

OREGON WOOD WORKS

SAVE THE GOOD OLD DAYS

BOB OSWALD, PRESIDENT

While good old days typically alludes to the time of our youth, I'm referring more to the historical times a hundred years or more in our past.

An email about a St Helens summer event had me reflecting on a variety of historical events brought to my awareness. The tall ships which I mentioned last issue are a preservation movement on both United States seaboards. The Lady Washington in Puget Sound, a great place to volunteer and learn about square rig sailing.

The Steam Up festival this summer in Woodburn, preservation of the days of steam in locomotives, tractors and cars of the era. You must go if you've never been.

St Helen's Henry Knighton Days, a man who established business in Portland, engaged in river traffic and played some roles in Ore-

gon's Statehood. They are looking for artists who would portray period furniture and crafts.

Karen Johnson, a friend from the stage-coach building days, is writing a book about the history of many small towns in Washington, the mail systems and more.

There are events all summer long that feature logging, farming, old homes, old tools, shipping, you name it. Besides just spending time enjoying some of these events, consider doing some volunteer work at one that appeals to you. It's incredible, speaking from experience, where it might lead.

Robert Frost—*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—I took the one less traveled by. And that has made all the difference.*



NEXT MEETING—APRIL 21, 2009 7:00 PM

Altura Furniture, Inc. 3500 N. Mississippi Ave, Portland, OR 97227

Alexander Anderson will host a tour of Altura Furniture. Similar in nature to the joinery which many of you know, they produce high end, artistic furniture.

Alexander has added some interest in having the employees build some thing out of the scrap from one of their pieces of furniture. And you folks will be asked to judge the entries. They will donate the entries to a charity.

N on I405, exit the right lane on the Fremont Bridge. Left onto Cook St and go east 2 blocks Left onto Williams Ave. One block turn left onto Fremont St. Eight blocks west to 3500 N Mississippi, to the flashing light.

S on I-5, take the Swan Island/Alberta Exit 303. Left at the stop sign onto Alberta. At the light turn right on Albina (past French's shop) which becomes Mississippi. 0.8 miles to Fremont.

Altura is on the NE corner of Mississippi and Fremont, at the flashing light. Arrive early and visit the ReBuilding Center across the street on Mississippi.



Tool of the Month

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THE SWEETEST SOUND THEY WILL HEAR

SID SUTHERLAND

Someone said at the Guild board meeting last winter, “Many members are not paying their dues and rejoining.” This was of great concern and puzzlement to many, but here is my take.

Many people come to one or two meetings and do not connect or feel welcome so they simply tune out and don’t come back. The fault of this lies with all of us... it take effort to say to someone new, “Hi Al, I don’t believe we have met.” “Are you an active woodworker... what type of work do you do?”

In all walks of life, churches, Toastmasters, Rotary and other organizations the goal is the same... make people feel like they are a part. By wearing nametags, we can overcome the barrier of not knowing who we are speaking with. Think of the many times we don’t approach someone because we are unsure of



their name. That is why we must pursue the annoyance of wearing our name tag at every meeting. **Remember the sweetest sound to anyone, in any language, is their name.**

Do people join the guild to learn about woodworking? Or do they join to develop a relationship with other woodworkers? I contend the latter. That is where you and I come in. There is talk that we may have different nametags for new members but regardless, when we see someone we don’t think we know, we simply say: “Bill, my name is Sid.” Shake their hand and look them in the eye. It doesn’t stop with wearing a nametag... we must also attempt to find out where we have common ground. I went to meetings for a year before I learned that Bill Bolstad and I attended Montana State University at the same time and in the engineering department. We can keep our new members if we simply make them feel wanted and needed... let’s go for it.

WHAT A NIGHT THAT WAS HUH?

ARIEL ENRIQUEZ

So here we are folks getting into another great year of woodworking events. Wasn’t the last meeting great? I definitely learned a thing or two that evening. Quite frankly, you’d have to have been asleep to have not picked up some good tricks that evening.

That dynamite little re-saw? Wow! Up until that demonstration I’d only *heard* of the grit/drive belt system for power feeds. How very effective it was and then to **also** learn that it’s not a hard stretch at all for a small shop’s pocket book. Far out! Oh and how about that nifty molder? That souped up little gem does a job! Let’s not forget the overriding sentiment for the evening, the huge enthusiasm for this craft of ours that everyone at that shop shares, from French on down. What a team! What a night!

Well nights like those don’t just “happen” folks. No, that event took the effort of several people, both within and outside of the Guild, to bring you that experience. Bet on it. You might also be surprised to know that there are quite a few **other** folks now, involved in a **lot** of aspects of Guild life.

There are seminars, lectures, work parties, meetings, a library. Sponsors are solicited on your behalf (love those discounts!). The best darn crafter’s newsletter *I’ve* ever seen! That’s a lot of stuff folks! Yet a question nags at us. Is this going the way our members want it to?

Yes that’s right folks! It’s time to survey the membership! It’s been 2 or 3 years since we took the pulse of you good people. That last survey pertained specifically to education committee business, i.e. seminars.

This time the Board (and its associates) want to widen the scope to ask you everything and anything that matters to you vis-à-vis the Guild. Consider this your own State of the Guild Address. Fill us in by responding to the coming missive in your electronic mailbox. Members without email will, of course, be sent hard copy surveys.

The whole survey won’t take more than a few minutes of your time but please consider this when you respond: **we’re not mind readers!** So please don’t limit yourself to two-words answers. Please give us your two cents! If you wish to be anonymous there will be an option for doing so.

Ours is a unique association of woodworkers. The bottom line for this effort is to collect ideas and better define the paths we might choose to take. Heck, it might all tote up to everyone’s just “peachy-keen-happy-as-a-clam” about everything. I kinda’ doubt that’s the case but, even if it’s so, at least we’ll have *that* information to work with. Thanks for your time folks. See you in the chips.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

BOB OSWALD

Hello to Agustin Enriquez.

We’re happy to have you with us. Please introduce yourself at the next meeting. I’d like to know who you are.

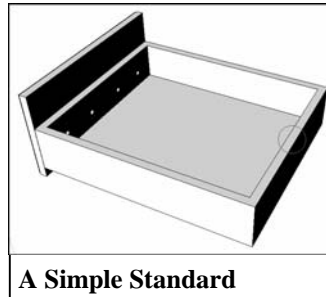
BASIC DRAWER CONSTRUCTION

BOB OSWALD

Last month you read about simple cabinet construction, fast results that look nice in your shop. I don't know how simple or useful it was but someone commented that a more detailed explanation of drawers would be helpful. So here's my take on making basic drawers.

Make a Box

A drawer is a simple four-sided box with a bottom. Variations exist, but if you look at a typical drawer in most any piece of furniture you own, you'll see the patterns discussed here. Pretty simple; all the work goes into the board on the front. That's all you see so that's where the styling, trim and hardware make most of the difference.



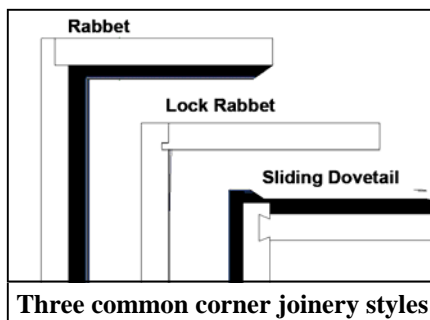
A Simple Standard

Dimensions are going to be driven by your situation. Realize that if you are storing tall things in it, perhaps eight inches, you can still make a drawer that's only two inches tall. However if you're storing something like a brad nailer that doesn't support itself vertically, you would make those drawers tall enough for the nailer to lean against.

With the carcass assembled, make the drawers one-eighth inch narrower (slides will be wood rails under the drawer. You want a fairly close fit so the drawers will slide against the sides of the carcass and not bind when pushing in. Too loose and they will wobble and grab.

Corner Joinery

The corners are typically secured in one of the three ways as illustrated, a rabbet, a lock-rabbet or a sliding dovetail. Don't let the dovetail intimidate you as it's quite easy to make, very strong and a touch of class.



Three common corner joinery styles

The standard rabbet is typically 1/8" deep. Its primary function is easy alignment during assembly. Glue and brad nail this joint.

The lock-rabbet is typically 1/8" square. It makes alignment during assembly easy and adds a touch of strength. The beauty is being able to cut the slot with a standard saw blade. Glue and clamp this joint.

For the sliding dovetail, you cut the dovetail slot first, typically 1/4" deep, with most any dovetail bit. I use a fairly steep angle because it's so shallow. After all the skirts are cut, don't change the bit height. Set the router fence for a very shallow dovetail cut across the end of the back. Make a

pass on both sides and test fit the resulting dovetail in the groove. Slowly deepen the cut until it is a snug but hand press fit. Then cut all the backs, both ends. Note: the length of the back needs to be 1/2" longer than the inside dimension of the box to allow for the 1/4" dovetail.

The drawer bottom is typically one-quarter inch plywood. Cut 1/4" grooves 1/4" up from the bottom and 1/4" deep on all four sides with a router or dado blade and the plywood will fit easily when you try to assemble all four sides and the bottom at the same time. I glue the bottom in since expansion isn't an issue. I don't know if this is kosher but it makes a very strong box.

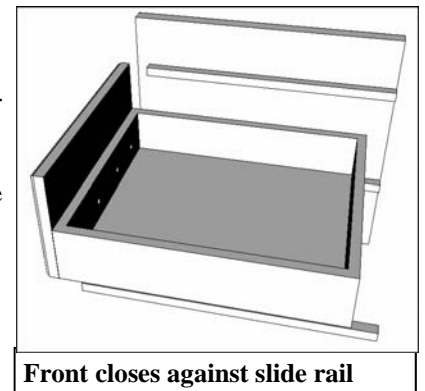
These corner joinery styles can be used on all four corners. The front then is added as a separate piece and secured with two screws and/or the handle hardware from the back side.

The Front

You make the front by itself, the beauty being that you're working with a flat piece of wood. You can build it and final finish it before attaching to the box.

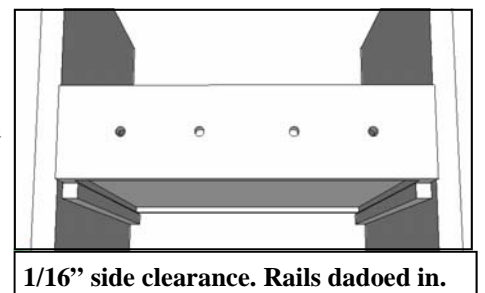
You can be fancy with the front and do half blind dovetails, but this is an article on how to do it 'simple', so a false front is the easiest.

Quite often the front will extend above the drawer. It will be as tall as required to fill the opening. The figure shows the drawer pulled out slightly. On this inset drawer, the back side of the drawer front closes against the front of the wooden slide. So hold the slide back the thickness of the front. With this method you don't need a bumper to set the depth of closure of the drawer.



Front closes against slide rail

In this front view, with the drawer front removed, the wooden slides are dadoed into the carcass sides. The box drawer rests on them and is 1/8" narrower than the carcass opening. The two outside holes in the face are oversize to allow front alignment. The two inside holes are for a 3-inch drawer pull. You could have a single hole for a knob.



1/16" side clearance. Rails dadoed in.

GUILD SEMINARS

BOB OSWALD

Basics of Fine Woodworking. This is a ten week series of instruction in member's shops around Portland. Subjects include:

- ◆ Intro & Design
- ◆ Bench Tool Introduction
- ◆ Safety & Measuring; Basics of Power Tools
- ◆ Cabinet Construction
- ◆ Table Saw 101
- ◆ Joinery
- ◆ Finishing
- ◆ Routers & Jigs
- ◆ Tricks and Secrets of woodworking
- ◆ Lathe

Next class starts April 10. There are three seats available. This is ten sessions in private wood shops of some of the finest coaching at a price you'll never find anywhere else. \$125. Members only. This series starts in January. Contact Gig Lewis at 503-646-7056 for more information and reservations

NWS CLASSES

BOB OSWALD

- Furniture Repair & Refinishing, Mar 8-12
- Tool Sharpening, Mar 20
- Joinery Concentration, Mar 25-28
- Joinery Concentration: Carcasses, June 7-11
- Joinery Concentration: Frames June 14-18
- Workbench Skills: Hand Planes June 21-25
- Greene & Greene Side Table, June 28 +
- Design with Nature, Jul 12-16
- Demi-lune Table, Jul 26-30
- Dovetailed Hope Chest, Aug 2-6
- Japanese Hand Planes, Aug 13-15
- Shaker Breakfast Table, Aug 16-20
- Hand Tool Concentration: Tools for the Shop, Aug 23-27
- Finishing, Sept 13-17
- Elevated Seating: Rogowski Stool, Sept 20-24

- ◆ means multiple sessions. For details, dates and cost, see www.NorthwestWoodworking.com

STEAM BENDING

BOB OSWALD

It was a cold day in March, hints of sun, but threatening rain. What better day to stand around a steam generating machine.

A dozen folks gathered at Gordon Keller's beautiful 1890 Victorian home for education in another art form of woodworking. The morning lecture reviewed the simple principles of steam bending, more heat than water. Heat softens the Lignin gluing the wood fibers together. When sufficiently soft, the fibers slide past each other, allowing the bend. A table of characteristics of different woods ranged from one-inch thick Red Oak able to bend to one-half inch radius, Birch at 1.5", Alder at 14" up to Mahoganies in the 30" range.

A big revelation was using a supporting strap secured at the ends of the piece, on the outside curve. This strap supports the outside wood fibers, keeping them from expanding and cracking.

Forms require a little planning. A bent piece relaxes some (spring back) when it dries. So it's necessary to make a form that causes the right amount of over-bend to compensate. This requires a few trips through the steam bath.

The afternoon bending exercise was all done with forms.

An open form with cauls and clamps was used to bend 1-inch square Walnut sticks along the diagonal. A male-female form bent 1/4" walnut strips to ninety degrees at a 2-inch radius, slats for a cradle. Clever Gordon; he had a dozen sets of forms, clamps and



steamed wood ready. The students took turns forming each slat and clamping in place. Done, Gordon had a set of slats drying for the next cradle.

All in all, the concept and the process is simple. The intimidating part is the steam generator. Gordon has a heavy duty steam generator from a hot tub capable of making super-heated steam, in the 300 degree range. The home hobby person might use a five gallon gas can on a crab cooker, Coleman stove or a campfire. Steaming takes a couple of hours, so refilling the home made can gives me pause for thought.

The steam tube was just black plastic pipe in the simplest form although Gordon was using stainless tubes about 8" in diameter; and up to eight feet long.

It's an ethereal process, "smoke and mirrors" as we used to say, the billowing clouds of steam looking like a dragon's lair.

I did an article a couple of months ago about cold bending some 1/4" oak strips on a 12" radius. At the time I was amazed and pleased



with how easy it was. Considering that a 1" thick piece of Oak bends at one-half inch, it's no wonder it worked so easily.



TABLE SAW 101

ED VACHEL

You know it's a great day when you can stand outside on a warm afternoon and enjoy a bright January sun, and then move inside and watch a craftsman cut a perfect circle using a table saw. You read that right. A perfect circle using a table saw.

Recently, the first "Basics of Fine Woodworking" class of 2010 traveled to The Dalles to learn table saw basics. The irony was that there were a lot of basics but there were a lot of expert tips and techniques covered as well. Our host was Frank LaRoque, owner of LaRoque Woodworking, a long-time Professional member of our Guild.

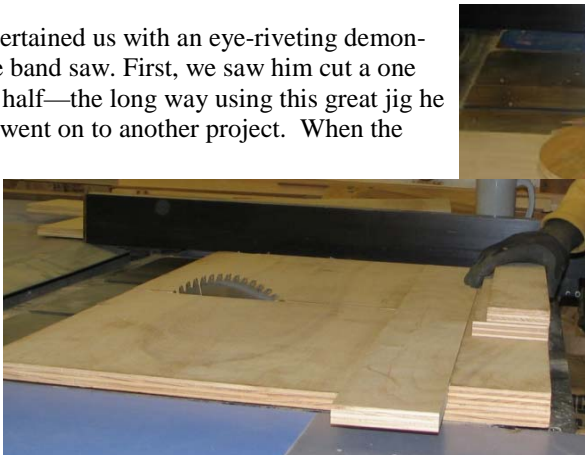
Our class included Chip Dunham, Dave Young, Nolan Borntreger, Rick Lyle, your author, Ed Vachal, and our Class Coordinator, Bill Wood. We were treated to true down-home hospitality by Frank and his wife Paulette. Our purpose was not only to learn and focus on how to get the most use and value out of a table saw and band saw, but also how to become better woodworkers.

Frank is a soft-spoken and warm-hearted individual who loves his work. His passion for wood, tools, craftsmanship, ideas and innovation, and sharing his gift shows up everywhere. He went into serious detail about how to use a table saw, how to be safe, how to align the blade, and the fence, how saw blades work, which blade to use in various applications, when to use a 24 tooth blade versus a 60 or 80 tooth blade, why wood burns, why wood sticks to the table, how to clean a blade, how to treat the fence, why that's important, where to get great blades and how to treat them. And that was just the first hour.

We were in store for a treat—actually Dave Young was in store for a treat, because Frank built a sled and we drew names to see who would get it. Frank covered some important territory about the use of sleds in general, and as you can imagine safety and accuracy were on the top of his list.

Next, Paulette served us up a satisfying lunch, and we moved outside for a brief break to marvel at the beautiful, pastoral hillside and valley next to Frank's Studio. Then it was back to work.

Frank entertained us with an eye-riveting demonstration on the band saw. First, we saw him cut a one inch dowel in half—the long way using this great jig he has. Then he went on to another project. When the sawdust had settled (so to speak) he produced a four inch wood cube which had two initials cut into it.



One side had the letter "E" and when he turned the block 90 degrees the other side had the letter "N." Our classmate Nolan Borntreger drew the lucky number and won this gift. The letters represent his initial and his wife's initial. None of us went away empty-handed though. We each received a uniquely designed push-stick. I'm going to use mine as a prototype and make copies of it for my shop.

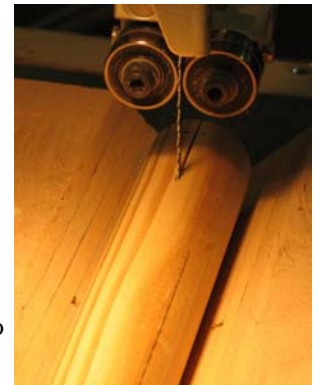


Finally, Frank took us for a tour of his studio. Besides the standard tools you would expect a professional woodworker would have he has a smelter, several welders, ovens, a paint/stain booth, and all the standard saws, chisels, grinders, and types of wood you can imagine. Frank also has some interesting projects in queue. There were several tables, a secretary, and a workbench loaded with chair parts. Frank always stays busy, and gratefully has orders to fill up through December.

While Frank stays busy in his studio, he is never too busy to host classes for the Guild. He is quite gracious with his time, skills and talents and he is eager to share these gifts with other Guild members who are hungry to learn more about the intricacies of wood and how to bring a project to a successful conclusion.

By the time this article goes to print in the Newsletter, our class will have traveled back up the Gorge to receive Frank and Paulette's royal treatment. Frank is scheduled to cover "Tricks and Secrets of Woodworking." I can only imagine what he has up his proverbial sleeve, and how stuffed my brain will get with that topic. Frank is a storehouse of knowledge and he is eager to share all of it with Guild members.

If you have a hankering to sharpen your table saw or band saw skills, or if you'd like to learn how to cut a Lazy Susan base on the table saw, then you owe it to yourself to sign up and attend the next series of Basics of Fine Woodworking, classes so you can attend both of Frank's informative sessions. Contact Gig Lewis at giglinda@comcast.net to make arrangements.



REFLECTIONS ON THE *BASICS* CLASS

DAVID YOUNG

My purpose to enroll was to be introduced to the various methods and approaches and techniques used in woodworking. I also hoped to become acquainted with some of the tools used in this craft.

I was pleased to meet Guild members who willingly shared time, skills, expertise, and tips and secrets for their approach to different facets of woodworking.

1. Gig Lewis provided a basic background introducing us to the purpose and goals of the sessions. He touched briefly on design and emphasized shop safety and made us aware of the resources the guild provided.

2. Lee Johnson introduced us to use of Fine Hand (Bench) tools. He demonstrated accuracy and precision that could be attained often times (in the hands of an Artisan) faster than modern power equipment most of us yearn to collect and use in our endeavors.

3. Rob Lewis provided a session on shop safety of power tools. Tips were shared in use of the table saw, band saw, jointer, planer, disc sander, router and drill press. He provided an insight of techniques used in a production shop (hence emphasis on power vs. bench tools.) Tips on re-sawing with use of the table saw & band saw for fast accurate product. The "End over End" presentation of material to saw, planer, etc. allowing accurate finish of a cut or surface.

4. Ed Ferguson let the group thru process of constructing a basic cabinet. Biscuit joinery was demonstrated for both cabinet and face frame construction. Methodology to lay out cabinets was discussed in detail.

5. Frank LaRoque, an amazingly bright multi skilled artisan provided endless tips, techniques in using the table saw. Raised panel door cuts, cutting a perfect circle, cove molding cuts were demonstrated. Basic safety techniques, information in saw alignment, tune up, maintenance, selection of saw blades were covered in detail. The construction of a cross cut sled was demonstrated and a lucky member of the group ("ME") got to take it home.

6. Alexander Anderson: Joinery. Several methods were discussed and a demonstration of a "Bridge joint" fashioned on the band saw was provided to the class. Emphasis was placed to choose a technique with the fewest steps to minimize error. The goal was to strive for perfection but to allow for some flexibility to correct errors. Hence, we would achieve consistent reproducibility and precision and accuracy.

As important as the topic in discussion Alexander's philosophy and approach to his craft was evident during the 3 1/2 hour session. A view of the entire project was the basis to plan design, select appropriate material, choose joinery technique and apply the best finish and finally deliver the finished product.

He finished with a demonstration of his technique for sharpening plane blades and chisels. I came away impressed

by the passion and emotion that was shown by this artisan.

7. Finishing: Joe Cornett provided a glimpse into the complexities of finishing our projects. Emphasis was on testing the planned finish on the same material used in building the project and starting that process as you start the initial stages of construction. A surprise tip was not to sand to "EXCESS" so finishing process can bind with the wood more securely. With all the combinations possible using sealers, oil base finishes, water based finishes, polyurethanes, urethanes, shellac, lacquers, etc. that were presented I was left overwhelmed and confused. I might suggest a summary algorithm using various combinations to help novices. This would help delineate compatibility issues to achieve durability as relates to the function of the project.

8. Routers: Jam packed session with demonstration of Table Top mounted versus Hand Held units. The utilization of jigs with tips and tricks made this presentation enjoyable and informative. Safe techniques were emphasized and the "trick" of producing a dowel from square stock was fascinating. Edging a side in lieu of a jointer was another useful technique. A great session and Bob Oswald also served coffee and delicious coffee cake with his newly acquired food server's license.

9. Tips & Tricks: Day filled with insight from a professional wood worker sharing tips/tricks to make his work efficient, productive and safe. Only Frank's imagination and know how from vast experience demonstrated multiple uses for his "Angle block." His demonstration of his sharpening techniques was amazing.

10. Lathe: The last session for our survey of various woodworking techniques provided "Hands on Experience" with turning a bowl on the lathe. It was amazing to see a block of wood transformed into a recognizable facsimile of a bowl in a short time. Jim Hall provided an approach emphasizing safety, proper tool technique and one on one instruction. A great finale to a wonderful series of classes.

SUMMATION: These classes certainly provide a snapshot of the various techniques utilized in woodworking. A wonderful contrast in use of hand tools versus power equipment was presented. Indeed the artisan behind the tools was the difference maker. Perhaps the best of the best of experiences was meeting all the members who participated in coordinating and teaching the series of classes.

A special thanks to Gig Lewis who has provided an opportunity to spend time with him in his shop. Not to be forgotten, Bill Wood who spent hours with us shepherding his "flock" to each and every class. I would do it again

I am pleased at the information shared and overwhelmed by the interest and willingness to share skills by all of the presenters. Their attitude epitomizes the classic old world definition of guilds.

ARCH CUTTING JIG

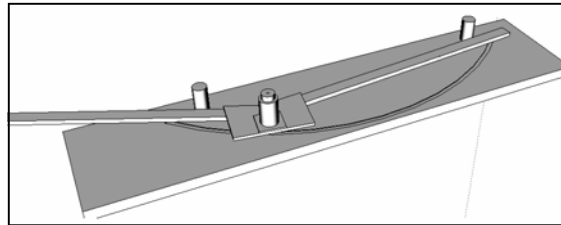
BOB OSWALD

Len Walko told me about this jig he uses to cut arches. Convenient timing since we just saw French's bent lamination arch methods.

It consists of two guide boards joined with a gusset. A router is attached to the gusset and cuts the arch. The whole thing rides on a baseboard that holds two pivot pins, acting as the fulcrum

Make the arms out of 1x2, a bit longer than the arch, and the gusset from 1/4 plywood. Mount the router to the gusset in the general orientation shown. Note: you have not assembled the arms yet.

To cut a particular arch dimension, space the pins in the baseboard at the ends of the arch minus two times the offset of the router bit. This will take a little layout effort on your part since I don't have a 'formula' for the exact layout.



point and insert a 1/4" router bit into it to locate the router and gusset. Slide the right and left arms under the gusset and with each are in contact with it's pin "R" and "L" and screw the gusset to the arms.

To route the arch, put your good lumber on the baseboard, attached with double stick tape.

Starting at one end of the arc, lets say the Left end. Start the router cut,

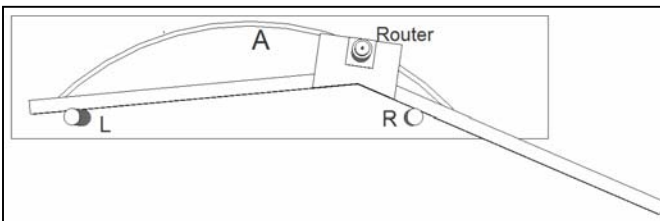
swinging the jig towards the right keeping the arms in contact with the pins.

Len uses a 1/4" upcut spiral bit and cuts the stock 1/4" deep. Then bandsaw off the waste and flush trim that cut to the initial router pass.

Since I haven't built this yet, I'm not sure of some details but... as I say in class when something doesn't go quite right, "You get the idea"



Len's Arch Jig



Mark the "A" point on the baseboard. Position the router bit over that point. You might drill a 1/4" hole at that

WOODWORKING SHOWCASE

BOB OSWALD

The 2010 Ceramics Showcase presents *The Gathering of the Guilds*. And our Guild again has a large room full of exhibitors. This annual show, a very high quality show at the Convention center, is highly advertised and well funded. You can view the work of 30 professional woodworkers (furniture makers, wood turners, wood-carvers, box makers and more).

The Guild enters its third year of participation in this show. In a wing adjacent to the Northwest Fine Woodworkers, both exhibit halls offer the public high quality products made of wood. We're a great complement to the rest of the show.

April 30, May 1 and 2. This is the largest art show in Oregon. Free admission and a huge selection of artists from five Portland area guilds give the public a lot to look forward to.

Booth space is sold out, but it's a perfect chance for Guild members to exhibit a piece in the Guild booth.

Contact Bill Bolstad, 541-327-2280 if you want to do that of if you can help out in the Guild booth..

AWARD WINNERS, BOTH

LEN WALKO

You've seen Sid Sutherland's dot-matrix pixel wood-working renderings before. Here's another entry of President Obama in an art show sponsored by the Battleground Art Alliance , out of 197 entries Sid won "Best in Show"!! Donna Sutherland also received an award for "Artistic presentation" for a pixel type print in fabric. She actually did the first work in pixels and Sid converted the technique to a wood medium.



LAST MEETING: CASCADE SPECIALTY WOODWORKING

BOB OSWALD

What a crowd and what a show. Thanks to all of you for making this Guild such an active organization.

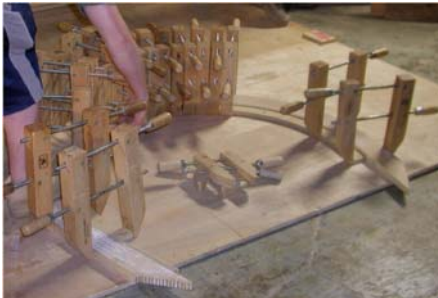
Craig French, host and owner of Cascade Woodworking, has a great niche market making radius molding for customers in mansions, cruise ships, hotels to name a few. A wholesale business, French, as his friends call him, is a stickler for detail, very attentive to the end user customer and cuts through the trivia to get to the heart of a problem.

Members began arriving earlier than normal, anxious to see what Cascade is all about. . Wandering around the shop we see numerous arches, forms and planer knives. Three very large rooms allowed people to wander unimpeded. I was out to the shop a couple months ago. It was a bit congested but 'not bad'. French and a number of his good friends took the time to clean house. Funny how when someone comes to visit, you want it to look nice. The change was inspirational.

After the general meeting, French, perched on his ladder with a stack of notes, talked about being in business. His great sense of humor didn't go to waste, briefing us on a variety of topics. How business evolved—we all start small somewhere and with a little luck and a lot of effort, turn something interesting into a successful business.

French carved out a wonderful niche business making 'radius moldings'. Everything has a curve, from an oval window frame to a twenty foot garage door arch. Everything is cold bent. Steam, as he mentioned to the crowd, is a wonderful tool for bending, but "we don't have time for that". In this business, *everything* is an emergency.

A bending demonstration started with an eight foot stack up of 1 by 1/4" strips carefully arranged in the order they came off the saw. Laid out flat, roller coated with a thin layer of ROO glue, restacked in the original order and bent around the form fastened to the floor. What



A ton of clamps to hold the shape.



started with six Jorgensen style clamps to set the shape, ended with three dozen clamps, side by side, holding the arch secure. Buying it in 55-gallon drums, he shifted from Titebond to ROO glue years back because it penetrates better and doesn't creep.

Quality goes in at every step. He emphasized that if you maintain quality at every step, you don't do repair at the end. You can not sand quality into the final product. And in his business, DO OVER's are not allowed. That's major profit lost in a world where profit doesn't come easy.

Those interested in starting their own business some day were treated to a lot of bits of sage advice.

Building permits, fees and taxes that can drain your pocket if you and the city underestimate changes. The difficult impact of upgrading Portland to a 'green' world will hurt the small business people.

You adapt and survive or get a job pumping gas.

A super observation was having the support of good suppliers and good employees. Hardwood Industries and Moxon Hardwoods are two of Cascade's major lumber suppliers always deliver quality product on time. French couldn't say enough good things about them. He also expressed a great gratitude for each individual that works with him. Surround yourself with good people and you have a half chance of surviving.

Two wood cutting demonstrations gathered large crowds out in the middle shop. A power feed Laguna bandsaw was peeling off beautiful veneers less than 1/32" thick. It has to be well tracked to do that.

Impressive was the molding cutter, making a final trim pass on an elliptical window frame. MDF sawdust fills the air despite a dust collector working its heart out. No One was allowed to stand 'down range' of the cutter in operation. A six-inch cutter blade, accidentally leaving its machine, would be fatal to anyone in the



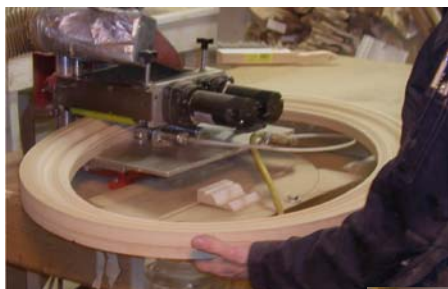
Advice: Invest in Lumber



Perfect Power Feed

CASCADE (CON'T)

DAVID YOUNG



line of fire. An impressive display of over one thousand expensive molding knives, in a cabinet for quick

High power molding cutter

access, is an increase from thirty in the early days of the business. They will all but put on the internet via SketchUp, for consumers to design into their architectural plans. Then, of course, they will come to Cascade to have that unique profile cut into molding

French offers Guild members the opportunity to stop by with a bottle for some ROO glue at his cost.

Thanks a million French, for a very educational evening. You're a great host.



1000 Molding Knives

\$\$ FOR SALE \$\$

1. Freud 8" Dial-a-Width Dado, made in Italy and probably used less than 10 times. \$150
 2. Shop Fox shop table, with Baltic Birch top 18" X 36", \$20
 3. Delta Mobil Base, model #50-345, adjustable with your hardwood stretchers, \$35
- Gig Lewis, 503-646-7056

GUILD SUPPORT FOR ROCKLER

BOB OSWALD

I need one volunteer to help me represent the Guild at Rockler's Guild day on Saturday, April 24. A couple of hours in the morning, an easy job. Our sponsors help us, so **let's do a little pay back!**

Call Bob Oswald 503-985-7137



UNUSUAL CLASS OPPORTUNITY

LEE JOHNSON

Lee Johnson and Dennis Loveland are presenting an 8-week class on decorating furniture; why, where and how decoration can enhance your furniture project.

Methods will include simple carving, accenting with beads and flutes, inlay techniques, turning for decoration, making and using scratch stock for specialty shapes, making and using templates for decorative power router work, and making larger moldings with power and hand tools.

This will be a mixture of study and practical application. Class starts Monday April 5 and meets Monday evenings from 6 to 9 pm, and both shops are open for lab work Saturdays 11 am to 1 pm.

Class limited to 8 people, cost \$500. For information, call Dennis Loveland at 503-281-8750 or email at Dllloveland@comcast.net, or Lee Johnson at 971-219-0839.

SIXTH INTRA-GUILD SHOW

BOB OSWALD

Rule Change

I stated last month that if you've ever won as a Beginner you must move to Intermediate. That's been relaxed to having won FIRST or BEST of SHOW. Keep it simple but be reasonable in your self assessment.

Summary of the rules (See Feb issue for details):

- ◆ Piece finished in the last two years
- ◆ Never been entered before
- ◆ Mostly of wood, made by you.

Three great judges have agreed to help out—Gary Rogowski of Northwest Woodworking Studios, Michael DeForest of Oregon College of Art and Craft and Ariel Enriquez of the Joinery. Put on extra coat of wax !!

Ribbons have arrived. Cash prizes will include:

- ◆ Best of Show—\$75
- ◆ First place—\$50
- ◆ Second Place—\$35
- ◆ Third Place—\$25

Each person who enters will receive a small wooden memento of the event, yet to be designed. If you register you are assured one. Extras may/may not be available.

To Register

Send me your name by April 21, the next meeting. Doesn't matter what you enter or what category you choose. I just need a list of names.



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

THE GUILD IS PROUD TO BE SPONSORED BY:

Emerson Hardwood**
 Hardwood Industries **
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 Woodcraft**
 Barbo Machinery
 Goby Walnut Products
 Rockler Woodworking
 Woodcrafters, Portland



AFFILIATES:

Northwest Woodworking Studio
 Oregon College of Art and Craft
 Northwest Fine Woodworkers

- ◆ Some sponsors offer discounts to current Guild members. See the website for details. ** Scholarship Sponsor



Guild of Oregon Woodworkers

c/o Bob Oswald
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We're on the Web!

www.GuildOfOregonWoodworkers.com