



March 2011

Crosscut

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

< Jolani No1 Box in Cherry by Jo Winter

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Next General Club Meeting on Wednesday, the 9th March 2011 from 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at REEA. Kreg will be showing their jigs. This will be followed by a meeting to discuss what WWA does, given the recent demand for the clubhouse fees to be raised substantially. This is important as it affects the viability of your Association and what happens now!

Next Turner's monthly meeting is on **Monday, the 7th March 2011** at 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at REEA. Jo Winter will give a demonstration on shadow turning, to show how to make the two pieces that Werner showed at the last turner's meeting. Jo Winter is from Germany, and will be visiting South Africa as a guest of Werner. (See www.jowinter.de) The normal wood-of-the-month and show-and-tell will be held over till April. Donation at the door of R10-00 for members, R20-00 for non-members. Rolls and drinks on sale.

News

Turners' Meeting.

Peter Middleton showed how to cast a pewter ring into the top or side of a turned piece of wood. He showed how to form the recess to contain the pewter on two demonstration pieces. He melted pewter and poured it into the pieces. Once set, he showed how to turn and finish the pewter rings. With lead falling out of favour, modern pewter is lead free, consisting mostly of tin, with small quantities of bismuth and copper added. Pewter is available from Fry's Metals (Wadeville, Germiston on 011-827-5413) in larger quantities and smaller quantities from Metsol (Putfontein, Benoni on 011-969-5453 or 082-909-1776).

Wood of the Month – Khaya Senegalensis – African Mahogany. Found in Northern, Central Africa, it is threatened, so not widely available. It is similar to Khaya Anthotheca, Red Mahogany from Zimbabwe and Mozambique. It is similar in appearance to the more commonly known Swietenia species of Mahogany, such as Cuban and Honduras Mahogany, many of which are critically endangered in their native habitats.

Main Club Meeting

Mario Lombaard from Permoseal presented on the Alcolin range of wood glues sold to the consumer market – Cold Glue, Fast Set, Professional, Ultra and Waterproof. He explained the merits and applications of each to woodworking. He explained the mechanisms that the glues use to bond wood and the effects of moisture content on the different formulations. This allows the user to balance strength, open time, and expected moisture exposure to select the most appropriate product. He also discussed the appropriate amounts of glue required in joints for the best strength.

Club Notices:

WWA is contemplating an Open Day to be held at the Greenside High school on 28th May 2011.

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.

From the Committee:

Dear Members of the WWA, contrary to our announcements at the past club meetings that the REEA tenancy crises might be resolved, the opposite has happened.

REEA has proposed a new lease as follows:

- *A rental increase that amounts to some 75% more than we are paying at present. Just to cover our lease and electricity costs, would necessitate a membership increase to about R445 per annum (based on 75 members).*

- In addition to this the WWA is expected to raise a further R3000 per month on behalf of REEA or that amount will automatically be added to our rental! This will bring our rental to R5000 plus VAT plus electricity per month.
- Numerous onerous clauses wrt to our usage of the clubhouse and also ensuring that any other increases/expenses will be for the account of the WWA.

Your Committee does not consider the above to be affordable. It is far removed from our present reality, so the gap will be difficult to negotiate although we will certainly try! At present, we are on a three-monthly rental basis so we cannot expect to have the use of the REEA clubhouse much beyond May 2011.

The Committee therefore appeals to its members to pull out all the stops in an effort to find alternative premises. Please forward any ideas or suggestions with contact details that you might have to the committee. We have great faith in the ability and resourcefulness of our members!

Because of our Guest Turner visiting us on Monday, we will not be able to discuss this issue then. We propose to discuss this matter in some depth on Wednesday after our guest speaker has finished his presentation, i.e. from about 19h00 onwards and we encourage all our members to attend.

Yours Faithfully,
The Committee of the WWA.

For Sale:

Wood for sale: Contact Clive Stacey on +27 83 407 8008 and he will arrange a viewing with Barbara Reid. See list▶

Wanted:

Woodworking tools for a co-operative run by ex-prisoners. Power tools are needed such as a router and cutters; jigsaw; circular saw; portable drill; drill press; Biscuit jointer. Also G-clamps, T-bar clamps; wood chisels; and various hand-tools are required. This is an initiative run by John’s church – please contact John Speedy on 083-359-3149 for more information. Donations can be delivered to the WWA club house at future meetings.

Species	Quantity	Length	Width	Thickness
Tamboti	12/15	1800	220	25
Red Ivory	4	1400	220	25
Unknown -- dark red	5	4800	300	45
Unknown -- dark/some Imbuia	many	2400	200	20
	± 50	1700	130	10
	3	300	200	25
	1	1500	200	25
Yellow wood	1	1060	160	120
Turning blanks -- species unknown	12	900	110	100
		470	75	75
	2	500	210	210
Rooi Els	1	730	380	170
Ash	1	1250	160	50
Pine	Quite a lot		Various sizes	

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.**

Biscuit Jointers – a local market survey

Trevor Pope - 1 March 2011

Even if you have been woodworking for sometime, I think you will be surprised how long biscuits have been around. Although some stationary machines were in use in the late fifties, the first portable machine was introduced by Lamello in 1968. Biscuit or plate jointers came into common use in the nineties, and in 1995 Fine Woodworking reviewed 16 models. Looking at that review, some of the models reviewed are still available today such as the DeWalt and the Ryobi. Others have evolved, but are very similar. This is proven technology.



Biscuits were designed for joining man-made boards, such as chipboard. They are made from compressed beech, with the grain running at a diagonal to the long axis. They provide a good surface area to make strong glued joints, so they work well in weaker materials. Chipboard is weak compared to natural wood, even compared to softwoods such as SA Pine, so the larger glue area compared to round dowels works

well. There are three common sizes of biscuit, as shown above right. There are other sizes, but they are not widely available.

I wanted to try biscuits for some plywood cabinets, so I looked around the local market to see what machines are available. A biscuit jointer is fairly specialized, so not every tool shop keeps them. I managed to find some locally available, which I have listed below. It seems that the market is segmented into three groups – the Lamello; the Professional machines and the DIY machines.

- Top of the range are the Lamello machines with price tags around R8000-. For an occasional user, it is difficult to justify this outlay.
- At the next level down are other professional machines – DeWalt, Bosch, and Makita at around R4000-.
- Then there are the cheapies – Made-In-China machines ranging from R1000- down to less than R500-. The risk with these is you don't know what you are getting, and there may be no service and spare part support.

Prices are approximate – check with the suppliers for the latest.

Starting at the top:

Lamello C3 - Available from Austro. It is listed at R8500- at Executool
705W motor, 10000 rpm, 100 diam cutter, 4mm thick, 6 tooth.
6 preset depths, 20mm max, • Swiveling front stop 0-90°, detents at 22.5°, 45°, 67.5°, spindle lock.
(See www.executool.co.za and www.austro.co.za)



Middle priced, professional machines

Makita 3901 - budget for R3600- at Hardware Centre.

- 590W motor, 11,000r/min.
- Easy to access blade & carbon brushes.
- Complete with set plate for joining thin material.
- Can be used for trimming wall & ceiling panels with accessory blade (A-02744), max depth of cut 25mm.
- Cast aluminium pivot fence with positive stops at 0°, 45° & 90°.

See www.makita.co.za for service details at Rutherford – Germiston



Bosch GFF22A

Listed at R4100- at Executool

- 670 W, 9000 rpm, 22mm depth of cut, 105mm cutter
- Tool-free routing depth adjustment for fast progress
- Spindle lock
- Dust Extraction

See www.bosch-pt.co.za for info.



DeWalt DW682K

Listed at R4250- at Executool R3700- at Builders Warehouse

Features

- 600W motor, 10000 rpm, 100mm cutter, 20mm depth of cut
- Pre-set cutting depths for 0, 10 and 20 biscuit sizes with additional fine adjustment for ultimate accuracy



- Grooving setting with up to 20mm depth of cut gives increased versatility
 - Spindle lock
 - Dust collection – 35mm port
- Imported and supported by Trevco - Midrand.

Budget Machines

Ryobi CJM 100 - R900- at Builders Warehouse and Makro
750W, 3 biscuit sizes (0, 10 & 20) Height adjustment 5 to 30 mm, fine depth adjustment, dust bag, angle adjustment 0 to 135°
Support from www.ryobi.co.za Stevens & Co, Midrand



Tork Craft BJ02 R900- at Builders Warehouse including a free box of 1000 #20 biscuits.
900W TCT blade, 11000 rpm
See www.vermontsales.co.za for service and support. (Midrand)



Homelite – R700- at Builders Warehouse
600W 100mm blade, adjustable height, tool-less blade change



Adendorf Machinery Mart R445-
X131 900W with 100mm blade.
See www.tooltime.co.za



For the limited uses I planned, I decided to look closely at the top end of the budget machines. The Ryobi CJM100 is also listed in the FWW review, and is very similar in appearance to the machine reviewed in 1995. In the review, there was one reservation about the adjustment mechanism, but otherwise, the design seems to have survived unchanged in 15 years. Ryobi service and support have been South Africa for a long time, and I have had good experiences with them in the past.

The design of the Ryobi also seems to be more logical than the others. The D-handle is attached to the fence, so that one hand can be used to hold the fence against the work-piece. The other hand holds the body and pushes the body towards the fence when cutting a slot. This seems more logical to me, particularly when making angled cuts, when there may be the risk of the fence tilting. On all the others this is different – both hands hold the body, so perhaps this is not an issue in practise. There is one way to find out – try it. So I bought the Ryobi.

Over a hundred biscuit joints later, the Ryobi is still working as expected. It is very noisy, but I expect they all are. The dust collection bag is useful to avoid a faceful of shavings, but it needs to be emptied out after 20 to 30 slots. There are no location pins on the front face, so it can slip sideways slightly from the force of the cut, but a couple of millimetres sideways is tolerable for biscuit slots.

So far I have cut biscuits only in shutter ply, which is excellent for making low-cost utility shelving. Alignment of the faces is spot-on if you take care.

I bought a box of 1000 Tork Craft #20 biscuits, and am finding that the thicknesses are not very consistent. I suspect that the genuine Lamello biscuits will be much more consistent – I guess you get what you pay for.