

SFVW

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MARCH 2021



San Fernando Valley Woodworkers since 1988

<http://sfvw.org/>

Monthly Meetings

Our meetings are *normally* held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 PM, at the Balboa Park Sports Complex, Gym Building, at 17015 Burbank Blvd, Encino.

Meeting Minutes

by Ginger Gibson

The meeting was called to order at 7:08.

We had one visitor to the meeting, Teri, who is a friend of Eitan's.

Committee Reports

Jeff gave the finance report. Our finances are approximately the same as last month. For this year's toy build we will have to acquire about 130 dolls for the cradles. The quilters WILL be doing some sort of fund-raiser this year, so we will have some fund-raising opportunity there. This will be sometime around August or September.

In the toy report, we learned that most people are doing the same things they did last year, except that Jeff is thinking of dropping the number of treasure boxes back down to 50. And Cliff will be doubling his output of hot rods and push toys. Grant will be making a 1910 Ford Runabout and a 1910 Ford Pickup truck. Cliff's wife found 2" X 1/4" truck wheels, and Grant has many different sizes of wheels, which are available to anyone.

Announcements

Grant still has about woodworking 95 books, which we can go through when we meet in person again.

Technical questions, Tips, and Tricks

Ed has been having some work done See "Minutes" on page 2 on his

Our President says...

by Chuck Nickerson

Energy level and enthusiasm ebb and flow in life and for particular activities. For years when my enthusiasm ebbed for woodworking, I'd try to force the issue. Available shop time should be used, not squandered was my thinking.

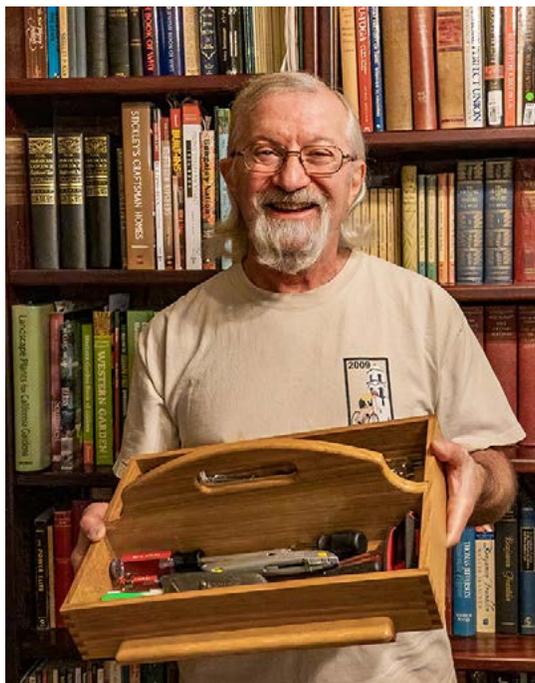
This past week I was not in my shop four days in a row, a non-vacation record. Upon my return I tackled and progressed on three stalled projects. Part of the time was drudge work, part was organizing rotary tool (Dremel) bits, and part was trying something tricky that didn't work, but then trying it a different way which did. Each of those projects had for me an energy barrier which apparently required some time out of the shop. I hope I can find a way to recharge without actually staying out of the shop. I have an idea I'll try this month; let's hope it works.

March Presentation: Gary Coyne

Sometime back Gary got an Ikea 3-layered cart for his office to keep some tools handy without having to go off to the garage. But the top shelf was so full of screwdrivers, awls, a chisel, wrenches, and other tools that it was hard to find anything (and it was dangerous to dig). So he thought that making a tote box that sat on top with room below the tote would be a classy way to solve the problem.

The design and result turned out to be so good that he needed to make a 2nd one for his wife.

This session will go into design considerations and how the tote was made. In addition, Gary will provide a detailed review of the Leigh box joint jig; it's strengths, weaknesses, and values.



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.

"Minutes" from page 1

house and spotted a tool he had to have. It was an inflatable leveling tool, also called a wedge and air shim. It's really cool and can be found at Home Depot for about 16 bucks, or on Amazon for 20 dollars a pair.

Stefan has a maple and cherry table that he made 25 years ago that he needs to refresh. He thinks he used Watco oil-based finish so what would be a good product to use on it? Jim Kelly said Watco makes a refurbishing product so that might be good. Marc mentioned that if you wanted to go over it with a water-based finish you could, you would just want to use a barrier coat of shellac first.

Jim Kelly said he was using his table saw to dado and rabbet some cradle parts, and he was getting a lot of dust in his eyes because he was getting copious amounts of sawdust for unknown reasons. He was able to finish the work by using a pair of swimming goggles for eye protection. Then he checked his saw and found that his whole saw cabinet was packed full of sawdust. He opened up the side of the saw to Shop-Vac it and filled a 5-gallon container twice. He disconnected the hose from the exhaust port and found that it was full of debris. It turned out that what had happened was, as he was cutting some bevels prior to this, tiny pieces of offcut were getting sucked into the saw and collecting in the hose. It was suggested that maybe he needs a new zero-clearance insert, since he was already using one.

Teri mentioned that she was cutting a piece of 1' X 2" plywood on her table saw, trying to be very slow and precise, and it kicked back and flew right at her. Eitan suggested using push sticks and grippers.

Gary thanked Dave McClave for always being the first person to respond with pictures whenever Gary asks for newsletter submissions.

Show & Tell

Ed showed a mandala that he made. A mandala is a hanging that has 13 circles, one in the center and twelve holes ranging around it in a circle. He found the location for the holes by using a circle jig for a router.

Someone noted that Milescraft makes a router jig that's kind of like a Spirograph. [Ed. note: I tried to find this web page but was unable. I did find this however: <https://nathanfriend.io/inspirograph/>]

Dave McClave showed a redwood carving of El Capitan that he's working on, which was inspired by the movie Free

Club Officers

President:	Chuck Nickerson	(818) 635-1175 chuckn@srar.com
Program Chair:	Glen Dresser	(818) 980-34932 gombd@aol.com
Secretary:	Ginger Gibson	(818) 506-7261 gegeeburr@hotmail.com
Treasurer:	Jeff Bremer.	(310) 740-6892 jabremer@msn.com
Photographer	Calvin Sov	(714) 457-8910 calvin_sov@yahoo.com
Publisher:	Gary Coyne	(626) 799-4196 gary@thecoynes.com
Librarian:	Grant Christensen	(818) 240-6767 gwc7@att.net
Web Master:	Ed Sheanin	(818) 346-6732 ed@sheanin.com
Toy Chair:	Jim Kelly	(323) 254-0837 jimkelly@earthlink.net
Toy Distribution:	Sheila Rosenthal	818-653-4847 sheiladeee@yahoo.com
Refreshments:	Open	(626) 666-6666 needone@needy.com

Solo. He has carved El Capitan, and he intends to carve Alex Honnold's hands on the bottom [See the photo on page 6, Ed.] Dave also noted that he has redwood available should anyone need some.

Cliff showed a scroll-sawed heart that he made for Valentine's day. His wife had found a pattern that she liked, and Cliff cut it out for her. It was a very pretty pattern, so Ed will be putting it on the website if anyone wants to use it.

Jim Cabernoch asked Ed how big is the top of the checkboard/chessboard that Ed has been making, because his son-in-law has a laser engraver and wants to try burning the pattern into some 1/4" Baltic birch.

Presentation

The presentation for this month was Eitan on Building a Split-Top Roubo Bench.



Upcoming Wood-related Events & Important News

from Jim Kelly

The following events and announcements were found in the March – April 2021 issue of Woodworker West and may be of interest:

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>.

March 13: Bay Area Woodturners will have virtual demonstration by Dr. Jason Clark on March 13. More information at: www.bayareawoodturners.org/.

Various dates: San Diego Woodturners will have virtual demonstrations by French turner Roman Scheidal on March 20, Cindy Drozda on April 17, Irish turner Pat Carroll on May 15, and Michael Dresdner on June 19. More information at: www.sdwt.org/.

Through March: Sonoma County Woodworkers are doing their annual Artistry in Wood exhibit online this year. The work may be seen through the end of March at: www.museumsc.org/2020-artistry-in-wood/.

Various dates: The online gallery, Wood Symphony, will host several juried exhibitions, including March 1-31, Turned and Sculptured Wood, June 1-30 Inside the Box, September 1-30 Small Treasures and December 1-31 The Art of Giving, More information at: www.woodsymphony.com.

[com](http://www.woodshows.com/)

March 21: Wood Yak, a virtual woodworking conference focusing on making furniture, cabinets and decorative objects. More information and schedule at: www.woodshows.com/.

March 21: The annual World Wood Day this year will be virtual with presentations, discussions, workshops, etc. More information will be available at: www.worldwoodday.org/2021/.

April 7: Bay Area Woodturners will have a virtual demonstration by Mark Agar. More information at: www.west-baywoodturners.com/.

April 24 – June 18: The Brea Art Gallery will present Made in California, a juried show in various media with cash prizes. More information at: www.breaartgallery.com

July 15 – 18: The American Association of Woodturners (AAW) 2021 exhibition in Omaha will have the theme Finding the Center. This can be taken literally, figuratively, or emotionally. Entry deadline is March 15. More information at: www.woodturner.org

July 20-23: The biennial Association of Woodworking & Furnishings Suppliers (AWFS) Fair will be at the Las Vegas Convention Center. More information at: www.awfsfair.org/.

Vaccuflex Review

Review by Chuck Nickerson

Available through Lee Valley (\$19.90).

Pictured here is a wonderful little kit that allows you to reach deep into a machine (up to 36") with your vacuum's suction. The two red caps are cleverly designed to fit on a wide variety of hose ends. The two long hoses (which fit into the cap holes) are 24" long. The shorter hoses are 12", smaller in diameter and fit snugly into the end of the long hoses. If you have trouble inserting them a little wet soap is a big help.

These allows you to vacuum at hard-to-reach spots such as deep inside your table saw, behind your bandsaw wheels, and other difficult to reach places. The kit was inexpensive, and I was glad I bought it after only its second use. Highly recommended.



Cocker-Weber Bristle Wheels.

Review by Chuck Nickerson

There are times when we need to remove stuff (rust, grime, etc.) from a surface. Placing a fiber wheel on a grinder is a great way to save elbow grease.

The usual gamut of fibers run from stiff crimped steel wire to soft brass wire. If you want something even gentler than brass wire, these Cocker-Weber wheels are the next (and perhaps final) step. These sport modestly stiff bristles which can accept any of the normal grinding and polishing compounds. They are soft enough that I can't imagine them removing wood. They are normally used by jewelers, so they are trusted on precious metals. The four pictured here have 1, 2, 3, and 4 rows of bristles on a wooden hub drilled for a 1/4" mandrel. On Ebay I got the four for under \$30.



From the web

✿ The Cutting Action of Plane Blades (pdf)
<https://tinyurl.com/aemrtvr4>

✿ Sharpening Angles for Bench & Block Planes
<https://tinyurl.com/czjanv7z>

✿ Back Bevels and Plane Geometry by Ron Hock
<https://tinyurl.com/4ysew8w7>

✿ Sharpening Hand Plane Blades - What You MUST Understand
<https://tinyurl.com/4p7dakw5>

✿ 5 Common Mistakes to Avoid with Your Orbital Sander If You Want an Ideal Finish
<https://tinyurl.com/pk4nfsk>

✿ Electric Sander Speeds 101
<https://tinyurl.com/3ht3f6cn>

✿ How To Ebonize Wood
<https://tinyurl.com/3mcmdzkc>

✿ How to Cut a Half-lap Joint (from Lee Valley)
<https://tinyurl.com/4v5kwwp4>

✿ How to Cut Dovetails, How to Cut a Dado Joint, How to Cut a Rabbet Joint (from Lee Valley)
<https://tinyurl.com/w74sbrte>

✿ how to make a drilling jig out of scrap lumber
<https://tinyurl.com/kpck38bw>

✿ Make 7 simple joints with your Kreg Pocket-Hole Jig
<https://tinyurl.com/2swuf9xp>

✿ Building a Roubo-Workbench
<https://tinyurl.com/2ppn4ct2>

✿ Who owns and who makes our tools?
<https://tinyurl.com/4vtakn4h>

✿ Japanese Joinery – Kane Tsugi
<https://tinyurl.com/5fa2kxkk>

✿ Japanese Joinery - Ari Shiguchi
<https://tinyurl.com/8xh6d6ts>

✿ making the strongest 3-way leg jonery / castle joint
<https://tinyurl.com/pn6fefe3>

✿ Hardwood Grade School
<https://tinyurl.com/4hpw6bnj>

✿ How to Use a Handscrew Clamp Like a Pro
<https://tinyurl.com/2ejresw2>

✿ Making a Veneer Press Table
<https://tinyurl.com/464w8yjn>

✿ The Roentgens' Berlin Secretary Cabinet
<https://tinyurl.com/22aua3mp>

✿ Tamar said she has no idea who first made the “Mystery Joint” but she reverse-engineers it and shows you how to make it.
<https://tinyurl.com/s6mm8tb4>

✿ Light-duty Bench-top Shave Horse
<https://tinyurl.com/vsc24vk6>

✿ How to make a Brick Pattern Cutting Board
<https://tinyurl.com/7ckx6tr>

✿ Here's a 7'23" YouTube video on the creative process, very relevant for anyone designing their own projects.
<https://tinyurl.com/3p745y8h>

✿ veneer production
<https://tinyurl.com/dp29yrze>

✿ Tips on installing hinge mortises
<https://tinyurl.com/2sdk3ewu>

✿ Tick Sticking, a Carpentry HACK
<https://tinyurl.com/ak4e2uhx>

✿ German Craft film #1
<https://tinyurl.com/4n5vzfsc>

✿ German Craft film #2
<https://tinyurl.com/e8ecfebz>

Two short Tips from Jim Kelly

#1: When working with old beams, I often have to remove large, old nails that can't be budged, even with a crowbar. I learned that if I heat the nail head with a propane torch for some period of time, the heat will conduct down the nail and eventually char the wood around the nail, making it easy to pull. Of course, this is best done outside with a fire extinguisher handy. DAMHIKT (Don't ask me how I know this.)

#2: To my knowledge several of our members own DeWalt thickness planers. They may find this digital readout of interest: DeWalt Planer Digital (chipsfly.com).

“Minutes” from page 2

Eitan decided to build his Roubo bench because his old bench was a hollow-core door on 2 x 4s and 4 x 4s. His old bench had no vises and was worthless for planing or pounding. He would end up clamping work to saw tables or router tables.

He started researching what kind of bench he wanted by reading Christopher Schwarz' book *The Workbench Design Book*. Eitan's biggest takeaways from the book were:

- A bench is a 3-dimensional clamping surface.
- If you make the face of the bench all in one plane, it makes for better clamping surfaces.
- It should be able to hold your work so that you can work on face, edges, and ends.
- It should be solid for pounding, cutting, and planing.
- Extras, such as bench dogs, can be added later.

He then found a good set of free plans by Guido Henn. [A PDF can be downloaded from here: <https://tinyurl.com/2ppn4ct2>]. This design had a leg vise on one side and an end vise on the other side.

He decided on a split-top because the center divider can be configured to be proud of the worktop surface, in which case it can act as a planing stop or chisel holder, or it can be flush to the surface, making for a wider flat surface.

He made the following design choices:

- The bench is made of maple and cherry.
- He decided to use a leg vise rather than a face vise for greater clamping capability.
- He decided to go with a wagon vise rather than an end vise or turn screw vise because an end vise can sag over time, and a wagon vise is sturdier. This also allowed him to use some less expensive vise hardware he had acquired.
- Leg vise location was driven by the placement of the legs.
- He designed it for mobility. It is on retractable casters for ease of movement, and the bench can be easily broken down into smaller sections in case he ever needs to transport it.

Building the bench took almost a year of work.

He had a 4" X 9" X 9' beam he wanted to use, and then he bought extra supplies from Bonhoff.

Jointing and planing the long, heavy boards was a challenge, but Ed helped him out a lot with the build and building infeed and outfeed tables also helped manage the large components.

The top is 3-3/4" thick, which was determined by the maximum thickness he was able to mill it.

He tried to find quartersawn and riftsawn boards and glued up the top using clamps and cauls.

He mortised underneath for the wagon vise, and capped it

Laguna DB-1248 12" Disc Sander/6" x48" Belt Sander.

Review by Chuck Nickerson

Priced at \$1000, this sits between the Rikon at \$500 and the Powermatic at \$1600. It comes with the top almost fully assembled so one need only assemble the base and install the two tables.

Now, about installing that disc sander table...

There are no actual assembly instructions, just the exploded parts diagram which is quite muddy. The table and the target brackets each have two sets of holes that might work creating four possible choices. The table, being quite heavy, requires one person to hold it while another works on getting the bolts started. Having done it once I suspect a couple of drift punches will help. This will matter if you want to remove the table when changing the sanding disc. Fortunately there are ways to remove and place the sanding paper that do not require complete access to the disk.

Once assembled this is a solid machine and changing the sanding belt is quite straight forward. In daily operation there are two minor annoyances which you can easily address. First, the dust collection fitting for the belt is different than the fitting for the disc. So I need to find an adaptor that makes them the same and duct tape it to the machine. Second, the angle scale for the belt sander's table is positioned so it's quite difficult to read without parallax error. The solution here is to buy a digital angle box (\$20) and use it to set the table angle. On the whole I recommend this machine and will like it even more once I figure out removing and replacing the disc table as a one-person operation.



off with a dovetail board on the end.

The end cap was fastened by barrel bolts (cross dowel bolts.)

Some notes about the vises:

- The wagon vise is basically a dog block that goes on a screw, and as you turn the screw, the dog block advances.

See *“Minutes”* on page 6

"Minutes" from page 5

- He got the vise screw from Lee Valley.
- The vise rides on rails made of T-track. The T-track is NOT inset into the wood so that it's easily removable if necessary.

To cut the legs, he had to make a cross-cut sled to cut them on the table saw. They are two glued-up 8/4" pieces with tenons at the top. There are mortises in the underside of the bench top for the legs. (Again for removability if necessary.)

He wanted to attach the legs with drawbore tenons, so he made riven oak dowels for the drawboring. He made a little jig with metal washers to drive the dowels through to make them the right size. To do the drawboring, he drilled the hole in the tenon a little closer to the tenon shoulder than in the mortised pieces. He tapered the riven dowels

More Carvings

by Dave McClave

This is the third design for my charcuterie boards. It's the



Golden Gate Bridge. Red cedar with an oak backing (the cedar is 1/4" thick and the oak is 3/4" thick).

The large redwood piece is perhaps the most majestic chunk of rock in the world — El Capitan. It may be the most popular rock-climbing site in the world as well. I carved the Freerider Route (up along the left side of the heart). That is the route Alex Honnold took when he scaled the 3000-foot cliff, with no safety equipment whatsoever, in under four hours! I call the piece "Alex's Hands and El Cap's Face." Great documentary about the climb on Netflix, "Free Solo."



and pounded them in gently. The dowel then bends and pulls the pieces tight.

Bolts and cross-dowels hold the long stretchers.

He re-purposed an old wood vise screw and nut, which was found online for 40 bucks.

He made a brass garter for the wood vise screw.

The nut goes into the back of one of the legs.

There is a parallel guide which is also attached with drawbores.

The divider insert that goes in the middle of the table is made with strips of 1/2" lumber with spacers in between to hold tools.

He made a sliding deadman. It slides on a triangular rail on the bottom, and the bottom of the deadman is notched to correspond.

The bottom of the bench has a shelf, which is just boards sitting on ledgers.

He turned the vise handles himself.

The bench was given an oil finish.

Jim Cabernoch has been busy

The "Complaint Box" was fun-I enjoyed playing around with the design and working out the details so that it actually works (minus the "bang", of course).



Tool Adventure in Acton

By Rich Benson

Moving big equipment as part of a shop closeout uncovers interesting antiques.

I met Ollie a few months ago through my sawing and lumber hobby. Ollie retired from Pasadena Unified almost 30 years ago, about when the middle and high schools ended the vocational programs. He and a colleague bought all the shop tools - two acres of equipment! They sold most of it piece by piece from the district lot and ended up with well-equipped personal shops. Now at age 90, Ollie is down-sizing and had a few big items to move from his shop in Acton. I tried and failed to find homes for them among clients and colleagues. Finally, I hit upon Tony Fortner at Cerritos Community College. Tony agreed to buy four - to be distributed to new grads/startups from the wood program. Last Sunday Ollie, Tony, Matt (Cerritos), and I went to fetch them:

1. Large Greenlee mortiser - 3 phase, 240 volt, a real workhorse. The Greenlee brothers, Ralph and Robert, invented the hollow chisel mortiser in 1874. This one is from the 1930's.
2. Delta Unisaw
3. Rockwell HD shaper - shapers now largely out of fashion so this may become a clamp rack.
4. Lobo 12" jointer - seems excellent machine, still in production. I tried to get it but could not commit to scrapping my Clement American-type 12" jointer, so I lost out.

We were able to move and load the four machines with tilting trailer, pry bars, blocks, and pallet jack - easier than I expected. The picture shows them on the trailer and parked at Tony's shop in South Pasadena.



One odd woodworking tool remains up there, a 1909 Vaughan drag saw. This is a gas-powered crosscut saw for bucking logs; see this drag saw video at <https://tinyurl.com/ebty9jrh>, you'll be amazed at what a dangerous machine it is. I tried to get Miles Kelman, who you may recall from his chain-saw show at the club, to add it to his collection - no deal. He did provide text for an ad, "For sale, new drag saw, used once. Ask for Mrs. Smith."

More odd stuff in Acton includes:

Veritas plunge base for rotary tools

Review by Chuck Nickerson

The Veritas plunge base for rotary tools: offered by Lee Valley, base model \$85.

There are times when it makes sense to scale the size of the tool to the size of the task. If you want to route a small profile on small work and have a Dremel (or similar tool) this plunge base is the intermediate tool to get you there.

After removing the nose piece of your Dremel there are exposed male threads which screw into the plunge base. The basic base has an adjustable depth stop with an integrated micro-adjust. The depth stop is designed so you can use physical gauges (set-up blocks, actual hinges, etc.) to set the depth, no math needed. The base is also threaded for a range of attachments offered by Lee Valley. The full range of attachments will bring the cost over \$200. The machining is quite well made, and everything feels tight and safe in use. They also offer several 1/8" shank router bits. (Once they're off back-order I'll review them as well.)



It appears an adaptor might be buildable so this base can be used with the Microfence line of products. Stay tuned for my attempt at this in a future newsletter.

There are a slew of products at a fraction of this price which have not seemed particularly safe in use, at least in my hands. At a much higher price point are the Microfence products which have a range of additional features. Depending on how you work the extra features can be worth the cost.

- a 12' and a 14' (diameters) agricultural windmills
- three horse-drawn carriages:
- a modern pony cart,
- a "roof seat brake" four-wheel carriage, turn of century, seats six, good condition,
- a "going to cover" two-wheel hunt carriage for carrying dogs, guns, snacks, drinks.

If anyone needs a project, let me know and I could introduce you to Ollie.

To me, the point of this story is that guys like us have lots of equipment that will need to be disposed sooner or later. Maybe I should start my own succession plan!

Cradles, they're not just for babies

By Gary Hersh

When Tom Ferkel taught me how to build that 1st ukelele, I got bit by the lutherie bug — hard! Right now, I'm on my 6th instrument, a 17" Archtop Guitar.

The guitar gets its name from the size of the lower bout (17" side to side on the lower curvy part) and the fact that the top and back of the instrument are arched, not flat. These are made out of billets that start out about 1" thick and are planed down so that they are approximately 0.25" at the edge and as thin as 0.16" towards the center with a profile that's well, arched.

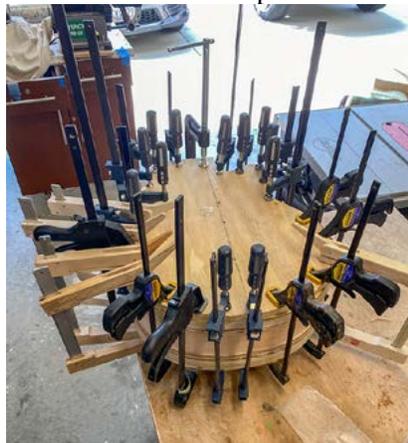


So, the question is, how does one hold this down when carving out the arch. Carving the outer face of each piece is relatively simple. The underside is flat, so it can be clamped to the bench. The fun starts when needing to hollow out the underside.

The solution is a cradle system. Using 3/4" plywood, I cut out the rough shape of the guitar, twice (once for the top and once for the back). Score a centerline down each. The form is then bordered with about 1" of plywood that's about 1" high, and this is then lined with cork. The height allows the work piece to be

turned upside down to be dished out and held in place relatively easily with clamps.

To make things easier, I also built a swivel platform that can be placed in the bench vise and spun around as you work (think "Lazy Susan"). It is also pretty easy to make: Attach



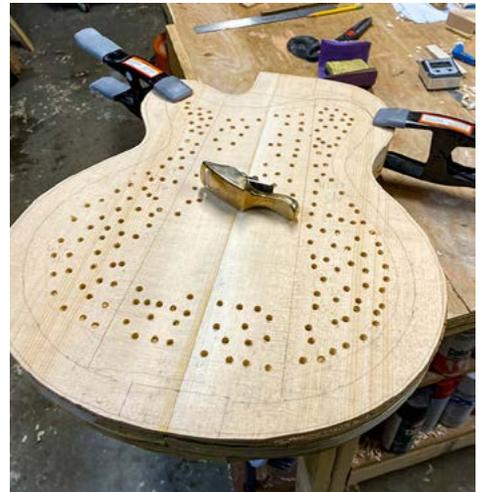
a flange to a length of pipe. Attach a piece of 3/4" MDF about 4"x6" to that. Drill a hole in the center. Take a piece of 3/4" plywood and scribe a centerline lengthwise. Drill a hole the center and insert a T-nut, for a lag bolt, and using Drill two holes along the center line, one above the bolt, and one below.

Glue in small dowels in each, so that the dowels stick up 3/4". Drill corresponding holes in the cradles. For the bolt, use a Forstner bit, drill out a hole large enough for the bolt head (with enough space for a socket to insert & remove the bolt).

Now you can use the swivel for either cradle, swapping one out for the other just by loosening and tightening the bolt.

The apparatus is held in place at the bottom by a 2" x 4" with a hole cut into it and simply clamped to the bench leg.

The nice thing is that these cradles are multi-purpose. Their main use is for carving. But they also come in handy when gluing up the top and back to the sides by acting as clamping



cauls. This is otherwise a bit of a challenge, again because of the shape of the arch. Another use I've found is when cutting the binding channels. A router is held above the guitar on a jig that allows it to gently ride on the surface, and the guitar rotated around as the router is kept stationary. To the question is, how to keep the guitar level. For this, I drilled 4 holes in each cradle at the "corners" and inserted a T-nut in each, on the inside. I then built 4 L-shaped, cork-lined cauls and drilled corresponding holes in those. A 3" bolt gets inserted into each T-nut from the inside, the guitar body placed on the cradle and then the cauls secure it to the cradle with wing nuts. Cutting these channels can be a pretty daunting task, but this system makes it pretty easy.

So, there you have it, a multi-purpose cradle used for guitar building. It's a pretty simple idea that has become very useful.