

SFVW

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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 7:07 p.m.

We had one visitor to the meeting, Ben Levinson from Santa Clarita.

In the toy committee report, Jim Kelly told us that the checkerboards are pretty much done, only needing sanding. Chuck has 130 mirrors that are ready to have the mirrors put in, and has some shaping and sanding left to do on 200 cradles. We have 300 quilts, 75 blankets, and 30 dolls. Treasure chests still need some milling, Marc is working on block trucks, Jack is making 168 whiteboards, and Grant and Dale are working on 50 sets of the roadster and Model T. 100 yoyos are in process, Dale is trying some small rolling pins, and 120 push toys are cut out. Ed has 31 sports cars and 1 tanker truck. The toy build will be at El Camino High School on 10/16 and 10/17. A sewing school in Encino is going to have some students make dolls. If anyone knows of a store that would donate yarn or material for dolls, let us know.

In the treasurer's report, Jeff said we have a comfortable amount in the bank which is enough to get through the year. A few long-term members still haven't paid dues. And we'll have the opportunity to raise funds at the quilters show, which is in August or November.

Our upcoming presentations will be Rich from Micro Fence in July. August will be Paris Patt, who repairs gui-

Our President says...

by Chuck Nickerson

Perspiration (aka sweat) rusts steel quickly. Sometimes that feels like the only thing I've learned/relearned in the past month. After taking a deep breath and calming down, here are some other things I've learned.

–First, planning is essential but only takes me so far. I just don't have the patience for marrow-deep* planning that eliminates all possibility for 'unanticipated opportunities'. (That last phrase is an euphemism for mistakes.)

–Second: a universally accepted system for naming router bit profiles would save me a very frustrating search for a bowl bit which produces a raked side wall; that is not 90* to the bottom. The search continues.

Here's hoping your woodworking month has gone smoother than mine.

*This is past "skin-deep" and deeper than "bone-deep."

tars. September will be our jigs and fixtures meeting, so please present whatever jig or fixture you're currently using. It doesn't have to be something complicated. We don't have October lined up yet, November will be toys, and possibly something else, and December will be, if all goes well, an IN-PERSON holiday banquet.

Tips & Questions &

Answers

Next, we opened the floor to Tips, Tricks, and Questions. Jeff made something See "Minutes" on page 2



July Presentation:

Rich Wedler

He is a custom woodworker and founder and tool designer at [Microfence](http://Microfence.com). He will discuss ways to elevate the usefulness of the router in your shop.

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

with an uneven surface and there's shine on an inside 90° corner. He wanted to know if anyone had tips for cleaning that off. Stefan suggested taking a credit card and wrapping steel wool around the edge to get right into the corner. Jim said Lee Valley sells something called Myrlon which is similar to Scotch Brite, and you could use that around the credit card.

Chuck had a tip. He's been watching woodworking videos by Paul Hamler who is an incredibly skilled woodworker, and he learned about Paul's "dull chisel technique," which is basically a push scraper. You take an old or cheap chisel and grind the edge on a grinding wheel to 90 degrees, then grind it to where there's about 1/8" flat, and then use it to push on the surface. You could use it to remove unwanted finish. Alternatively, one can use it with gouges, and that will provide a good way to scrape a curved surface.

Gary had a tip for gluing two edges together to make working with squeeze-out easier to deal with: You put masking tape on the first piece, taping past the edge. Then, using a sharp marking knife or a razor blade, you cut the tape at the edge. You repeat this on the other piece, and then the squeeze-out goes on the tape and can be easily peeled off. However, do NOT use blue



tape (or green tape or yellow tape) because if any of these colored tapes gets pinched into the jointed wood, that color cannot be removed. So, it is important to use standard old fashion beige-brown masking tape. Once we get back into live meetings, Gary will do a presentation of this.

Levon wanted to know the best way to make finger joints with a router. Jeff suggested a

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router table and sled. Marc said you can easily build a jig for your table, but then Levon mentioned he doesn't have a table. Someone said dovetail jigs can work with straight bits to make finger joints. Ed said to Google "homemade box joint jig." Gary said Keller dovetail jigs, sold on Amazon, are clamped directly to your boards and you use a hand-held router with this. The only limitation is that you are limited to the size of the finger joints.

Cliff brought up a problem he's been having with cutting all the animals on his bandsaw. The cuts are coming out angled. Suggestions included: make sure tension on blade is tight enough; the guide blocks aren't loose; the guide blocks are down close enough to the piece; and check to make sure the stock faces themselves are parallel. This can be checked with calipers.

Eitan was having planer problems, so he bought a new one. As soon as he did, the old planer fixed itself. So, if anyone wants a DeWalt 735X new in box with infeed and outfeed tables for \$550, let him know.

Jim Baldrige said he bought a 15" Powermatic helical head planer and it's awesome. Gary mentioned that is you have a planer that you put new helical heads on, you might want to go ahead and replace the belts at the same time.

See "Minutes" on page 4

Upcoming Wood-related Events & Important News

from Jim Kelly

The following events and announcements were found in the July–August 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>.

Please Note: A number of these events occur on two dates. For your benefit, both dates are provided so these listings appear twice, one for each date.

July 12: West Bay Woodturners will have virtual demos by Claude Godcharles (and Kalia Kliban, August 4). More information at: www.westbaywoodturners.com/.

June 16: American Association of Woodturners is offering a virtual Master Series with Keith Gotschall. More information at: www.woodturner.org/.

July 16–August 15 Orange County woodworking competition will be a live event this year. (Entry deadline is May 28.) More information at: 2021-Woodworking.pdf (amazonaws.com)

July 17–18: 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. The event will again be virtual this year. More information at: www.woodturner.org

July 17: Bay Area Woodturners will have a virtual demonstration by Harvey Meyer. More information at: www.bayareawoodturners.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/.

July 24: San Diego Woodturners will have virtual demonstrations by Eric Lofstrom, (Trent Bosch, August 21), and (Mike Mahoney, September 18). More information at: www.sdwat.org/.

July 31: Silicon Valley Woodturners will have virtual

demos by Claude Godcharles (and Kalia Kliban, August 5). More information at: www.svwoodturners.org/.

August 4: West Bay Woodturners will have virtual demo by Kalia Kliban. More information at www.westbaywoodturners.com/.

August 5: Silicon Valley Woodturners will have virtual demos by Kalia Kliban. More information at: www.sv-woodturners.org/.

August 19: Channel Islands Woodturners will have virtual demos by Trent Bosch (and Kevin Wallace, September 14). More information at: www.channelislandswoodturners.org/.

August 21: Old Tool Swap Meet at Anderson Plywood (tentative). More information at: www.andersonplywood.com.

August 21: San Diego Woodturners will have virtual demonstrations by Trent Bosch (and Mike Mahoney, September 18). More information at: www.sdwat.org/.

September 1-30: The online gallery, Wood Symphony, will host several juried exhibitions: Small Treasures (also December 1-31 The Art of Giving). More information at: www.woodsymphony.com

September 14: Channel Islands Woodturners will have a virtual demo with Kevin Wallace. More information at: www.channelislandswoodturners.org/.

September 18: San Diego Woodturners will have virtual demonstrations by Mike Mahoney. More information at: www.sdwat.org/.

September 18–19: Central Coast Carvers Show at Veteran’s Hall, Cambria. More information at: www.central-coastwoodcarvers.com/.

October 21–23: National Hardware Show will return to Las Vegas. More information at: www.nationalhardwareshow.com/.

December 1-31: The online gallery, Wood Symphony, will host the juried exhibition: The Art of Giving, More information at: www.woodsymphony.com

Router bit Vises

by Gary Coyne

If you’ve ever tried to take off a guide bearing from a router bit, than you’ve been faced with the decision as to whether you should mount it into your router so you can unscrew the bearing (lots of extra work) or use a vise-grip (and possibly damage the shaft).

I have seen several of these “Router Bit Vises” show up and I bought the [one from Infinity](#). It works as advertised and I’ve been doing cleaning and sharpening on bits that I’ve avoided for some time now.

The Vise has two sides, you insert the bit (by rotating CW) in the “Loose” side to remove the bearing and screw. When ready you flip it over and put it into the “Tight” side (by rotating CCW) to reverse the procedure.

The difference from the Infinity Vise to others I’ve seen is it has an 8 mm option which is not in others I’ve seen.

If you’ve ever had to remove bearings in your bits, I heartily recommend these Vises.



(Don't ask him how he knows...)

Tom Ferkel mentioned that our club cards could use an update, as they don't have website info or anything. Calvin suggested getting a QR code that links to the website that we could all save on our phones.

Jim Baldridge wanted to know if anyone knows of a paint that stays flexible. Suggestions were elastomeric paint, artists ink, or opaque stains.

In Show and Tell, Tom Ferkel started us off by showing the rhythm bones he's been making. He had some bones made from the real rib bones of a horse, and he started making the wooden bones in the same shape.

Check showed the most recent bowl he has made from bending plywood. It was an art deco design with maple and mahogany. (The plywood comes from Lee Valley. It's called "fractional metric bending plywood.") He also showed a bullnose rabbit plane (aka bullnose shoulder plane) that he's been restoring. He's polished the brass, remade the wedge (that pins the blade), and still needs to work more on the front of the wedge. And he showed a 3rd set of items, which were frames for tiny, arched stained glass windows (the stained glass windows are made by a friend of Chuck). He has been making the arched frames from angled segments of Philippine or Honduran mahogany.



Jeff showed us more hand planes that he's been building. There were 2 small ones made from red heart, a block plane, and 1 with a radius blade that works like a scrub plane. He also showed a skewed shoulder plane made of ebony and probably purple heart.

Eitan showed 3 small boxes he's been working on. The first was a footed box made from maple, cherry, bloodwood, and a mystery wood. The second was koa and maybe ash,



and used barrel hinges, and the third was made from cherry and walnut.

We didn't have a presentation this month, as our presenter had a conflict. He will be back with us in August.

Feet for your K-Clamp

by Gary Coyne

Never to pass up a bargain, I've purchased a number of K-Clamps over the years. If you are unfamiliar with them, K-Clamps faces remain square to the base as you clamp up so that items that are supposed to remain flat such as a table top of many separate boards.

But one day I bought two more K-Clamps, newer models that had something strange on them: a black plastic "foot" on the far end of the clamp. The price was right so off I went. I soon found out what these feet were and why they are GREAT!



Here's a photo of these feet, they were kind of strange in that you could rotate them. I could not figure out the value of this rotation because there was no height difference, but what the feet did

provide was that when resting on a bench, it held up the end of the clamp in such a way as to allow the moving face to easily move — one does not need to pick up the end to move the moving face. I wanted these feet for my remaining clamps!

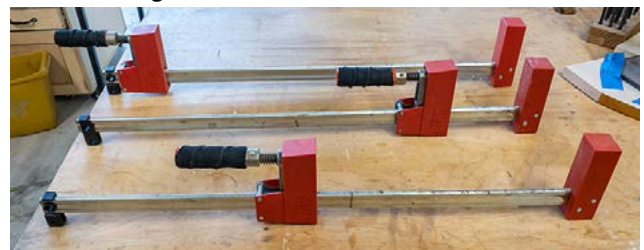


It turns out that the feet I had as examples no longer are made, the rotation capabilities cut into the potential length that the clamp could hold and a new design was available and it was possible to install this on my older clamps. All that's required is a 16 mm drill bit and a 45° chamfer, both of which I do not have.

I called a metal working friend of mine who owed me a favor, I was off to his house to help me install the new "feet." Above on the right is one in the box and one out of the box.

The process was not overly challenging — the metal is not highly tempered so easy to drill. Doing this you do lose about 3/4" of clamping space but that's easy to sacrifice so that I can easily move the moving face with one hand.

So if you have any old-style K-Clamps and think this would be an asset, you're right. I'm only disappointed it took me so long to find out about these and install them.



Making an Archtop Guitar, Part 2

By Gary Hersch

In last month's installment, I described the carving of the back plate for the guitar. From there, I moved onto the top plate (aka the Sound Board), and the process for this is largely the same. With 2 important differences:

1. The initial is that the top has two spruce braces that cross each other in an X pattern. These serve two purposes. First is structural; by the time the top plate is carved, its thickness ranges from 4.5–6 mm thick and, when strung up, will eventually have about 180 lbs of pressure on it. So, the braces help prevent cracking due to the force on them.



2. The 2nd purpose is tonal. The braces help distribute the sound waves inside the box and have a great influence on the tone of the guitar.

The thing about the installing the braces is that it's not just gluing two pieces of wood together. Both surfaces, the inside of the top and the bottom of the brace are curved in an irregular way and to achieve maximum efficiency the joint needs to be pretty much perfect. So, the way (that I learned anyway, I'm sure there are others) is to cut the bottom of the brace reasonably close to shape and color the area where the brace will go with brightly colored chalk. Rub the brace on the chalk and where it transfers, shave away with a finger plane. Wash, rinse, repeat. As you do this, more and more of the chalk transfers and the fit gets better and better. Once the chalk fit gets as good as it's going to get, hold the brace in place, slip a piece of 80 grit paper under and gently rub the paper back and forth. Again, wash, rinse repeat until the scratch marks cover the whole underside of the brace. Once this process is complete, do the same with the 2nd brace.



Now that both braces have the proper fit, it's time to cut a lap joint. This is a fairly straight forward process, keeping in mind that the joint should be tight and that both sides

need to keep their fit to the soundboard.

Next comes the sound holes. Traditionally arch tops have "F-holes" like you see in a cello or violin. I decided to play with this this time around, opting for a more modern look, but (hopefully) the effect will be the same, i.e., a place for the vibrations to escape the box and produce the sound of the instrument. After tracing the shape of the holes onto the soundboard with a pencil, I paint on a wash coat or two of 1# cut shellac and then go over the lines with an Exacto-knife-several times. The idea here is to cut the fibers of the spruce so that they don't tear out.



I drill a 1/4" hole in the top and bottom of each sound hole and then clamp the plate to my bench, over-hanging significantly and cut out the rough shape with a coping saw. The holes are brought to their lines using files and sandpaper. Once I am satisfied with the shape, I flip the piece over and then glue in the braces. When the glue is cured, the interior of the top is signed by yours truly and is sealed with a couple coats of shellac (staying away from the edge so as not to interfere with the eventual glue up of the top.



Once the top and back are done, it's time to move onto the sides. The boards for the sides are cut to roughly 65 mm x 865 mm x 2.5–3 mm (thick). The first task is to thickness the sides to 2.3–2.5 mm using scrapers and 80 grit paper. The guitar I am building has a "cutaway" in the treble side, so the upper portion of this side needs to be thickened to about 1.9–2 mm. Once this is achieved, the side is lightly spritzed with



water, wrapped in foil and then placed on the bending fixture I built, sandwiched between a metal sheet, a heating blanket, the side, and another metal sheet. When the heat reaches about 280° F, the bend is started, first clamping down the waist and then the cut away area. (And yes, during this process

From the web

- ❁ Recall of Voltage tester
<https://tinyurl.com/8fc4wkw7>
- ❁ The Real Truth About Block Planes
<https://tinyurl.com/4f33hrn2>
- ❁ Arts & Crafts Bookcase (plans & construction)
<https://tinyurl.com/jwzsf6cmf>
- ❁ Fake Beams, or using reclaimed lumber in new construction.
<https://tinyurl.com/2rt94myf>
- ❁ Hollow Chisel Mortiser Tips and Tricks
<https://tinyurl.com/er8uznwx>
- ❁ A Space Agency Will Launch A Tiny, Wooden Satellite
<https://tinyurl.com/4kacbwdc>

- ❁ Mystery Tools | You buy tools and years later wonder what they were.
<https://tinyurl.com/y5bexmrr>
- ❁ 5 Mistakes Beginners Make with Block Planes
<https://tinyurl.com/23dstasu>
- ❁ Double-Duty Shop Drawers
<https://tinyurl.com/4vj82jyj>
- ❁ 10 Tips for Better Tabletops
<https://tinyurl.com/yynn5vaxu>
- ❁ Sharpening Odd Shaped Blades
<https://tinyurl.com/fuap72jn>
- ❁ 10 Things I Wish I Knew When I Started Woodworking (Wood Whisperer)
<https://tinyurl.com/yptwufay>
- ❁ 5 awesome options for outdoor finishes
<https://tinyurl.com/68myaubm>

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many prayers are said...). The thing "cooks" at 300° F for 10 minutes, then gets removed from the fixture, foil taken off and clamped in the mold overnight. The same procedure happens with the other side. (Once both sides are bent — begin Happy Dance!)

The next day, after assuring there are no cracks, the sides are carefully cut to size and a head block and tail block fitted. These blocks also provide primary points of

structural integrity to the box once loaded with strings, so again, the curvature of the body has to be cut into these blocks before attaching.

The lining comes next. Because the sides are so thin, there is not much room to glue on the plates and have a good, sound joint. To overcome this a kerfed lining made of mahogany is installed, inter-

persed with mahogany struts to provide more structure. After the glue is cured on the kerfing, it's flushed to the sides with a small block plane and sanding block and then the back and top are attached.

When viewing this process, you can really understand the old adage "one can never have too many clamps." The back is

first glued to the sides using the underside of a radius dish and one of the cradles as clamping cauls. After 40 min dry time, the clamps are removed, any squeeze out cleaned up and then the maker's label is applied, along with a sealer coat of shellac.

The top gets applied in roughly the same manner, the only difference being one should be more careful with glue, as squeeze out from the inside cannot be removed and both cradles are used as cauls.

And that's where I am now. The box is closed. Next, I will flush the edges to the sides, and then move onto the neck. But that's for next month's issue.

