



Stanley #10 1/2 rebate plane

Crosscut

Newsletter of the Witwatersrand Woodworkers' Association

PO Box 411346, Craighall, 2024

Secretary: Kenneth Jackson (kenneth@mweb.co.za 083 256 1823)
 Editor: Trevor Pope (tpope@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 Main Club and Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday, the 9th May** from 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at REEA. Main Club AGM and Norman Cheerin will show a simple approach to staining.

Next Turner's monthly meeting is on **Monday, the 7th May** at 18h00 at the new WWA clubhouse at REEA. Turner's Section AGM and John Speedy will demonstrate using hot melt glue to remount a platter for turning.

News

April Main Club Meeting. Trevor Pope gave a talk on handplanes for cabinet making, emphasising which ones a beginner should start with. See the article below. A Stanley #78 was also discussed and some tips on using one were given.

April Turner's Meeting. There was agreement that the club will do a spot at the Rosebank rooftop market: demos and sales of pieces. The date is 29th July. Andrew Reilly gave a talk on the build up and colouring of pieces using metal powders, paint and resin.

From the committee:

AWSA Congress. Visit <http://awsa2007.blogspot.com/> for more information.

Bonnie Klein's visit. After a lunchtime braai, Bonnie gave an entertaining and informative demo combining chatter-work, thread cutting and colouring to make one of her signature tops. Bonnie has been turning for 25 years, and in 1986, when no small lathe was available, she designed her own, which is still on sale. She also designed a jig for cutting threads, which she demonstrated. She has written a book, shown on the right, that illustrates her trademark tops. The demo was on a Jet Mini lathe, which she adapted to a 3/4" x 16tpi spindle using a #2 MT taper held in place in the headstock with a draw bar. She used small 2" faceplates to mount all her work pieces. She used thick superglue to bond the workpiece to a wood spacer attached with Permacel pressure sensitive tape to the steel faceplate.

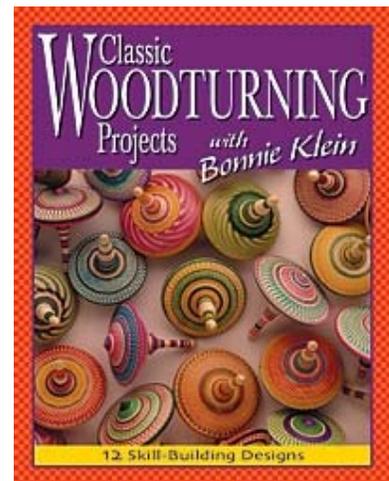
First off, she made a simple spinning top, with chatter-work and colouring to make a brightly coloured top. She explained the principle of operation of the chatter tool. Using coloured pens she showed how to apply her signature colour scheme to the top. Then she installed a buffing mop on a mandrel and used carnauba wax to shine up the top.

The second project was a similar top but with a screw-in lid. The Klein threading jig was used to cut matching threads in the body and top. Despite being a demo piece, the quality and finish of the top was exceptional. The top can be seen in the display cabinet in the clubhouse.

Bonnie also explained her approach to turning tools and design and showed some work done in acrylic. She mentioned Penn State Industries as a source of economical High Speed Steel tools.

(www.pennstateindustries.com). Packard Wood Works is another source of turning tools and supplies.

(www.packardwoodworks.com) MSC Direct (www.msdirect.com) is a source for the 60° milling cutter



used with her threading jig. She obtains the cast acrylic rod in various colours from www.delviesplastics.com. She used a head mounted magnifier from www.mageyes.com. For polishing acrylic, she showed a 3M product called Trizact, that comes in four grades to be used sequentially, starting with green, then blue, yellow, then white. The green is approximately 34k grit, with the others being successively finer. (See <http://www.bonnieklein.com/> for more on Bonnie.)

Correction: Eddie Marchio sent me this to set the facts straight. The April Crosscut refers to toys given to S.A. Cancer Association. This should be: The South African National Council against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (SANCA).

Tree Walk. This was a most enjoyable two and half hours. The book that Karin Spottiswoode was using is **Field Guide to the Trees of SA** by van Wyk and van Wyk. This book covers both indigenous and exotic trees, so it meets the needs of woodworkers better than some other books (such as Palgrave) which turn their noses up at exotics.

Interclub Candlestick Competition. Turners from Pretoria and the East Rand brought their candlesticks to show and their meat to braai. After a successful get-together, Steven (chair of the turner's section) asked for ideas or themes for possible future events. Thanks to Butch for doing the crit and the difficult task of deciding who to award the prizes to.

Clubhouse Floor. Work will start on the floor on Monday the 23rd April and the clubhouse will not be usable for at least a week thereafter. The floor will be done in two stages. The rough cement floor will be done first, so after the candlestick competition is over on the Saturday, all the furniture needs to be stacked on the other side, so the builder can start on the Monday. Then on **Thursday** evening (the 26th), all the furniture and machines need to be moved across to the new section, so that the remainder of the floor can be painted. If you have volunteered for this, please remember to arrive at 18h00 on the **Thursday**.

Training. A full list of courses will be available at the AGM. Payment for courses booked will be in advance, to ensure attendance.

Toymakers. The toymakers meet on the first and third Monday of every month, at 09h00 till 12h00 at the new clubhouse. Contact Eddie Marchio on (011) 678-8062 or renato@pixie.co.za for more information.

Wednesday Workshop. The Wednesday evening workshop is on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, from 18h00 till 20h00. Contact Winston Klein on (011) 674-1513 for more information.

AGM and New Committee. Notice is hereby given of the annual general meeting for the Wits Woodworking Association that will take place on Wednesday, the 9th May 2007 at the REEA Clubhouse at 18h00. Items on the agenda:

- Acceptance of the treasurer's report for 2006/7. Approval of the budget for 2007/8.
- Election of office bearer's and committee members for 2007/8. Volunteers for all the positions are welcome, as some of the committee will step down. Others will remain, subject to being re-elected, in order to ensure continuity. A list of duties for each member will be available, so that volunteers can see what is required. Having fun is definitely part of the job description!
- We will raffle a Triton Cordless Li-ion Screwdriver.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS: 2007 / 2008 year

Membership subscriptions for 2007 / 2008 are due on 1 May 2007. At the March meeting, approval was given by the club for the increase in subs to R200- per year.

Please pay the Treasurer before the end of April to maintain continuity of your membership. Post cheques to the address in the masthead of this newsletter. Details for direct deposits are on your *personal* invoice below.

Thank you.

Kenneth Jackson Secretary

INVOICE		15 March 2007
DUE DATE		AMOUNT
1/5/2007	SUBS for the Witwatersrand Woodworkers Association - 2007/2008 year	R200-00
	Direct deposits to: Witwatersrand Woodworkers Assn. Nedbank Main St. branch - Code: 197-905. Account No: 1979-321833 – Put your name in the comment line, so that the treasurer can identify the source of the payment.	

For Sale:

Router – Startel Pro 1900W, with 12 bits, micrometer depth gauge, variable speed, spindle lock and rubber grips. Brand new, not used. Asking R1000-. Contact Ivor Appleton on 011 646 3034 after hours.

Workbench. Solid 1.5 m by 85 cm meranti work bench to give away by Saturday as he is moving. Contact Frank Evans on 0835573347

Common planes for cabinet making

Trevor Pope

For beginners, the number of different planes available can quite bewildering. This was apparent again at the talk I gave at the main club meeting on the 11th April 2007. Fortunately, most of these are rather specialised, with limited general use. Only a few planes are needed for most cabinet making jobs. This article is repeated from 2003, and updated. It explains what the common types are used for.

When woodworkers talk about a general-purpose plane, most picture a Number 3 or 4 plane. This is the one you may reach for most. It can be used true up faces and edges of boards, finish plane a surface, trim end grain and make chamfers and it does a reasonable job. Modern, iron bodied planes can be adjusted for different tasks: fine work as well as coarse roughing out and material removal. The #3 and #4 are called smoothing planes.



Specialised planes can be had that will do a better job in each category, but not that much better. (To be pedantic, I would prefer a #5 to true up a face, a #7 to true an edge and #60 ½ for end grain. A properly adjusted #4 will finish plane most woods as well as you would like.) If you were to start with only one plane, a #4 is good start. However, you should be prepared to adjust the mouth and the depth of cut to suit different tasks. A #3 is little small, but some people like them. A #5 is also a very good plane to start with.

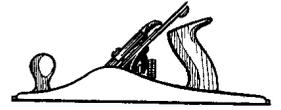
What are all these number? Stanley in the USA used numbers to define the different models of planes, and most of the other makers have more or less followed on, with some variations. When you pick up a plane, you can usually see the number cast into the top of the base at the front next to the knob. Read on for an explanation of the numbers.

The most common makers of hand planes are Stanley, followed by Record. There are numerous other makes, but they are less common. Whether you buy one new or second-hand, nearly all will need work to fine tune them. The exceptions are high priced planes such as those from Lee Valley -Veritas, Lie Nielsen and Clifton.

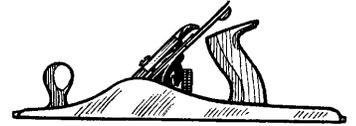
The Stanley Bailey planes are good, as are the Records. I can't recommend the Stanley Handyman range – the bodies are too light – I find they tend to chatter with really hard woods. The best bodies are the Stanley Bedrock range – they can be distinguished by a 60 prefix to the number – a #4 will be a #604 – these are more rigid than the Bailey bodies, but are no longer made. The new Stanley and Record models we find here were made in Sheffield in the UK, but now production has moved to China. Older Stanleys and all the pre-1948 models were made in the USA. There are other excellent makes such as Millers Falls, and Sargent (*sic*) as well. I can't comment on the cheap eastern imports – they are much cheaper, but you get what you pay for.

Most people tend to use iron planes these days – some people love wooden planes and they can work as well. However, they do go out of adjustment more readily, so you need more skill to use them. Most of the ones that you will find second-hand will need re-mouthing – the sole has worn down and the mouth is too big for anything except cutting biltong.

To true up the face of a board, a #5 is longer so it will bridge any hollows. It also has more weight, which helps to plane smoothly on hard wood. A #4 ½ and #5 ½ are about the same length as the #4 and #5 respectively, but they have wider cutters – 60 mm instead of 50mm. These planes are called jack planes.



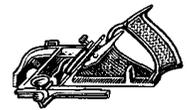
To joint faces, a #7 is about right, although a #6 or a #8 will do as well. A #8 is rather heavy for constant use – it serves more as a statement of manliness than conveying any real benefit. These planes are called jointers or trying planes.



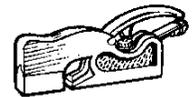
To trim end grain and for small work, a block plane is useful. The main benefit of a block plane is the lower angle of the blade, which is good for working end grain. Simpler models are the Stanley #110 and #220 with a non-adjustable mouth. Adjustable mouths are fitted to the #9 ½ and #60 ½ (see right), which have 21° and 13.5° bedding angles respectively.



To make rebates, or rabbets as the Americans call them, the Stanley #78 (see right) and the Record #778 are the most widely used. Both are similar, although I think the Record is slightly better as the fence is attached with two rods – the single rod used on the Stanley is not quite solid enough. Both have fences, depth stops, and nickers for cross-grain work.



Another useful plane is the shoulder plane, such as the Stanley #90, 92, 93 or 94. They are used for fine trimming inside rebates. New, they are very expensive, and they are rather scarce second hand.

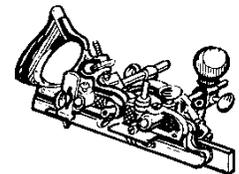


A selection of the above types will meet most of your needs. If I were to start from scratch, then I would get a #4 or a #5, then a #5 or a #4; followed by a #7, a #60 ½ block plane and a #78 rebate plane. It is unlikely that any of these will be perfect even out of the box, so they will need some fettling. As you gain experience with using a plane, you will be able to identify problems and adjustments needed for best results. This is another topic on its own, and is well explained in books and on the Internet.

If you know what you are doing, second hand planes are excellent buys – carefully inspect the plane – make sure it is complete and undamaged. Many parts are still available from Stanley, but they do tend to use funny threads, so don't think you can source a missing bit at the local Bolt & Tool! Record used to carry a range of spares, but with all the buyouts, I'm not sure what the position is locally. Speak to Alistair Brand if you are stuck.

When you buy a plane, spend a little time cleaning it - a well-used old plane may be caked in sawdust, varnish and rust. Dismantle it, and check the parts for flaws and sharpen the blade. Adjust it and try it out. Only then can you expect it to perform. If you are unsure bring it to a club meeting, there is usually somebody who will help you to sort it out.

When you have a few planes, you may want to try other specialised planes - #71 Router plane, spokeshaves, #80 Scraper plane, shoulder planes like the #92 or #93, side rebate plane #79, combination planes such as the #45 (see right), or #55, a #10 bench rebate plane, wooden moulding planes, etc, etc. When you have all these, you may want to try counselling or you can just accept that you will end up owning more planes that you can really use!



There are literally hundreds of models of planes that have been created over the years and books have been written about them. An excellent book for tool addicts is **The Plane Book** by Garrett Hack from the Taunton Press (try Hardware Centre). There are also some excellent web sites on the Internet – look on the club web page for some links to start with.