



September 2008

Crosscut

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

Multi-centre turned bowl by Butch Smuts

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Go to <http://mysite.wweb.co.za/residents/tpope/homepage.html> for back issues of *Crosscut*.

Next General Club Meeting on Wednesday, the 10th September 2008 from 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at REEA. Etienne Nagel (Wood and Timber Times) will talk on developments on wood curing and production. Peter Middleton will demonstrate the use of a biscuit jointer to assemble a chipboard carcass for a bed-side cabinet.

Next Turner's monthly meeting is on Monday, the 1st September 2008 at 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at REEA. Ari Mansur will give a talk on segmented turning and how to turn a segmented piece for beginners, so anyone will be able to attempt one. The project for September is to show work that has been finished with texturing and/or colouring

News

August General Club Meeting. Konrad Neumann from Fein Power Tools demonstrated the Multimaster range. These use a reciprocating spindle to drive a wide variety of cutters and abrasives which can perform a wide range of tasks. The three tools were shown: The basic **Start** which retails at R2500- ex VAT. The **Top** which retails at R4200- ex VAT, and includes a range of accessories. A battery operated model retails at R3800- ex VAT. Over a 1000 accessories are available, some of which are very specialised. Konrad showed some applications which are unique to the Multimaster. Konrad can be contacted at Fein SA at 011-444-2228 or feinsa AT iafrica.com.

Stool Competition. Peter Middleton's design was judged the best overall design by the members present, using a scoring sheet that rate different aspects of the 8 designs entered. Congratulations to all those submitted a design – all would have fitted the purpose, although some looked easier to make than others. Peter received the prize of a belt sander.

August Turner's Meeting. Chris van Heeswijk prepared a presentation on Pin Oak – Quercus Palustris, but the task of presenting it fell to Dries Blignaut, as Chris had gone in search of Paddington in Peru again. Andrew Riley demonstrated making a wooden ball between centers on the lathe. 10 completed gavels were shown.

From the committee:

Spring Challenge is on Saturday, the 27th Sept 2008 (the 24th is the Heritage Day public holiday) The turners will stage an exhibition of hollow forms with a prize for the best one judged on the day. There will also be a turning challenge and a bring-and-braai, starting from 11h00 onwards. The challenge on the day will be to turn a mushroom in an allocated time so you must bring the tools you would use to turn a mushroom.

Subscriptions. Annual subscriptions are overdue. If you haven't paid, you should get a personalized reminder soon. If you stop receiving the Crosscut, perhaps it is because you haven't paid up, unless you changed your address and forgot to tell the secretary.

East Rand Woodworkers Association is holding their annual Wood faire at Timbercity East Rand on 6th Sept 2008 from 08h00 to 14h00. All welcome.

Annual Festival of Miniatures. The Jhb Society of Miniature Enthusiasts will host their 16th annual Festival of Miniatures on August 30th and 31st at the Parkhurst recreation centre, on the corner of 5th ave. and 12th st. from 10 AM to 4 PM. Contact Ms Sue Engall on 011-787-2340 or miniatures AT telkomsa.net.

Mentors. Several members offered themselves as mentors, and members are encouraged to contact them to gain the benefit of their experience. A list will be posted on the notice board, together with contact details.

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:

Orbital sander rectangular Festo model RS-3.E. In a Festo carry case. Never used. R1200-00 Contact Norman Cheerin on 011 442 0466 (w), 011 787 6075 (h), 082 443 7325 (cell) or email ncheerin@iafrica.com

Scroll Saw, Framag with 400mm throat. Unused with extra blades. HDuty cast iron table. Flexible dust blower etc, pin type blade not suitable for very fine fretsaw work, but robust. Sell R400 or swap for Pyrography Machine. Contact Harold Theunissen alias Mister Crusty on 072 554 8092 or 011 447 3334

Willow. Oki Schoeman is cutting down a Willow tree and for those whom are interested to please contact him on 0834420503. He is located in Witfield which is in the East Rand.

Lathe. Elektra Beckum with all standard accessories, 18 months old, as new. R2500- Wimpie Maré (018) 633-1148 or wimpie@nwk.co.za

Woodworking tips.

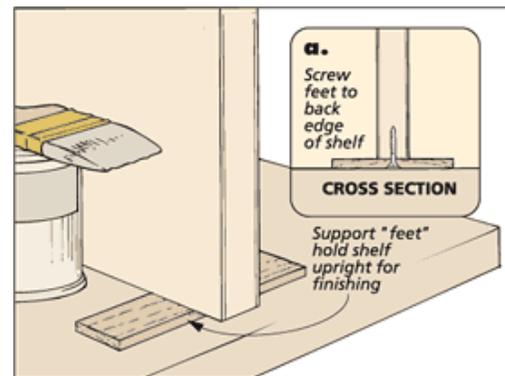
Some were shown by Clive Stacey at the August Main Club meeting and are reproduced below. They are sent out by email. Go to www.woodworkingtips.com to subscribe. The complete list can be found at <http://www.woodworkingtips.com/etips/> .

Finishing shelves

Finishing shelves can be a time-consuming chore. After applying finish to one side, you often have a long wait before the finish is dry and the shelf can be turned to work on the other side. When each side needs several coats of finish, the whole process can really drag on.

Impatience finally spurred me to figure out a way to streamline the job. If I could safely stand the shelves on edge, both sides could be finished at the same time. Support feet attached to the back edge of the shelf to keep it upright were the answer.

As you can see in the drawing, the feet are simply thin strips of wood that are screwed to the back edge of the shelf - one at each end. When the job is done, simply remove the feet and no one is the wiser. Except maybe me, I've cut the finishing time in half.



Dowel Drilling Jig

Drilling a centred hole in a dowel can be a challenge. It's hard to get the drill bit centred and keep the dowel from turning as the hole is drilled. To make it easier, I built the jig shown on the right.



Build the jig by first drilling a hole the diameter of the dowel in a piece of hardwood. Then just cut a saw kerf through the hole from the end to make a clamp.

Using the jig is simple. Begin by centring the dowel under the bit. To do this, clamp a piece of scrap wood to the table and drill a hole to fit the dowel. Then change out the bit to the size needed.

Next, slip the dowel into the hole in the scrap wood. Then slip the clamping jig over the dowel and squeeze the kerf together with a small clamp. Now you can clamp the jig in place and drill the hole in the centre of the dowel.

Squaring Jig

When building large face frames and cases, it seems that I can never get my tape measure to behave when measuring from corner to corner to square things up. So I built the squaring jig you see in the photos to make this a simple task.

The jig is easy to build. I made the corner block with a 90° notch by first drilling a centred hole in a square piece of 3/4" plywood. Then you can set up the mitre gauge with an auxiliary fence on your table saw and make two 45° cuts in the block. Finally, screw the corner block to a 1/2" plywood backing block, like you see in the illustration.

Secure the arm to the backing block with a 1/4" x 1 3/4" hex bolt, nylock nut and washer.

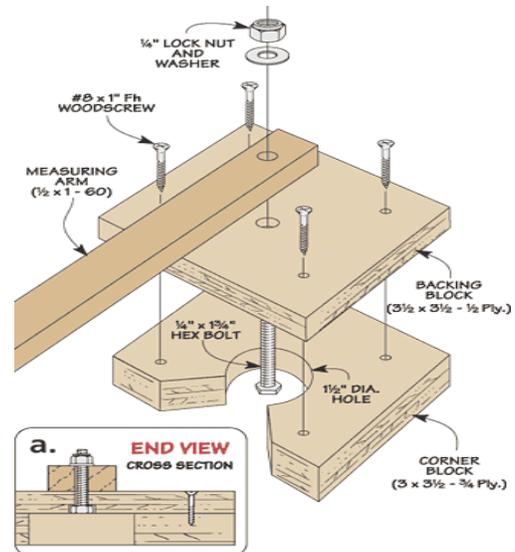


The jig makes it easy to work from the far end of a frame or case. You first slide the block over the corner and it hooks into position. Then just extend the long measuring arm diagonally across to the opposite corner.

With this jig, you don't need to remember any measurements.

Just place a piece of masking tape at the end of the arm and mark the corner, like you see in the inset photo. Then you can quickly move the jig to check the other diagonal and compare this distance to the mark you just made.

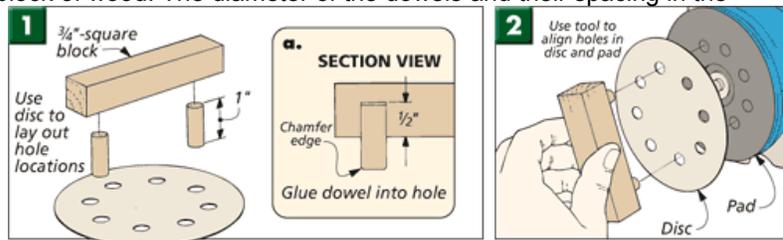
Now, I no longer worry about the size of the case or face frame I'm working with. It's easy to get them squared up. And I don't need anyone around to give me a hand.



Sanding Disc Alignment Tool

My oscillating disc sander has built-in dust collection and it works great — but only when the holes in the sanding disc are aligned with the vacuum holes in the sander's pad. And this simple requirement isn't always as easy as it sounds. So rather than rely on a good aim when installing the discs, I put together a simple tool that makes hitting the mark a sure thing. As you can see in Figure 1, the tool is nothing more than two dowels glued into a small block of wood. The diameter of the dowels and their spacing in the block matches that of the holes in the discs and sanding pad.

To use the tool, you simply place a disc over the dowels and then insert them into the holes in the pad (Figure 2). Slip the disc off of the dowels and onto the pad and you're ready to go.



Shop-Made Bench Dogs

Lots of workbenches have 3/4"-dia. holes in the top to hold bench dogs. But the holes aren't much use if you don't have a good supply of dogs to fill them. So I came up with a simple and cheap substitute for "store bought" bench dogs.

My shop-made dogs are sections of 3/4"-dia. hardwood dowel with rubber tips on the ends (photo). The tip gives the dog a cushioned grip on the work piece, as well as keeping it from sliding through the dog hole. You can find both components at the hardware store and for a small investment you'll always have a ready stash of bench dogs on hand.



Small Parts Clamp

When gluing and clamping small parts together, it's always a challenge to align large clamps to hold them in place as the glue dries. To make this job easier, I built the small parts clamp you see in the photo above. The base is two pieces of 3/4" plywood glued together and trimmed to size. Two grooves in the base hold a pair of T-tracks, as shown in the drawing below.

Next, two pieces of hardwood serve as the stop block and clamping block. They are drilled to hold flange bolts and two sections of threaded rod, as the illustration below. Place a T-nut in each hole at the back edge of the stop block, slide a threaded rod through the holes in both of the blocks, and then screw them into the T-nuts, like you see in the side view at left. A little epoxy at the end of the rod will keep it from turning. Next, slide the four flange bolts in the T-track, slip the blocks over the bolts and add the washers and wing nuts. Finally, add the washers and thread the knobs on the rod.



To use the clamp, loosen the wing nuts and place the parts to be clamped between the blocks. Position the front of the clamping block to extend slightly beyond the edge of the base so you can turn the knobs and secure the stop block in place. Finally, snug up the star knobs and tighten the wing nuts to lock the clamping block in place.

