



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 Eitan Ginsburg

SFVW – Minutes July 21, 2022 meeting

Members discussed varying English pronunciations of “R”s and place names while waiting for the meeting to start. Club president Stefan Dusedau welcomed guest Signe Grant, who is looking for help with a project.

Committee Reports

Finance: Jeff Bremer reported that we are doing fine financially and will have enough to support the toy build. He recently sold a toy car that brought in \$30.

Toy Committee: Jim Kelly said we will produce over 1500 toys this year.

Presentations: Gregg Massini said that the August program will be on Bandsaw boxes by Ed Sheanin and Eitan Ginsburg. The September meeting is our annual Jigs & Fixtures meeting.

Questions, Tips, Tricks:

Signe Grant is a therapist that asked for help building a temporary top for her new coffee table so that kids could draw on it with chalk during sessions. Eitan and Ed said they’d help her with the project.

Eitan asked for input on the selection of veneer for a jewelry box. Members split 50/50 on their preference, and Stefan suggested cutting both sets and then comparing in person.

Jeff Bremer asked if the Design Group would be meeting again in Au-

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Our President says...

by Stefan Dusedau

In these Covid 19 and tough economic times, it’s important to consider the pros and cons of attending a live conference. On July 2nd and 3rd, Nina and I had the pleasure of attending the SoCal Turners Expo in Anaheim. The show was very well put together by the Harrow family, with vendors, demonstrations, and classes of all kinds around turning, whether in wood or resin.

I took a master class on bowl turning with Scott Hampton, who’s a well-known turner. It was great to have hands-on instruction where the teacher was right there adjusting my technique as I went along. I now have a monkeypod wood bowl, and I know I can make another with the wood I bought at the show.

One of the best parts of these events is meeting some of the vendors and YouTubers in person. Some of them were local, and some vendors had come from as far away as the east coast. Vendors included Rockler and Laguna (who were the main sponsors of the event), Arbortech, Turners Warehouse, wood suppliers of raw and seasoned wood, and pen-making suppliers. One vendor even had some old hand tools in need of attention.

See “President” on page 3

July Presentation:

Bandsaw Boxes

by Ed Sheanin and

Eitan Ginsburg

Ed and Eitan will demonstrate how easy it is to make a bandsaw box. They will cover design ideas, and tool and blade choices. As an extra bonus, they will also show us how to flock a drawer



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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gust. Ron Sabatino offered to host the meeting outside in his backyard.

Jim Baldrige invited people to his house in the Santa Rosa valley on August 11 for a toy build party. Jeff Bremer said he is doing a treasure chest build day at his shop on July 30.

Jeff Bremer discussed how to tell when a plane blade needs to be resharpened – when you see splits or breaks in the shavings. Ron offered that you can tell when it becomes harder to push the tool through a shaving.

Gary Coyne suggested using a 5-gallon plastic bucket lid for soaking 10" table saw blades – the inside diameter of the bucket is 10-¼". There was discussion about different choices to use as a blade cleaner, including Bit & Blade Cleaner and Simple Green.

Show & Tell and Announcements

Jeff Bremer said that now that his son has moved into an apartment with a friend and took furniture that Jeff made with him, the friend has gotten interested in building things and came over to Jeff's to build with him.

Dave Feinner showed a couple of canes he made, one from a handsaw handle and once from a hammerhead. He used epoxy to attach the handle to the cane shaft.

Eitan showed the tool cabinet he built, patterned off one Ed Sheanin made and slightly modified from plans in an old Wood magazine issue. (see page 8) He noted that he borrowed Ed's idea of using brass inserts and machine screws (3/8" x 8-32) to secure the tool holders rather than standard peg board holders, which fall out too easily. [Ed Sheanin added that this came from Wood Magazine issue 172, October 2006. If you don't have that, he'll be happy to make a copy from his to you. The club cannot distribute this as this would violate copyright law, it has to be one-on-one.]

Ron showed a cutting board he made with poplar and mahogany, using black butcher block stain and a mini-shuffleboard. You can see these on page 7.

Club Officers

President:	Stefan Dusedau
Program Chair:	Glen Dresser
Secretary:	Eitan Ginsburg
Treasurer:	Jeff Bremer.
Photographer	Calvin Sov
Publisher:	Gary Coyne
Librarian:	Grant Christensen
Web Master:	Ed Sheanin
Toy Chair:	Jim Kelly
Toy Distribution:	Sheila Rosenthal
Refreshments:	Open

July Program: All Things Epoxy

Dave Tilson is the manager of the Rockler store in the City of Orange and spoke about casting and using epoxy.

There is a lot of interest in using epoxy in projects now. It was used as a gap-filling adhesive or to fill small holes in lumber. Now people are using epoxy for casting turning blanks, colored fill, and "river" tables.

He showed an epoxy pour and how it takes time for the material to go from liquid to a "honey" consistency to solid. Mixing the two-part of epoxy (resin and hardener) causes a chemical-heat reaction.

Rockler carries a variety of epoxies, including Alumite and Polycrylic. The user should choose the product with the properties needed in terms of cure time, color, strength, workability, etc.

He showed using a mixing cup for measuring the proper ratios of the two epoxy components and how the gradations on the cup can be used depending on the ratios

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Eitan provided this tip during the meeting for getting sheet goods: From a Craigslist "free" ad. A cabinet shop near downtown (just south of Olympic, west of the 110) have a variety of plywood and other pieces that they periodically want to clear out, all free. Most of it is Baltic birch, mostly ¾" thick but also some ½" and 1" thickness. No full sheets but a variety of offcuts, some rectangular, some odd shapes that are of decent size. There also is some MDF, mostly ¼". Plus a variety of other (mostly) sheet goods.

Address is 1327 W. 12th Place, Los Angeles. Call before, ask for Alex - 310-775-5399.

From the web

- 📌 Drawbore Joinery
<https://tinyurl.com/ysns2kkk>
- 📌 How To Sharpen Plane Blades By Hand - Top 10 Questions
<https://tinyurl.com/bdz2hp68>
- 📌 Most impressive wood joints ever!
<https://tinyurl.com/3ferabjt>
- 📌 The WORST home centers for wood (Home Depot vs. Lowes vs. Menards)
<https://tinyurl.com/259358vm>
- 📌 The WORST home centers for tools (Home Depot vs Lowes vs Menards)
<https://tinyurl.com/25fwzdsk>
- 📌 Welcome to the home of Minnesota's scroll saw artists
<https://tinyurl.com/3pwxe22v>
- 📌 Greene and Greene's modern master
<https://tinyurl.com/ha9mrt23>
- 📌 Bad Ideas In the Workshop Episode 7 / Workshop Fails
<https://tinyurl.com/2p854cy5>
- 📌 This locking wood joint will help you build better projects
<https://tinyurl.com/4d69j6cv>
- 📌 The Best Food Safe Finish | Spoiler: It's Not Mineral Oil
<https://tinyurl.com/bdfehmuj>
- 📌 Getting Started With Western Saws
<https://tinyurl.com/2fkhs85c>

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Being at the conference and watching a bespoke pen-turning demo made me rethink about investing in the tools to make these. Two years ago, at the first SoCal Turners Expo, I took Jim Hinze's course on making bespoke pens. Though I was interested in the techniques and liked the results, I was reticent to invest in the tools for making them. After watching Jim demo one of his bespoke pens at this conference and being able to ask questions in the Q&A sessions, it reignited my interest. Seeing that the tools were being offered as a set at a decent price, I gave in and bought the tools. Now I'm in the exciting process of finessing every aspect I need to get started.

Having a hands-on experience with merchandise and being able to ask questions of the vendors makes it easier to assess the value and practicality of the items. It's also great to establish a face-to-face relationship with vendors that you use or will use in the future. What added even more fun to the experience was that each vendor contributed items to the door prizes and raffles.

- 📌 The Difference Between Wood Putty and Wood Filler (and When to Use Them)
<https://tinyurl.com/4e645rcu>
- 📌 Fine Sanding Myths
<https://tinyurl.com/4rbdjn78>
- 📌 Line and Berry Inlay
<https://tinyurl.com/4cm2dz3w>
- 📌 What REALLY happened to iconic tool brands Porter Cable, Delta, Craftsman
<https://tinyurl.com/3uzxazbc>
- 📌 How To Make Drawer Stops
<https://tinyurl.com/yraapb49>
- 📌 The craziest/strongest wood joint I've ever seen
<https://tinyurl.com/2z8kf6c3>
- 📌 PEN TURNING TIPS AND TRICKS
<https://tinyurl.com/2p92uhtf>
- 📌 10 Simple Trim Router Jigs / Diy woodworking
<https://tinyurl.com/75rkuhxz>
- 📌 Make a passive smartphone speaker
<https://tinyurl.com/zu2v58fz>
- 📌 Gluing Strategies
<https://tinyurl.com/2s4hsu9d>
- 📌 The Art of Resawing
<https://tinyurl.com/35tw3w2p>
- 📌 Dovetails Ratios – Which one to use?
<https://tinyurl.com/y3u65wff2>
- 📌 DW735 Planer Deep-Dive Maintenance
<https://tinyurl.com/5a9vbt4a>
- 📌 How to NOT destroy your planer rollers (and stop the slipping)
<https://tinyurl.com/2s4ecxy3>
- 📌 Everything you need to know about thickness-planer snipe
<https://tinyurl.com/2y39wcxz>
- 📌 Houndstooth Dovetails
<https://tinyurl.com/3y9nst35>
- 📌 The Friend Who Revolutionized My Thinking
<https://tinyurl.com/yevn8m57>

Another attraction of attending a conference is the experience of camaraderie with people sharing the same interests. We had the opportunity to mingle with like-minded people from the USA near and far, as well as from Canada. It was fun to share in the joy with attendees as young as 11 years old.

The only downside to attending a conference can be the cost. For those of us who live close to the conference, driving down for the day can make this a more affordable experience. Travel, hotel stay, and meals seem to make more sense if you think of it as your vacation and time away from home as we did.

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Upcoming Wood-related Events & Important News

from Jim Kelly

The following items of potential interest were found in the July – August 2022 issue of Woodworker West.

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>.

Note: As the pandemic and wood prices have been easing, Russia invaded Ukraine and now the EU and the US soon have banned wood products from Russia and Belarus. Pre-invasion they supplied about 10% of the US's hardwood.

The Ventura Woodcraft store has closed due to various issues. However, the Orange County store is still doing well. Otherwise, it looks like Rockler (in Pasadena) is now the closest woodworking store for many of us.

September 1 – 30: The online gallery, Wood Symphony, presents Small Treasures, entry deadline August 15; More information at: www.woodsymphony.com.

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called for by the product and the amount of epoxy needed for the project.

Dave demonstrated using MAS Deep Pour. He likes this product because you can mix up and pour more than thin layers. It uses a 3:1 mix of resin to hardener. Once the two parts are combined, using a wooden tongue depressor, he stirred until the liquid was thoroughly combined and achieved a taffy-like consistency. You need to keep mixing until the mixture goes from cloudy back to clear – it needs to be thoroughly mixed — and then mix some more. You can't mix too much! Again, mixing epoxy creates a chemical reaction, so the resin molecules need contact with the molecules of the hardener to work.

The heat in the curing reaction will lower the mixture's viscosity and allow air bubbles to rise. He said you could use a vacuum pot to pull out air bubbles, but those can be expensive. You can also use low-viscosity epoxy. A vacuum pot can also pull epoxy into the gaps in termite-tunneled wood and create an interesting turning blank.

Dave showed a few items he's made, including a coaster with a groove, knife scales, pen blanks, and larger turning blanks.

He explained that you can use many things to provide tint and color to the epoxy. You shouldn't use paint due to the solvent. He likes using mica flakes to add a sparkly element. Trans Tint dyes are good since they have an alcohol base. Mixall tints are also good, but they are pigments, not

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July 15 – August 14: 32nd annual Fine Arts Woodworking Show takes place at the Orange County Fairgrounds in Costa Mesa. Entry deadline May 27. More information at: 2022-Woodworking.pdf (amazonaws.com).

August 20: Tool Swap Meet at Anderson Plywood. More information at: www.andersonplywood.com.

September 10: The Bay Area Woodturners will have a virtual/in-person demo with Alan Lacer. More information at: www.bayareawoodturners.org.

September 26 – 30: 3D Basecamp, SketchUp's biennial user conference, will take place in Vancouver, B. C. More information at: <https://3dbasecamp.sketchup.com>.

October 3: The Bay Area Woodturners will have a virtual/in-person demo with Alan Stratton. More information at: www.bayareawoodturners.org.

October 12 – 13: The Design 2-Part Show takes place in Long Beach, featuring new tech in 3-D printing, CAD-CAM, CNC, laser cutting, multi-axis machining, and more. More information at: www.d2p.com.

December 1 – 31: The online gallery, Wood Symphony, presents Art of Giving, entry deadline is November 15. More information at: www.woodsymphony.com.

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As far as Covid 19, we just wore our KN95 masks, so we felt comfortable with everyone, especially when sitting in small classrooms. When it was mealtime, we just ate with plenty of distance from others, and it all worked out for us.

Our thanks go out to Kate Harrow and her family for providing a great and memorable weekend with the only woodworking show in our local area. We're looking forward to attending the next SoCal Turners Expo, which is tentatively scheduled for the Spring of 2024.

Happy Woodworking
Stefan

My Continued Carvings

By Dave McClave

By now my apartment in Oxnard has quite a few marine-themed wood carvings. One of the first is the lighthouse at the top of the stairs. The Camp David cedar and Portuguese tile sign has been re-located from the mountain home, still on the market in Pine Mountain Club in Kern County. The latest cedar carving is this sea horse. She's not just any sea horse. She's a star — she's Stella of Aromatic Eastern Red Cedar.



Decisions decisions

by Ron Sabatini

I have no problem with SawStop; their products seem well-made. It looks like many other saws, and they even pair it with the Harvey Compass sliding table. For me, the cost of the safety device is too high a premium. It would have been an easy choice if it was a \$200 difference.

Yes, my fingers are worth it, but you need to consider how I work, the amount of time I work, and the amount of experience I have. Then there are the statistics.

Let's start with the statistics. Depending on the source, 30–40 thousand tables saw injuries annually. Did you know they include hitting your head on the saw as a table saw injury? So, let's just focus on amputations because that's the big scare. That's about 4,500 per year (from the Consumer Product Safety Division NEISS). I saw one estimate that there are about 1.4 million table saws in the US.

But they don't estimate how many users there are. They do offer descriptions filled in by the doctors of what happened. Reading the descriptions, you will see that a lot of these could have been prevented or lessened by using better practices and the "dreaded" blade guard! The word slipped is used a lot. They give the patient's age but not the experience level, so it's hard to draw any conclusions.

I think the most dangerous thing about table saws is YouTube and Instagram. They're full of clowns who know how to entertain but don't know what they are doing. You never see a blade guard in use, or are putting their fingers way too close to the blade. You and I can laugh at them, but if someone is just learning, they might mistake that for the way to do things. I've seen a guy working in his shop barefoot, people ripping freehand without a fence, cutting with the blade way too high for no reason, and on and on. I sure hope people understand that they're entertainment and not educational. OK, not all of them. Some are pretty good.

I estimate I am in my shop about 50 days a year if I'm lucky and using the table saw only 25% of that time. However, I have had table saws for over 20 years, I am quite experienced with them, and follow what I think are good safety procedures.

I very rarely use the saw without the blade guard, as I'm watching the wood/fence interaction and not the blade. If there's less than 6" between the blade and the fence, I use a good push stick (I also use the Gripper). If I am ripping solid wood over 1" thick, I'll usually run it through the bandsaw first as that's a lot safer. If a piece starts to bind, I'll shut the saw off and pull it out instead of trying to muscle it through. I use a track saw to break down large sheet goods, making them easier to manage on the table saw. I keep the floor around the front of the saw free of sawdust and off-cuts. I never reach across the spinning blade for any

Editor's note: Ron Sabatino offered to write a review of his new Harvey table saw. (It's on the next page.) In his review, I was curious why he went with Harvey as opposed to Powermatic, SawStop, or any of the other big name brands. In the beginning of his decision making, he makes some excellent points (e.g., how likely accidents are really likely to occur). Part of that is how much accidents are self-inflicted accidents. Coincidentally, there was a video this past month from James Hamilton (aka, Stumpy Nubs) that is very relevant. I moved it from the Web section to here.

 **10 dangerous things EVEN YOU have done with a table saw** — <https://tinyurl.com/rkk7jsj3>

reason, even with the guard on. I don't use hearing protection with audio so that I can focus on my work. If it doesn't feel right, I don't do it and think of another solution. I don't allow distractions; if someone comes into the garage, I turn the saw off to talk to them, never while I'm cutting.

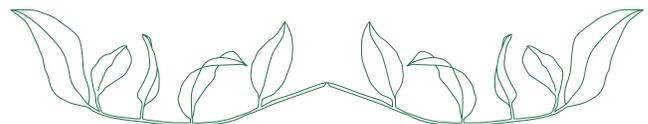
Probably the most important thing is that I constantly remind myself not to get complacent, that it's the most dangerous tool I own. That helps when I need to batch out a bunch of parts as I don't want to go on autopilot.

Now on to the original question, why did I choose the Harvey Alpha over a Powermatic, Jet, or SawStop? I firmly believe you should always buy the best tool you can afford if it's something that you plan on using a lot and quality or features are important to you. However, there is also a point of diminishing returns.

With an unlimited budget, you could buy the best of everything and not give it a second thought. I set my budget and requirements to what I thought for me was reasonable. Could I have spent more on the saw, sure? I could have saved a little longer or taken another commission.

For me, this is a hobby, and I'm not using the tools daily, so I don't want to pay for something more robust. I don't need a 4hp motor, or a 52" top. Feature-wise, the Alpha has everything I needed/wanted, and most importantly, it was a big move up from a 20-year-old contractor saw.

A similarly configured SawStop or Powermatic would have cost about \$1,000 more, and I felt that money could be better spent elsewhere. All the saws are manufactured in Asia. Some are at the same factory, and Harvey makes some under their Chinese name as an OEM supplier. The main difference is in the quality of the materials, machining tolerances, and finish quality. (I spent a bit of time in China working with (and touring) factories, but that's a story for another day.) I don't make anything so perfect that I need that extra bit of quality, tighter tolerances, or the ability to take the abuse of a professional shop. I guess it's just a cost-benefit analysis, which will be different for everyone.



Review : Harvey Alpha HW110LC-

36P Cabinet Table Saw

By Ron Sabatino

After 20 years of great service, it was time to replace my Delta contractor's saw and sliding table.

After much research, I decided on the Harvey Alpha HW110LC-36P series cabinet saw and Compass ST-1500 Sliding Table. Harvey is an OEM supplier to many other brands, and they have tons of good reviews. The saw has the features I was looking for and fits my budget. This is a subjective review, but I will be as objective as I can.

Harvey has a habit of constantly changing the price on their website. I called customer support, and they were very accommodating. I immediately got the lowest price I had recently seen it advertised for. Before tax and shipping, I paid \$3,672.



Because I was getting the Compass ST-1500 Sliding Table, I didn't want the miter gauge. They said I could swap it for a cast iron right wing and a zero clearance insert, worth about \$280. They also agreed to charge only the actual shipping price of \$170. They said I could have picked it up myself as well.

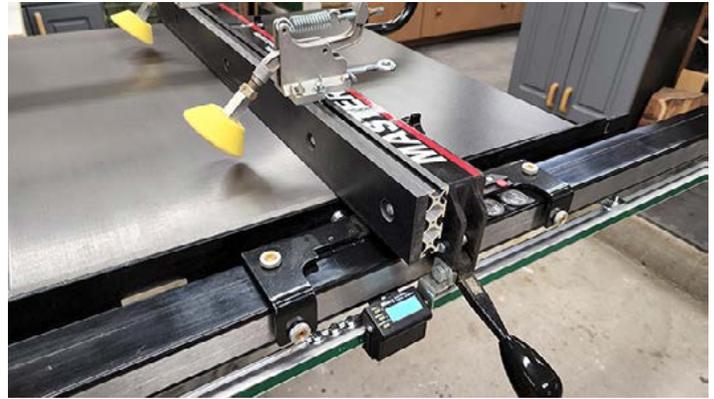
The features that I liked:

A 31.5" deep table, Worm Gear Trunnion System, quick release for the blade guard and riving knife, a dust shroud that wraps around the blade for dust collection, overhead dust collection, a 2HP motor (wired for 110 but 220 parts included), and two stops with micro adjusters on the slider fence.

The Pros:

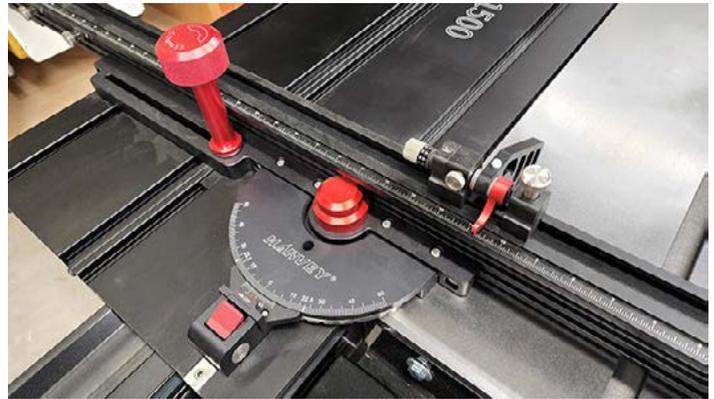
- Delivery and packaging were top-notch.
- The quality of materials is excellent.
- The blade was aligned to the miter slot from the factory.
- The slider fence was 90 degrees to the blade right from the factory.
- The blade height and tilt adjustments are very smooth.

- The rip fence has several adjustments to dial it in exactly as you want.



The Cons:

- The installation guide needs improvement and better pictures.
- When you remove and replace the fence, you must ensure the cam foot is in the correct position as it can swing back and not engage the rail. Otherwise, not only won't it clamp, but you will also have a long scratch on the rail if you slide it. (IMHO, this is a design flaw.)
- Removing the blade insert requires an Allen key.
- The arbor nut must seat into the flange, which is annoying.
- The angle scale for blade tilt is not accurate over the length of travel.



My overall impressions:

After getting used to the few quirks, I really like using the saw. It's smooth and vibration free. The overhead dust collection makes a difference but does not capture all the dust. I didn't bother closing off the bottom of the cabinet, and there is very little sawdust left under the saw for cleanup. The sliding table is smooth and accurate. I added a Wixey Saw Fence Digital Readout, a Grizzly Mobile Base, and I replaced the fence with an Aluminum T-track and a UHMV Face so I can use my board buddies.

I leave the blade guard on most of the time for the dust collection, but I did need to pencil in some lines on the table to show the blade's sides, making it much easier to line up a cut.

Finally, I'm very happy with this saw and would recommend it.

dyes. He also likes pigments from Eye Candy Pigments. You should be aware that pigments have weight and density so they will sink within a pour. You should do a small test with the coloring agents in all cases because the chemical reactions can have unexpected results. When mixing colors, be aware that the heat from the curing process can cause a convection current within the casting and keep it mixing for a long time.

When machining a hardened epoxy blank, use very sharp tools, slow feed rates, and take light passes, as it can be prone to chipping and fracturing. Large surfaces can be finished using a wide belt sander. Be aware that mica flakes can create small weak spots within the casting that can also add to chipping.

Dave showed several things he'd poured and made, including an "ocean pour" to simulate ocean waves and a turned pen from an epoxy-filled banksia pod.

He noted that you can buy a variety of silicone casting molds, which are easier to use than those made from hard plastic. You can also build your own from wood, but seepage and leaks are a concern. When creating his own molds from plywood or MDF, he wraps the pieces with Tyvek and seals the joints and corners with house wrap tape and Alex Fast Dry caulk. You can also use a hot glue gun.

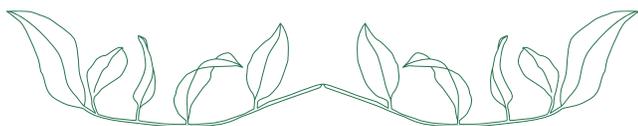
On "river tables," pour to the surface of the wood. The epoxy will shrink slightly when cured, so it is better to plane down the wood until flush, rather than pouring over the top and having to remove the excess epoxy. Be sure to caulk under the wood, all holes, and any uneven parts to prevent seepage.

Dave uses paper clips bent into a U shape to mix and swirl the colored epoxy. He said it is best to wait an hour or two to let the epoxy build up some viscosity (to a honey consistency) before swirling the mixture.

Dave answered several questions about using epoxy:

- He noted that Alumite has a 12-minute working time and takes four hours to cure fully.
- He also said that if you use epoxy as a surface coat, you should protect it from dust while curing.
- Epoxy is not necessarily a food-safe surface. It should be inert when cured, but it isn't FDA-approved.
- If you aren't precise in your ratios, it is better to err on the side of more hardener.
- If you are pouring multiple layers, you want to let the first layer fully cure, sand and clean that layer, and then pour the next layer. Some products can be used for deeper pours, but you should check the specifications. You do need to read and follow the instructions!

Rockler runs classes on resin casting..



Free to a good home: Flat Marble Slab

from Ed Sheanin

Free, granite desk top. 22" x 43", ogee edge on three sides. Black with gray veining.

Call Ed to arrange for pick up. Quite heavy, will need a helper to lift.



(818) 346-6732

[Editors note: these make GREAT flat surfaces on which to glue projects.]

Shown projects from the last meeting (and an offer for a digital table saw tool).

By Ron Sabatini

The cutting board is 12" x 24" x 1". Poplar and African Mahogany edge grain. Finished with one coat of Watco Butcher Block Stain Oil + Stain in black, <https://tinyurl.com/4n29ckbz>, with Mineral Oil as a second coat.



The Mini Shuffleboard game is 50" x 13.5" x 2". The board is a lamination made of walnut strips that I got from a friend. Originally it was used for flooring as they had to make bent lamination to follow the curve of the room. The tray is made from African Mahogany. It's finished simply with English furniture wax and buffed with an electric buffer.



Also of note, I have a Wixey Saw Fence Digital Readout, new and in the box for \$75 if anyone is interested <http://www.wixey.com/fence/>. Contact me via ron@valleycircle.com

Tool Review:

ISO TUNES LINK AWARE

by Gary Coyne

I had tried a set of ISO hearing protection ear plugs and they did not impress me. I returned them to the store I bought them from. (No issues.)

But when I saw that [ISO Tunes had a new "over the ear"](#) hearing protection with Bluetooth, I was eager to try them.

I rate these: qualified-good. By that I mean that they do what they are supposed to do: protect your ears and let you listen to Bluetooth from a paired device. To protect the ears, they use sound absorbing material and noise suppression, the same technique that Bose headphones use to quiet consistent noise (such as the kind we get in our shops).

Unfortunately, there are a number of issues with them that diminish their potential shine. They are still good, I do like them, but there are issues.

In the image, notice the controls (over the right ear). When you look at this, it's easy to see what to push, but when you have them on, you can't see any of this. ISO Tunes failed to provide any tactile bumps to let you know what you're touching. There are things to feel for, but they are subtle and not sufficient for easy touch awareness.



One of the big "features" this has is the ability to hear things something that you may want to hear such as someone talking. This would mean you do not have to wave at them to stop talking while you take the headphones off. However, when you turn these headphones ON, the default setup is to have both Bluetooth and outside volume on. This means that after turning them on, the first thing you have to do is to press the outside noise button down multiple times. Yes, there is no single switch to turn outside noise on and off. Plus, if someone is talking to you, you now have to turn off the loud machine, then press this button multiple times to increase the volume so you can hear them. It's faster to take the headphones off.

Lastly, for this reviewer, is comfort. The padding around the ear is fine. But the padding on top of the unit, where your head presses against, is non-existent. The inside of the headband is a hard, flexible rubbery plastic. If you're wearing these for several hours, you'll want to lift them up to get the pressure off the top of your head.

My Box Storage

Eitan Ginsburg

Here are images of the Eitan's tool cabinet made from a Wood Magazine set of plans. In these images, you'll see two of these, side-by-side and you can see the extensive amount of tools he has stored here, all for easy access.



The images above show both boxes Eitan made. Each side can open displaying more tools



The above image shows what's behind the left box when the doors are open.



And this shows what's behind the right box when the doors are open.

By putting so many tools into these new cabinets, Eitan now has room for more tools where these tools once were.

Oh, one "extra" negative is that there is no LED to let you visually know they are turned on. Thus, when you go to use them, the battery might be dead. Suffice it to say, I've not gotten rid of my non-battery headphones yet.

So, if you're doing something exciting, like sanding, and you want to listen to some music, these are great. But standard hearing protection is also great.