

OREGON WOOD WORKS

THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

ARIEL ENRUQUIEZ, PRESIDENT

Well this has turned out to be another barn-burner of a holiday season out in my woodshed. (Some folks are very nice to call it a shop but it's a shed.) December used to be a quiet month out there. If this keeps up I'll have to put in some permanent heating.

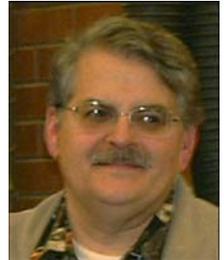
There were several evenings and weekends given to finishing up the rocking chair seminar. The class actually started in October. The idea for the class was never to finish fast but to finish well. We accomplished that very well and we all learned some new stuff, which was fun. Some very nice chairs, 5 in all, were produced by the enrollees who would toil joyfully into the chilly evenings chasing the just-perfect fit of a leg mortised into a

rocker. Good stuff that.

Then there was the sister-in-law who wanted to make a toy for her grandchild. That was a fun time. It was mostly two-hour work sessions when time allowed. We finally managed to put the finishing touches on the toy just 48 hours before deadline (Santa was delivering it).

Then the boss put in a request for a "nice small box; you know how to do those" with a 12/17 deadline. Ok, a nice little box, which then grew to three little boxes and "isn't it even easier to make

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Tool of the Month

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Time to renew your dues for 2011. Dues will increase to \$45 for general members and \$55 for professional members on January 1. Go to the www.GuildOfOregonWoodworkres.com and renew with PayPal.

NEXT MEETING—JANUARY 19, 2011 7:00 PM

THE JOINERY

4804 SE Woodstock Blvd, Portland, OR 97206

This month we will meet at The Joinery, a top quality woodworking business in Portland. They produce first class tables, chairs, beds, dining sets and more. We've been invited to come in and see how they run their shop, some of the tools it takes to make this fine furniture. A tour of the shop will be educational and inspirational.

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 1/2 miles.
 From SE Powell, take SE 52th 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 to 39th. Turn right (south) 1 1/4 miles to Woodstock. Turn left on Woodstock .1/2 mile to Joinery on the right.

The meeting will start at 7:00. Board meeting at 5:30.

Bring a chair if you would like to sit for parts of the tour.

THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

ARIEL ENRIQUEZ

them in multiple's sweetie?" Oh, she has my number!

Right in the middle of the month the furnace gets its death notice. The problem was a health hazard (possible carbon monoxide leakage). This needed doing quickly in order to take advantage of some sunsetting rebates for going with high-efficiency! So we bring in the installer, a nice young workman, who proceeds to put a 4" hole right where it shouldn't go through the outside wall and guess who gets elected to patch up the wall. That's right. "Oh, that can't be too difficult. Besides he's a furnace guy, not a wood guy." She's right again.

Despite the distractions, a couple of side jobs somehow managed to finish themselves. Somehow, bringing in a few extra nickels doing these small side jobs just isn't as rewarding as the fun I have when engaged in helping someone else with their projects. I take the side jobs as a necessary evil now-a-days. They mostly provide the nickels for future shop supplies and/or tools.

So it's been busy around here. Now just one more party time to live through and we get to do it all again, one more time. Ain't life grand? Here's wishing all of you a happy and prosperous year in 2011.

Keep your fingers!

2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

President: Ariel Enriquez
 Vice President: Gig Lewis
 Secretary: Chip Webster
 Treasurer: Roger Crooks

Committee Chairs

Membership: Norm Michaud
 Meetings: Greg Kaufman
 Shows: open
 Communications: Bob Oswald
 Education: Gig Lewis

General Member at Large: Jim Madras
 Professional Member at Large: Bill Bolstad

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

BOB OSWALD

Hello to Michael Leonard. We're happy to have you with us. Please introduce yourself at the next meeting. We'd like to know who you are.

MORE ON STEAM

BOB OSWALD

Thanks to Bob Reaves for this feedback:

I got the newsletter in this morning's mail and read your article about "bending". I was in the same steam bending class with you and had constantly been thinking about how to go about building a steam chamber and, mostly, how to go about generating a steady steam source. I went the route of building a steam box out of 3/4" plywood with removable ends on both ends. But for the steam source, I was stumped. I found a sale going at Highland Woodworking. See full link below



For fifty dollars they were selling a wall paper steamer (along with complete instructions on how to use it). I bought it and I can report to you that it works GREAT! After about ten minutes it begins producing an enormous amount of steam and holds enough water to go through two steaming cycles (I know this because I forgot to fill the chamber after the first four chair backs came out and put the other two in without thinking about filling the reservoir). Lee Valley tools also sells a couple of pre-made bending straps in case somebody wanted to buy them rather than build them.

www.highlandwoodworking.com/earlexportablesteamer.aspx

MAKE A WOODEN PLANE

ALEXANDER ANDERSON

A popular Guild class repeated:

Saturday, January 22nd and Sunday January 23rd
 9:00am to 4:00pm
 Franklin High School
 Class Size: 12

\$ 140.00 for members & \$160.00 for nonmembers. The cost includes the plane blank, a Hock brand blade, and lunch both days. This Class will teach you the process of making and tuning a Krenov style wooden smoothing plane. If you are interested contact Eric Madsen eric.madsen@gmail.com or (816) 729-5060

GUILD CLASSES

GIG LEWIS

Bill Bolstad Table Class

Jan. 15th & 16th

Bill has sold over 500 tables in his career and has agreed to do a class on the Table. There will be space for ten **Intermediate** woodworkers. Alder material will be supplied for this two-day class and is included in the class fee. The finished table will be 15" X 18" X 30" tall, and be assembled using dowels and screw construction. Most of the work will be using power tools and pre-made jigs, very little hand-work. Students will be responsible for their own beverages and lunch. Class fee of \$165 payable by Jan. 10th, contact Gig for more info at 503-646-7056, or email to giglinda@comcast.net.

QUARTER-SAWN OAK POST

BOB OSWALD

Bob Reaves sent these photos of some posts he was making. Inexpensive lumber inside providing supporting strength. But he made them very attractive with a mitered box sleeve of quarter sawn oak. Simple and very effective. Maybe I



should say simple in concept. Getting tight miters on a tight beam is not a trivial task. Good job, Bob!



SHOCK IN THE SHOP

BILL WOOD

For six days over the Thanksgiving holiday week, my wife and I traveled to San Francisco to visit family. When we returned on Saturday evening, my wife got out of the car. She immediately heard water running. I walked to the shop door and was showered outside by water running out of the attic. After stepping inside the shop, I was *shocked* to find water pouring out of the ceiling and water covering the floor. I rushed to the water shut off valve and turned it off.

The next morning, I determined that a steel valve at the very top of the boiler had frozen. The part, costing \$10.00, had frozen allowing water to spew for at least four days. The part is a breather valve, and it sits about three feet above the top of the pressure tank and water heater. This system is designed to heat the concrete floor in the shop. Unfortunately, the entire system sits in the attic which is not heated.

I just finished a better design. Now, the water tank and miscellaneous equipment are enclosed in an insulated room with a vent in the ceiling and floor under the tank to allow the heat from the shop to rise into this insulated enclosure.

The next day, Sunday, I called the insurance company and they suggested I call a company to do the clean up. They said they would pay the entire bill for their services. Now is when the realization of what had just occurred, really became almost unbearable. The building of my shop, my own efforts completed just a few years ago, was suddenly being torn down. They started ripping out the OSB board from the attic floor and walls. Then all of the insulation was removed from the ceiling and walls and thrown into the dump trailers along with the water soaked OSB boards.

When they ran across some personal property they

stuffed it into a box, labeled the location, and stored it in a 55 foot storage container which was just delivered. I just love some of the labeling, "Right side next to man door" and "left side, next to window". They did not have North, South, East or West in their descriptions, just left or right.



The next day a new company arrived to remove all of the electrical equipment. Their job was to remove the equipment, dry and restore the equipment, if possible. They will be delivering my restored equipment the week before New Years.

For the last three weeks, I have been busy with contractors, rebuilding and insulating the space. On December 23rd, the last bit of rebuilding was complete and freshly painted. Now the process of trying to duplicate the interior has started. It has been hard for me to put things back, because they just do not seem to go back, just as I had them before.

Lessons you can learn from my experience:

1. Try to understand the perils you face whether it is loss by fire, wind, earthquake or freezing pipes. Insure against a potential loss.
2. Never ever leave your shop!
3. Never ever leave your shop!

FULL EXTENSION SLIDES—HOME MADE

BOB OSWALD

How fanatical should one be? The table is all wood, no brads or screws or any metal parts. Mortise and dovetail joinery throughout. So the thought of putting a pair of commercial slides into the drawer was just not appealing.

Some sketching and a little trial-and-error modeling led to this full extension, all wood, sliding dovetail slide. Although for ease of disassembly I did bend to a couple of set screws and attachment with small brass flat head screws.

Early attempts were kind of quick-and-dirty, to prove the concept. The concept was almost abandoned because of it. Sloppy loose slides. Sticking and grinding spots. Was it possible to do this right? Admittedly many months transpired between the first prototype and the final product. And the final task was undertaken with a fervent intent to be meticulous. And it definitely paid off.

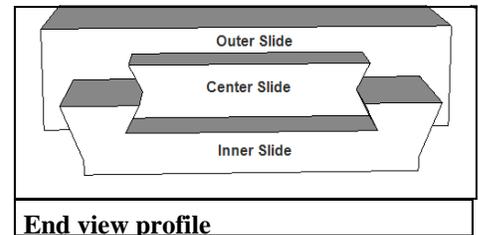
If the structure was a single sliding dovetail joint, it would only extend half to three-quarters. Considering the short depth of the intended drawer and the table overhang, it needed to be full extension

ject is a perfect place to practice precision and consistency, simply the basic ingredients of fine woodworking practice.

If you make a couple of these slides and they work smoothly, you will definitely have mastered the sliding dovetail.

Another interesting fact is that the individual slide components can be built to slide very smoothly, but when you install two of them, considering the probably not perfect alignment of drawer and carcass, they will be sticky. So it is usually necessary to sand sliding contact points to loosen it up.

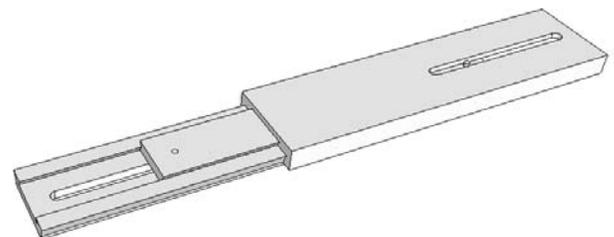
I debated the effort required but in the end, when it was finally working, it felt really good to have built it.



End view profile

Here are a few figures regarding the construction.

- ◆ The overall slide is 8" long, 2" wide and 1/2" thick.
- ◆ Center double sided dovetail 1" wide.
- ◆ Thickness: Outer slide 1/2", Inner slide 1/4", Center slide 1/4"
- ◆ Attachment to table and drawer with #4 brass woodscrews. It was necessary to shim on side to adjust for thickness, causing binding.
- ◆ Set screws used for slot stoppers to allow future removal of the drawer.



SketchUp view



The individual components

This design uses a double sliding joint with three components.

An absolute key to success is that all cuts must be dead center and meticulously created. The dead center is accomplished by passing each piece across the router first with one end against

the fence and then a second pass with the other end against the fence. Not rocket science!

Another very important detail is

Fully closed

firm control of each piece against the router fence and the router table.



Partially open

A few thousandths of an inch variance makes the difference between sloppy and sticky. Consistency is the key, and this pro-



Fully extended

GLOVES IN THE SHOP

BOB OSWALD

One of our members wrote this month:

I thought band saws were relatively safe until yesterday. Got 5 stitches in my finger. Since my shop was cold, I got some thin gloves at Home Depot and was going to cut off the fingers. I decided to try them first without the fingers cut off and was cutting some 3" rounds for the lathe. Somehow the glove caught in the blade and pulled in my finger (I have a 3hp Jet, 18" running a 1/2" 4tpi hooked blade). Fortunately the glove came off. I think a leather or cotton glove would not



have done this. This glove was more hi-tek and could snag easily (Now I figure this out). I am not sure that having the fingers cut out would have been any safer.

GATHERING OF THE GUILDS

BOB OSWALD

Looking ahead a few months is the next Ceramics Showcase show at the Convention Center. It's a well known art show featuring artists in many aspects of fine work, from ceramics, metal art, weaving and others, including woodworking. The Guild entered the show for the first time in 2009. Northwest Fine Woodworkers started the year before. Between us, we offer the public a very nice array of fine woodworking. The idea is to promote woodworking and provide a venue for professional members to display and sell their products.

Last year there was a concerted effort to combine advertising dollars among all participants and feature this show as the Gathering of the Guilds.

This year the Guild has proposed moving our Intra-Guild show out into the public. Let's let more people see the fine work we do. So the Guild will be buying three booths this year in the space that we sell to professionals, to display your work. There will be the same judging and awards as in the past.

And an extra feature has been added. The Guild is offering space to high school students throughout the area to enter their own projects. A letter was sent out a month

2011 MEMBERSHIP RENEW

It's time to renew your annual Guild membership. Effective January 1, 2011, the Guild dues will become \$45 for general members and \$55 for professional members. You have until December 31, 2010 to renew at the 2010 rate

Log into the Guild website and click **Join/Renew** and follow the instructions.

Or get a check in the mail to Norm Michaud, 1041 Chandler Road, Lake Oswego, OR 97034, postmarked by midnight December 31, 2010.

LET IT RIP!



Guild Member Cory Colburn creates boards with his 52" circular saw blade powered by a cement truck. He finds 3rd gear works best. Picture taken at the Guild picnic in August.

ago with that invitation. There's been encouraging interest shown. A sign-up letter will go out soon. The students will be judged separately.

The show is the last weekend in April, Friday-Sunday.

So professional members exhibiting before, if you'd like your space back, contact Gig below. If you've never exhibited, it's a very well attended show, one of the biggest in Portland.

For General members, be thinking or building an entry for this year's event.

For teachers and students who this reaches, we'd love your involvement.

For more information, contact Gig Lewis in Oregon at 503-646-7056 or giglinda@comcast.net

In Washington: contact Bob Vaughn at 360 254-3942 or bvaughn@pacifier.com

THE GOLDEN RATIO

BOB OSWALD

We've never done an article on this subject although Lee Johnson, an avid believer and user, has done a couple of Guild meetings on the subject.

It seems hard to remember but there is a pretty easy way to get close. It's based on the numbers in a mathematical series. A series is any string of numbers with the most recent one added to the end being controlled by some formula. If you just add "1" to the previous number such as 1, 2, 3— - the next number becomes 4, and that is just the familiar and simple number system. It goes on forever.

In another example, if you start with the first two numbers, 1 and 2, and then add a new number by adding the previous two numbers together, you get 1, 2, 3 and then 1, 2, 3, 5 and then 1, 2, 3, 5, 8 and so on. This particular pattern is called the Fibonacci series. What is special about this series is that, if you divide the last two numbers you have created, they are the golden ratio. Now early in the series, it's approximate. For example, $5 / 3 = 1.67$. As you carry the series out farther the number becomes more precise. But for most practical purposes, 1.6 is pretty close. The actual number to 5 decimal places after carrying the series to 15 numbers is 1.618034. We go with 1.618 but obviously, for most practical purposes, 1.6 works.

What's golden about the golden ratio? Well, it's pleasing to the eye! It appears extensively in nature. Turns out that the human body, when broken into segments, has this ration appearing in many places. And as Lee has always pointed out, we do love looking at ourselves.

The Greeks were great at assigning letters of their alphabet to physical constants, to make it easier to use them in formulas and conversation. Pi for example, 3.14159 is a symbol most of us know well, π , used in calculating circumference and area of a circle.

The golden ratio is known as Phi, Φ

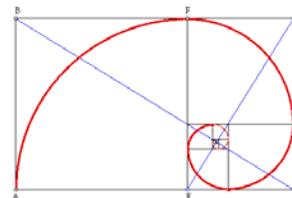
There are countless exercises on geometric shapes that show the versatility and unique character of this ratio

If we create a rectangle with the sides in this golden ration, we call it the golden rectangle. That's the figure typically used in construction. An interesting exercise with the rectangle is to divide off a square on the rectangle. The re-



maining piece is the golden rectangle. The figures above show that carried a few steps forward

If you connect the corners of the square as shown in this figure, you get a logarithmic spiral. And this is a natural shape of the snail.



There are many exercises that apply to all geometric shapes, circles, polygons, triangles, etc. that are interesting. I know Lee has used this ratio and many of those shapes in creating his fine furniture.

One of the 'pleasing' applications of this ratio is in the human body. Artists take the Golden Ratio into account when working with the human body. Leonardo DaVinci used it extensively.

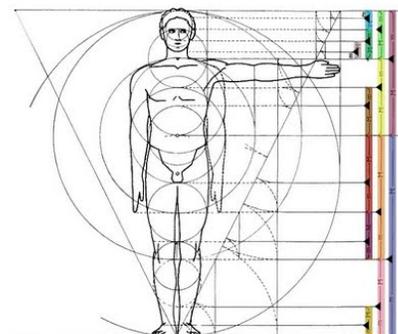


Image from <http://www.marcus-frings.de/text/nj.htm>

Some proportions found in the design of the body are:

- ◆ The ratio of your height to the distance from the navel to the floor
- ◆ Distance from finger tip and elbow to the distance from the wrist to the elbow
- ◆ Distance from shoulder line and top of the head to the distance from the chin to the top of the head
- ◆ Distance from navel and top of the head to the distance from shoulder line and top of the head.
- ◆ Distance from navel and knee to the knee and the floor
- ◆ Total width of two front top teeth to their height
- ◆ Length of the face to width of the face
- ◆ Lips and eyebrows to length of the nose
- ◆ Length of mouth to width of the nose.

And the list goes on and on. Incredible, from the inner ear right down to the structure of the DNA molecule

Nature: The sunflower, the spiral head of a daisy, pineapples, proportions of the Monarch butterfly. The number of petals on a flower are often one of the numbers of the series: lilies and irises have three petals, buttercups and wild roses have five, delphiniums have eight petals

There are many, many website references on this subject. Shop around and appreciate the world around you.

PLANES AND SMOOTHING

BOB OSWALD

I wrote about the woodworking show, about learning that the perfect finish, where light reflects off the rays of the wood in the best possible way. And it comes from preparing the surface with a plane, not sandpaper. Sandpaper produces scratches, fine for sure, but there none-the-less.

There is a point of diminishing returns for sure, where the sandpaper is fine enough that, for all practical purposes, it doesn't get any better at reflecting light. But there is a curious satisfaction that Lee Johnson has long preached, about the whisper of curls, the plane slicing fibers.

I found this sketch I did years ago, another marginally developed talent to draw. It represents what I was doing with my latest table top. There are a lot of walnut



curls lying on the shop floor. They're beautiful. They come from a new plane well tuned and sharp. You really CAN plane in any direction without tearing!

After some practice on the rough boards, it went through the planer to flatten it, then the drum sander to eliminate a couple tear outs. Finally back to the plane to fine tune the chatoyance!!

Obscene in perfection? For sure. Perfect? Far from it. Enjoying the process? Totally.

LAROCHE ON THE LOOSE

FRANK LAROCHE

I have found that denatured, (rubbing), alcohol applied with a terry cloth will remove almost all white rings that are found on finished tops.

For a deeper ring, it might be necessary to use 0000 steel wool to work in the alcohol and then rub out using either a brown paper bag or a terry cloth towel. The brown paper bag should be crumpled and all the glue seams removed to keep the seams from scratching. The paper bag is also useful for removing "no-see-ems" after the final finish is applied.

Most rings are caused by moisture being trapped under a waxy substance like wax (read furniture polish). The alcohol will mix with both the wax and the trapped water and then you will wipe them up with the towel.

ANGLED HALF-BLIND DOVE

BOB OSWALD

The latest table project design fits well in the living room, but it was a challenge to build many parts of it. That was actually one of the goals, to take on a project that had some new learning opportunities.

A curved front produced some data for last month's newsletter, about bending wood. This month, the next phase was an even greater challenge. The front has a large drawer cut out of the apron, leaving short end pieces to be somehow reinforced to the rest of the table structure.

The choice was pretty obviously going to be the front-to-back stretches shown in the photo. And the obvious strong joiner would be half blind dovetail at the front and sliding dovetail at the rear.

The half blind dovetail is normally not much of a challenge. But angle of the front apron to the stretcher was not ninety, degrees, but seventy four degrees. A mockup half blind did prove the obvious, that even made a little loose, it could not bend to that angle.

The solution was a customized process making the following adjustments to the procedure.

- The tails were cut as normal on a Leigh jig.
- The end of the pin board was sanded to the 14° angle before cutting the pins, to be parallel to the apron.
- The bottom of the pin board was shimmed on the jig to tilt it out 14°.
- The pins were cut as normal. However because of the 14° end, the dovetail bit had to be deepened to make the pins longer. Lowering the bit makes the joint tighter, so it was necessary to make a second pin cut offsetting the pin board sideways about 1/8". This was a trial and error fit on a test piece, using blue tape to mark the offset when cutting the real piece..
- And of course the right and left sides of the table had to each be cut on the right and left sides of the jig since they are opposite layouts.

It turned out to be easier than I had 'dreaded'. And when finished it was a delight to behold. Care and precision were important in fitting the sliding dovetail on the rear as there was no room for error in both the horizontal placement and in the length.

A TIP FROM TIM

TIM HALLER

Have a problem with burning when you make that router pass? I was talking with Tim Haller at a recent meeting and he made this clever and useful observation. On the router table, put a strip of tape on the fence to shim it out a few thousandths. Make your cuts as normal. For that final pass, remove the tape. You'll take off just a sliver and *most of the time* and burn or feathers will disappear.

WHAT'S THE ADDRESS

BOB OSWALD

I get frequent requests from Guild members on how to reach another member. I publish the method from time to time and with new members joining, it's time for a refresher.

To look up a fellow member's phone number or email address do this:

- 1) On the Guild website, menu on the left side of the screen, click **Login**.
- 2) Log in to you're account with the **email** address that's in the database. That should be the one we're mailing your newsletter link to. If you don't remember, you have to call me, the assistant webmaster, and I can tell you or change it for you.
- 3) Continue the login with your **password** . If you've never logged in before you would have to respond as if you forgot your password. You click the obvious link and one will be mailed to you. It will be cryptic, something like "akOLm2dz". Copy and paste it from your email into the login screen. Then you can change it to something you'll hopefully remember.
- 4) Once you click **submit**, you'll pop instantly back to the

home page with one crucial difference. **Login** in the menu is now **logout** and a new choice appears, **Administration**. Click that and you'll be taken to the members only section where you can do whatever you have rights to do. For most members that just looking up other members. For various officers, they will see additional features that help them to do their job. For example the Membership Chair (Norm) has a screen that allows him to process membership payments.

Note: Only current members can get information. If your dues lapse, your membership goes inactive and you can not access the members only features. Your record is maintained however, and when you renew, it is reactivated.

I believe that you have access to all prior members, even not current ones, but I'm not sure of that. One of you, if you read this far, could test it and let me know. Of course you'd have to know who is not current. If you care to help me with an experiment, write to me and I'll tell you a name to look up. Of course you can get my email address from the website by following the procedure above.

A BISCUIT BIT

BOB OSWALD

There are many ways to join two pieces of wood. Some methods are somewhat arbitrary in that a number will **work** and one is chosen perhaps only because of the tools you have at hand.

The biscuit, domino, BeadLock, loose tenon are all variations on the mortise and tenon. Each exists for a specific reason. All will join two pieces of wood in the mortise and tenon fashion, some with less strength but more convenient.

I 'discovered' the biscuit a couple of years ago, looking down on it generally as something that people used because they thought they were supposed to. Today's adhesives are strong enough in many applications to not need reinforcement. A classic application is joining boards edge-to-edge to make something like a table top.

So I've glued them up for years, carefully aligning in the partially tightened clamps, tapping with a mallet to get level, and so on. You probably know the drill.

Then one day a light came on, can't remember why or where. If you use the biscuit as an alignment technique to get the boards flush on the good surface, it makes that awkward and difficult step pretty simple.

Now after a glue-up, the only need is application of a scraper at the joints to remove the squeeze-out glue and perhaps feather the ever-so-slight mismatch of the boards.

See Sept 2009, pg. 8 for tips on aligning the plate joiner aka biscuit cutter. See June 2009, pg. 6 for preparing the edges to account for a not perfect ninety degrees on your jointer fence or saw blade.

I do enjoy glue-ups today. Hard to believe.

GREAT EXTENSION CORD

BOB OSWALD

I've had this product in the shop for several years now. It just occurred to me that you might benefit from it also. Do you ever need electrical power in some odd corner of the shop where there is no outlet handy? Perhaps you're palm-sanding a project on a couple of horses out on the garage



apron one sunny day. You hunt for the extension cord, etc. With this 12 gauge cord hanging from the ceiling in a corner of the garage, you can reach thirty feet. To just about anywhere. I've found it indispensable. Available from some of our sponsors for about \$90

ADVERSITY

BOB OSWALD

From *Fine Woodworking* on-line, and dear to my heart,
To be truly successful at any craft, you have to fail, and fail again.

And elsewhere in *Fine Woodworking* from Gary Rogowski on *Wedges*

“Failure is the key then to success. We learn more from our mistakes than our triumphs.”

I don't know why these learning opportunities are on my mind as I write today. It couldn't be this little meditation table I'm building, that I have resurfaced three times after a stain coat showed yet another failure at a good surface. It couldn't be that a final coat of varnish and some sunlight showed a run in one corner. It couldn't be that sanding that tiny flaw smooth broke through the stain layer. It couldn't be that touchup and a light spray coat of varnish was too light and left a mottled surface. It couldn't be that sanding out and recoating produced a tiny bubble... that I touched and left a fingerprint.

Strength comes through adversity. I am Hercules!

YOU MUST HAVE FAITH

BOB OSWALD

I advise customers every day, based on experience, on a subject like water based varnish. Apply it quickly, spread it out, spray it if you can. And then LEAVE IT ALONE. And yet how difficult it is to adhere to your own advice.

I'm applying a finish, for about the eighth time, to a little table top. Tonight it will be the final coat to repair the last final coat, a mottled finish applied too lightly. This time, the surface is sanded out with 320 to repair the splattering. It's time to shoot the 'final' coat of water varnish, heavier this time. And there is the luxury of a flat surface, no runs or sags. The varnish goes on milky white and 'slightly' uneven, you worry about it. Don't hit it again with the spray gun. Walk away!

I come back in a half hour to check. Curiosity is an evil thing. Sure enough, it leveled pretty nicely, not as much as I had hoped. That's not so much the worry. A little blemish I see. It looks like a dirt spec. Actually it's a water bubble spit out from cleaning the spray gun last time. I touch it ever so lightly. You can feel the softness. I stop, I freeze, don't play with it. Go somewhere. Do something else.

Three hours later I must see how it's doing. The surface is a mirror. It's everything I tell customers it will be. But..... there is this tiny blemish, kind of a finger tip touch, where SOMEONE didn't believe and fiddled with it. The water bubble went away. The finger tip remained.

You must have faith. You must believe.

This gentle touch of a finger was removed with one of Frank LaRoque's many tips, the brown paper bag polish, applied twelve hours later when it's totally cured. It blended the slight blemish beautifully into the background.

Finishing is a religion. You have to know the truth and from that point on you have to believe.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

BOB OSWALD

I look to the future because that's where I'm going to spend the rest of my life. Enjoy life, this is not a rehearsal.

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TORSION TUTORIAL

BOB OSWALD

I've been wondering what a torsion box really is for a long time. What's the hype, and what are they good for?

Next month I'd like to do an article about torsion boxes. I'd welcome input on applications and tips for construction.

TimberCreek08@gmail.com

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.*

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