

San Fernando Valley Woodworkers since 1988

<http://sfvw.org/>

Monthly Meetings

Our face-to-face meetings will hopefully once again start in April. Learn more about this at the next meeting. Keep your eyes on this space for more details to come.

Meeting Minutes

by Eitan Ginsburg

SFVW – Minutes February 16, 2023 meeting

Club President Stefan Dusedau opened the meeting and welcomed new members Frank Fissel, Keenan Blough, Jonathan Nail, Thor, George LeVines and Patricia Thaxter.

Announcements:

Stefan announced that beginning in April, the club will be returning to in-person meetings. Our new location will be in the woodworking shop at Highland Hall School in Northridge, near Balboa and Nordhoff. Members will need to sign a liability release to go on-site. The release can be completed online. More information will be sent out about the new location.

Gregg Massini said that the Rockler store in Pasadena will be holding a mini woodworking show on Saturday, March 25.

Eitan Ginsburg noted that there will be a Makers' Faire on Saturday, April 1, at the State Historic Park near downtown LA. Presenters will include woodworking, metalworking, and a variety of other crafts.

The quarterly Old Tool Swap Meet will take place this Saturday at Anderson Plywood in Culver City.

Reports:

Finance: Jeff Bremer said that 34 members have paid dues so far this year. Our finances should be fine for the coming year, including our new rent at the school and the needs of the toy build.

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Our President says...

by Stefan Dusedau

Since we have some new members that do not have a lot of experience, I thought I would take some time to discuss shop safety. I decided to start with the table saw.

Table saws are incredibly powerful tools that can be very useful for woodworking and other tasks, but they can also be very dangerous if not used properly. Some of the main safety issues to be aware of when using a table saw include:

1. Kickback: This is one of the most common table saw accidents, and it occurs when the wood being cut gets caught in the blade and is thrown back at the user. To prevent kickback, make sure the wood is properly supported. You can use a splitter (or riving knife) to keep the wood from pinching the blade. Keep your hands and body clear of the blade.

2. Blade contact: Always keep your hands and fingers away from the blade. Use push sticks or other tools to guide the wood through the blade, and never try to remove a piece of wood from the blade while the saw is still running.

3. Flying debris: Table saws

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March Presentation:

Carving Carousel Animals

The March presentation will be by Burl Wheaton (President) and Jack Giles (Lead Carver), at the amazing Historic Carousel Museum in Albany, Oregon. They will speak about the museum and how they carve and paint the exquisite animals that fill their carousel. They will also address wood

carving more broadly, such as how to get started learning carving, techniques, materials, tools and sources.



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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Presentations: Jim Baldrige asked that members send any suggestions for program topics or speakers to him. Upcoming presentations will be:

March: Carving and carousel animals by Burl Wheaton from the Historic Carousel Museum in Albany, Oregon.

April: Cleaning and sharpening by Dave Tilson from Pasadena Rockler.

May: Dust Collection by Marc Collins

June: Crosscut sleds by Chuck Nickerson, Eitan Ginsburg, and Jeff Bremer.

Q&A:

Greg Golden said he is using a ¼" 6TPI blade on his bandsaw. Is there an ideal blade size and configuration? There was consensus that this is a good all-purpose blade, though you might want to use a narrower blade for very tight curves and a wider blade for heavy-duty resawing.

Greg Rogers asked where he could get his table saw blade sharpened locally. Several members recommended AA Sharpening in North Hollywood.

Saul Cobian said he is considering to buy a Powermatic jointer and asked for recommendations. Several members endorsed Powermatic as a solid brand and suggested getting an 8-inch wide (or wider) jointer. A helical head was also recommended. If he is on a limited budget, used equipment is readily available.

Jim Baldrige said that he is trying to reuse old lumber for his projects and asked for recom-

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If you want to see this in action, go to <https://tinyurl.com/usfx2fwa>

mendations for a metal detector. Jim Cabernoch said the Harbor Freight version works just fine. Gary Coyne also suggested using a Zircon metal-detecting stud finder.

Ed Sheanin asked if it is OK to shake the paint or if the resulting bubbles would show up in a painted finish. The consensus was that shaking wouldn't matter, especially if the paint was brushed on.

Mike Spence asked where files and rasps can be renewed. Chuck suggested Boggs Tool Processing in Paramount.

Tips & Tricks:

Marc Collins said he likes to keep a can of spray lacquer around for quick finishing of small jobs. He avoids sprays that contain silicone because it makes later refinishing impossible.

Show & Tell:

Gary Coyne showed a picture frame he built in the Greene

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Upcoming Wood-related Events & Important News

from Jim Kelly

The following items of potential interest were found in the March – April 2023 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>.

Events

Now through October 3: The Maloof Historic Residence presents Larry White: Equilibrium, showing the work of Sam Maloof's long-time assistant. More information at: <https://tinyurl.com/4yr9rcra>

February 17 – 19: The National Arts & Crafts Conference will be held in Asheville, NC. More information at <https://tinyurl.com/mvjw5s4y>.

February 18: Tool Swap Meet at Anderson Plywood. More information at <https://tinyurl.com/39f4rbpp>.

March 8: The Diablo Woodworkers will have virtual presentations by Brian Newell. More information at: <https://tinyurl.com/3ucwwkvb>.

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& Greene style for a painting. It was made from mahogany with ebony buttons. (The painting of their corgis, came about because his wife had a deal with a friend who paints: Mara would make a quilt for Barbara who

Painted the corgis. Then, Gary made the frame.)

Ed Sheanin showed seven pens he made for his seven grandchildren, each with a pen stand bearing their initial, for Chanukah. He also showed a whirligig he made with a person chopping wood. [If you want to see this in action, go to <https://tinyurl.com/usfx2fwa>]



Dave Feiner showed the most recent cane he made, this one from eucalyptus and redwood. He also showed a Valentine's heart he made using bent rebar, bloodwood, and copper wire lacing.



April 13 – 15: The National Association of Music Merchants holds its 2023 NAMM Show at the Anaheim Convention Center. More information at <https://tinyurl.com/45w4uwud>

April 14 – 16: Society of American Period Furniture Makers hold their annual seminar at Cerritos College. Registration includes refreshments, two lunches, and Saturday dinner. More information at: <https://tinyurl.com/3wbefy77>

May 20: Tool Swap Meet at Anderson Plywood. For more information: www.andersonplywood.com/.

June 7 – July 4: The San Diego County Fair hosts the 40th annual Design in Wood Exhibition. The entry deadline is April 28. More information at: <https://tinyurl.com/5n96kjr2>.

July 14 – August 13: The Orange County Fair hosts Fine Arts Woodworking Show. Entry deadline is May 26. More information: www.ocfair.com.

July 25 – 28: the Association of Woodworking and Furnishings Suppliers will host their AWFS Fair at the Las Vegas Convention Center. Information at: www.awfsfair.org.

Marc Collins showed a short video of his very impressive LED Christmas lights and sound display.

Jeff Bremer showed two wooden eyeglasses stands he made in the shape of a nose.

Gary Hirsch showed the part of a twelve-string guitar he is currently building. The woods used are Sitka spruce, mahogany, ebony, sapele, and dyed purpleheart.

Presentation:



George Leach took club members on a virtual tour of his guitar shop (phoenixguitarco.com). He showed several of the jigs he uses to make guitar parts, including forms for shaping the sides, a jig he made for a long belt sander to shape the radius on the underside of fingerboards, and a jig that is used to cut soundboard pieces to length, width, and thickness,

and then shape and taper them.

He also showed two finished guitars that featured his phoenix logo inlaid at the top of the headstock. He explained that when he is cutting the parts for a complicated inlay, he arranges the individual



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From the Web

- 🔪 Make a Bookmatched End Grain Cutting Board
<https://tinyurl.com/3jx7swz7>
- 🔪 Stanley Tools, Catalog #34
<https://tinyurl.com/9pm468mm>
- 🔪 Sandpaper "Coatings", Demystified
<https://tinyurl.com/2yvcka7f>
- 🔪 A Better Way To Apply Oil Finishes!
<https://tinyurl.com/4x7wmayz>
- 🔪 How Much Epoxy Do You Need?
<https://tinyurl.com/yc2nkaec>
- 🔪 Turning Epoxy Bowls
<https://tinyurl.com/2k2f5fnt>
- 🔪 This table saw trick may FINALLY end dado blades
<https://tinyurl.com/46p4bt4d>
- 🔪 How To Choose the Best Wood for your Project
<https://tinyurl.com/yckvnw87>
- 🔪 Turning Epoxy Bowls
<https://tinyurl.com/2k2f5fnt>
- 🔪 Cutting & Handling Plywood in a One-Person Shop
<https://tinyurl.com/2vycdvsj>
- 🔪 Genius Idea? Game changing trick for Perfect Dowel Alignment without a Jig
<https://tinyurl.com/ym5fzx5n>
- 🔪 Marking Knives Don't Prevent Joinery Gaps, But DOING THIS Will
<https://tinyurl.com/2p8dzkzk>
- 🔪 THIS is the IDEAL Blade Height
<https://tinyurl.com/264s7ufw>
- 🔪 Building a Greene & Greene-Style Picture Frame

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parts on a copy of the pattern using double-sided tape. He then uses CA glue on the pieces to create a solid "tile," which he can then sand and finish as one unit.

He also showed how he uses a steel reinforcing piece inside the tailpiece of an electric guitar. This grounds the steel strings and prevents a resonant hum when the guitar is played under fluorescent lights.

Keenan asked how George cuts his inlays. He uses a simple birdsmouth table, a jeweler's saw that he uses to cut the small pieces, and a Dremel tool to cut the recesses. George said it is very slow and tedious work.

Eitan asked about the purpose of the bevels he saw on the slopes and sides of the guitars. George explained that it provides a softer edge for the guitar player's arm and chest.

Another member asked about the purpose of the sound ports cut into the side of the guitars. George explained that it allowed more air to move in and out of the guitar's body, resulting in more sound coming out of it.

<https://tinyurl.com/r746w8yn>

- 🔪 One Compass to Rule Them All
<https://tinyurl.com/2tjbae7x>
- 🔪 The Simple Hack That's Saving My Thumbs!
<https://tinyurl.com/48jdh5f3>
- 🔪 The 3 bandsaw blades that changed everything for me
<https://tinyurl.com/5n6t9477>
- 🔪 Strategies to minimize with wood movement
<https://tinyurl.com/33st9kkf>
- 🔪 Building a Bed with ROUND Castle Joints
<https://tinyurl.com/s8e5px6k>
- 🔪 WHY You Get Sanding Pigtales, and How To Avoid them
<https://tinyurl.com/s5c5ztpa>
- 🔪 The No-Nonsense Way to Sharpen a Card Scraper
<https://tinyurl.com/ycknw4fr>
- 🔪 Make 7 simple joints with your pocket-hole jig
<https://tinyurl.com/5n8h3cmx>
- 🔪 5 super simple woodworking jigs that'll make your life easier
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1YN02l9oqc>
- 🔪 Make a bonsai plant stand
<https://tinyurl.com/2p9ekja9>

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create a lot of sawdust and small pieces of wood, which can become airborne and cause eye and lung damage. Wear eye protection and a mask while using the saw.

4. **Electrical hazards:** To prevent electrical hazards, it is important to use the saw in a dry area and to always plug it into a grounded outlet.

5. **Improper use:** Finally, the most common safety issue with table saws is improper use. Be sure to read the instruction manual, take a safety course, and use the appropriate safety equipment, and if you're uncomfortable, take a course or ask a more experienced person.

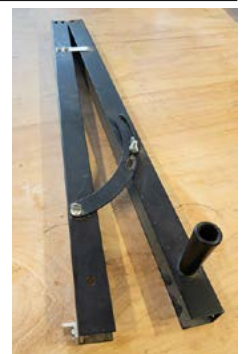
Additionally, be familiar with the specific safety hazards associated with their particular model of saw and take appropriate precautions to minimize the risk of injury.

Happy Woodworking, and be safe

Stefan

Free to a good home

Table Saw Taper jig.
Contact Gary @ 626-437-9492



One Tape Measure to Ruler Them All

by Gary Coyne

For many years I had a 16' Stanley Leverlock that was the perfect tape measure. It was small enough to easily fit in my hand, it had a spring lever on the bottom so whatever amount of tape you pulled out would stay out unless you squeezed the bottom of the unit to retract the tape back to the body.



But despite this one small issue, it was accurate and dependable — until it started to show signs of wear. At that point, I knew I needed to find a replacement as I didn't want to be in the middle of a job and suddenly need a replacement.

Unfortunately, this model is no longer being made which meant I needed to find a complete replacement.

After some research, I decided to get the FastCap (<https://tinyurl.com/3c3jb7c6>). In fact, I got two: one has the standard curve down the middle so that it can stick out past it being supported, and the other is flat to lie flat on the item you are measuring. One has been good (with limitations), the other has been a big disappointment.



One of the very good things on both is the belt clip on the back. Rather than

a simple spring that you tussle with to get over your belt (or the edge of your pants), they both have a lever-spring that you press with your thumb to open up the clip. I have to say that this is almost price of admission right there. I used to always leave my tape measure somewhere around my shop because it was such a pain to hook on. Now, I'm always hooking it on and never forget where it is. (And occasionally go into the house with it, but that's another story.)



Taking a measurement with it though is slightly a different story. My Stanley was a bit narrower (3/4" in width) and had a curve depth of 0.115" (<1/8"). The FastCap, on the other hand is a bit wider (7/8") but the curve depth is 0.0220". The good thing about a deeper curve is that the tape measure can stand out by itself then if it had a shallower curve. The negative of such a deep curve is that the

edges of the tape measure are further from the wood. Thus, if you're trying to mark where to make a cut, you need to press the edge of the tape measure against the wood.

To help solve this dilemma, FastCap came up with the Flat tape measure. This tape has no curve and can only stretch out about an inch or two before it succumbs to gravity. This seems like it would be a perfect solution, but alas it also has a bigger issue: When you pull against the stop, the tape lifts



up. This causes about a 1/32" change in the actual measure-

ment, and I do not like that. The only way around this is to lay something down on top of the end to keep it flat.

A feature that FastCap provides on some of their tape measures is that these tape measures are "Lefty/Righty" meaning that it can be read from either direction. So if you're looking for 6", you won't see a 9" and be confused. While well intended, I've always looked at the top of tape measure, not the bottom (and my old tape measure was often upside down). And, when I'm holding the tape measure in my right hand, the right-handed measurements are on the bottom. So, I end up looking at the upside down numbers anyway. However, I can look for the 6" and mark at the 9".



All their measuring tapes have built in pencil sharpeners, are very durable, accurate across all models, and do have a good feel to them. But neither of these has made me not miss my old tape measure.

FastCap has a great assortment of different models and sizes. Maybe there's one ruler for your measurements.

My Continued Carving

By Dave McClave

A young friend of mine, Valerie, turns 50 next week (8th). So I did this carving (more of an etching) in place of a birthday card. It even has a title—"Good Hair Day." Valerie is a vivacious, lovely woman. As best I can tell, the wood is maple or cherry.



The aromatic eastern red cedar mosaic is once again an image of harbor seals at Oxnard Inlet. I still have a good supply of scraps.