

OREGON WOOD WORKS

TIME MARCHES ON

BOB OSWALD

As I write this article, and work on various sections of the newsletter, it's snowing. Christmas, the snowy part that is, is very early this year. Many disruptions to life in the Northwest. Missed appointments, snow-bound. And high on the list was having to cancel the Christmas party. It clearly turned out to be a night to sit home by the fire.

When I sat down a week ago to start this letter, the snow has just started. Little did I know that I would not leave the house again for... nine days and counting. You live in the country, you provide a little better for yourself; you have a 4x4. Then Portland requires chains no matter what you drive. Who could know how severe the weather could really be. Do you realize that, at our latitude, 45 degrees North, we are the only part of the United States that does not experience severe winter weather on an ongoing basis. Look horizontally to the right, Montana, Wyoming, Dakotas, Minnesota, all the way to Maine. Our

little garden paradise has been invaded.

But the enjoyable part is some time in the shop. I've heard from a few members about enjoying a few days off and time to do a little woodworking. Just in time to maybe make a little something for a family member for Christmas.

Have a wonderful, safe and special Christmas with your family and friends. We'll see you at the Joinery soon.



Tool of the Month

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NEXT MEETING—JANUARY 21, 2009 7:00 PM

The Joinery, 4804 SE Woodstock Blvd, Portland, OR 97206 . 800.259.6762

THE JOINERY

DESIGN. DETAIL. CRAFTSMANSHIP. FOREVER

This month we will meet at The Joinery, a local high quality woodworking business. Gary Michael has invited us to

The Joinery: About 2 miles south of Franklin HS

From I-205 take the Foster road exit west to SE 82nd, then go left to Woodstock. Take a right and go about a mile and a half and you're there.

From SE Powell, take SE 58th south to Woodstock and go right for only about half a mile.

From Beaverton or I5, head east across the Ross Island Bridge (OR26) and follow Powell 3.2 mi. Bear right at Foster 0.2 mi. Turn south on 52nd 1.1 mi Turn right at SE Woodstock Blvd .2 mi on left

come in and see how they run their business to make tables and chairs, dressers and headboards, and custom work. A presentation and a tour.

The Board will meet at 6:00. The meeting will start at 7:00.

Bring a chair if you would like to sit for the presentation.



THE END OF A NICE STORY

BOB OSWALD

This project involved more than a few guild members at Franklin for a few weeks. Gig contacted a few high schools at the start of the program. "Would you like to have your students build toys for our program?" Two schools joined the program, St. Paul and David Douglas. Both instructors turned it into a semester lesson in production. Design, prototype, work out the bugs, develop a plan, build in quantity, meet deadlines. All these things are a critical part of the working world. And at delivery time, as we



St Paul HS Wood Shop Students, Instructor, Marines

yet, this is still three weeks before Christmas, but they were filling up as we stood there. Thousands of toys, all going to



David Douglass HS Wood Shop Students



chat-
ted with the students, it was clear that lessons were learned. Besides doing something for someone else, this project gave many students a focus. A reason to do something and a delivery time required. And a sense of pride. What we build is going to go to someone else, a 'customer'. Suddenly good enough isn't the by-line.

And both schools did a marvelous job. The marine corps liaison, Major Curt Loberger, was there with Gig and I to take delivery of their toys. In full dress with ribbons, it added to the formality, the scope of the project and just the enjoyment of helping those who give so much to help us.

Gig and I each drove a full size truck with back full of toys, about 450 at best count. The Coast Guard



Young Marine & Gig take a last look.

base at Swan Island is also home for the Marine Corps Reserve. The delivery lot had huge containers, about 20 of them, each marked with an age range. They were not full

needy families in the Greater Portland area. And the Guild made a difference. These were the only hand made toys visible. All made of wood.
We were presented with a delightful plaque thanking the Guild for the efforts. I'm sure Gig will bring it to the next meeting.

All in all, a very successful program. Everyone, and I mean



Part of our shipment of toys

everyone, said we must do this again. Now we know how it works. We can easily recruit a dozen high schools. We should easily get more involvement from the Guild folks.

It was and will be a Merry Christmas for many little children.



A delightful certificate !!

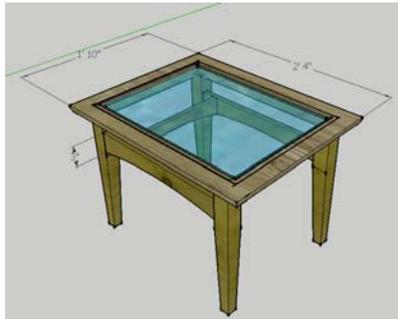
FROM CONCEPT TO CREATION

BOB OSWALD

Using all the tools. That used to mean the saw and the sander. Then it grew to include a planer and jointer, etc, etc, all the tools that cut wood. And now it's growing nicely to include software. You're heard a bit, possibly more than enough, but here's some more, about SketchUp. The Guild meeting with Lloyd Johnson, so superficial his presentation was compared to the power of this program, really made SketchUp workable for me.

Here's the new furniture creation process. The good news is that after a year of procrastinating, doing other peoples work, excuse after excuse, I'm building two end tables for the living room. At this writing, it's "building" as in I haven't started cutting the lumber yet. But I know what I want and I have buy in at the higher levels.

With the idea in mind, a software model was first. It used to be pencil and paper, but it's so hard to move the lines around, change the shape or perspective with an eraser. You know how it goes. With software, everything moves. I'll summarize Sketchup very briefly with the most significant lesson I learned, *use components*. Make a top, make it a component. A component is not affected by other things going on. So you build your table out of the very pieces you will build it out of for real. Here's a photo. Note the transparent glass; I'm so tickled with that. Didn't need it, took a while to figure out, but you could show this to a customer.



Ready to go to work. Well, almost, but I remember the pleasing experience of building a model of that hall table this summer. A model provides you the opportunity to see the real product in perspective. Cool, do it again. This time some scraps of Peruvian Walnut add a reality to



it that was not anticipated. What took the most time was re-learning how to cut glass. Small piece, near vision still recovering from surgery, but it came out.

Time to build the model was about an hour.

Notice the lower shelf, also with a glass insert. It's not in the software model. When the model was finished, it was a pretty simple affair to add the shelf by measuring the model and cutting a little more stock.

The model looks stunning to say the least. And something did not look right about it. After a lot of twisting, turning, and finally checking dimensions against the furniture it was going to replace, the top 'picture frame surround' was 40% too wide. That saved a lot of grief in the shop. In reality, the software model was correct. The real model somehow grew to a larger size.

The real table, well that's *coming soon*. I know I can pretty much hammer it out in a day. I know what I want, dimensions come from the software and the model. I really, really enjoy building big things when I don't have to spend an hour, or more, staring at the design, trying to figure out in real time what size the next piece should be, where it should fit, how it should be joined.

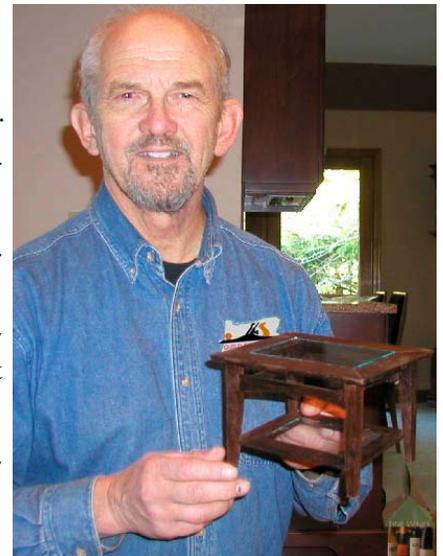
Of course all the pondering begs the question, why not build from plans. It's so much easier. Cut the parts the way they say, put it together, done. Two major observations about that. First, of course, you must find a plan that you like well enough to want to build for your living room. Have you ever seen a plan like the model here?

Second, a two headed monster, many plans have errors or inconveniently neglect to clarify the one detail you can't figure out—and—I for one get lost in those 10 page, color photo plans that tell you to go to the saw, release the rip fence lock, move the fence to the 4 inch position, lock..... you get the point?

So the real beauty is to dream up something that you would really like to have in your home, prototype it in some fashion, and build it.

And those models are really so cute.. They're probably saleable or useable somewhere.

You'll probably see the final product in a future newsletter, hopefully the next one, with a few lessons learned there also.



THINGS I LEARNED IN TOYS FOR TOTS

BRIAN WARRINGTON

* Measurements change all by themselves! We cut pieces one week just to come back the next and find things all wrong. After fixing them, they just might change again. Once cut to the right size, the wood may just warp or twist if it sets out. But one thing's for sure, you can cut them as many times as you like and they'll still be too small.

* Other people make mistakes too! I thought I had the handle on screwing things up, but it seems I've got some competition. The best part of this is that we can still laugh at ourselves for it.

* Using certain power tools for the first time, while somewhat intimidating, builds confidence at an amazing rate. A little guidance and I was able to do a lot of things easily that would normally have taken me a longer time. Bets of all, with Bob Oswald's help and guidance, I kept all of my fingers.

* A little imagination can go a long way. When errors occur, a little brainwork can save some pieces from the woodstove. Or the sawdust pile. In a "waste-not-want-not" environment, the ol' noodle can save your bacon if you give it a chance.

* My fellow woodworkers are good people. They helped me with ideas and techniques I couldn't profess to know, and they did it without their hand out and without the need for

glory. There was absolutely no competition. What a fantastic break from the norm.

* Do not make a bunch of little pieces to put together later. Make some, and put them together right away. And then only after having made one complete part to make final adjustments from.

* Tape measures lie, I don't care what the manufacturer says.

* Every piece and every step must be completed as correct; if one little booger gets by, it screws up the rest of the project. How many alterations are okay? And how long does one anticipate having their project come out "right" when they have made so many little fixes?

* And, last but not least, while it wasn't learned here, the whole program helped bring out the feelings and beliefs behind the ole "it's better to give than to receive" notion. While my projects weren't perfect, I still felt that somebody out there will benefit. And I feel good about having been a part of it all.

* Thank you to Gig, Bob and the rest of the group who helped me and each other to make this program a reasonably successful venture. Let's do it again next year!

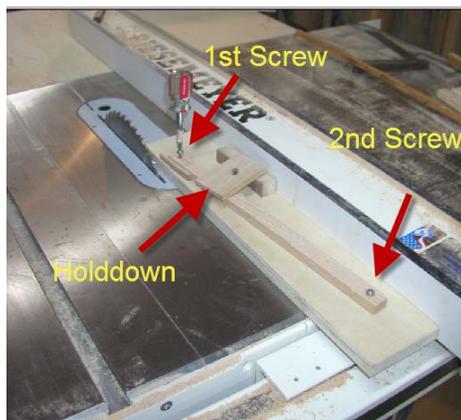
TINY & SIMPLE JIGS

BOB OSWALD

Often, building a jig is a somewhat involved affair. You start looking at ways to make it more useful for other projects. Typically adjustable and sometimes with T-track, hold downs, etc. Time consuming, but usually worthwhile.

The need to taper some very small pieces of wood, one half inch square and five inches long came up. The large taper jig a few issues back might have worked for this project, but it would have taken a bit of modification and this was a time of "just get the job done". A few quick and dirty concepts floated through my mind, but every solution had fingers uncomfortably close to the saw blade.

Then I remembered some of Rob's tricks; grab a couple pieces of wood and make something 'formal' but also quick and dirty.



That style of construction typically involves a few screws and maybe a brad nail or two. Make it dedicated to the task and it goes together much more quickly.

A scrap of plywood about 4" wide and a stick of 3/4" a foot long. Drill a hole in each end of the stick and with two pocket screws, those sharp, self-tapping points go in easily. Glue a little foot near the first screw to position the work piece. The hold down is a block next to the fence held with double tape. A little flap of 1/4" with a hole and another screw makes a simple hold down. Once in place, a twist with the screwdriver loosens it to put in the next piece.

It was so simple and worked perfectly.



Loosen with one twist



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

NORM MICHAUD

Time to renew your dues for 2009. Your membership runs to January 15. The best way to renew is on line. Log onto the Guild website and at the top of the left menu, click Join/Renew. It's a good time to verify that your information is correct. We seldom need address or phone numbers, but when we do, it is nice to have it be correct.

General membership is still \$35 and Professional membership is \$45. Remember that as a professional member you can post your business information on the website. Where else can you get a website so inexpensively?

If you choose to renew through the postal system, send a check and your name, address, phone and email to:

Norm Michaud
1041 Chandler Road
Lake Oswego, OR 97034

Your membership turns the wheels of the Guild. I hope we are doing things that help you to be a better woodworker. If you have suggestions for improvement, or if you just like something we do, it never hurts to let Bob Oswald know. Website, Board of Directors.

MAKES LIFE WORTHWHILE

BOB OSWALD

Ido little custom woodworking projects, mostly for Rockler walk-in customers. Nothing as fancy as our professional members, simple things that just make people happy. And heck, it's what provides the fuel for so many of these Newsletter articles that I hope you find useful..

So I took on this doll house project, a model of one in the Lake Oswego library. Looked like a fun project from the beginning, pretty straightforward, and it only got better as I did it. Delivered it on time, below cost, with a number of free extras (doll house furniture is a slam dunk you know) and a CD of construction photos. Here's an email note I got from the customer.

[I was able to coast down the hills at our house after lunch today and so I was able to pick up the doll house. I am totally blown away. I mean, WOW!!!!!! I actually started crying when I saw it ☺. Not only is the doll house EXACTLY what we were hoping for, but it's filled with amazing furniture too! Andy noticed that you even took the time to round the edges of the pieces – thank you so much!](#)

Purpose of this article: To let you know you can make a difference. Being there to help people is always very rewarding. Like the Toys for Tots effort by some of you. A note like this is a thank you to all of you who help.

A FEW LITTLE TIPS

BOB OSWALD

Ihave had the opportunity to see a number of woodworkers at work over the past year. I've learned a lot in my five years with the Guild. Some of it comes from being able to analyze things and find a solution. Much comes from mistakes and learning from others.

A curious thing, when you watch others work, you see things that you don't see in yourself. You see things done "not the way you would do it". And that helps to learn, to take a fresh look, and also to offer advice :) Here are a few tips:

Until absolutely necessary, do not RESET the tool for one errant piece. Don't reset the router fence or depth. Don't reset the drill press stop blocks, etc, etc..

If you've re-sawed a bunch of lumber and a few pieces wandered in the bandsaw, some will be thicker than the average. I've learned the hard way to sort all the pieces and find the thickest one. That one determines the initial depth setting of the planer. Then as you move to progressively closer dimensions, each piece follows through and every single one winds up to be exactly the same thickness on that final pass. During the process if you find a deviant one, set it aside. Don't reset the planer.

Count all your parts before resetting the tool for the final cut. If you leave a part lying elsewhere in the shop, you'll be back setting up the tool to finish that part. And it will not be identical to the others.

Make EXTRA parts. Where practical this can be such a time saver. You will often use the first one to draw pencil lines, make a test cut, try something risky.

Use mass production techniques to make parts. A simple example but one that applies at larger levels also, would be making a seat for 10 toy trucks. Instead of making 10 individual seats, look at the side profile of the seat. Make up a strip four feet long in the profile, then cut to length on the miter sled.

Make a glue up wider and longer than needed and trim to fit. Scrape off the dried glue to get a clean face for the (jointer, planer, rip fence) and resize as necessary. I'll bet you all do this one ok. Well I spent a couple of years trying to get the glue up hammered to length because the boards were already cut to finished length.

Now here's the ideal situation. Two of everything. Two planers means you can take one errant piece, run it through the 'rougner' and then make the final pass in the one that's still set up. While this is a bit extreme, although a delightful thought, it does bespeak of a duplicate tool when you can justify it. The router is the best one to duplicate. A bandsaw is a close second, one to re-saw and one for normal cutting. A bench top and a floor drill press are a great pair.

Food for thought.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Hani Darwich, Robert Schwoeffermann, Chris Frazier, Joseph Rumreich,

We're happy to have you with us. Please introduce yourself to me at the next meeting. I don't know who you are, and I'd like to say Hello. Bob Oswald

BAD EMAIL ADDRESSES

hanidarwich@comcast.net
tomandmarie@iinet.com CLM 12/20
ron.dubois@intel.com CLM 12/20
Dylan.Lyons@tetrapak.com CLM 12/20
Please log in or call me to fix them. Bob Oswald

FOR SALE: TOOLS

24" Tru-Grip Clamp 'n Tool Guide. Brand new. Use as straight edge, bar clamp, cutting guide, all kinds of stuff. Very sturdy: made of aluminum and locks very tight. \$15. Jay, 503-226-4181

DELTA Wood Shaper, Model# 43-355, 1/2" & 3/4" spindle, 2-Speeds (7,000 & 8,000rpm), 115v, single-phase, 1 1/2 HP, reversible motor switch, fence, stand, bits, & manual, 180lbs, less than 2 hours runtime. \$350 Larry @ (503) 635-3008

FOR SALE: WOOD

Still available from George DuBois' woodshop:

Western Maple – 126 BF
Figured Western Maple – 13 BF
Western Burl Maple – 22 BF
Birds Eye Maple 16BF
Spalted English Beech – 37 BF, lot \$57
Oak 21 BF
Figured Walnut – 7.6 BF
Western Walnut 44 BF
Cherry – 30 BF \$7/BF
Ebony – \$10/pound
Small amounts of Yew, Koa, Jatoba, Ash, Bubinga , etc

Call and ask.

Jean DuBois
1325 Cara Ct. NW, Salem, 97304
503-365-7634
503-871-0380 cell
duboisge@comcast.net

U.S. CONGRESS TOY CAPER

BOB OSWALD

I just learned about a law passed by Congress that requires certification of all toys made or sold in the US or made for distribution. This can include Toys for Tots. As the law is written each toy must pass an inspection that would cost from \$1,000 to \$4000 each (style)

This information comes from individuals who make and sell less than 5000/yr, but maybe as many as 30 different kinds of toys. This is the US reaction to the "bad" toys last year that were brought into this country.

Seems that there are better ways to solve problems than passing such laws, but then what do I know. If you have an opinion on this topic, it might help the cause to contact your representatives in Washington. I have.

For more information, go to www.handmadetoyalliance.org The website makes it easy to locate and write to your US representative and senators.

I would suggest a different letter than the form provided. Put your thoughts into your own words.

GUILD SEMINARS

GIG LEWIS

Basics of Fine Woodworking

February and April positions still available
Eleven week series on some of the finest instruction you can get. Call Gig Lewis at 503-646.7056 to reserve a spot.

FEBRUARY MEETING

BOB OSWALD

Rumor has it that the Christmas party may be shifted to February, again at Hardwood Industries. A number of people expressed regrets at having to cancel the party. So Brian is doing some shuffling of the meeting calendar.

That means there's time once again if you want to make something wooden for a gift exchange.

Watch the January newsletter of course, for the February meeting.

SHOP TOUR: RICHARD ANDERSON

BILL WOOD

Today, November 20, 2008, I am visiting Richard Andersen's shop in Oregon City, 10 miles from I-205. I met Richard by doing something I urge other members to do. Look at the membership roster on the Guild website. Look for people who live near you, call them, invite them to your shop. After Richard visited my shop, he invited me to his shop.

His home and shop have an interesting history. Fifteen years ago, when Richard looked for a home to buy, he came across this one being sold as a result of having been seized in a drug raid. It is a modern home with a newer shop building. The electric company realized the prior owner had nearly bypassed the electric meter. PGE figured it was a pot growing operation and contacted DEA. When the raid occurred the DEA went to the shop first and broke down the door. No pot plants were located in the shop so they went to the house. In the basement they found false walls and a secret passageway that led to a very elaborate and huge growing operation. During this visit, Rich showed me the shop door with the battering ram scar and the door jam that had to be repaired. Who of us has a home with such colorful history?

Richard is a successful businessman; for over 20 years he has owned two Midas Muffler shop franchises, in Oak Grove and in the Lloyd Center. If you need a muffler, call Richard for a "special deal".

He also has



a side hobby business. He co-owns a portable saw mill. I have seen other mills but this one is awesome. He is willing to help with almost any sawmill project our members might propose. Recently, he built a drying shed for his hardwood.

When I think of re-sawing a board, I move to my band saw, knowing that when I am done, it need planning to erase the wandering cuts. Not at Richard's shop. To re-saw, he can mount it to



the mill and make the cut accurately, as thin as he wants. From now on before I use my band saw, I will call Rich to see if he is available. The mill is his favorite tool.

Richard's hobbies include running, water skiing, boating, restoring old cars and woodworking. He has an old car in his shop but he has not worked on it for years. He is too busy woodworking.

The current project is a Morris chair, the most challenging project he has ever attempted. The attention to detail is very clear. He is even going to make the cushion!

Rich likes woodworking because of the "exactness of the fit". He considers his skill level higher-level intermediate. He dislikes sanding and finishing even though he realizes this is the most critical operation of all in woodworking. His shop is a pole building 36 X 48 (1728 sq. ft.) The florescent lighting is excellent and the shop is heated with a forced air electric wall heater located near the ceiling.

He has many Delta tools including a cabinet saw, jointer and planner. Richard also has a cyclone dust-collector, which turns "on" when his shop equipment is turned "on", taken from a Fine Woodworking article a few years back, where the dust collector automatically turns "on" by sensing the machine's current draw. He is the only person, beside me, that I know who installed a current sensor system.



If Richard had to build his shop over, he would incorporate windows up high to allow more sunlight into the shop. Currently, he is removing some of the drywall, to replace it with sawmill cut Hemlock, tongue and groove joined. By using wood on the walls he can mount or hang tools easier than trying to find a stud in the drywall.

A very nice clean shop; Thanks for the hospitality, Richard.



The Guild of Oregon Woodworkers is a group of professional and amateur woodworkers like you, committed to developing our craftsmanship and woodworking business skills. The Guild offers many benefits for members, including:

- *monthly educational meetings*
- *monthly newsletter*
- *mentoring program to help members develop their skills in specific areas*
- *discounts*
- *woodworking shows*
- *network of business partners (the key to our development as members and as a Guild, providing additional learning opportunities)*
- *and a network of support.*

For information on how you can become a member, see the Guild website listed below.

GUILD OF OREGON WOODWORKERS

P.O. Box 13744, Portland, OR 97213-0744

CLASSES, SEMINARS, DEMOS, AND SUCH....

Northwest Woodworking Studio 503-284-1644, www.northwestwoodworking.com

Rockler Woodworking 503-672-7266, www.rockler.com

Oregon College of Art and Craft 503-297-5544, www.ocac.edu

Woodcraft 503-684-1428, www.woodcraft.com

Woodcrafters 503-231-0226, 212 NE 6th Avenue, Portland, www.woodcrafters.us

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