



Crosscut

Newsletter of the Witwatersrand Woodworkers' Association
PO Box 411346, Craighall, 2024

◀ Inside-out turning showing profiles of faces by Willie de Wet

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Editor: Trevor Pope ([tpepe AT iafrica.com](mailto:tpepe@iafrica.com)). All written content and opinions are those of the editor, unless stated. © Copyright reserved.
Go to <http://mysite.mweb.co.za/residents/tpepe/homepage.html> for back issues of *Crosscut*.

Next General Club Meeting on **Wednesday, the 9th December 2009** from 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at REEA. Bring and braai and quiz at 17h30 for 18h00.

Next Turner's monthly meeting is on **Monday, the 7th December 2009** at 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at REEA. Braai with free wors rolls. A DVD on texturing will be shown – Bring Xmas ornaments to show and donate to REEA for their Xmas market

There will be no meeting in January 2010. The first turner's meeting in 2010 will be on the 1st February. Bring items that didn't work out (flops) to show and share your experiences.

News

November General Club Meeting.

Russel Korte from Mitre Veneering cc spoke on modern veneering practises. Mitre Veneering source and press veneers onto panels supplied by customers. They have a large press in the standard 9 by 6 foot size that can generate up to 500 tons of clamping force at 100 °C to 140 °C. They use UF Resin glue with a cure-time of up to 3 minutes at 100 °C. The cores are Supawood (MDF) or chipboard, often supplied with solid wood edging by the customer. Nowadays all veneers are 0.5mm thickness, down from 0.6mm in the past. They can source most veneers from cheap softwoods to exotic veneers such as Walnut Burls used in high end work. They can also do vacuum pressing for shaped panels.

Russel showed a variety of samples of what they offer. He also showed some reconstituted veneers that are made to emulate more expensive exotic veneers, which was the first time most members had seen these. Contact him at 011-404-1363 or 082-967-542 or mitrev@mweb.co.za. Visitors are also welcome at their premises at 5 Bezuidenhout Str, Troyville, but phone first.

November Turner's Meeting.

Frikkie Potgieter who is the Head of Department of Arts and Music at Unisa spoke on "Some historical theories of beauty and design." He spoke how historically, ratios were applied to shapes to attempt to get the perfect or ideal shapes. Concepts such as the golden rectangle were applied. This was followed the application of more abstract ideas of Vitalism (Bergson on life-forces and philosophy of life) or organic wholeness, modernism, and then post-modernism onto art. He spoke on the design process and "abjects" which are ugly objects that create reactions to the art.

Chris van Heeswijk presented the wood of the month – *Searsia Leptodictya* – Mountain Karee, previously called Rhus. It is called African Sumac in the USA.

From the committee:

Toymakers – Please note that the last meeting for 2009, is 16th November. We restart on Monday, the 1st of Feb 2010.

Wednesday Workshop – Please note that the last meeting for 2009 is Wednesday, the 2nd December. We restart on Wednesday, the 20th January 2010.

Annual Braai. The Christmas Braai will take place on the 28th November 2009 at Greenside High School. You should have booked and bought a ticket by now – you have until November 20 to do so - please contact us, Clive Stacey at 0834078008, e-mail stacey@netactive.co.za or Ken Mutch at 0828067693, e-mail ken.woodman@gmail.com . The cost is R 30 per member and R 35 per guest.

Glenn Lopich our Treasurer may be contacted for information 0824427792 or Glenn Lopich (glenn_laura@iafrica.com).

Payment may also be made electronically: The bank account details are - Nedbank, Main Street - Branch Code: 197-905

Account Name: Witwatersrand Woodworkers Association - Account Number: 1979-321 833

Please ensure that all details appear in your payment notification.

Utensils - Please be sure to bring knives, forks, spoons, teaspoons and plates (for the main course as well as desserts), glasses and cups.

Don't forget your toys. If you haven't already, please start making toys for donation. Simple, robust toys, safe to use are best. Toys should be painted with lead free paints and avoid sharp edges and points that can injure.

Target ages range from 2 to 12 years. Pull-along or push-along toys, small cabinets or boxes, small puzzles, small wheel barrows, etc are most effective.

Arrive from 12h00, lunch will be served at 12h30.

Don't forget the Hardware Centre Open Days – Randburg – 25th to 29th November 2010. There will be demonstrations each day, including the early evening. Contact them on (011) 791 0844 or info@hardwarecentre.co.za or visit www.hardwarecentre.co.za for directions.

For Sale:

Roy's Gallery and restaurant "Heartwood". has opened in Schoemansville, Hartebeespoort. Opposite the police station, on 105 Scott Street 2543'30.17"S 2752'19.56"E. Open Wed to Mon, 8h00 to 16h30 for breakfasts and light lunches. Also see a gallery of turned items and paintings, as well as smoked meats for sale. Contact Roy or Emma Gibbs on 012-253-1217 or 076-480-6190 or roy.gibbs@lantic.net If you have turned items you would like to supply, both artistic and functional items (such as bangles, jewellery, gavels, etc) please discuss this with Roy.

Please Note:

Toymakers. The toymakers meet on the first and third Mondays of every month, at 09h00 till 12h00 at the clubhouse.

Contact Eddie Marchio on 011-678-8062 or renato AT pixie.co.za for more information. The last meeting for 2009, is 16th November. We restart on Monday, the 1st of Feb 2010.

Wednesday Workshop. The Wednesday evening workshops are on the first and third Wednesdays of every month, from 18h00 till 20h00. Contact Winston Klein on 011-674-1513 for more information. The last meeting for 2009 is Wednesday, the 2nd December. We restart on Wednesday, the 20th January 2010.

Tools – a basic starter set

Trevor Pope

Good woodworking tools are expensive. When one is starting out, naturally, one doesn't want to buy tools that won't last or not be used. Fortunately, in our throw-away society, it is pleasing to know that good tools will last you a lifetime. They are an investment, so it makes sense to buy the right ones the first time.

Obviously, the tools you will need will depend on what you want to make and your level of skill, so there is no definitive list of must-have tools.

Here is a list compiled by John Brown (1932 to 2008), the now-deceased Welsh chair-maker who became well-known for his hand-made Windsor-style chairs. John Brown was a purist who did most of his work by hand. He wrote a book on making Welsh Stick Chairs, in which he records how he left the boat building trade



when they moved from wood to fibreglass. He bought a house in rural Pembrokeshire, South Wales in 1975, which did not even have electricity. He worked alone in a small workshop, and despite doing all his work by hand, he made a living this way. This was rare at the time and even rarer now. Up until the time he wrote his book in 1990, he had made 400 chairs, and continued, probably till his death in 2008.

Here is a list of hand tools he considered essential for cabinet making, possibly with a bias towards chair making.

It was published in his column in **Good Woodworking** in the autumn of 1997, so some of the tools may not be available now. The picture of the tools below is from the article, and was scanned in, so the quality is not very good.

Saws:

26" Rip Saw, 22" Crosscut
Panel saw
8" Gents saw – Roberts & Lee;
Coping saw; 12" Turning saw
– also called a frame saw;
Junior hack-saw – Eclipse
8" regular taper saw file; 6"
slim taper saw file – for
sharpening the saws.

Hammers:

20 oz Claw – Stanley 40
series; 12 oz Cross-pein;

Planes:

Jointer No 7; Jack No 5;
Smoothing No 4; Block 60½
(12.5 degree angle blade)
Stanley Bailey or Record.
Rebate No 778 – Record (Or a
Stanley 12-078); Router No
71 – Stanley
Kunz adjustable mouth spoke-
shave, similar to Stanley No 53

Chisels:

1¼" paring; ½" paring; 1"
register (mortise); ½" register
(mortise)
¼" bevel edge. Record Marples, Stanley, Footprint, etc.

Boring holes:

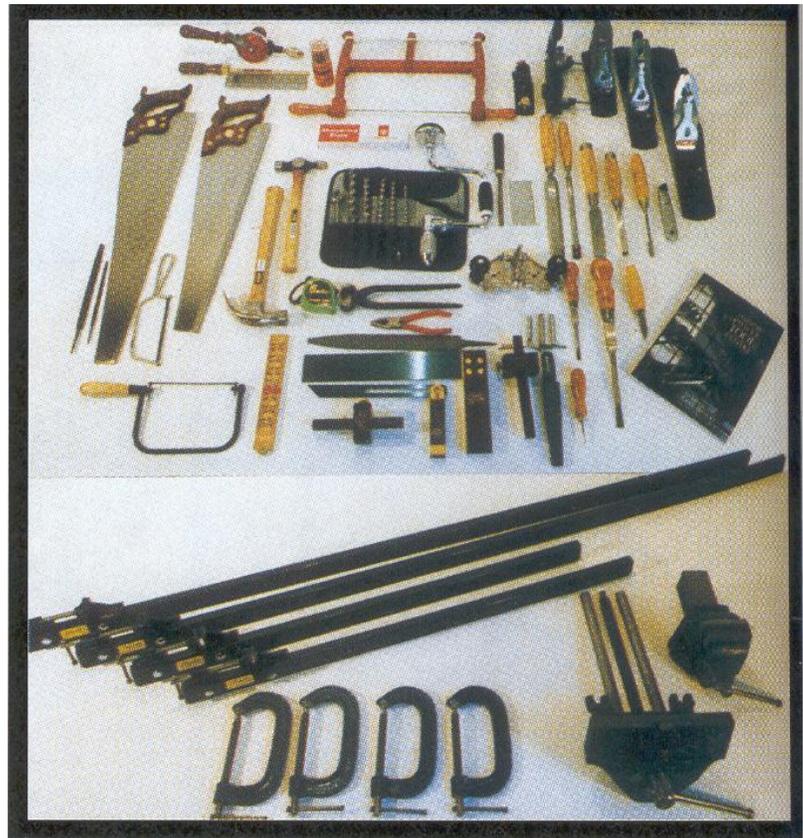
10" Brace – Stanley 73 Mk iv;
Hand drill – Stanley
1"; ¾"; 5/8"; ½"; 3/8" Jennings bits; 1¼" Centre pattern bit (all to go in the brace) + Bit Roll – 9
pocket to hold the bits
13 piece twist drills set, Countersink bit

Measuring and Marking:

3" Rabone Blind Man's Rule; 5 m tape; 12" Try Square; 10 ½"; Sliding Bevel;
Mortise gauge; Cutting gauge
Knife (Sloyd) 120SB; 2" Bradawl – square blade; Stanley Knife #199
36" or 48" straight edge

Miscellaneous:

8" Screwdriver ; 4" Screwdriver
6" Pliers; 10 " Pincers
12" Wood rasp
Cabinet Scraper
Burnisher – such as a Kirschen for putting an edge on the cabinet scraper. (The shaft of a
good screw driver will do in a pinch.)



Sharpening:

- Hand grinder
- Fine bench stone – 8" x 2" Norton India; Slip stones

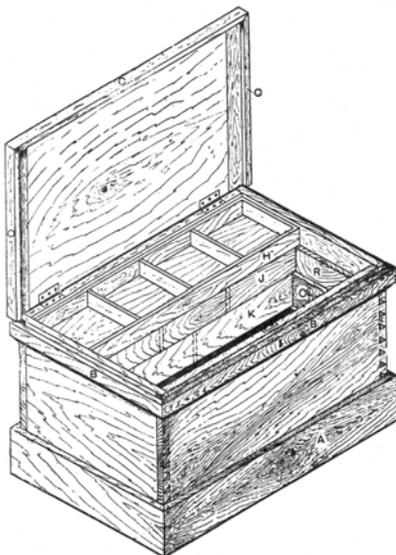
Holding and Cramping (Clamping):

- Vice – Wood - Record 10 ½" plain screw
- Vice – Mechanics – Record 4 "
- G Cramps – 120mm – 4 off
- Sash Cramps – 2 x 36" and 2 x 72"

Pencils, chalk, masking tape, rags, brushes, Danish oil, paint, glue.

There are a few items that I think could be added as you can afford them:

- Some safety gear – glasses, hearing defenders (for use with the router), disposable dust masks and leather gloves. The gloves help to keep splinters at bay.
- Perhaps a small mallet for use with the mortising chisels.
- Notice no mention of sand paper above – I would add some 220 grit fine cabinet paper.
- Nowadays instead of the hand-turned grinder, I would suggest a small 6", two wheel bench grinder, 1400 rpm if available, although most are 2800 rpm, with an O'Donnell Grinding jig – or similar
- I would suggest replacing the hand drill with a cordless drill driver, which I believe will give you better results, as you can concentrate on lining up the drill and not worry about turning it.
- A jig-saw with wood cutting blades can save a lot of time, particularly when dealing with sheet goods. Look at the Skil jig saw for low vibration.
- After the jig-saw, I would look at getting a router. With jigs, these are very versatile and can save a lot of handwork.
- Modern hard-point hand saws need less sharpening, but you will need to buy a diamond file as the hard teeth will ruin your ordinary saw files.
- Straight edge – 450 or 600 mm long – useful for checking out the flatness of panels – use a high quality rule as a substitute. A large framing square can also be useful, although check it is actually square – I had to "adjust" mine with a hammer as it was about a millimetre out.
- The planes are expensive if bought new, and may still require some fettling. Look for good, second-hand ones. If you can't afford them all at once, start with the No5.
- The sash clamps are also quite an investment. A couple of ratchet tie-down straps can serve as a substitute. We also have some clamps at the club house that you can use.



With these tools, you should be able to make most things wooden. Heavy machining work can be done on the table saw, band saw, radial-arm saw, jointer and thicknesser at the club house.



Perhaps one your first projects could be a tool chest or cabinet to keep your tools in? What are you waiting for?

Picture of John Brown from <http://www.getwoodworking.com/news/article.asp?a=940>
Drawings of Tool Chest and Tool Cabinet from The Handyman's Book by Paul Hasluck first printed in 1903 and reprinted by Ten Speed Press