling down). Many members browsed, drooled over, and bought selections from his stash. The club and Boardman are splitting the sales. More lumber will be available at the January meeting.

A Word From Your Editor

by Gary Coyne

This is a slim issue, and that's what happens when too much is going on. From the Palisades to Eaton Canyon, and all of the winds and fires in between, it's been heavy on all of us. I'm sure every one of us knows at least one family that has lost their home. And, we are not over this yet.

My yard is filled with ash and dust, but I've got a yard, so I will not complain.

As you may notice, Jim was not able to write up his monthly message due to family illnesses. I thank Emily for pitching in (and she had her own complications to deal with as well).

All I can say is, "Is it 2026 yet?"

Our Vice President says...

By Emily Lichtman

Happy 2025! As we start a new year, Jim and I will be back again as your president and VP! We are excited to welcome Gregg Masini as our new Treasurer and sincerely thank Jeff Bremer for his years of excellent service in that position. We also welcome Jonathan Nail as Toy Committee Chair and are excited to get going on the planning and execution of this year's toys! We have a great line-up of programs for 2025, starting with a presentation on Nutcrackers by John Fisher in January. Stay tuned for more info on the rest of the presentations for the year, and I hope to see everyone at the meetings each month!

Also, on a more somber note, we are sending our well-wishes and support to anyone affected by the recent fires and hoping you and your families are safe.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the January meeting!



Review of Rockler's Dust

Right Tool Activated

HEPA Dust Extractor

by Gary Coyne

I have an old ShopVac (the one with a stainless steel body) that has been reliable for many years. I did have to replace the hose after about 15+ years, but that was it. The one thing that got to be very infuriating was that no matter how much oil I put on the wheels, it couldn't go in the direction

See "Dust Extractor" on page 4

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.



Balboa Recreation Center Location
Map courtesy of Google Maps

Club Officers

President:	Jim Baldrige
Vice President:	Emily Lichtman
Secretary:	Eitan Ginsburg
Treasurer:	Gregg Massini
Photographer:	Luke Wyatt
Publisher:	Gary Coyne
Librarian:	Grant Christensen
Web Master:	Jan Min
Toy Chair:	Jonathan Nail
Toy Distribution:	Sheila Rosenthal
Refreshments:	Greg Golden

Satisfied kids

By Sheila Rosenthal

We received this email today from Hope Fellowship. These are the smiles that make it all worthwhile.

Hi Sheila

Just a few photos of our church event. Kids and families loved your gifts. Please thank your team on our behalf. We got a lot of smiles.

Thanks and Blessings

Jeff and Sally

Hope Fellowship



From the Web

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

📌 A Better Way to Glue Up Thin Wood Panels

- ♦ Two approaches are provided for gluing up thin (<1/2") boards.

<https://tinyurl.com/3cdb4fmh>

📌 A Better Drill Press Table

- ♦ Well, better is qualitative, but if you have nothing but what shipped with the drill press, yes, this is better. Still, it is worthy of note.

<https://tinyurl.com/bdedhpup>

📌 Finding the Perfect Finish

- ♦ Probably the best 27'23" you ever have for learning about the various wood finishes.

<https://tinyurl.com/sjywbp89>

📌 The only finish woodworkers need

- ♦ Another excellent review of various finishes, but quite different from the one above.

<https://tinyurl.com/bdmhkp6m>

📌 The truth about wood grain

- ♦ Some basic facts about wood grain, what it is, and how to deal with it. Quick read.

<https://tinyurl.com/bvdwduuw>

📌 When it Looks This Good...You Don't Even Need to Hide it

- ♦ You may not want to make the item shown here, but there are many good tips and tricks within.

<https://tinyurl.com/yc7tf248>

📌 Making Paul's Sharpening System | Paul Sellers

- ♦ Any approach to sharper tools is better than none. Maybe this good approach will appeal to you.

<https://tinyurl.com/3ew7pde8>

📌 Bending wood for furniture...tips, tricks and techniques

- ♦ And yes, there are a number of tips, tricks & techniques.

<https://tinyurl.com/bdfp5tbs>

📌 Bending wood into one-of-a-kind furniture

- ♦ More tips & tricks on bending wood.

<https://tinyurl.com/5n9xzydv>

📌 Finishing Touch: Thinning finishes

- ♦ Ever wondered what the difference was between a thinner and a solvent? They may not be the same.

<https://tinyurl.com/bddusfah>

📌 Choosing Screws for Woodworking

- ♦ A breakdown of screw info from beginning to pro. It may also be an ad for McFeely's, but the info is for all screws.

<https://tinyurl.com/5n6p2y8y>

📌 Quest for the Hardest Wood in the World

- ♦ From the Wood Database guy. (He's not the best speaker, but the information is great, the website and the book are great).

<https://tinyurl.com/54pvvxn>

📌 The Keepsake Box

- ♦ How to make the Keepsake Box from start to finish with 10 free videos. Despite the plug to buy the plans and the precut material, the info is good otherwise.

<https://tinyurl.com/bdcp5twb>

📌 Behind the Scenes with a Youtube Veteran

- ♦ In case you want to see the equipment necessary to make a good quality YouTube video

<https://tinyurl.com/3zh2pb3p>

📌 DRIVE SCREWS WITH EASE! (Most People Don't Know The Difference...Bit Holders/Nut Drivers!)

- ♦ I never thought about this, but he's right

<https://tinyurl.com/phf5ntsm>

📌 Five Secrets to Better Hand Planing | [RobCosman.com](https://www.robcosman.com)

- ♦ Self-explanatory

<https://tinyurl.com/3zax3uft>

📌 Canadian Woodworking's top 10 articles of 2024

- ♦ The articles here are from earlier years. Note that all project plans allow limited viewings per year unless you subscribe. This limitation does not seem to apply to the information articles.

<https://tinyurl.com/bdhs5mww>

📌 Peter Galbert's Chair Notes

- ♦ After the first video showing off his shop in construction, there are two short videos of design evolution that might be useful for some

<https://tinyurl.com/mbu3v3j>

📌 Krenov Style Planes Vs. Metal Bodied Planes

- ♦ A history of Krenov and then a comparison of wooden versus metal planes.

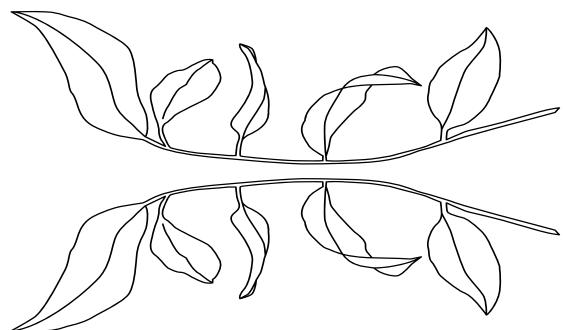
<https://tinyurl.com/cnj6xxj8>

Reviews

📌 Don't make this mistake! || Dewalt VS Makita

- ♦ I'm sure many of us had one tool we loved, and when needing to purchase another, bought a different brand — whoops.

<https://tinyurl.com/3sh399np>



“Dust Extractor” from page1

I wanted. And, when you have a crowded shop, that’s a big thing. Plus, when I wanted it to collect the dust from another tool, I had to remember to turn on the vacuum and then the tool. That’s easy until the 15th or 20th time. After that, the order can be problematic.



I had seen a YouTube video of a guy praising a new “Hercules Dust Collector” from Harbor Freight. It had many good features and was not very expensive.

However, it comes with only a two-month warranty. Two months? From Harbor Freight? Maybe not.



But this got me to look around, leading me to Rockler’s new Dust Extractor (<https://tinyurl.com/rmyzdtw8>). It’s very similar to the Harbor Freight’s unit, a bit better here, a bit less there, and it matched the price (\$299), and it comes with a year warranty. It has a place to plug in another power tool so that

when you start the other tool, the Dust Extractor starts up and keeps going for about five seconds after you stop your other tool. It’s rated for HEPA and has many attachments; I was ready.

Here are the good things:

At 65 dB, it’s very quiet. It works as advertised: you can plug in a dust-creating power tool, and when you start the power tool, the Dust Extractor also starts. There is a rocker switch in the top-front that, if you press it to the left, the dust collector starts; if you press it to the right, it only starts when the other tool starts. The middle position is off. It does come with a whole bunch of parts (see product image). It comes with a 20-foot power cord and 12 feet of hose. The tank is 9 gallons with a light that comes on when the tank is full. The HEPA filter catches 99.97 dust particles down to 0.3 microns and has 85 CFM of suction. On its base, there are fittings to hold the various



extra tools it comes with. And most important, it can easily be pushed or pulled in straight lines!

Here are the not-so-good things:

The hose into the unit is the standard ShopVac fitting 2-1/4”, but the free end is 1-3/4”. While Rockler does provide an adapter, I have to ask, “Why?” Why can’t the hose maintain the standard 1-1/4” fitting on both ends? And speaking of the ends, neither end can swivel. Lastly, the hose is very stiff. It’s hard to navigate around tight spaces and corners — it fights you. Thus, the hose has a mind-of-its-own dynamic, which can be frustrating. Meanwhile, the designers had an “almost” good idea for the power cord and hose storage. For the former, the idea is to wrap the cord around the handle’s horn-like extensions. It might have worked with 16 feet of cord, but 20 feet just barely fits around the handle. As far as supporting the hose, Rockler’s idea of holding the hose with the elastic strap on the side seems like a good idea. But sheesh — because of the stiffness of the hose and the tightness of the elastic strap, this is not easy to do, and the hose does not lie flat to the side of the unit. Lastly, the crevice nozzle has a funny 45° chop off the end, preventing you from getting the entire end against the item you want to draw the dust out.

Despite these issues, I like Rockler’s Dust Extractor. It keeps up with my dust creation and always knows to start when needed, which I occasionally forget.

Review: Contractor’s Pencil Sharpener

By Gary Coyne

I do not know if you’ve ever seen these manual sharpeners for contractor’s pencils, but they kept flashing in while I was on the internet. I’ve always found sharpening contractor’s pencils a bit of an annoyance, so I was intrigued. Then, one day, I was in a hardware store, saw one, and thought, “Oh hell, let’s try it.”

Quick review: save your money.

Long review: creating a pencil point takes a long time. That means it’s you’re cranking away, rotating the pencil over and over (and over). And what do you end up with? A sharp point on a contractor’s pencil! But you do not want that on a contractor’s pencil — you want a sharp AND flat point. The sharp (the narrow edge) is for fine lines, and the wide point is for broad lines. So, with these manual pencil sharpeners, you end up with only a fine point, with the one advantage that it won’t roll off the edge of a table.

So, the answer is: if you have a contractor’s pencil and want to sharpen it the fastest, easiest way, use a sharp knife. Plus, you’ll have two widths to use on the same pencil (and it won’t roll off the table).

