



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

SFVW – Minutes January 19, 2023 meeting

The meeting began with the program presentation, “Joint Decisions: Selecting Which to Use When Several are Possible”. Gary Coyne introduced Stu Crick, who Zoomed in from Florida. Gary and Chuck Nickerson had taken a class with him many years ago on building an Arts & Crafts style bedside table. Handouts were sent out with the meeting notice. Crick also published an article about building this table in American Woodworker magazine (April/May 2009, issue #141), which can be downloaded from his website (www.stuswoodworks.com). Stu welcomed questions by email, and if needed, can arrange calls to discuss the question.

Stu explained that this talk would be about joinery and the principles to consider when deciding what to use in different circumstances. He noted that when you see a piece of furniture in a museum, it is there because it has survived, which means it was designed to allow for wood movement and was designed to be repaired. The reality is that joints will eventually fail, and well-designed joints can be repaired.

He said that there are many ways to arrive at

See “Minutes” on page 2

Our President says...

by Stefan Dusedau

I spent most of my career in IT doing Project and Program Management. As a certified Project Management Professional (PMP), I often had to either create project plans or review others’ plans. As has been pointed out previously, building something through woodworking is a project. Whether it’s taking a simple picture frame or building an ornate hutch, it all breaks down into project steps.

My wife had purchased a couple of beautiful photos from a friend of hers that were already matted but not framed. I decided to go ahead and make a picture

frame myself. The first step was to get all the measurements and then decide on the width of the wood frame. Luckily, I had some nice cherry in the shop, so it didn’t require a run to a supplier. Next, I needed to plan the steps to complete the frame. As a PMP you would think that I would create an entire plan. No, not for me on such an “easy project.” At this point, I decided to fly by the seat of my pants and instead use the “What is the next step?” method. I got the stock close to size and then figured out the exact dimensions needed and cut them to length (with a 45° angle).

Next, I set up the router table to route the rab-

See “President” on page 6

Dues are now Due!

If you haven’t paid yet, it’s time. Our dues are \$35 per year (\$15 for students), and our esteemed Treasurer, Jeff Bremer, can take your dues via check, cash or Venmo.

If you need to contact Jeff for any questions, his email and phone number or on the next page in the Club Officers.



Eitan’s Muddler
(see page 5)

February Presentation:

by George S Leach, Luthier

George will talk about making guitars and give a tour of his Phoenix Arizona Guitar business. You can see his business’ website here: <https://www.phoenixguitarco.com>

Who We Are

The club was formed in 1988 for the purpose of enhancing skills, providing information and sharing the joys of working with wood. The membership reflects a cross section of woodworking interests and skill levels - both hobbyist and professionals. Annual dues are \$35. Full-time student dues are \$15.

"Minutes" from page 1

your final result rather than any "one right way." How you do it is up to you, based on the tools you have, your skill set, your experience, and what you can do safely. Safety can be indicated by your comfort level – if it feels awkward, it is likely unsafe. He also cautioned that repetitive cuts that can lead to boredom, complacency, and accidents.

Referencing his handout, he said that there are four elements acting on a joint:

- 1) Stress system: four sources of stress acting on a joint - compression, shear, racking, and tension.
- 2) Grain direction: It is best if wood movement in the joint is in the same direction, worst if it is both radial and longitudinal movement are opposite.
- 3) Dimensional changes.
- 4) Surface condition (how the wood accepts glue): a smooth, cut surface accepts glue better than a rough, torn surface.

He recommends Bruce Hoadley's book "Understanding Wood", as a source for this.

When choosing glue, Stu said some factors to consider are set-up time, clamping time, clean-up, and gap-filling ability. Stu likes hide glue if you need a long clamp time or if the placement of clamps creates a hard configuration for cleanup. Hide glue is also easy to reverse using moisture and heat. Stu uses Old Brown Glue from Patrick Edwards in San Diego. Epoxy is great for filling gaps. Modern glues (like yellow wood glue) are chemically very strong but hard to repair. White glue is typically more elastic than yellow glue, has a longer open time, but needs longer clamping time.

Stu often uses fasteners if he needs to reinforce a high-stress joint, although aesthetic considerations should be taken into consideration. He also uses a fastener to resist or direct wood movement (for example, using a screw on one side of a board so that all the movement will go towards the other, non-fastened end).

Stu remarked that if it is hard to fit a joint by hand and you need to pound it in with a mallet, it is probably too tight. When trimming parts for joining, be careful to keep the bearing surfaces even, smooth, perpendicular, and consistent across the joint. Keep your cutting blades sharp so that wood fibers are cut rather than torn. Glue (especially

Club Officers

President:	Stefan Dusedau	(201) 310-4877 sdusedau@gmail.com
Vice President:	Jim Baldrige	818-400-3156 jvbaldridge@gmail.com
Secretary:	Eitan Ginsburg	(818) 469-8939 eitan.ginsburg@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Jeff Bremer.	(310) 740-6892 jabremer@msn.com
Photographer	Calvin Sov	(714) 457-8910 calvin_sov@yahoo.com
Publisher:	Gary Coyne	(626) 799-4196 gary@thecoynes.com
Librarian:	Grant Christensen	(818) 240-6767 gwc7@att.net
Web Master:	Ed Sheanin	(818) 346-6732 ed@sheanin.com
Toy Chair:	Jim Kelly	(323) 254-0837 jimkelly@earthlink.net
Toy Distribution:	Sheila Rosenthal	818-653-4847 sheiladeee@yahoo.com
Refreshments:	Open	(626) 666-6666 needone@needy.com

chemical glues) stick to cut cells better than torn cells.

Stu also recommends Gary Rogowski's book "The Complete Illustrated Guide to Joinery." Rogowski shows many different ways to cut each type of joint. Stu recommends cutting the joint in whatever way is best suited to your tools, experience, and comfort level.

Stu highlighted the bedside table from his American Woodworker magazine article. He explained building this table is a good way to try out different joints, which were designed to take wood movement into consideration. He showed how a housed tenon joint, used frequently by Greene & Greene, which takes more time to make but can hide some wood movement in the joint. A housed mortise is about 1/8" deep, and Stu suggested spending more time on the "housed section of the mortise than the tenon or mortise, which are hidden.

Stu also suggested reading an article about double tenons by Craig Stevens (Fine Woodworking, June 2001, number 149).

Question: How does sanding affect the surface condition of a joint? Stu said that proper sanding is OK but must be done carefully and through all the grits, so you end up with a smooth surface. It is time-consuming, and you need to be

See "Minutes" on page 4

Upcoming Wood-related Events & Important News

from Jim Kelly

The following items of potential interest were found in the January – February 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 February 24: The Escondido Arts Partnership Gallery hosts the 13th annual Wood: A Furniture Show. More information at: <https://tinyurl.com/bddp3ky9>.

Now through April 1: Entrees for The LA Makers Fair which showcases the amazing work of all makers and STEM organizations. From junior tinkerers to professional inventors, we welcome anyone who has do-it-yourself (or together) spirit and wants to share their accomplishments and inspire an appreciative audience. <https://tinyurl.com/2p8hze2y>

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>.

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>

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: www.sdfair.com/exhibits/design-in-wood/.

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.



Router Bit Vice Review by Gary Coyne

As we work our wood with cutting power tools, the wood's pitch can (and will) build up on the edges. The pitch helps generate heat which can burn the wood, and can speed up the dulling process, which generates more heat which can also burn the wood. Thus, it behoves us to remove the pitch. Fortunately, the same chemicals that remove the pitch from our table saw blades will work on router bits. But some of our router bits have an issue: we do not want to soak the bit's bearings in pitch removal, but, getting the bearing off can be a challenge. We do not want to grab the shaft with pliers because that can scratch mar the shaft's surface.

Fortunately, most woodworking companies sell some kind of Router Bit Vices. They are not expensive, and worth every penny.

I got mine from Infinity, mostly because I needed to get over a minimum \$ amount for free shipping. This one is good for both the standard 1/4" and 1/2" router bits as well as 8 mm.



These function because they have one-way bearings built into them. That is, the bearings rotate in one direction only. So, if you wish to loosen the screw holding the bit's bearing, you flip the Router Bit Vice so the Loosen text is facing you and insert the bit with a CW rotation to get the bit into the Vice. Once you've removed the bit's bearing, you remove the bit, again with a CW rotation.



After you've cleaned the bit, you then flip the Vice over to see the Tighten side, and insert the bit with CCW rotation, replace the bearing and tighten the screw. Then continue with

the CCW rotation to remove the bit from the Vice.

While I like my Infinity Router Bit Vice very much and feel that anyone should get one, I do not think there's anything special about THIS one. I think they all work pretty much the same (although this one appears to be the only one with the 8 mm option).

So, the next time you need a little financial padding to get free shipping, and you need one of these, I strongly recommend you get one. Your bits will be cleaner and your wood less burnt.

From the Web

Shackleton's Cabin (2023) - BBC Documentary

On 5th January 1922, world-famous Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton died of a heart attack in his cabin aboard The Quest during his final expedition to the South Pole. Moored in Norway, The Quest was broken apart. However, one of the dockers had the foresight to remove Shackleton's cabin. He took it home, and it served as his family's garden shed for three generations.

Nearly 100 years after Shackleton's death, the cabin has been donated to a museum in the explorer's hometown, where master craftsman and Shackleton enthusiast Sven Habermann painstakingly restores it to its former glory. With only one surviving photograph of the cabin's interior, Sven goes to extreme lengths to retrace every detail, from the wood to the original wallpaper used. Shackleton's Cabin follows Sven as he rebuilds the cabin and explores the life and final days of his hero.

<https://tinyurl.com/4u5febju>

📌 JUNK Combination Squares - Can You Still Use Them?

<https://tinyurl.com/yp672pwh>

📌 [DIY] All-in-one table saw sled / Various functions / Woodworking / Tips and tricks

<https://tinyurl.com/7bmsd9kw>

📌 Things you didn't think you could do with a drill press

<https://tinyurl.com/4p3u7j6b>

📌 George and Jimmy's Glue Tips

<https://tinyurl.com/4x6mkk84>

📌 Shellac: The best finish ever?

<https://tinyurl.com/yc3r4n9u>

📌 Build a bench-on-bench

<https://tinyurl.com/yc5v57ub>

📌 Working with sheet goods in a small shop

<https://tinyurl.com/ne2fn625>

📌 Most impressive wood joints ever!

<https://tinyurl.com/2hkd8nzs>

📌 How to Bend Wood Like a PRO Woodworker | Woodworking Project

<https://tinyurl.com/437vdcxk>

📌 These fixes changed my band saw forever!

<https://tinyurl.com/5bj9mmxf>

📌 Why bandsaw blades squeal

<https://tinyurl.com/4ct3r3ax>

📌 How to Balance Band Saw Wheels

<https://tinyurl.com/yu2bmtts>

📌 How to Select Bandsaw Blades

<https://tinyurl.com/2p8uzzrj>

📌 The Difference Between Thin & Full Kerf Blades is SMALLER Than You Thought

<https://tinyurl.com/5yjcjvvn>

📌 Possibly the Single Greatest Table Saw Upgrade / Table Saw Tips and Tricks / Woodworking

<https://tinyurl.com/ypmhnkcr>

📌 Three Easy Ways to Prevent Table Saw Kickback When Crosscutting / Woodworking

<https://tinyurl.com/22d9v88b>

📌 The One Simple Table Saw Hack You've Probably Never Heard Of

<https://tinyurl.com/27h3w348>

📌 How To Make Perfect Half Lap Joints On The Table Saw

<https://tinyurl.com/bd36fmrdr>

📌 Vertical Miter Shooting Board Build | Perfect Box Miter Joints

<https://tinyurl.com/2p95cjjz>

📌 Using Your Miter Gauge BACKWARDS?!

<https://tinyurl.com/3penbsr5>

📌 Simple ZERO-KICKBACK, Repeatable-Cut Crosscut Sled / How to Cut Small Pieces on the Table Saw

<https://tinyurl.com/ym823r8t>

"Minutes" from page 1

careful not to sand too much on one side and get the tenon out of parallel. He said the surface that comes off a clean power tool blade is usually OK as a glue surface.

Question: What clearance in a mortise and tenon joint is good? Is 0.004" sufficient? Stu said that calipers are good for matching dimensions but that relative dimensions are more important than precise measurements of a particular number. If the tenon wiggles in the mortise, that's too much. If you have to pound it in with a dead blow hammer, that's too tight.

Question: Can you use a router plane to clean up tenons? Yes, but don't let the plane tip to one side so you can insure the surface stays parallel across the tenon. Stu said he often makes duplicate pieces of matching sizes from poplar so that he can use them to create a bridge for router planing.

Question: Do you put glue in the housed part of the mortise? Stu said that he just puts glue on the long part of the tenon, not on the housed part. This results in a cleaner glue-up. Also, you don't really get any benefit since it would be in an end-grain glue-up.

Question: What do you use to clean glue squeeze out? Stu uses a toothbrush and water and scrubs the hell out of the wood. Then, with a rag, clean up any water. There may be some wood fibers sticking out after it dries, but this is quickly cleaned up with very fine sandpaper.

Question: How do you cut your double tenons accurately? Stu cuts the outside shoulders of the tenon on a test piece of wood. Then he cuts the mortise on another test piece of wood. Once these fit, then he can go back and cut a double mortise using the initial sample as the outside limit.

See "Minutes" on page 5

Finally, he can cut the double tenon to fit the mortise, again all on test pieces that have the same dimensions as the actual thing being made.

Formal Start of Meeting and Introductions

Stefan welcomed newcomers to the meeting and asked them to introduce themselves. Jonathan Neil said he's been doing finish carpentry since high school and is now getting into fine woodworking. Keenan Blough is the woodworking teacher at Highland Hall School. He said he is relatively new to woodworking and is getting into carving and furniture making. Saul Cobian said he did woodworking in high school but was discouraged from pursuing it by his parents. He's worked in a fence factory, and he's been doing woodworking now for three years.

Committee Reports

Jim Kelly said the Toy Committee has begun meeting, and the members are ready to begin this year's efforts. We hope to exceed last year's total of 1530 toys produced. We may reinstate the November toy contest. More information about that will come.

Jeff Bremer presented the Annual Financial Report, which showed good receipts from dues, trade show sales, and donations. But there have also been rising costs for toy parts.

Stefan said that the February presentation will be by Phoenix Guitar and will include a tour of their shop. The March presentation will be by Burl Wheaton from the Historic Carousel Museum in Albany, Oregon. He will show the carousel animals they have made and talk about carving techniques. The topic for April's presentation will be determined.

Tips and Tricks

Jeff showed sections of a video on "10 Keepsake Boxes," which he said demonstrated several great jigs (<https://tinyurl.com/24sh32bb> – Ed.):

- a zero-clearance base using MDF board for a table saw
- a thin and light frame-only crosscut sled (no base)
- a clamping jig for boxes that used opposing wedges adjusted by screws
- a method to cut the mortises for lid hinges by making it in a strip of wood that is glued to the top of the box side, rather than cutting it into the box side directly.

Show and Tell

Eitan Ginsburg showed a muddler (used to crush herbs for mixed drinks) he turned from olive. He also showed a couple of practice boards he's been working on to learn chip carving patterns.

Jeff Bremer showed a wooden plane he made. He is selling it for \$50, which is the cost of the Hock blade in it. He offered again to teach people how to make wooden body planes.

Gary Hersch showed a guitar top he's working on with a segmented rosette.

Jonathan Neil showed a small chest he made from Honduran mahogany for his father's collection of chipped flints. The front is raked at 15°, and it has flocked drawers. He also showed a box that he made for his daughter's 16th birthday out of cherry and curly maple (and which has a secret drawer).

Ron Sabatino showed a pair of box-jointed coaster holders he made from mesquite and ash.

Stefan Dusedau showed a bespoke turned pen that he made from cast acrylic. The only parts he bought were the nib and ink cartridge.

Dale Gertsch showed a few of the turned Christmas trees he made from various kinds of wood: walnut, purpleheart, zebrawood, and camphor.

Announcements

Stefan reminded members that we sometimes make things to sell at the quilt show or other venues to raise money for the club. He asked members to please consider making something to donate for sale, especially if anyone is wondering what to make next.

We have been working on finding a venue to return to in-person meetings. We may be able to secure the wood shop at Highland Hall School in Northridge. Mike Wells and Keenan Blough, who are the metal shop and wood shop teachers there, took us on a brief video tour of the space. We hope that we will return to meet in person there starting in April. The room at Balboa Park won't be available any time in the foreseeable future, and our recent survey results showed that the vast majority of the club members are comfortable returning to in-person meetings.

Restoring a Table

By Jonathan Nail

We've had our Pottery Barn mahogany "outdoor" table for nearly 20 years, and we didn't do our best in caring for it. Sadly, the top became so warped and worn by the weather, that we debated whether to replace or restore it. The legs and apron were still in good shape, but the top was beyond repair, and we couldn't afford to buy new. So, I decided to put my skills as a woodworker to the test and rebuild the top

with some reclaimed Honduran mahogany I picked up for a song. I matched the design exactly, using dowels for joinery, and took care with aligning the grain pattern. The top is nearly complete, just



need to build the two butterfly leaves that fold out when the two panels are pulled outwards. This time I'll use spar varnish or Waterlox to protect our patio centerpiece.

"President" from page 1

bit for the glass and picture to sit in. After running all four pieces through the router, I did a glue up using the blue tape clamping method. I decided to test fit the glass and picture in the frame, and of course, the rabbit was not correct. Back to the router table I went! Unfortunately, I had the frame already glued, so it was a little bit difficult to get an accurate cut this time. This a great reminder that doing a "dry fit" is always a good idea! Finally, I got it close enough and put a varnish finish on the frame. Once the frame was dry, I went to install the glass and picture, only to notice that the rabbit was too deep, and I needed to add a second cardboard backer. I breathed a sigh of relief once the photo, backing, and glass all fit in the frame.

Oh, wait! There's a second photo! I need to do it all again, and I didn't write down all the steps, so I can't wiz through making the next frame.

So, what is the moral here? Whatever project you approach, get your plan together. You can use some of the software available, like SketchUp, MacDraft/PC Draft or EZ Wood Designer, or just take a moment to write down the steps you will need to take and document all your cuts manually. And if you decide to use the "What is the next step?" method, take notes as you go on all the steps. Planning is a real time saver, should make the project go more smoothly, and most importantly, be repeatable.

Happy Woodworking,
Stefan

Rich Benson's Projects

Old birdbath base gets new role as cocktail table! Top is a valley oak offcut, elliptical shape, now at an equestrian stable in Sunland. The parent board is pretty big, 16/4 x 6' x 14' on my leveling jig.



For Sale — Dust Collection System

Rich Benson has an "almost new" Rockler Dust Right wall mount collector (650CFM, 3/4 hp) with canister filter and Jet front end separator. I think this group was over \$1000 new. My kid in Clovis replaced this with a bigger 3 hp system. I was thinking of setting up for my belt sander but I'll never get around to it. How about \$500 or best offer? Make an offer? If interested call me at 626 798-5110.

Free to a good home

Cork Bulletin Board, 2' x 3'. Slight wear, mounting brackets are included (pins not included).

Contact Gary Coyne (626-437-9492 or gary@thecoynes.com).

You can pick it up at your convenience (fair warning, I live in South Pasadena).



Here's an unusual board, 8/4 x 48 x 90 Sequoia. It's a salvage from Sequoia National forest, quarter sawn. Now a dining table top, the base is two steel trestles attached to a local redwood glue-up sub table because I couldn't bear to put any holes in this unique board. I count 1600 annual rings - the dark stripes are very tight grain from drought years. Someday I'll figure out the line from when William the conqueror came ashore.