



San Fernando Valley Woodworkers since 1988

<http://sfvw.org/>

Meeting Minutes

by Eitan Ginsburg

SFVW – Minutes June 15, 2023 meeting

Club President Stefan Dusedau welcomed back longtime club member Doug Deary. Doug re-introduced himself, noting that he has been doing woodworking for about 70 years.

Announcements

Mark Collins said that he brought some tools (a sander, dado set, finish sprayer) to sell, and will donate the money to the club.

Jack Robbins brought a large number of chisels that he is selling.

Stephen asked for volunteers to make things to sell at the quilt show on October 14th. He also said that we need a volunteer to do the July newsletter because Gary Coyne will be out of town. Luke Wyatt volunteered (that's me!)

Jeff Bremer said that new club brochures are available that you can hand out to a prospective member.

Ed Sheanin said the toy build weekend has been set for October 21-22 at El Camino Real high school in Woodland Hills. He also invited members to take a piggy bank waste block and make something from it. Stefan said that that will be our competition for two months from now. The winner will win a \$25 Rockler gift card.

Reports

Finance: Jeff Bremer said that we are solvent.

Toy Committee: Jim Kelly has gotten more donated wood and sheet goods from Swaner Lumber and Anderson Plywood and is distributing it to people who are building toys. The wood can also be used to make items for the quilt show.

Stefan reported that the scheduled monthly presentations are:

- **July:** Blacksmithing by Mike Wells
- **August:** Crosscut sleds by Chuck Nickerson, Eitan Ginsburg, and Jeff Bremer.

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Our President says...

by Stefan Dusedau

As woodworkers we often work with chemical finishes. Here are some of the safety issues that we should always keep in mind:

1. Many wood finishes contain solvents that can release harmful fumes when they evaporate. These fumes can cause respiratory problems and irritation of the eyes, nose, and throat. To minimize the risk, it's important to avoid breathing in the fumes, so work in a well-ventilated area, and be sure to wear a respirator.
2. Wood finishes can be toxic or irritate the skin on contact. Wear gloves and protective clothing to avoid skin exposure. If the finish does come into contact with your skin, it should be washed off immediately with soap and water.
3. There are wood finishes that are flammable and can pose a fire hazard. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for proper storage and disposal of the finish. Avoid exposing the wood finish to heat sources or flames.

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June Presentation:

Blacksmithing by Mike Wells

Things will get hot and heavy as we explore the world of traditional blacksmithing by heating something up and then hitting it with a hammer. Over the course of this magical evening you will learn how blacksmiths turn pieces of metal into differently shaped pieces of metal, using only heat, skill, strength, and a collection of tools so heavy and ugly that your friends and neighbors wonder what is wrong with you. STEP RIGHT UP (but not too close unless you have eye protection) and witness Dr. Mike Wells try to explain 20,000 years of accumulated knowledge in about an hour while also forging a chisel or a hold down or ...really anything that seems fun at that moment.

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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- ♦ **September:** Jigs & Fixtures
- ♦ **October:** Chisel Techniques by Chuck Nickerson
- ♦ **November:** Toy Contest
- ♦ **December:** Holiday party

Safety Talk

Ed Sheanin spoke about using a router safely:

- ♦ The number one rule is don't work tired or distracted. Routers are versatile but dangerous. Coming into contact with a spinning bit can mangle your hands.
- ♦ Always wear a dust mask because it generates a lot of fine dust. Eye and hearing protection are important as well.
- ♦ Don't wear loose or long clothing, and tie back your hair if it is long. Don't wear gloves because if one catches on a bit, it will pull your hand into the spinning bit.
- ♦ Read the manual and keep your tool maintained.
- ♦ Use dust collection.
- ♦ When you are changing a bit, unplug the router. Make sure the bit is undamaged, clean, and sharp. Insert it all the way into the collet and then back it out about 1/8th of an inch. (Patrick Ramsey said he uses O-rings on the shanks of his router bits to keep them from bottoming out.) At least three quarters of the shank should be in the collet. Make sure the bit is secure and the collet and don't over tighten it.
- ♦ Only use router bits in the router, not other types, such as of rotary (Dremel), grinding, or drill bits. Never use a bit over 1 inch in diameter in a handheld router.
- ♦ Make sure your workpiece is secure and clamped down if you are routing freehanded.
- ♦ If the piece you want to rout is small, consider routing starting with a large piece, rout that, then cut it down to the size you need.
- ♦ Always keep two hands on the router.
- ♦ It is better to do a series of smaller cuts than try to do one large cut, especially in harder woods.
- ♦ Use a guard over the bit – it helps keep your fingers



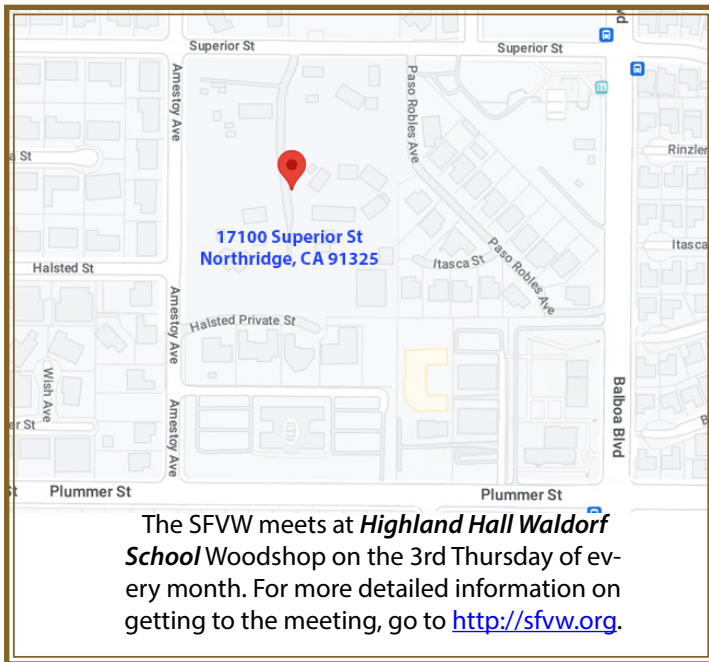
Club Officers

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

away from the spinning bit.

- ♦ On a router table use push sticks and featherboards to keep a piece secure against a router fence. Do not run your work piece between the router fence and the bit. When using wider bits, slow that slow down the router speed.
- ♦ Don't use collet extensions.
- ♦ Don't start the router when it is in contact with the workpiece.
- ♦ Rout in the correct direction: left to right when holding the router in your hands, and from right to left when the router is mounted upside down in a router table. You can go the opposite direction to do a climb cut but be careful and take very light cuts.
- ♦ Clean your bits to remove pitch and build up. There are a lot of commercial products or you can use something like Simple Green. But remember to remove any bearings from the bit before immersing or spraying with cleaning solution.
- ♦ Keep your work area well lit.

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Q&A

Tom Hall asked if anyone has a bandsaw that he might use to resaw some walnut, 24 x 24 x 6 inches. Patrick Ramsey offered to help.

Mark Collins asked for advice on a deep epoxy pour. One person said that if he is using a melamine base, it helps to wax the surface to keep the epoxy from sticking. He should seal the corners of his forms really well. Use a thick-set deep-pour epoxy. Alupalite, West Systems, or System 3 offer that type of epoxy. But be aware of the ultimate weight of the finished piece.

Mike Wells asked for advice on routing a bowl that is wider than his router base. One person suggested using a drill press and forcing our bits to hog out most of the waste, then finish with the handheld router. You can also use a template to do the outline.

Show & Tell

John Fisher showed a wooden plane and adjusting hammer that he made with Jeff Bremer.

Keenan showed a smoothing plane he also made with Jeff.

Gary Hirsch showed the archtop guitar that he just finished. It is made from spruce, African and Honduran mahogany, and a "torrified" purpleheart (kiln burnt to make it look like ebony). He made the tailpiece from ebony on a metal frame. It took about 80-100 hours to make. It is finished with an undercoat of epoxy, followed by 20 coats of Tru-Oil.

Mike Wells showed a spoon he carved from black walnut.



Upcoming Wood-related Events & Important News

from Jim Kelly

The following items of potential interest were found in the July – August 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>.

Upcoming Events

Now - October 3: The Maloof Historic Residence presents Larry White: Equilibrium, showing the work of Sam Maloof's long time assistant. More information [HERE](#)

July 14 – 30: The California State Fair has competitions in Woodworking in both the crafts and fine arts departments. More information at: www.castatefair.org/.

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

July 25 – 28: The Association of Woodworking and Furnishings Suppliers will host their AWFS Fair at the Las Vegas Convention Center. Early registration is now open. More information at: www.awfsfair.org.

August 2 - 13: The Channel Islands Woodturners will be demonstrating at the Ventura County Fair. More information at: www.channelislandswoodturners.org/.

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

September 1 – 30: The online gallery Wood Symphony presents: Small Treasures. More information at: www.woodsymphony.com/.

December 1 – 31: The online gallery Wood Symphony presents: Art of Giving. More information at: www.woodsymphony.com/

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From the Web

EASY Miter Saw Dust Collection That ACTUALLY WORKS / DeWalt DW716 & DW716XPS Upgrade
<https://tinyurl.com/3rwsnrtp>

Miter Saw Dust Collection (this was made for the presenter's Makita miter saw)
<https://tinyurl.com/y63uauzw>

SOLVED: Miter Saw Dust Collection. Mostly (this was made for Ridgid & Delta Cruzar saw)
<https://tinyurl.com/mry8633y>

Bosch Axial Glide Dust Collection Upgrades & Mods (for Bosch axial saws)
<https://tinyurl.com/bdf9cwjr>

The one fatal flaw of the Bosch Axial Glide (dust collection)
<https://tinyurl.com/d5jsfy63>

The Cheap Woodworking Tool I Can't Live Without
<https://tinyurl.com/yc7x8aft>

The Secret to Perfect Dados and Grooves / Woodworking
<https://tinyurl.com/57yuhsv9>

Adam Savage's Favorite Tools: 3 Essential Pliers!
<https://tinyurl.com/5x22am2n>

Build a Shavehorse from Two Boards.
<https://tinyurl.com/39hrvk2d>

This CLEVER ROUTER TRICK Might Be THE END of Jigs In My Shop / How to Route a Dado / Woodworking
<https://tinyurl.com/vw2yv9pz>

How to make caulk & adhesive last forever
<https://tinyurl.com/5cza9sta>

How to make a Dovetail Joint - | Paul Sellers
<https://tinyurl.com/2s4k4xdf>

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Presentation

Dennis Hays is a custom furniture maker (dwhays.com) as well as a volunteer and docent at the Sam Maloof foundation. He has woodworking for 40 years and his self-taught.

He calls himself a "Maloof-inspired" woodworker. He says inspired because it is "imbued with spirit to do something." He got started woodworking by building things he needed and eventually saw it as an art form and embraced the challenge of design.

A Fine Woodworking magazine article about Sam Maloof's rocking chair inspired Dennis to make one. Sam Maloof became famous for his rocking chairs and eventually Dennis felt that he needed to do something different than copying Sam's work. He stopped making furniture and made the guitars for about five years, using reclaimed wood. He made the guitar tops from redwood, the sides from walnut, and used eucalyptus from fallen trees from the Los Angeles Arboretum.

Dennis has no particular background in art or design. He draws sketches and then builds his pieces from sketches. He doesn't make measured drawings but just establishes the rough dimensions and the piece evolves during the making of it. He needs to be interacting with the wood as it comes together.

He visited Wharton Esherick's house in Pennsylvania, who is known as the grandfather of American studio furniture. He made a music stand and cello chair inspired by Sam Maloof but it was his old design. Dennis' pieces have won first place at the Orange County Fair four times in a row.

His shop is in the three car garage. He is still working on the original equipment he bought 30 years ago. His dust collection is tied into Alexa voice control. He mostly uses #1 common walnut, which is less expensive than clear lumber and

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4. Wood finishes may contain chemicals that can spontaneously combust, such as boiled linseed oil. Extra care should be taken with the rags and other items that come in contact with the finish. Either lay the rags out flat in a well-ventilated area, or secure them in a steel can with water and a lid.
5. Some wood finishes, such as spray finishes, can create an explosion hazard if they are used near an open flame or spark. It's important to use these finishes in a well-ventilated area away from potential sources of ignition.
6. A few individuals may be sensitive or allergic to the chemicals used in wood finishes. Symptoms can range from mild irritation to severe allergic reactions. Read and follow the manufacturer's safety instructions, and avoid using finishes that may cause a reaction. If you experience symptoms of an allergic reaction, seek medical attention immediately.

Overall, take proper safety precautions when applying finish to wood. This includes reading and following the manufacturer's safety instructions, working in a well-ventilated area, wearing protective clothing, using a respirator, and being mindful of fire hazards.

Be Safe. Happy Woodworking, Stefan



he's still able to get the pieces in the sizes he needs for his furniture.

He did a more intensive focus on a three-door console that he built. He showed how the concept sketch was very rough and he adjusts his designs as the build goes on. He's very happy to vary forms away from 90 degrees when he makes his furniture. He made hand cut dovetails with variable spacing. He showed how use uses a band saw with a depth stop to clean the back of his dovetails. He uses a Festool Domino to join pieces together before sculpting them. 90% of his sculpting is done with a thumbnail router bit and then a small elbow grinder, using a carbide bit, and then finishing with sandpaper. He demonstrated the wooden full extension drawer slides he used in the console as well as a small jewelry box.

He volunteers as a docent at the Sam Maloof foundation. He teaches a class there on building a small walnut table based on his own design, not Sam's. There are different tours and classes available at the Sam Maloof House.

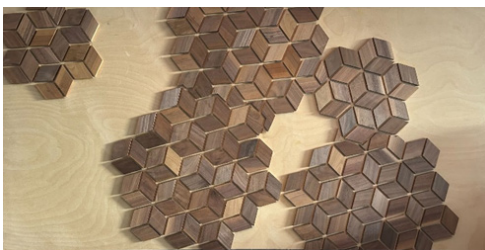
Walnut and Resin Hexagons:

A Lesson in Planning and Patience

by Emily Lichtman

Years ago, I had an idea for a painting on canvas. When I was ready to come back to it, I still liked the idea, but not the materials, and thought it would be way cooler to build it from wood and resin. I then proceeded to make almost every mistake along the way in executing it. Lessons were learned, albeit the hard way, and I will hopefully not make them again. Here we go.

I failed to truly flesh out this piece before getting started. I didn't plan or prepare properly before getting started and it caused a multitude of headaches down the road. I chose to use thin walnut hobby boards, about 1.5" x 36" x 1/4". This way, I could get the diamond shapes I wanted with just one cut. I don't regret using these boards, but I do regret using ONLY these boards. Later in the piece, I realized I wanted the cubes to be made of 3 different shades of wood to give the effect of light and dimension. I had already started with the walnut, however, so I ended up having to use stain to TRY to create some differentiation in color. Not good, I know. If I try this method again, I will definitely use three different woods to truly show the dimension.



Next, I glued them to a 2' x 4' piece of warped plywood I had around the shop that was the right size. I thought I could control the warp later when I poured the resin. Another mistake. In addition, the plywood I used added too much thickness and weight to a piece I was hoping to hang on a wall. But, I was eager to work on it and wanted to use the materials I had. Tsk tsk tsk...

I applied the diamond shapes to form cubes and then hexagons and positioned them at different angles to create collisions between them. Again, should have sketched this out better. The end result is not terrible, but I would have positioned the hexagons in different ways if I could go back. But, because I was attaching the hexagons as I went, I didn't see how it was coming together until it was too late.

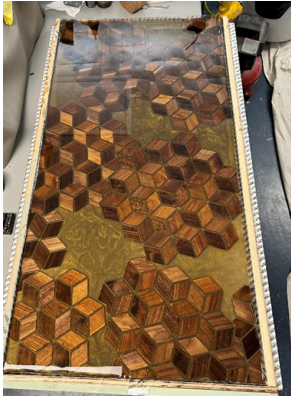


After 2 coats of stain to try to create some color differentiation among the pieces, it was time for resin. Now, I SHOULD have sealed the walnut pieces in some manner before covering them in resin, but again, impatience got the best of me. The gold resin went down ok and left about 1/16 inch left to cover with the clear coat, which I thought would create some dimension between the gold and clear resin layers. However, when I poured the first layer of clear resin, the mistake of not sealing the wood became clear, or rather, NOT clear.

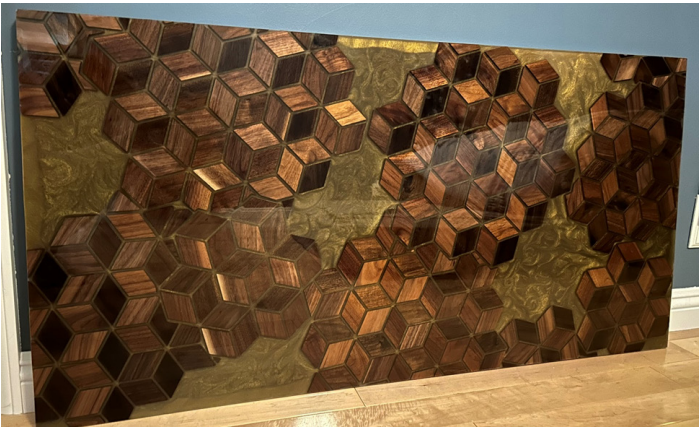
The bubbles were unstoppable in some places and I could not get rid of them all before the resin set. The piece was a mess with spots of bubbles all over. I considered scrapping the whole thing, but figured it couldn't get worse, so after some Googling, I used a Dremel to carve out the areas with bubbles and poured another top coat. Amazingly, the destruction from the Dremel was filled almost seamlessly by the resin. You can see slight depressions from the holes if you catch it in the right light, but overall, a success of a save (that never should have needed to be made in the first place).

After curing, I demolded and cleaned up the edges in the table saw. Turns out flattening the piece in the mold and pouting the resin was not enough to fix the warp. So, now I have a new problem to try to fix. I am thinking about bracing the back with something to straighten





it, but I don't want to create too much depth (don't want the piece to stick out too far from the wall). I also need to add a frame or border of some sort, which is also TBD. So, the mistakes and the lessons continue, but overall, it's fun to look at and I hope to get it up somewhere I can enjoy it. Or maybe I'll just turn it into a table. The evolution continues...



Perks of Membership

by Gary Hersch

I've only been woodworking for a couple of years. Once I built a few projects for things around the house, I started seeking out resources and found the club as part of a Google search. During one of those first couple of meetings, as part of Show and Tell, Tom Ferkel showed off a dulcimer he made and commented that he'd built several instruments, had documented the process, and if anyone was interested, he was willing to share. Well, my hand went up almost immediately and almost by itself. Over the next couple of months, Tom taught me how to build a ukulele.

Since then, I've built a number of ukuleles and guitars. I am currently on instrument #18, and throughout this process, I've sought advice and help from several club members who have graciously accommodated me.

My most recent example is part of my current build. I am building a 16" Archtop guitar and decided to use a different type of tailpiece (the part that anchors the strings to the body at the butt end of the guitar). The ones I made previously were solid ebony and attached to the guitar with a "tailpiece fastener" that attaches to the tailpiece through a couple of cavities carved into the bottom and holes drilled

into the end and then wraps around the jack in the butt of the tailpiece.

The one I want to make for this project is also ebony, but this time epoxied onto a steel "skeleton." It will be a bit lighter weight and have the advantage of grounding the strings (to help avoid some feedback when amplified).

I borrowed a skeleton from my friend George (he's where I got this idea) to use as a model and then contacted member Mike Wells to see if he could help me fabricate this. I've done no metalworking, and I knew that Mike teaches this craft at our new club home, Highland Hall. Mike said, "Sure, come on by" (like every member I've called asking for help), and he guided me through this process. Cutting, drilling, filing (lots of filing), and bending. In a matter of just a couple hours, we had not just one but two relatively good copies done. And I learned a few things in the process!

Once I had the skeleton done, I needed to fabricate the ebony piece to go over the skeleton. The blank I had was about 5/8" thick x 9" x 3.5". The length and width were good, but I only needed a piece about 1/4" thick. I don't have a great resaw blade on my band saw, so I called another club member, Eitan Ginsberg, who also said, "Sure, come on by." In a matter of minutes, the piece was split in two, and now I have blanks for both skeletons!

This build was done in time for last month's Show and Tell, I hope you saw it.

But none of my builds would really be possible without members being so willing to assist whenever I put out a call for help. So, thank you to Tom and Chuck and Gary and Eitan and Mike (and anyone I've inadvertently left out). Woodworking is a great hobby, and so much more satisfying when being able to learn new things.

