



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

Almost 30 (fully vaccinated) club members and their spouses gathered for a delightful outdoor lunch at the home of Jack and Lenore Robbins.

The biggest challenge we had was to talk to all of the folks we had not seen in all too long. As well as to talk with the new members who joined after the quarantine started.

Highlights included sparkling conversation, a chance to scope out Jack's amazing workshop, and a \$1 woodworking book sale. We also were pleased to witness the hand over of the club presidency from Chuck Nickerson to Stefan Dusedau. Stefan thanked the outgoing officers and presented them with pens he had turned.

A special thanks once again to Jack and Lenore (who's birthday it was that day) to share their home and their time to let the club invade their house.

Our President says...

by Stefan Dusedau

Thank you for choosing me to be your club president.

It was fun to see those that were able to make it to the "holiday picnic". We had time to socialize and share a meal which is always a warm and wonderful event, especially in these times. A big thank you to Jack and Lorene for hosting at their house.

A little bit about me. I got my interest in woodworking as a kid watching my father in his basement piano repair shop. As a teen I started working with him on piano repairs during school breaks. After high school, I started my own piano restoration/rebuilding shop which I ran for 10 years. When economics forced my business to close, woodworking became my hobby. I worked out of my garage and for a few years participated in our high school's adult school woodshop. Now that I'm re-

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To learn about this beautiful gate, read how Eitan made it on Page 5

January Presentation:

Getting it Sharp

Members Jeff Bremer and Chuck Nickerson will talk about sharpening plane and chisel blades. There are a range of methods that work, everything from sandpaper to high-end natural stones. They each will show their methods while discussing the general principles which should help no matter what method you use.

They will also show ways to jig three special cases: unusually high angles, skewed blades, and curved blades.

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.

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

Magnetic Catch Tray

by Chuck Nickerson

Even in a woodworking shop, from time to time screws, washers, nuts and bolts must be removed from a machine and not lost before reassembly. In addition, there are the screws used to install handles, drawer slides, pocket screws, and other parts of an assembly. A magnetic parts tray does a great job of corralling ferrous metal parts. And because the base is magnetic, it will stick on the side of a ferrous surface and the parts in the bowl will remain in the bowl.



Bronze, brass, and aluminum will sit in the cup but the magnet adds nothing.

Available at Harbor Freight they run \$5 - \$20 depending on size. They are a great inexpensive addition to your shop.

It's why we do it...

December 3, 2021

Dear Friends,

On behalf of all the child victims of domestic violence served at JFS [Jewish Family Services] Hope, I would like to thank you so very much for the magnificent wooden toys you donated to our program. They are so beautiful and will provide endless hours of joy and recreation for our young shelter residents as they remain safe in our homes. You can imagine how difficult it must be not to be able to celebrate the holidays in one's own home, but these children, while under our care, will now enjoy a wonderful holiday with their new toys. They also will know that folks they never will have the opportunity to meet have been thinking about them during this challenging time.

We deeply appreciate the commitment the SFV Woodworkers and SFV Quilt Association have made to our program over the years. You have succeeded in putting countless smiles on the faces of hundreds of children with your incredible works of art, and we are so very humbled

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tired, I have more time to spend on woodworking, turning pens and working with our club members on building wooden toys for donation.

The SFVW club provides a place for us to share knowledge, learn new techniques and encourage others. Building wooden toys as holiday gifts for needy children offers us the chance to work together and give back to the community.

I look forward to a great year and hopefully we will be able to meet in person again soon.

by your generosity. The toys have already been delivered to our three shelters so the children will have them for their Hanukah and Christmas celebrations.

As you know, we feel passionate that everyone deserves to live in violence-free homes, and we thank you all for joining us in that mission.

The staff at JFS Hope join me as well in thanking you with the warmest wishes for a beautiful holiday and a New Year filled with much health, happiness, and joy.

Warmly,
Kitty Glass,
Community Outreach Coordinator

From the web

- ✿ The Right Way to Prepare Lumber
<https://tinyurl.com/ycknppzn>
- ✿ Table Saw Blade Alignment | Perfect Cuts
<https://tinyurl.com/k5d5pwbr>
- ✿ Table Saw Fence Alignment | Safe, Clean, Rip Cuts
<https://tinyurl.com/bdfxbxjs>
- ✿ Installing 8 (different) Common Hinges
<https://tinyurl.com/mup4v68v>
- ✿ Honey Dipper Challenge | Fun Woodturning Project [Completely silly but well done!]
<https://tinyurl.com/bdepnkk9>
- ✿ Clever tricks with Forstner bits
<https://tinyurl.com/y9wknr83>
- ✿ Installing 5 Tricky Hinges
<https://tinyurl.com/2p8ndnsr>
- ✿ Upgrade Your Workbench and Outfeed Table
<https://tinyurl.com/mpv7sz8a>
- ✿ Pens for Peacekeepers
<https://tinyurl.com/46j666f4>
- ✿ Explaining Polymerized Oil
<https://tinyurl.com/4ca79md9>
- ✿ This will make you look like a woodworking master! (Sliding Dovetail Tutorial)
<https://tinyurl.com/285j87wk>
- ✿ 10 CHEAP tools that are important to my workshop!
<https://tinyurl.com/2p862pfz>
- ✿ The Unicorn Sharpening Method. [This is a repeat of a previous post, it's so good it needs to be done again.]
<https://tinyurl.com/2xvdmk8c>
- ✿ The TRUTH about CBN vs Diamond sharpening stones
<https://tinyurl.com/5dwte2xv>
- ✿ Myth-Busting the Meaning of Yakisugi
<https://tinyurl.com/2p8ry4vu>
- ✿ A hidden flaw that can DESTROY your lumber! (Case Hardening)
<https://tinyurl.com/2p8ebm3d>
- ✿ Link to Dept of Ag file (referred to in the above link):
<https://tinyurl.com/3s3hj7ve>
- ✿ Saw Sharpening 101
<https://tinyurl.com/mr333eky>
- ✿ Better Glue Joints
<https://tinyurl.com/2p83pt2a>
- ✿ Rabbet vs Dado vs Groove
<https://tinyurl.com/2p8zbnkw>
- ✿ Use Dividers for Quick & Easy Dovetail Layout – No Measuring
<https://tinyurl.com/35d49j8z>
- ✿ 11 Great Tips for Marking and Measuring
<https://tinyurl.com/35fva5mm>
- ✿ The common misunderstanding of safe router feed direction
<https://tinyurl.com/mtmeda29>
- ✿ One fun marble run
<https://tinyurl.com/mwt97kxv>
- ✿ The Ultimate Guide to Resawing
<https://tinyurl.com/2p8ue8ph>
- ✿ Our 20 Best Router Tips and Tricks
<https://tinyurl.com/umc69a2b>



Hey Folks, Dues Time is Coming up

We may still be having our meetings in the Zoom desert but we do have expenses for toys and parts. Annual dues are \$35. Full-time student dues are \$15. If you're coming to the Non-potluck Potluck on Dec. 12th, you can bring a check or cash then. Otherwise, to get your moneys to Jeff. Please contact him for the best ways to do that < jabremer@msn.com >

Upcoming Wood-related Events & Important News

from Jim Kelly

The following events and announcements were found in the November – February 2022 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>.

Thru April 3: Palm Springs Museum of Art is showing *The Modern Chair* exploring the design of chairs throughout the 20th century. More information at: www.psmuseum.org.

January 7 – February 25: Escondido Arts Partnership Municipal Gallery hosts its 12th annual *Wood: A Furniture Show*. More information at www.escondidoarts.org.

February 19: Tool Swap Meet at Anderson Plywood. More information at: www.andersonplywood.com.

February 19 – 20: The Southern California Turners Expo is taking place at the Marriott Hotel in Anaheim. More information at: www.socalturnersempo.com.

March 1 – 31: The online gallery, *Wood Symphony*, presents *Turned and Sculpted Wood*. Entry deadline is February 25; *Inside the Box*, June 1 – 30, entry deadline May 15; *Small Treasures*, September 1 – 30, entry deadline August 15; and *Art of Giving* December 1 – 31, entry deadline November 15. More information at: www.woodsymphony.com.

April 5 – 7: National Hardware Show will return live in Las Vegas. More information at: www.nationalhardware-show.com.

June 3 – 5: National Association of Music Merchants will hold the 2022 NAAM Show at the Anaheim Convention Center. More information at: www.namm.org.

June 8 – July 4: The *Design in Wood* exhibition will return to the San Diego County Fair. More than 350 entries are expected. The entry deadline is April 29. More information at: www.sdfair.com or www.sdfwa.org.

June 23 – 26: After two years of virtual gatherings, the American Association of Woodturners is planning an in-person 37th Annual Symposium in Chattanooga, TN. More information at: www.woodturner.org.

Review: iGaging Digital for DeWalt Portable Planer

by Gary Coyne

I'm sure we've all been there: we're getting a board to just the right thickness as we cut, then measure, then cut, then measure, then cut, then go into the woodpile to pull out another board because we overshot the previous cut.

I tried the Wixie digital system years ago, but I didn't find it accurate. To calibrate it, one puts a board in between a spring-loaded pinscher and zeros that. I gave up on that soon after installing it onto my planer.

The method for calibrating the iGaging system is very different: you run a board through your planer, measure the thickness of that board with your digital caliper, then enter that measurement into the iGaging device.



Thus, iGaging on the planer is different in that you measured what you cut; therefore, it's what you cut. I have put a helical head to my planer, but even if you're using the original blades, both will give you accurate cuts.

Things can be off a very tiny bit, caused by how you dial in your measurement: if you rotate your planer's wheel incrementally down to (say) 0.825", and then the measure cut is going to be 0.825". If you go too far and then go up and down and up and down to dial in the exact cut you want, it could be off a couple of thousandths of an inch. Not enough to affect woodworking, but that's the one issue I've found.

This can display English-fractional, English-decimal, and metric. I am typically in E-decimal because I can't remember where 17/64" is when I'm looking for 5/16".

This works off of either a CR 2032 battery, or you can connect the attached USB cable to any phone or tablet power source. I do recommend that you get one with LEDs that let you check the current power reserve and that you can attach a charging cable while it's still connected to the digital device. If the power does go out, you'll have to recalibrate.

The cost is \$49 and can be bought from Chipsfly.com

Disclaimer: It's a bit of a story but I now write the instructions and some of the ad copy for Chipsfly.com, the company that sells iGaging items. If I'm writing positive words about a product, it's because I like the product. If I do not like the product, you'll see that in future reviews as well.

Replacing Our Side Gate

by Eitan Ginsburg

We bought our house over 20 years ago, and the wooden gate on the side of the house never worked well. It was beaten up, the bottom scraped against the brick walkway, it wouldn't open all the way, and as time went on, the post assembly that held the latch became more and more wobbly. Replacing the gate became my latest project.

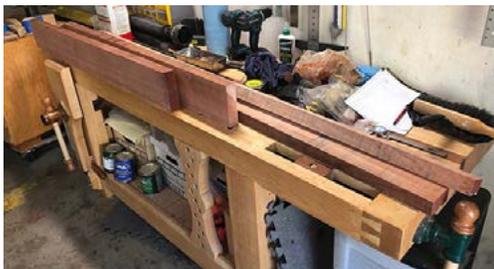


The first thing was to get rid of the old mess. Pulling it all out revealed lag screws holding the posts into either wall. Opening it all up allowed me to get accurate measurements, especially for the old lag screw holes – I wanted to avoid drilling too many new ones. Also, I wanted the new gate to span the entire width of the walkway.



After scoping various gate designs – some from walks in my neighborhood, and others searching online, I settled on making a frame and panel gate with an arch at the top. The decorative element is a sunburst pattern

set inside the arch, and this ended up being the biggest design and construction challenge as the project progressed. The main parts – the frame and the posts – would be made from redwood and cedar used for the panel. Both are woods that should hold up well in the outdoors. This wasn't a big enough project



to justify a trip down to Bohnhoff Lumber, so I gritted my teeth and went to Home Depot. I picked out a big 6x6 timber that was pretty much quartersawn for the redwood parts. I went through their pile of 5/8" cedar fence slats pile and picked out a relatively dry, relatively straight set

and had relatively fewer knots. The slats don't look too rough but show nice grain when planed – I even had some with curl!

Milling the redwood parts came first. With an eye to grain direction and cutting order, the major components were laid out with chalk, roughly a bit oversized. I made extension



tables for my bandsaw to handle long, bulky jobs like this and they came in handy, as did roller stands.

The redwood timber was originally too heavy for me to handle by myself (thank you, son Jonathan!), but it got down to a manageable size after the first few rip cuts.

After allowing a few days for the freshly cut wood to move however it wanted, I jointed and planed the pieces, then cut the parts down to the final size. The final dimensions maximized what I could get out of the timber, but so long as they were consistent, it didn't matter if they were a bit thicker or thinner. The two posts were 2-3/4" square, and I carefully matched up the existing holes in the walls to



attach them. The frame parts wound up being 1-1/2" thick; the side stiles and

middle rail about 2-3/4" wide and the top and bottom rail about 5-3/4" wide. The frame was built using straight mortise and tenon joinery. Since it's a good rule of thumb to make tenons one-third the thickness of the stock, and I had planed the panel pieces down to 1/2" thickness, it was a no-brainer to go with 1/2" thick tenons and to rout a 1/2" groove along the inside of the frame to hold the panel pieces. The panel pieces were ship-lapped to allow horizontal movement and reinforce each other against warping. They would slide into the frame from one open side.

As I thought this through, I realized that the shape of the arch would not allow the same method of inserting the sunburst pieces. The solution to the geometry challenge was to place and glue the sunburst pieces into the arch and middle rails and then set the whole assembly in place before the cedar panel pieces during the final glue-up.

The "arch and sunburst" was the biggest challenge. After sketching a fairly good idea of what it should look like, I laid this out full size on a large piece of 1/2" grid graph paper. I wanted the final thickness of the arch piece to be the same width as the stiles and the middle rail, and to have a

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couple of inches straight on either side of the arch, which would simplify the joinery at the ends. The arch was simply the arc of a circle drawn using trammel points and a very long scrap piece. It helped to have the graph paper when laying out the parts of the sunburst, which had a center point below the bottom line and varying angles. Once it was laid out on paper, the measurements were

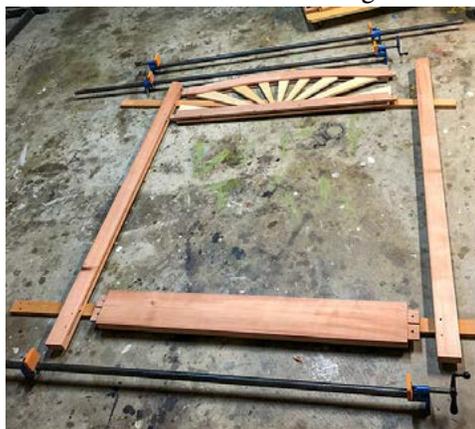
transferred to the wood parts. The tenons were cut first on the arch board; then, the arch was cut and finished on the bandsaw and sanders. The groove for the sunburst pieces was cut on the underside of the arch using a slot cutter bit on the router table.

I cut each sunburst piece on the table saw using a taper sled, then trimmed the ends and got them to their final shape with a handsaw and a plane. Transferring the layout lines from the graph paper to the stiles helped a lot to

get them aligned right when gluing them in place (I used Titebond III, both for its outdoor application and longer open time). I set the bottoms of all the pieces in first, then put the arch stile in place. Once the glue had set, I went back and drilled holes to pound in 3/16" dowel to lock each in place – I wanted a mechanical fastener in case the glue fails in the years ahead. Another piece of 1/2" thick cedar was cut to insert into the frame on the diagonal to resist future sagging.

Then I assembled the frame, slid in the panel pieces, and glued the last rail in place. Again, wanting that mechanical lock, I used 1/4" dowel to drawbore the tenons, using just a 1/16" offset. Because the concrete wall leans out a little bit, I cut a small taper on the latch side of the finished gate to provide clearance and reduce the gap. Finally, Ed Sheanin came to help me hang the gate, break for lunch, and install the latch. And now it works perfectly!

[Editors note: see the first page to see how it turned out!]



Missing jacket

This jacket was found at the Robbins' house after a build. If you have been missing this jacket, please contact Lorene Robbins at 818 700 8106 and let them know it's yours and you can make arrangements to pick it up.



2021 Toy Distribution

by Sheila Rosenthal

Just when you think THIS is the year we will make fewer toys, someone (or ones) surprise and delight with their creativity, productivity, and above all, craftsmanship. This year's toyland was truly beautiful. Year after year we surpass our goals in the number of toys we craft and this year was no exception. Our incredibly productive members made 1,313 toys which were delivered to 18 organizations! This year's toys were mirrors, doll cradles, block trucks, Model-T roadsters and pickups, white erase boards, flat-top boxes, treasure chests, chess boards, race cars, hot rods, school buses, stacking towers, push toys, and yo yos. Additionally, we received a dozen airplanes from Gary Willoughby, and a rocking chair and a steam shovel from Doug Deary. Thank you letters are coming in from organizations, and we have received a few photos where possible. Many of our organizations donate toys to children who are victims, and so we are not always able to receive photos, but please know the children and parents all appreciate our efforts.



The following charitable organizations who received our toys include: LDS (through Grant Christensen); Haven Hills (abuse shelter); Our Saviour Center's Doris Dann Kids Campus (through Anne Peplow); Foster Children's Resource Center (through Jack and Yolanda Shelp); LA Dept. of Children and Family Services; Arleta First Assembly of God aftercare program; Penny Lane Shelter; Los Angeles County Toy Loan (Department of Public Social Services); Family Rescue Center; Safe Passage (Battered Women's Shelter); Lutheran Social Services (through Wayne Thiele), Alexandria House (shelter and transitional housing); Catholic Charities Child Care Centers (through Sheila); Jewish Family Services (domestic abuse shelter); Homeless Healthcare Los Angeles (through Chuck Nickerson); Devonshire PALS Youth Center (at-risk program for youth); and Swaner Lumber (donates to Children's Hospital of Los Angeles); Zawadi Cultural Collective. If you have a particular organization you would like us to donate toys in 2022, please contact me.

Our guardian angel, Swaner Lumber, continues to donate a majority of the wood we use to make our toys! When you need wood for your next project, remember to visit Swaner Lumber at 5 W Magnolia Blvd, Burbank, CA 91502. Many thanks to Jim Kelly, Jack Robbins, and Ed Sheanin for ensuring our friendship with Swaner lumber will continue.

Great appreciation to Jack and Lorene Robbins for a second

year of pivoting from El Camino to Jack's garage to wrap cradles with quilts and dolls (on a rainy morning to boot!), and making it seem effortless. Jack and Lorene made us all feel right at home, plus the food was great and the coffee was hot. We had many helpful hands working, making the job go quickly and the morning a great time, as it should be. Many thanks to our newest members and spouses for helping out so much! Hopefully next year will be able to see us all back in the El Camino High School woodshop so everyone can attend!

Special shout out to Santa's special delivery drivers Jeff Bremer, Jack Robbins, Grant Christensen and Dale Gertsch, Cliff and Karen Lobell, Jack and Yolanda Shelp, Tom and Judy Ferkel, Chuck Nickerson and Greg Golden. Thank you all so very much for delivering throughout Los Angeles. Without your assistance, I might have spent many days on our freeways! It was my pleasure to have the opportunity to deliver our toys to one of our charities, the Toy Loan Program. The staff was overwhelmed by the quality of our craftsmanship and our generosity.



Tremendous kudos to our members who assembled "kits" at home to glue, sand, router, etc. We could not have done it without you! If you were unable to participate this year, we hope you will join us in 2021! Toy Committee meetings begin next month (on Zoom, ask for the link if you need it). And Toy Build weekend is great fun, productive and you'll have a chance to get to know your fellow club members. Please join us next October.

Special commendation and appreciation to the Lobells, the Baldridges, and friend of our own Sam Shanman, Donna Rothman, for stepping in to fill the very big shoes of "Dollies Making a Difference", whose handmade dolls were so loved. Your handmade dolls add a special touch in our cradles.

Our handmade dolls were warm in their cradles, thanks to the beautiful handmade quilts from the San Fernando Valley Quilt Association, to whom we are very grateful for their dedication and continued participation.

A final thank you to Jim Kelly for his leadership of the Toy committee; to Marc Collins' and Chuck Nickerson for "presidential" support, and all the toy committee members. All members are welcome to join the Toy Committee anytime! On behalf of the children: Thank you everyone, Gracias a todos. Putting a smile on a child's face cannot be described in words; smiles are gifts from our hearts. Thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve as coordinator, I look forward to the coming year.

Wishing you all a safe and happy 2022. We have great things yet to build.