



Crosscut

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

< Lie Nielsen's No #62 Low angle jack plane

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Next General Club Meeting on Wednesday, the 9th February 2010 from 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at REEA. A talk by Mario Lombaard on Alcolin wood glues.

He is an excellent speaker and will cover all wood glues, including a new Alcolin product recently launched. Bring any queries you may have on wood glues to the meeting.

Next Turner's monthly meeting is on Monday, the 7th February 2010 at 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at REEA. Peter Middleton will demo "The use of Pewter in wood turnings". Wood of the Month is African Mahogany so please bring along any items made from African Mahogany.

News

Turners' Meeting.

The boerewors rolls were organised and the makings donated by Willie Goosen - thanks Willie. Willie mentioned that he had come across a new finish product on the local market that he was experimenting with called Rubio Monocoat.

Dries demonstrated turning a natural edge pencil and a flower, after which some other members also tried to make a flower, with varying degrees of success.

Main Club Meeting

Bring and Braai. Several items were left behind by members – please collect these at the next meeting – Ask for the secretary Ken Mutch.

Club Notices:

WWA is contemplating an Open Day to be held at the Greenside High school in May.

WWA is again going to HobbyX this year (March 3 - 7).

Both events will require members to demo, members to be on the stand to promote WWA and a large display of our handy work for show.....Get going now to produce items for both events. Obviously items may be sold at the open day. More details at the February meetings.

The committee raised the question as to whether the pensioner members would like to meet an extra morning for a "social", "working" or some other meeting at the club house, like the Monday morning toymakers sessions – please discuss this with a committee member if you would like to take part in additional meetings or workshops.

Congratulations to Harold Theunissen who celebrated his 90th year in December.

Year-end Braai. This took place at Greenside School on the 27th November.

Fortunately, the weather held off, so we didn't have to move into the hall. The top picture shows Daphne van Staden giving some background to the worthwhile causes that receive the toys. The middle picture shows the carvery in full swing. Grant MacKay took a picture of John Conn, the auctioneer, holding forth.



(Left behind at the braai: Glass dish (Peach crumble), Glass bowl (Lemon Chiffon), Plastic serving spoon, Wooden serving fork – See Ken at the next meeting to claim them before the wife notices they are missing.)

Eddie Marchio reported the following: The annual donation of toys took place at Westview Clinic . Thanks to the effort of members we donated 215 toys, the best ever number. We met two ladies who run a crèche in Dobsonville and Doornkop. When you hear of the effort they put into looking after the children and trying to educate them with very little by way of finance and equipment (nothing from Government), our contribution although small in the overall context, is highly appreciated and meaningful. The Clinic mentors some 62 creches/educare centres that cater for some 5000 children with the help of 320 staff. The children's ages vary 1 to 6 years and the older ones up to 9 years. Whilst they endeavour to recover 'school fees' there are many orphans, and persons not financially able. The ladies make blankets for sale to supplement income and also grow veggie gardens. Daphne van Staden is the mentor and is held in high regard for her enthusiasm and dedication. There is a lot more that can be said, save to say we are supporting a worthy cause.



Thanks to the Toy Boys..... Eddie, Winston, Barries, Frans, Brian, Roger, Grant and Peter.



Wanted:

Yellow wood table to be repaired and resized. Can anyone help, either in doing the job or recommending someone else? The details are:
Yellow wood table 1m wide and 1.8m long x ,78 high. Under-frame stink wood. Top yellow wood has numerous cracks across the top.
Would like to resize the top ,825m wide, length +/- 1.7m long using original base. Need help to find an experienced craftsman, who would be prepared to restore it. Contact Aldon Holmes Tel: 011 326 4279

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. **We will resume on the 7th February 2011.**

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. **We will resume on the 19th January 2011.**

More on Planes

The Holtey 982 (shown right), discussed before, is close to the ultimate smoothing plane. But I did see one criticism, by Christopher Swartz, the editor of Popular Woodworking in the October 2010 issue. He praised the 982 as the best plane he has used to date. He did however raise one issue, relating to the attachment of the rear handle (tote). You can see it looks unconventional from the picture. I would think that there would be issues with stability, based on my experience with conventional Bailey pattern planes, where the tote does loosen. Swartz has reported problems in exactly this area, so I expect we may see a design revision from Carl Holtey in the future.



You may recall that the 982 has a non-adjustable mouth. This makes it less general purpose, but is acceptable, because in practise changing the mouth opening for different duties is tiresome. It is quicker to reach for another plane. However, your working set of planes needs to be larger – if you are at the level of proficiency that you appreciate the performance of a 982 over a Bailey pattern plan, additional planes are not likely be a problem. A Bailey-pattern plane can be dedicated as a scrub plane by opening the mouth and profiling the blade.

It should be recorded that the differences between these planes are probably very small, and will not be perceived by most people in everyday use. It is a bit like top-end music reproduction – the differences between the top hi-fi systems are not perceptible to the average person and are overwhelmed by the room acoustics in any case. Similarly, properly set-up good quality iron planes such as a Stanley Bedrock, Bailey, Record or any the high quality makers mentioned above will probably suit most of us. There are so many other factors, such as wood grain and the skill of the user that overwhelm even the best planes, so “your mileage may vary”. (See www.handplane.com for more info.)

Why does the tote in a Bailey pattern plane tend to loosen with time? It may be because with seasonal variations in humidity, the handle expands and contracts slightly. When it expands, it expands against the rigid stud running down its centre, and something has to give, so the wood compresses slightly. Then, when humidity goes down, it shrinks slightly, and it is then loose enough to notice. I haven't noticed loosening of handles in plastic handled planes, which may bear this out.



In the history of cost-cutting at Stanley, they produced the Handyman range of planes (#3, #4 and #5 sizes), which resemble the Bailey planes, but have a lighter sole with noticeably less rigidity. The first plane I bought was a Stanley Handyman No 12-204 - #4 size to trim a door, many years ago. Light cuts on softwoods such as pine are acceptable, but heavy cuts or attempting even light cuts on harder woods, will reveal noticeable chattering and dig-ins, which are unacceptable. Even after some “tuning” I was not able get this plane to perform. It has now been dedicated as a scrub plane in my workshop, and for high risk tasks such as trimming doors. In general, I would avoid Stanley **Handyman** planes unless all you intend to do is trim pine doors. The **Bailey** pattern models are much more acceptable, and can be made to work.

Norris used to sell castings and various components to allow the user to make a custom infill plane, and some castings are still available from specialists today, should you wish to make your own infill plane.

See <http://www.handplane.com/norris-1914-catalog> for a reproduction of the 1914 Norris catalogue page showing these. For a modern source of castings, should you wish to make your own, see <http://www.stjamesbaytoolco.com/kits.html>)

To put these prices in perspective, a cabinet maker probably earned £1 (20 shillings) a week in those days.

What are the advantages of different blade set angles?

The blade set angle is the angle between the top cutting face of the blade and the sole (base) of the plane. Despite all the discussion you may see, the range of angles is not very large. The list below from the Knight Toolworks (a maker of wooden bodied planes) gives a good explanation. You can see that the range is only 15°. Whether you will be able to feel the differences in practise is moot. Most Bailey pattern planes have the blade set at 45°.

From: http://knight-toolworks.com/?page_id=376

- “45° – Great for planing softwoods and North American hardwoods such as maple and walnut and such. It can handle figured maple well, but will have problems with figured cherry and walnut. This angle is the easiest to push/pull.
- 47° – A good compromise between good tear-out performance and effortless use.
- 50° – Great for North American hardwoods with some to lots of figure. It can handle pine, if needed, and can take on straight grained tropicals, too. This plane takes more effort than the 45 but is not hard to pull/push.
- 55° – For highly-figured American hardwoods and figured tropicals. This plane takes more effort to push/pull than the others, but easily gives good results on figured woods.
- 60° – For extremely hard-to-work woods and for use as a scraper plane. It takes the most effort to use this plane.”

The blade angle is pretty much fixed for a plane by the angle of the frog, so how can you change the cutting angle? - By grinding a back-bevel. This a small angle on the back of the blade that increases the angle to the wood. The changes are small, and you will need to use a little geometry to accurately hone one on the back of the blade. By inserting a shim between the end of the blade opposite to the edge and the whetstone, you can tilt the blade every so slightly and grind a small bevel, which is all you need to try it out. You may want to use a spare blade to try it, because to revert to a straight back, you will have to grind the front bevel down until the back bevel has been ground away, which may be quite a lot of work.

Christian Becksvoort in Fine Woodworking, Feb 2011 explains a similar approach using secondary bevels to get different cutting angles on the Lie Nielsen #62 – the plane shown in the title on page 1 of Crosscut.

Finished Castings Ready for Inside Fittings.

No. 34.	Iron Panel Plane, with gunmetal lever, 12½ long for 2¼ cutters	...	...	9/6 each
	15½ " " "	...	...	11/- "
.. 35.	Malleable Iron Smooth with gunmetal lever ... ..for 2¾ cutters	...	...	7/9 "
	" " " 2¼ "	...	...	8/- "
.. 36.	Gunmetal steel faced ditto "	2½ "	"	13/9 "
	" " " 2¼ "	"	"	14/- "
.. 37.	Malleable Iron Shoulder "	1¼ "	"	7/- "
	" " " 1½ "	"	"	7/3 "
.. 38.	Gunmetal steel faced ditto "	1¼ "	"	12/6 "
	" " " 1½ "	"	"	13/- "
.. 39.	Malleable Iron Bullnose "	1 "	"	3/6 "
	" " " 1½ "	"	"	3/9 "
	" " " 1¼ "	"	"	4/- "
.. 40.	Gunmetal steel faced ditto "	1 "	"	6/6 "
	" " " 1½ "	"	"	6/9 "
	" " " 1¼ "	"	"	7/- "
.. 41.	Malleable Iron Chariot "	1½ "	"	4/6 "
	" " " 1¼ "	"	"	4/9 "
	" " " 1½ "	"	"	5/3 "
.. 42.	Gunmetal steel faced ditto "	1¼ "	"	7/6 "
	" " " 1½ "	"	"	8/- "



Standard Plane Irons.

Ground true, all bright, quite flat, and suitable for iron planes.

2" parallel	...	1/6	2½" parallel	...	1/8
2¼" "	...	1/10	2¾" "	...	2/-

The above with top irons, 1/- extra.

Top irons with screw	...	...	...	10d. each
½ to ¾" Rebate and Shoulder Irons with Hook	...	...	...	1/- "
¾ to 1½" " " " "	...	...	...	1/2 "
Bullnose and Chariot Irons	...	...	...	1/- "

