



From The Shop



The newsletter of the Lehigh Valley Woodworker's Guild

Issue 03.2009

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 17th, 7:30 PM
Location: Woodcraft on Lehigh Street in Allentown

Topic: Woodworking Toxic hazards
Speaker: Dr Basil Dolphin of Lehigh Valley Health Network – LVH

This is a meeting you should not miss.

Dr Dolphin is uniquely qualified to speak to us about this subject. He has been involved in Occupational medicine for many years and, if you Google his name, he is all over the internet with papers and contributions to papers on this subject. If you work wood, if you are around any type of home improvement substances, this meeting will be important to you.

February Meeting Highlights.



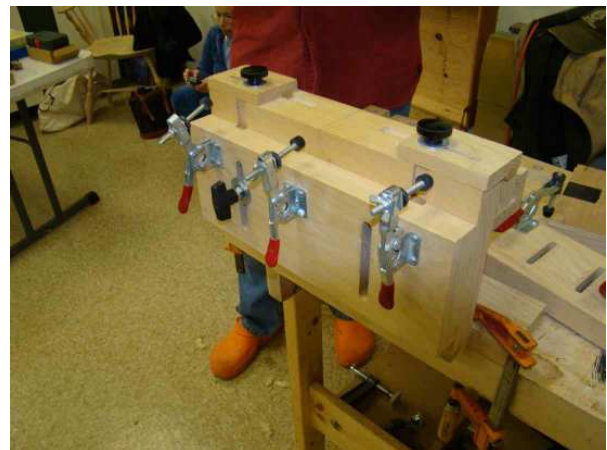
Bill Hylton, always entertaining and informative, discusses Loose tenon joinery, one of the more popular router joinery techniques.

Everyone loves presentations by our professional woodworking members from the former American Woodworker magazine as published by Rodale press, and Bill Hylton is THE premier authority on routers. Routers are one of the tools that I really like working with.

Making mortise and tenons usually requires some specialized tools or some time consuming work.

Various ways to use the router for joinery have been discussed in Woodworking with the Router , a famous book by Bill and Fred “Matt-slacker” Matlack. A joinery Gizmo by Ken Burton, as Bill described it, was in Router Magic.

The jig that Bill demonstrated today will make both end and in line mortises for loose tenons. In addition, the size of these mortises can be changed to allow for different types of projects, from cabinets to full sized doors. The tenons are then made to fit the mortises. A loose tenon is merely a stub of wood that connects mortises in opposing parts. Like a biscuit only stronger and worth the time. Like a Festool Domino only home made and with greater variation in potential size.



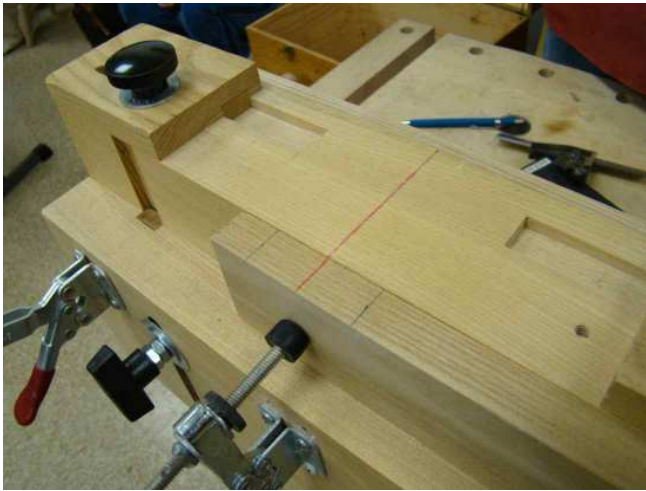
This is a long range look at the mortise jig Bill demonstrated. While it looks complicated, it is easy to use. Note the 3 clamps on the front for stable holing of edge mortises anywhere on the stock.

Bill crafted this jig from Ash, so it will be around for a while. Since it has to be pretty solid, Bill used some pretty beefy stock as well. His original model used standard threaded knos in wood holes that were tapped, but he has since designed a model with metal threaded collars for longer term use.

Bill makes frequent use of clamps in some of his router jigs, and we saw these on some of Paul Anthony's table saw jigs as well. These are made by Destaco. They are not cheap. They are good. Cheap is cheap. Their web site is easy to navigate.

Their web site, provided at no extra charge:
<http://www.destaco.com/>

You can get these at Reid Supply.
Their web site, provided at no extra charge:
<http://www.reidsupply.com/>



The DeStaCo clamps holding a piece of stock in place for a horizontal mortise. Note the index line. More about that in the text.

Bill also relies on a router edge guide on steroids called Micro fence. This is a precision piece of equipment with many features. Not cheap. But good. Cheap is cheap. This not only provides a precision adjust that you need, it has stop collars for making your work faster and repeatable. So you say that you will not part with big bucks for a fancy fence? Well, there are adapters so you can use this router fence with many popular routers.

Their web site, provided at no extra charge:
www.microfence.com/

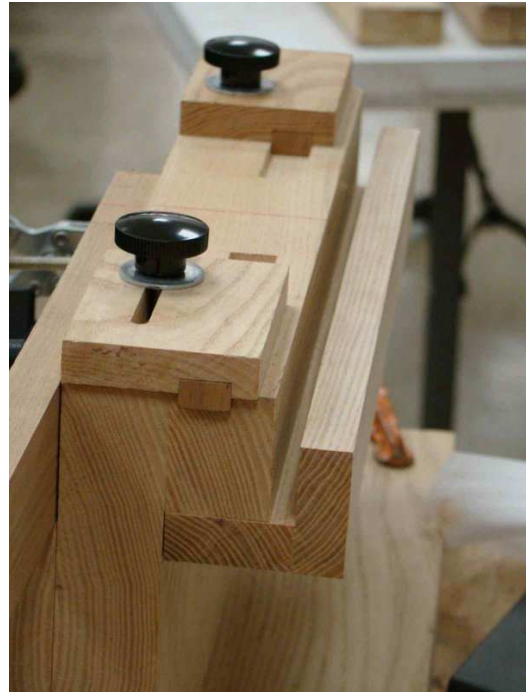


This is the Microfence with the guide strip attached as you can see. Note the many fine adjustments and the stop collars in the center.

The main body of the jig is used for both horizontal and vertical setups, with the change being in the front "sled" that hooks up to the jig body with knobs. The body of the jig, as stated, is beefy and this also provides a nice wide stable surface for the router to ride on.

Bill likes to start with the edge mortises. The jig has a center index line and you merely mark the stock with the length of the mortise, divide it in half for a

centerline, make the top of the stock and the jig flat to one another by moving the front sled up and tightening the knobs. Line up the centerline of the mortise with that on the jig. Tightened the DeStaCo clamps (I do not have stock in this company but use the vendor name to differentiate them from the KNOBS) and now the stock is held by the clamps. And supported by the Horizontal woodholder that is clamped to the face of the jig.



The back of the jig body. The slot is where a guide attached to the Micro Fence rides.



Here you can see the router setup from the rear with the edge guide in place, the

OK so how wide do you make the mortise – aka, how thick to you make the tenon? There is the rule of thirds and the rule of halves. Rule of thirds – each section is

1/3 as thick as the stock. In 3/4" stock, each side would be 1/4" and the mortise 1/4". Rule of half = make the mortise 1/2 the thickness of the stock and the rest 1/2 the thickness divided by 2. So – 3/4" stock, the mortise – 3/8" wide and the sides 3/16th wide (3/16 x 2 = 3/8ths). Test on this at the end of the newsletter.

Put a bit in the router. Bill described many different ones. Plain old straight bit. Upcut Spiral. There is also a new one called that Amana Compression bit that Bill likes. Just make sure the bit can make a clean PLUNGE.

Adjust the router bit for the depth of cut. Easy to do. Move the router so that it is centered on the stock from a longitudinal perspective and lock the edge guide to ensure that you have the bit centered. Now for the length of the cut, put the router on one side of the hole you want to cut, and move the associated stop located on top up against the router base and tighten it good. Do the same on the other side. You are done with the setup.

If you are doing a bunch of these, just put a stop on the fixture so that you can just put the wood in place and up against the stop. So.. This thing is starting to sound interesting now, eh?



This is a good shot of the router in place, stock in place, end stops in place, and a router with a FLAT SIDED base on one side. In this case, the mortise is being cut in one end of a piece, but if it was in the middle of a long piece, the clamp to the left would be employed. Note also the wing nuts that lock the thickness settings of the clamps – in case you have thicker stock or are doing double mortises.

But wait! There's more! You can make twin mortises in thicker stock. BUT – since the router base is usually curved, when you adjust the edge guide outward for the second mortise slot, the radius changes and the slot is bigger. You may be fortunate in having an optional router base with squared sides or you can make one.

BUT do not rely on the data here. Bill graciously provided us with a detailed copy of instructions to build and use the jig.



Twin mortises in the end of a piece of stock. Also in this photo is some pre-cut tenon stock. Of course, since the router cuts rounded holes, the tenons need to be rounded too. Look at that one on the left he used for a full sized door.



Yet another magnificent shot of the router in place and ready to go, this time from the curved side, You can see where the curve of the router base's round side would throw off your settings if you were doing 2 pieces.

You can also use this setup to strengthen cope and stick joints. You would rout your mortise first but make sure you do not travel into the panel groove area. Bill explains this in his handout with illustrations, but the photo I have here shows this application in a full sized door. You can do almost any size stock and mortise. Of course, for long pieces you would need some sort of support stand.



An example of a few things here – first, the versatility of the sizes you can work with using this setup and then how you would use it to strengthen cope and stick joinery. For this you use a tenon the size of a small brick. Actually, 3/4" thick by 5 3/8" long.



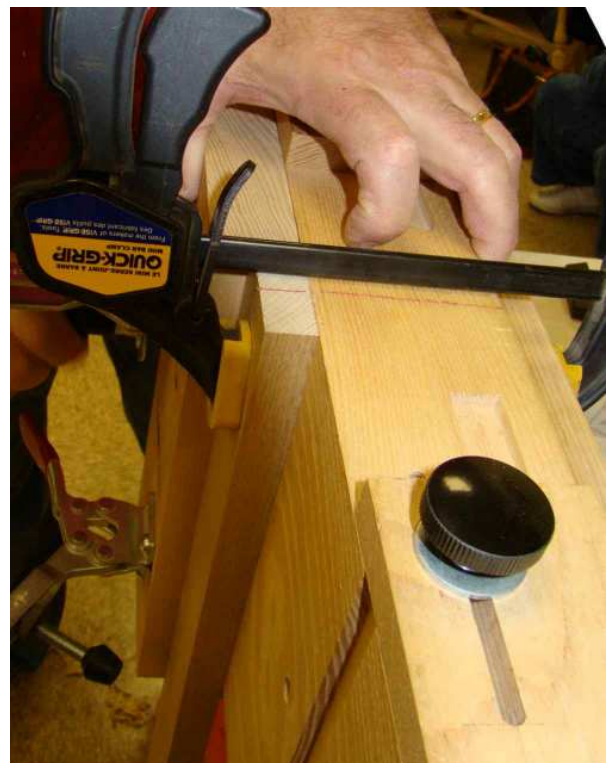
Now that's a tenon! This door ain't going no where any time soon.

Oh yes, the end cuts. Easy. Trade the horizontal sled face for the vertical one. Same index lines, Same Stop Blocks. BUT – make sure that the clamps are really fastened so the plunge action could push the work down. DeStaCo has thicker clamp pads that Bill

suggests, You can also use this setup to cut holes in the bottom of legs for casters.



The stoc k in place for an end cut. The Quick grip temporarily holds it while setup is done initially.



Note Indexing no different here than on the horizontal setup.



Bill was tastefully attired with official Mario Batali Krocks.



“Missed it by THAT much.”



Here are some examples of how this can be used to cut mortises for table aprons and the like.

You can also use this jig to cut slots for table aprons. Setups are pretty obvious. Bill recalled seeing a guy named Rusty Nixon who came up with something called Quick Tenon. While Bill’s jig is purely home brew and works much differently than that, some similar results can be achieved. We rather enjoyed that and several members, including me, bought them. Long time ago.

Bill likes the DeWalt 625 router for it’s plunge range and also remarked that Lee Valley sells a 1/2” bit that is 4” long with a 2 1/2” cutter.

Bill summed it up by advising that dust collection provisions should be made as you will be creating a lot of sawdust.

What can I say? We love our routers, always enjoy Bill’s presentation content and style. We will see him again very soon as he has yet another presentation for us. And the handouts left nothing to the imagination about how to make and use this jig.

We thank you.

Drill and Driver system Demo. Cuts holes in anything.

We were surprised to find a product demo leading off our meeting. Sheila Friedman did a pretty capable demonstration of a couple of products that enhance your electric drill’s capabilities. We have all seen the quick change drill systems. The Twist Lok system is sort of one of these but much larger and more robust than some of the smaller ones I have seen. Sheila did an interesting demo of this tool, in the photo below on the left. It sells for about \$30. This is an entry into a line of these tools. She also demo’ed the Pro Fit hole drilling saw with carbide cutters that can cut holes in almost anything. Including stone and metals. Russ Reinhard tried it and it busted through MDF like it was butter.



Twist lock on the left, Pro fit on the right.



Sheila Friedman demo'ed these attachments and never broke a nail. Not a sexist statement – she had some long, well manicured nails! I know what a manicure means to a lady as my wife takes great pains with hers. Nice going.



No kidding – it went through this in maybe a second.
Sorry, bad photo, but it is Russ after all.....

The hole saw kit goes for a couple of hundred. But I will say it is pretty impressive and as a homeowner I can use these from time to time. Steel would surely wear the cutters, but soft metals would be pretty easy. Woodcraft sells them.

Drag and Brag.



RON WILEY MADE THIS! WOW!



Single piece of African Mahogany top, Ash legs and Apron, Waterlox finish.

We all know that Ron Wiley is not just another pretty face. But I will tell you that I totally admire the job he did on the sofa table in these photos. I believe he said the stain was a dye and the finish was wipe on Waterlox. Great job. I may have to come out of retirement to make one for my Son and Daughter in law.



Melanie Carl of Woodcraft and our extended support team carved this Dragon. Very cool. It is smiling so it is obviously a friendly sort of creature. Claw detail and detail of the base is very nicely done.

Members suggestions!



Alan Powell reads from his result of the Guild survey done in January.

Well, Alan Powell collated the results of the cards passed out at the January meeting and will be giving a readout at the February meeting.

- Shop Layout
- Habitat for Humanity
- Dust collection
- Staining and finishing
- Sharpening hand tools
- Shop Jigs
- Shop tours

- Using Laminates
- Cabinet making/ Carcass
- Dovetailing for dummies- unplugged
- Drawer making slides verses glides
- Joinery
- Door making
- Relief carving with hand tools
- Blocks/ Toys/ Birdhouses
- Windsor Chair making
- Alternative Presenters – skill building activities
- Upgrade website for member interaction – questions/ tools/ supplies for sale or wanted – a blog
- More organized field trips
- Bus trips to shop tours
- Silent auction to get rid of stuff
- Speakers (Mentioned by name so you know who you are...), Ellis Valentine, Bill Grumbine, Fred Matlack, Craig Bentzley, Steve Latta, Mario Rodriguez, Adam Cherubini, Paul Anthony, Bill Hylton, Ken Burton
- Wood types and identification
- Field trip – Furniture Mfg. Co. Allentown, Martin Guitar
- Intarsia
- Scroll Saw
- Antique tools
- Spray Finishing

And the Woodcraft Winner is.....



TERRY GREENE.

GET BETTER MARY ELLEN!!



Mary Ellen and Tom Evans

Our friend Mary Ellen Evans had a minor health setback in the form of a small stroke. The report at the last meeting was that she was already talking about baking her famous cakes. A good lady who has been baking our cakes for holidays since 1996. GET BETTER!

Our new home.



All set up and ready to go..



Dave, Craig and Adolph up to no good as usual



A very nice turn out. Plenty of room. Actually, concentrating the group made it very easy for all to see and hear the speaker.

HELP!

On that note, we are ALWAYS looking for speakers. You hear of someone, let us know. Thanks!

Wood Specials

SHADY LANE TREE FARM

Louise & Mike Peters
5220 Shimerville Road
Emmaus, PA
610 965-5612 Please call

FLEETWOOD LUMBER & FLOORING

BILL BURKERT
27 Rapp Rd.
Fleetwood, PA
610 944-8364 Please call
Member discount 5%

Bailey Wood Products, Inc.

441 Mountain Rd.
RD#2 Box 38
Kempton, PA
610 756-6827

Woodcraft

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Refreshments and so many other things.. Ken and Judy Muth	

2009 Meeting Calendar:

Month	Topic	Speaker
February 17th	Routing Loose Tenon Joinery	Bill Hylton!
March 17 th	Toxic effects of wood!!	Dr Dolphin – Lehigh Valley Medical Center
April 19 th	Motivation as a guild – maybe as a person!	Ken Matthews
May 21st	Perhaps Bill Hylton will return!	

Next Meeting: MARCH 17th, 2009 (3rd Tuesday!) 7:30!! That'd be P.M.

Location: Woodcraft
 Parkway Shopping Center
 1543 Lehigh Street
 Allentown, PA 18103
 Phone: (610) 351-2966

Topic: Toxic effects of wood and woodworking with Dr Basil Dolphin of Lehigh Valley Health Network