



From The Shop



The newsletter of the Lehigh Valley Woodworker's Guild

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UPCOMING MEETING INFORMATION

Next Meeting: June 20th, 2006 (3rd Tuesday!)
Location: Lehigh Co. Senior Center
 1633 Elm Street
 Allentown, PA
Speaker: Bruce Gregory:
Topic: Laminating techniques
See Next Speaker section!!

Old Business

Andy Anderson again opened up the meeting. After a short medley of Andy Williams tunes, he introduced a number of members who spoke on variety of guild centric topics, as follows:

Allen Powell reminded guild members that, last year, the guild donated 2000 blocks for kids. We can do much better. Sizes for blocks are on our web site, and Allen would be happy to fill anyone in on how to make blocks should they be brave enough to admit that they do not know what blocks are. These are blocks, folks, not pieces of work from the Ken Burton collection of contortionist woodworker drawer pulls. (Ken, buy some ceramic knobs at the Depot for only 60 cents each for your next project and crack open a Miller!). Even I am going to practice making some pallets so I can make a few blocks. If each guild member makes 5000 blocks, we can have 400,000 blocks. Or maybe 50 blocks each makes twice last year. Yeah, maybe 50. Even I can do that.

Allen also spoke with some visible degree of emotion about a trip he made to Waveland, Mississippi after Katrina's destruction. He described a home that had nothing but the hardwood floor left – the rest of the house was nowhere to be found. Block upon block, as far as you could see, of piles of debris that is all that

remained of people's homes and possessions. I cannot imagine that. Some folks are making and sending simple pieces of furniture. Not a Queen Anne lowboy. Nightstands. Bookcases. End tables. Cocktail tables. Simple stuff. You make it and Allen will contact the people who are collecting and shipping this stuff. Too lazy to make something? Go down to IKEA or over to Unclaimed Freight and buy a serviceable piece of furniture. The end result is giving something useful to someone who has lost everything, including many memories. Contact Allen for any more information you may require.

Art Silva provided an update on Richard Assetto. He was actually expecting to see him at the last meeting, and he is doing much better. He is also back to work and doing some re-hab. Richie is a nice guy and we all look forward to seeing him back at the guild meetings. Art also mentioned that he has some books available and guild members can see him so that he may unload these last few. The Taunton Press function is now being handled by Gerry Chiusano.

We continue to miss Helen Patterson at our meetings. Nobody wants to flirt with Quentin! Cards can be sent to her at:

Helen Patterson
 2731 Bushkill Dr
 EASTON, PA 18040

Warmest regards to Helen from all of us.

Featured Speaker: Ken Burton.

Program: Table Saw Wizardry / Trickery – How to do 99% of the construction on one tool!

I try to write articles on featured speakers that capture most of the information presented in a clear way for reference and for members who perhaps could not make it to the meeting. My problem – how the heck can I possibly provide a summary of what Ken showed us? There was a lot of data presented and the detail in each step was a little intense - Well, here goes...

Ken brought in two projects – the small, intricate chest of drawers that was in last month's newsletter, and a rather large mirror frame, both made almost exclusively on the table saw. To accomplish this feat, Ken utilized a number of customized jigs to turn the table saw into a do-it all tool. Many of the jigs inspired by the steps needed in making these pieces can be adapted to other uses. Ken also incorporated a number of neat indexing techniques into these jigs to make them easy to use. I will TRY to get this information correct in this write up.



Ken Burton answers some questions about his presentation during the break.

These projects, and others created on the table saw, were inspired from Ken's weekend class which shows students how to make the most of the table saw. This is the tool than anchors most woodworkers' shops. But most woodworkers do not even scratch the surface of the capabilities of this tool as compared to what we "saw" in the presentation.



The chest of drawers undressed. The top and bottom were cut of plywood. Ken explained that the top and bottom pieces of this are the true basis for the piece.

Ken showed us the finished product of the chest of drawers last month. This month, he brought in the sub-structure upon which the finished product was built. This looked surprisingly simple. Ken described how he engineered the piece, starting with the barrel-like carcass. Once determining the general diameter of the piece, he divided it into segments using this simple formula:



Or maybe not.

He determines the diameter of the circle he wants to create. Draws that circle, segments the circumference of the circle into equal parts, where the chord connecting each of the end points of the arc is equal to the width of each "stave", or vertical board. Ken manages to achieve very nice balance by making staves not too wide (creating a bulky look), nor too narrow (creating a neurotic woodworker who would need a whole lot of staves). The segments determined, Ken marks them off, draws the chords, and then drew lines in the middle of each chord. This middle mark is then used on a jig built to cut the chord segments in a rather easy way. So – you spend a lot of time with the transit and pencil and calculator, but, that done, you pop the plywood onto the jig and can cut it in a rather short time.



This photo shows the segmented top of the chest. Ken designed a jig (next photo) to make consistent cuts once the layout is penciled onto the work.

The work used to determine the segment size is not wasted – that then determines the size of the staves, as I mentioned. The angle used on the segments can be translated onto the angle of the slot cut into each stave – they are splined together. A close observation showed that Ken used a rather brilliant green dye on the spines – a neat effect in the finished work.



This jig is used to cut the segments / chords on the top and bottom pieces. The pointed shaped piece of wood acts as an indicator – line it up with the middle mark on each chord. The work mounts on the center bolt, and is rotated on that.



This end view of the staves shows that the spline grooves are angled. The staves are flat, but the sides are beveled and the angle of the groove for the spline is the same. The fit of the spline in that groove results in a strong joint that belies the delicate look of the chest.

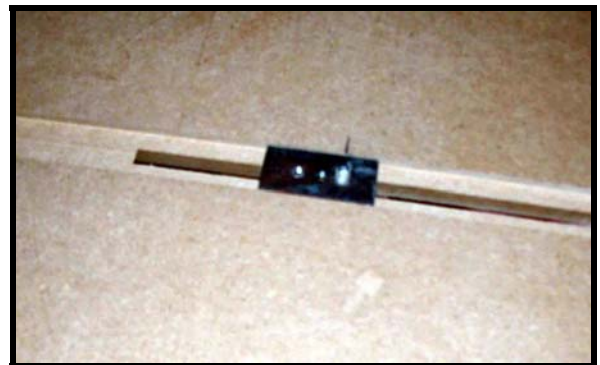
The staves are chamfered using a tool called a Magic Molder. Remember in the old days when all the old Craftsman table saws came with a free molding head? Well, this tool serves the same function but is more versatile. Another difference is that the Magic Molder is a much more precisely made tool, and the cutters are made from carbide and not high speed steel. This is not a cheap tool, but for those who like to get the most from their table saw and for those who feel most comfortable using the table saw for a wide variety of functions, this is an interesting attachment.

The top itself is cut using a table saw circle jig. This jig is not a lot different than the same type of jig used on a router table or band saw. An advantage to using the table saw is that the circle can be cut in one pass. Using a router, you would need to cut the circle in increments. The top is held in place using a pin on the jig, which is placed in a hole drilled in the underside of the top. Ken remarked that the toughest part of this

technique was getting the pin in the hole. (he said that – I didn't).



Reprint from last month – web viewers can see that the spline on the right is bright green. Very neat effect. Drawer detail, drawer pull and leg detail are also well illustrated here.



Circle cutting jig – this photo is a little blurry, but the pin can be seen, as can the fact that this jig is adjustable for different radii.

Ken cut half blind finger joints in constructing the drawers and again used a table saw jig that may be familiar to some of you. It too rides on a sled in the miter slot and uses an indexing pin to ensure precise spacing of the finger joints. The width of the pin corresponds to the width of the dado stack used to cut the finger joints. The detail is shown in accompanying photos. This type of finger joint sled jig is perhaps one that you may be seen in table saw and router articles and books.



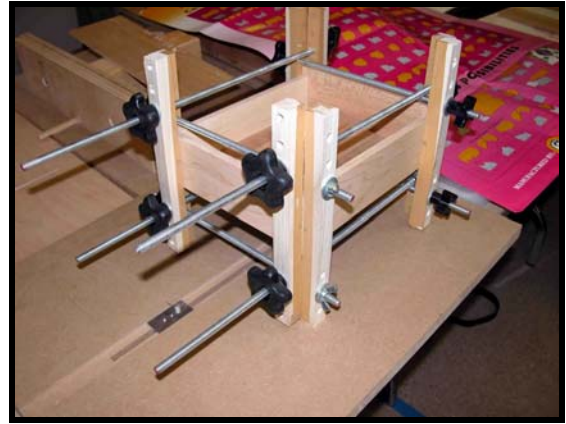
Finger joint jig. Note indexing pin.



Nice view of finger joints...



But inside, you cannot see any indication of the finger joint construction.



Interesting drawer clamp Ken designed. He advised that he bought all of the threaded knobs at Woodcraft to make this clamping jig.

Since Ken had several drawers to make, and since this project will likely have some duplicates made in the future, Ken wanted a failure proof way to ensure that the drawers were square. He designed the clamp shown in the photo. He lined the corners with shiny packing tape so that any excess glue would not adhere to the wooden clamp corners.

The legs were initially cut on another jig made for the purpose, a small tapering jig, the sides beveled. The drawer pulls were cut almost mass production. Step 1 was to use a Forsner bit in a drill press to cut the inside curve to each handle on a single 16" piece of stock. These are then cut into separate pieces and then screwed to a holding form /carrier piece, with all remaining work done on the table saw. From there they are cut to uniform length, bevel on sides, etc.

Ken used Waterlox to finish this great chest of drawers. Now we move on to the mirror frame.



3 drawer pulls on a form being side beveled.

OK – when I looked at the frame for this mirror, it reminded me of when I saw the Disney version of Snow White –the wicked witch had a mirror and said “Mirror mirror on the wall, who’s the fairest of them all?”

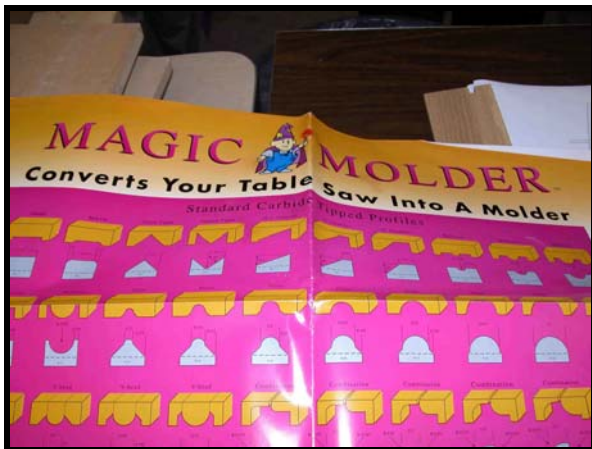
A big, bold mirror. Well, let's see what I captured about this one.



How delicate are these drawer pulls? – as compared to my fountain pen....



This is the Magic Molder Ken uses for various table saw functions.



This is just a sample of profiles available with the magic molder. This is a small portion of a poster that Ken brought with available cutters.

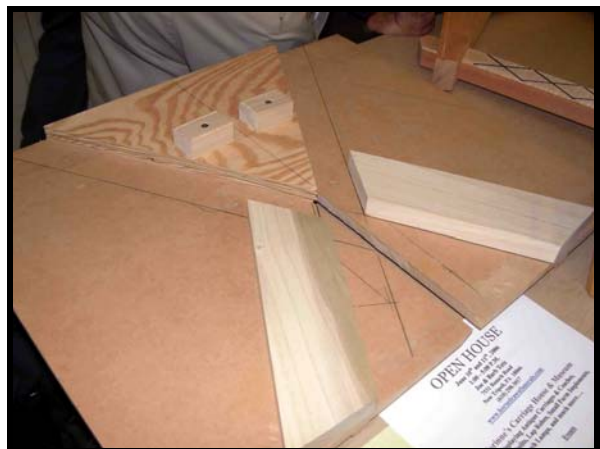
Ken used resawn maple and book matched it for the front pieces, gluing it onto the heavier wood frame. Of course, it was resawn on the table saw. On the side rails, he sawed a diamond pattern using a sled, again with an indexing point, marking the wood and then aligning the marks with the index, again in a sled type jig.

The top piece is mitered and splined together. In order to get a good clamp hold, Ken left some of the original wood on the top pieces as a clamp hold and trimmed

them off after the glue was dried. The bottom of the mirror is essentially the same as the top only smaller and reversed. There is a circular detail at the peak.



The diamond pattern and mirror top joinery detail.



This is the sled jig Ken used to cut the crosshatch diamond pattern in the mirror “stiles”. The pointed plywood piece at the top indexes to marks Ken made on the wood.

Once top and bottom pieces were crafted, the side rails were lap jointed to them. The diamond pattern was done with blue acrylic paint. In order to prevent the paint from getting on the surface of the rails while applying the paint, Ken coated the pieces with shellac.

To close this review, I wish I could have conveyed this information better. This was the kind of presentation where “you had to be there”, but if you were not, the essence of this is – with some planning, some thought, and some jigs that, once designed, can be reused for other projects in some cases, or in others, can be modified to be used in other projects, the table saw’s capabilities can be greatly expanded. Much of the data was presented in the slide show, and a lot of detail was added by Ken’s talking points. Ken’s book should be out this fall. Even if specific projects are not your goal, the techniques used can be altered for other projects.

Ken’s web site - <http://www.wrwoodworks.com/>
Ken’s e- mail - ken@wrwoodworks.com.



“...so then the critter came out of the woods, and I grabbed my AK47 and nailed him 15 times. Shot from the hip just like this. Gave the horns to Andy Bukovsky. Hot damn! I like the new me.....”

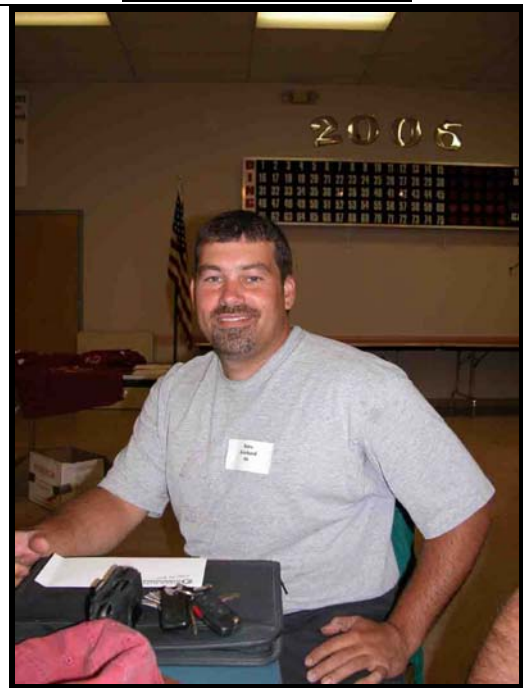
Drag and Brag



Andy Anderson did a brave thing. He made a couple of very simple pieces and brought them in to show. Andy’s point – we should NOT be intimidated by the wonderful pieces that some more experienced folks bring in. Good message, but these were pretty neat in the mix of colors Andy used!

Andy Anderson made a good point – we are going to have a woodworking contest for our October meeting. That gives everyone even remotely interested in trying out plenty of time to work slowly and accurately to make a fine entry. But Andy brought in a pretty simple project and his message is – this guild is for everyone and no one need feel second best for any reason. We have a range of talent in our guild, from our professional members and some new folks, to people like me who have a table saw that has not run in a year. But we enjoy working with wood and with our hands. Like – you may not be able to sing like Sinatra (or like Andy), but I bet you have fun singing along with professionals on the radio in the car. So – enjoy yourself and bring something in – Andy did and made a great impression by doing so!

And the winner is:



Looks like Russ Reinhard is the lucky winner of the \$30 Woodcraft gift certificated. And, Yes, the drawing was fixed!

Upcoming Presentation Preview

Bruce Gregory – Laminate techniques and use.
Bruce had not been able to provide a bio for me as of press time.

October Contest Meeting!!

Folks, Andy Anderson’s drag and brag review has pointed out the need for woodworkers to know that we want to see your work and there are levels of woodworking and expertise, all of which are respected. All of us marvel at the projects brought in by professional members, and even some people who pursue this only as a hobby have done some outstanding work. Others of us have just started this hobby and some, like me, do work that is “good enough”. The October meeting is months away and we had 14 people show hands at the May meeting who want to bring in some candidates. We will be getting some information on Categories to be judged (finish, joinery, best overall, worst (kidding), etc) and so look for this in the next newsletter. The intention of this note is – **DO NOT BE TIMID! YOU MAY WIN SOMETHING.** Awards will be presented based on the judges decisions and if you have not considered building a piece to bring in, perhaps you should re-consider.

My “good enough” approach to woodworking as always been mindful of the fact that, if I REALLY WANTED to build a fine piece of work, I could do it given time. Well, you got the time!

Member's Mart

- Tony O'Malley is seeking an employee (or two) for his growing custom woodworking business in Emmaus. Enthusiasm for the work, diligence, and reliability are more important than experience. Paid apprenticeship also possible. Contact Tony at 610-428-0392 or tonyo@fast.net or www.tonycustomwood.com
- Tony also has flexible shop space to rent, including use of equipment.

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

Pkwy Shopping Ctr.
1534 Lehigh St.
Allentown, Pa., 18103

Steering Committee Notes - Info

Ron kicked off our June 6th meeting. In attendance at the Woodcraft store were; Andy Anderson, Gerry Chiusano, Dan Manturi, Allen Powell and Ron Wiley.

- Andy did a quick review of financials.
- Ron has done a "run rate" till the end of the year and we will be running pretty close to the bone by year end. We discussed ways to make our dues money go farther
- Dan suggested that, instead of mailing the newsletter, we mail a meeting reminder post card with next presentation information, date and time. This will reduce postage costs, and will reduce mail prep costs (folding and sealing the newsletter for mailing). Members can pick up the newsletter at the meeting. Back issues will be available if you miss a meeting. The web site will be available to view the newsletter online, and e-mail copies will be available prior to the meeting. An e-mail will be sent advising that the web site is updated. Dan

also suggested obtaining our own laser printer and doing our own printing. Ron asked for a mini cost benefit analysis on these ideas and Dan will prepare one.

- Housekeeping items such as Bally Block contact, Taunton book contact, and refreshments were discussed.
- The need to be able to line up our presenters was again discussed. A few phone calls will be made to folks who may be able to provide interesting presentations. Again, members need to help us out by proactively asking folks they meet in the course of pursuing our woodworking hobby if they do presentations and if they would present at our meetings. We need to get a fresh flow of speakers.
- Ron will be asking the Festool vendor if he would do a presentation. This will not be a sales related presentation, but these tools are unique and well worth a listen.
- Lou Supina was not at the meeting – he is away right now – and so no web site update was available.

Old Business:

- The only tool "owned" by the guild is the Drill Doctor. Andy Anderson has it and it will be moved to the Senior Center when our bench is built.
- Russ has some books for the Guild and we need to design and construct the library cabinet. A keeper of the library is still needed for when our storage cabinet is completed. No action on this item.
- Scholarship fund has been put on hold, pending on better understanding of our finances.
- Allen got two responses to requests for Katrina victim furniture donations. (note that there are suggestions on donations elsewhere in this newsletter)

L.V.W.G. Contacts

Founded in 1995 by:	Dave Dreher
Steering Committee Chairman:	
Ron Wiley	610-682-0525
Newsletter Team:	
Dan Manturi	484-894-7116
Helen Patterson	610-253-1402
Gary Hunchar, Photography	610-559-9973
Distribution / Mail list:	
Quentin Patterson	610-253-1402
Special Projects Manager	
Allen Powell	610-258-5546
Web Site Administrator :	
Lou Supina	215-679-4234
Treasurer:	
Harold Andy Anderson	610-965-4828
Book / Purchase Coordinator	
Gerry Chiusano	610-730-3958
Guild Contact Person – E-mail	
Russ Reinhard	

2006 Meeting Calendar:

Month	Topic	Speaker
May 16th	Table Saw Made projects	Ken Burton
June 20th	Laminate Techniques	Bruce Gregory
July 18th		
August 15th		
September 19th		
October 17th	Woodworking contest – proposed.	
November 21st		
December 19th	Holiday Party	

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, June 20th, Starting at 7:30, sharp. Allow time to arrive and be seated before start time.

Location: Lehigh Co. Senior Center

Topic – Laminate techniques with Bruce Gregory