November 2008

Coloured bowls by Mick O'Donnell.

Crosscut

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

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

Next General Club Meeting on **Wednesday, the 12th November 2008** from 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at REEA. Bill Parrack and Denis Lock will be talking about hinges.

Next Turner's monthly meeting is on **Monday, the 3rd November 2008** at 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at REEA. Buddy Lawson will demonstrate oval turning.
For the 1st Dec meeting, wors rolls will be available. There will be a competition to turn a Xmas ornament (such as a Xmas tree) in ten minutes. Entry fee R10-. Bring your own blanks and tools for this. There will be the three club lathes (the Jet Mini, the Nova 3000 and the Record) where you can use the chucks or work between centres as you need.

News

October General Club Meeting. Angus Currie who represents the SA Wood Preservers Association (see www.sapwa.org.za) spoke about treated timber. He explained the need for wood preservation and the different classes of use based on the expected hazards. These range from H2 which is under-cover use, though H4 which is for in ground use, to H6 which is for submerged marine conditions. The different types of treatment were explained and advantages and disadvantages of each. Creosote, CCA, TBTO, TBTN and Boron were explained. The members of the association work to statutory standards set by the SABS. All treated timber is marked to provide confirmation to the user that the correct standards and processes for the application have been followed. Typical treatment costs are R500- per m^3 for CCA, and R1200- per m^3 for TBTN. Most of the wood treated is SA Pine and Gum (Eucalyptus). About 1.1 Million m^3 of wood are treated annually in SA.

October Turner's Meeting. Peter Middleton showed how to turn a table leg between centers. He explained the techniques for reproducing a design for multiple legs. He showed what aspects are important to the eye when making a set of legs. These important parts are accurately measured out and then the curves in between are filled in freehand, by eye. The end product compared closely with the first example when held side by side. When mounted at opposite ends of a table top, they would be indistinguishable to the eye.

Chris van Heeswijk talked about Fraxinus excelsior the Common or European Ash, which is one of 43 species of Ash. Dries showed his very long stemmed goblet and the jigs he used to turn it. He also showed his fluting jig that uses a router that moves in a carrier along the lathe bed. The interesting aspect of this design is that the router is moved free hand and the bit is guided using a V shaped housing that surrounds the bit and registers against the work piece, thereby tracking the contours of the piece.

From the committee:

New Members Day. We had ten newcomers who made a variety of kits – bird feeders, carving boards and jewelry boxes. We also showed some basic turning and several people had a go at turning on the Jet Mini and the Nova 3000 lathes. This first new and potential member workshop

was a huge success - special thanks must go to all those club members who so willingly gave of their time and knowledge to aspiring woodworkers.

Pretoria Club Annual show. This took place at the Lions Club off Atterbury Road on Saturday, the 18th October. The display of turned items was the best that I remember. The picture below shows some of the juried items.

Eddie Marchio Describes the Bushbuckridge Project:

"Kathy Wickham contacted the toymakers for help to make toys/ items for a project to assist children, mostly aids orphans from 2years to 6 years.. The concept being that the small children could have a toy to play with while the older ones would paint the toys and earn a small income for their labour that is teaching them to get away from "give me". Through the sponsorship of Standard Bank and others we purchased the timber (shutterply and plywood) to assemble 28 stools, 18 bead boxes. Eddie arranged for the boards to be cut so our main effort was assembly. This was a great group effort. Roger, Winston and Barries provided the timber for the 14 pull-alongs with squares, triangles, rounds etc, 7 pull-alongs with squares and rounds and 2 taxi pull-alongs.

"Besides the stool being a seat, it will be used as a stage for puppet shows to promote understanding of abuse of children. It has a space to store puppets.

"The rationale of the project was to create enthusiasm amongst the toymakers to get involved and provide our expertise towards a good cause.

Annual Braai. This is scheduled for Saturday, the 29th November at Greenside High School. More details to follow. Sign up at club meetings, R25-00 for members, R35-00 for spouses and family. Bring your own cutlery and crockery. The same selection of drinks as on sale at the club house will be provided. Don't forget to make toys to donate at the braai.

Techtronic Industries South Africa (see www.ttisa.co.za) who represent AEG, Milwaukee, Startel and Homelite Electric Tools and Outdoor Products are looking for people to demonstrate power tools at hardware stores, typically from 9h00 to 14h00 on Saturdays. Contact Fleetwood Tapson on 011-216-9440 or 082-338-2803, or f.tapson AT ttisa.co.za

Bracket Project: Glenn Lopich gave out some drawings for a bracket to make to practice your joinery skills. The type of joint is up to you, but should be appropriate for the application. Bring your brackets to show at the next general club meeting.

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@pixie.co.za for more information.

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.

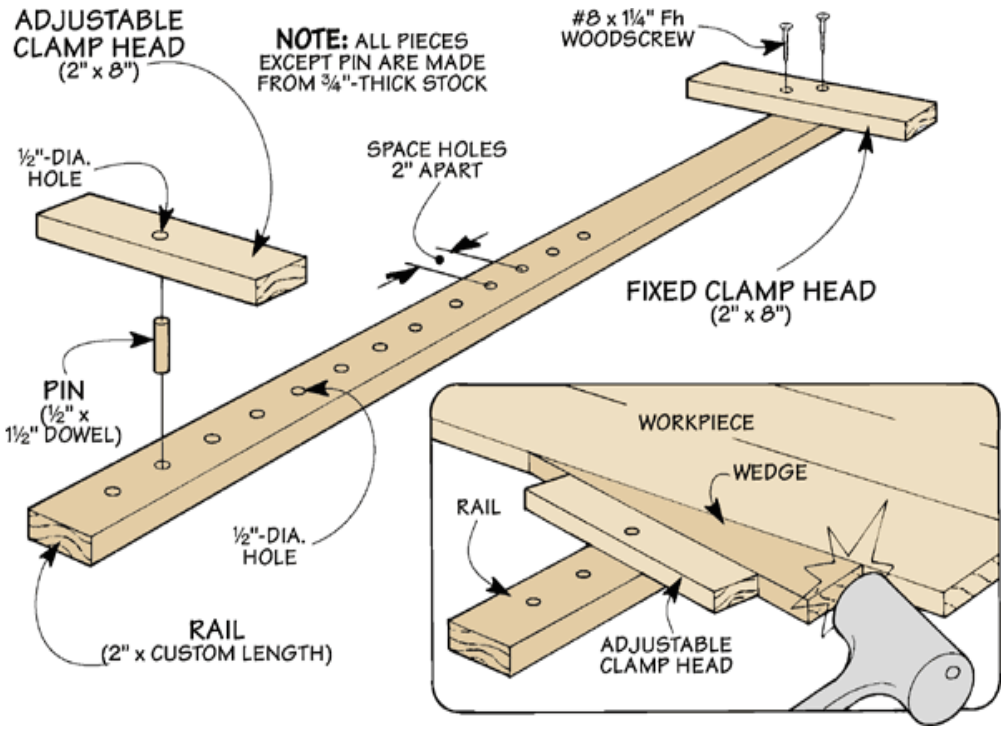
For Sale:

De Walt radial arm saw ± 270 mm plus attachments mounted on bench for sale complete as is
No-name 6 inch planer/jointer; No-name thicknesser 300 mm width;
One large compressor (brand unknown) and fittings (pipes, spray guns and other implements - (capacity 38?)
Electric welder and related kit

Large Bosch orbital Sander; Small Black & Decker orbital Sander; Large angle grinder (brand unknown)
Large Black & Decker router and sundry bits; Black & Decker belt sander 75 mm width; Small compressor (12 V DC.)
Makita hand drill 6 mm; Makita blower; Moto tool (Dremel type)
For more information, contact **Clive Stacey**; stacey@netactive.co.za; 011-447-2969 or 083-407-8008 Clive is assisting the Reid estate with the sale of the above. The portable power tools, plus some hand tools will be on sale at a future club meeting.

Shop Made Clamps

From www.newWoodworker.com



You can never have enough clamps. But they are expensive so here's an easy-to-build clamp that will work well for most projects. What's unique about these clamps is how the pressure is applied. Instead of tightening a threaded screw, a wood wedge is tapped between the clamp and the work-piece.

The clamps are easy to make. As you can see in the drawing on the below and on the next slide, each one consists of a long, wood *rail* with two clamp heads.

The ***fixed clamp head*** is screwed to one end of the rail. And to accommodate different size objects, an ***adjustable clamp head*** is positioned along the length of the rail.

To make this work, you'll need to drill a series of holes in the rail. These holes accept a ***pin*** that's mounted into a hole in the adjustable clamp head. (The example here uses a dowel for the pin.)

In use, this pin allows the adjustable clamp head to pivot as you tap in the wedge, as shown in the detail. The farther you tap in the wedge, the more pressure it applies against the work-piece.

Building and Using Clamping Cauls - the easy way to make flatter panel glue-ups

Text & Photos by Tom Hintz - www.newwoodworker.com

Clamping cauls are nothing more than rigid wooden bars that are clamped to panel glue-ups, one on top and another directly below it, to keep the individual boards aligned to each other. It is important to remember that cauls are not clamps but rather tools designed to improve the quality of panels glued up using long bar and pipe clamps.

The important features of clamping cauls are rigidity, length and width. The overall length of a caul impacts its ability to resist flexing

in use making it important that they be only as long as needed. We can also “shorten” longer cauls by adding speed clamps at the edge of narrower panels.

While width does influence rigidity, a wider caul is less likely to leave indentations in soft wood. A wider “footprint” also helps keep the boards of a glue-up aligned with minimal pressure

Making the Blanks

While virtually any species of hardwood can be used to make cauls, I like red oak because it is both rigid and relatively cheap. I tried using poplar and while it is technically a hardwood, it is at the bottom of the stiff range and needs to be oversized considerably to be effective as a caul.

If you have stock thick enough to make the cauls in one piece, that is an option. However, I like to glue up two ¾”-thick pieces as they seem a bit more rigid. Despite the grain running in the same direction, it varies in each piece which tends to increase their resistance to flexing.

My cauls used in these photos have finished dimensions of 40”-long by 2”-tall and 1 ½”-wide. You can make cauls longer or shorter but I find this length more than adequate for my shop. Also, if you work on a large surface and have the handles of your clamps over it, consider making the bottom cauls tall enough to allow the clamp handles to turn freely. Because cauls are cheap and easy to make, many woodworkers make several sizes.

Begin by cutting the pieces (2 per caul) from ¾”-thick stock, 2 ¼”-wide by 40 ½”-long. Apply glue to matching faces and glue two pieces together to make one caul blank. A ¼”-radius round-over bit was used to ease all edges. This helps minimize marking the wood being clamped and makes the cauls user friendly. Carriage bolts 3/8”-diameter by 7”-long were used to make the cauls in this story. That length gives a 3”-thick working capacity, which exceeds most clamping needs. If you make glue-ups with thicker material, longer bolts or even threaded rod can be substituted to increase capacity as needed.

I use wing nuts for applying clamping pressure but anything from plastic knobs to nuts turned by a wrench can be used. A large, flat washer should be placed between that nut or handle and the wood to prevent it from digging into the wood. In addition, the washer makes it easier to turn.

Mark the outside edge (away from the clamping surface) on each caul, 1” in from the ends. One caul from each set will become the bottom piece, which is drilled differently than the top half. The bottom cauls get a 7/8”-diameter by ½”-deep hole drilled on the mark at the centreline to recess the bolt head so the caul can sit flat. Install a 3/8”-diameter drill and make through holes at the centre of those recesses. Note that the 3/8”-diameter through holes are on the bottom cauls only!

Insert the bolts through the bottom caul halves; add a couple flat washers and a nut. Turn the nut down to draw the square shoulder under the bolt head into the wood until the head is seated fully in the recess. With the bolt heads facing up, drop enough epoxy into the recesses to fully cover (or close) the bolt heads. This helps lock the bolts in place so they can’t fall out during use.

The top halves of the cauls are drilled (through hole) at the same mark but using a 7/16”-diameter drill. This slightly oversized hole eliminates binds, making assembly and use of the caul easier. Assemble the top halves of the cauls onto the bolts and make sure they move freely. If necessary, open the through holes in the upper cauls to insure free movement.

Since cauls are used in contact with fresh glue, it is important to prevent them from becoming part of the panel. Applying a coat or two of a good quality finish helps, but a strip of 2” packing tape on the sides that contact the panels is key stopping glue sticking.