



From The Shop



The newsletter of the Lehigh Valley Woodworker's Guild

Issue 05.2008

Next Meeting: **May 20th, 2008 (3rd Tuesday!)**

Location: Lehigh Co. Senior Center
1633 Elm Street
Allentown, PA

Speakers and topics:

Table Saw Jiggery, with Paul Anthony

To get the most from your table saw, you need to outfit it with an appropriate jig for crosscutting, mitering, tapering, joinery, pattern sawing, or whatever you're up to at the moment. Paul will share lots of cool jig designs and techniques from his forthcoming book "The Complete Illustrated Guide to Table Saws."

April Highlights:

Bill Hylton with a lineup of tool sharpening hardware



Here's Bill with his lineup of hardware, and the photo misses 2 of them.

Bill Hylton e-mailed me saying he was doing an article on grinders and he offered to bring 6 to the guild meeting for a comparison. I asked him if one was ham and Swiss, and he mentioned that they were tool grinders, more properly, tool sharpening systems. Disappointed, I said sure, we are always looking for speakers or food or both. Bill lugged all of these devices in for our April meeting, and it was pretty revealing to see the similarities and differences.

Let's face it – there is something about creating your own edges on a waterstone or piece of glass with abrasives or whatever manual method you use. Almost

Zen like. That said, when you use tools with an edge a lot, and need to have that edge re-dressed, you do not always have time to zone out and do this work manually. These machines are an answer to that problem.



"..dank you, boys. And a one and a two and.." Looks like the new conductor of the Lawrence Welk Orchestra. Bill puts a little body English behind his description of the "works out of the box" Tormek machine.

Of the six machines, 3 were wet machines, 2 were dry, and one was both. These ideally will replace a grinder and a stack of stones for sharpening, and some come pretty close to doing that.

Bill started off with the standard – the Tormek system. This one has been around for years. These are made in Sweden, and there are not too many discounts to be found on them. This is the only one that was usable out of the box. Since Tormek's patents have expired on this puppy, others (JET!) have imitated this machine. It has the wet wheel and the leather wheel you can charge with honing materials. There are jigs available to sharpen darn near anything. The jigs are not cheap but are of high quality, a point we will cover on the next machine. The 10" wet wheel can be dressed with a stone to produce either 1000 or 220 grit equivalent. Obviously the leather wheel, when charged, produces an even finer grit to an almost polished surface. It

comes with a hardcover manual and a tray for the accessories. This one was \$499.



The Tormek, with the wet wheel and water tray on the right and the leather wheel on the left. Tool guide rod across the top. Since this is a Cadillac of grinders, Bill uses seltzer in the water tray instead of water. (kidding, but I could not resist..)



The Tormek in beige. No, this is the Jet unit. Look Familiar? With a pricetag \$200 cheaper. The water tray was removed for this photo.

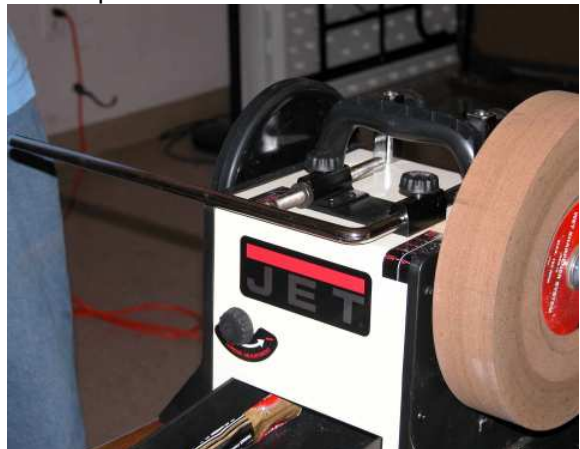
The Jet looks almost identical to the Tormek, but with a \$299 price tag. It, however, needed tweaking in order to be properly set up. Bill said he never could get the chisel jig to be totally square to the chisel without working it, but when he took the Tormek jig and used it on the Jet, it was perfect. Sound like the base machine is fine, but accessories are not up to Tormek quality. Still, the price differential is significant – buy the jet and then buy a Tormek jig for it and keep the change? The Jet has variable speed – as you use the wheel, it wears and gets smaller, so to keep the speed at the

edge of the wheel the same, speed adjustment is needed.



Pretty nice little tool for aligning the angle of grind. The tool holder shown here was the Jet. Bill had a couple of fine tuning issues with it. For less money you could fool with it, or buy the Tormek tool holder.

On both of these, there is a simple water tray on the bottom of the wet wheel. As the wheel rotates, the bottom passes through the water pool. This does a couple of things; it keeps the wheel cool, and it also carries particles away from the wheel to keep the wheel free of debris. These big water wheels cost between \$120 and \$140 to replace. Bill advised, however, that if you leave the tray unattended and have used the tool a lot, and the water dries in the tray, it will be like cement. Same if you dump the water in your sink and do not run the water – it could harden in the sink trap.



The tool jig guide bar can be reversed for use on the front of the machine.

The last of the wet machines was the Scheppach 2000. This one has an 8" wheel. When bill got it, he advised that the stone was 1/8" out of square. This is easily remedied, but not something you want to have to do. The Scheppach wheel moves faster and cuts faster than the Tormek. Looking at this on the internet in preparation for this article, this is designed in Germany. Bill pointed out that Grizzly just started marketing one

that looks just like the Scheppach and it says “designed in Germany” on the description. Discounts are available for the Scheppach (list is \$299, but Amazon was discounting it), and the Grizzly sells for a lot less. The price of the wheel alone makes the Grizzly worth a look.



The Scheppach – rear view. Not a lot to say about this one. The wheel was off out of the box with respect to being square, a situation which is easily remedied, but it works about the same as the Jet and Tormek, if a little less robust. Water tray removed for photo. Wet wheel is smaller on this machine, and the familiar leather wheel on the other side.



The front side.

Of the three, the highest quality and price is the Tormek. It is slow, however. There was a suggestion that you prep a piece on a half speed dry grinder and just finish it off on the Tormek. None of these are designed to remove a lot of material – they are marketed to a segment of people who want a fine edge. So, Tormek highest in price and overall quality, Jet, good copy of Tormek at a good price with jigs that are not quite up to par, and the Scheppach which is also lower in price, smaller wheel, faster cutting, discounts available (It was really low priced on Amazon, but is out of stock). Not available for a look was the Grizzly, looking like a Scheppach, at a really cheap price.



Pulled this photo from the Grizzly side and this shows the front of the unit and the Grizzly approximation of the Scheppac. Well, good golly! It is the SAME.

Next we have a couple of dry systems. The Veritas is a flat disk (like the old RCA record player) system that used stick on abrasives on metal disks. One is 4mm in thickness and the other is 3mm in thickness, and that difference provides a 1 mm micro bevel. They rotate and the long tool rest sits on one edge and the tool, in a jig, rides that tool rest and can be moved back and forth. The disks are reversible. So – you start with the 4mm disk with the most coarse abrasive on one side, do the rough grinding, flip it to a finer grit, then remove it and put on the 3 mm disk with your 2 finish grits giving it the micro bevel. Bill advised he uses a J roller to get the sandpaper flat. You can purchase extra disks and have some spares pre-set up with different grits and they are not too expensive (about \$15 each?). You can also buy a felt disk and charge it for an even finer honed edge. The long tool guide on the Veritas brought up the question of travel and how long of a blade could be done. The Tormek has a 10 ½” travel, good enough for jointer blades. This device carries a \$499 price tag, and members felt it was pretty expensive for what you got.



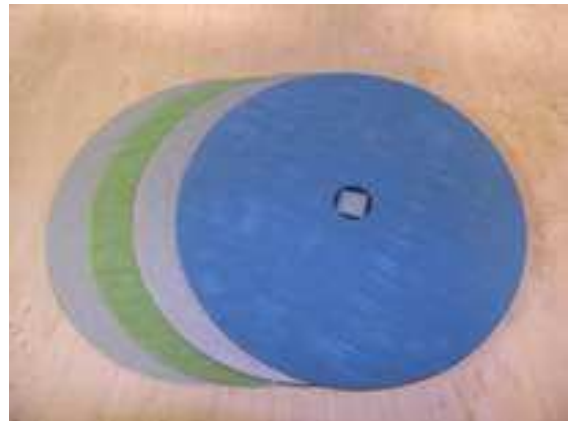
The Veritas. Yup, That’s about it. A dry system that relies on a set of platens and a dry abrasive. Guide bar attached.



This jig attaches to the guide bar on the Veritas and shows setups for desired bevels.



Bill at work on the Veritas. As explained, 2 disks are included of differing thickness. Moving from the 4 mm disk to the 3 mm disk for finishing gives you the microbevel. Abrasives of differing grits can be used on either side.



Abrasive pads. Note – square drive hole eliminates slop on the drive spindle.

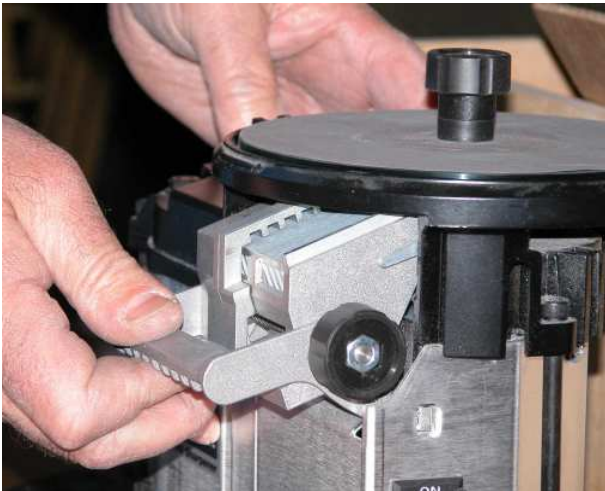


In use with the optional guide bar/ Many accessories are available, and the machining of this is totally top notch. There is also a wet system for it with a rubber collar to hold water.

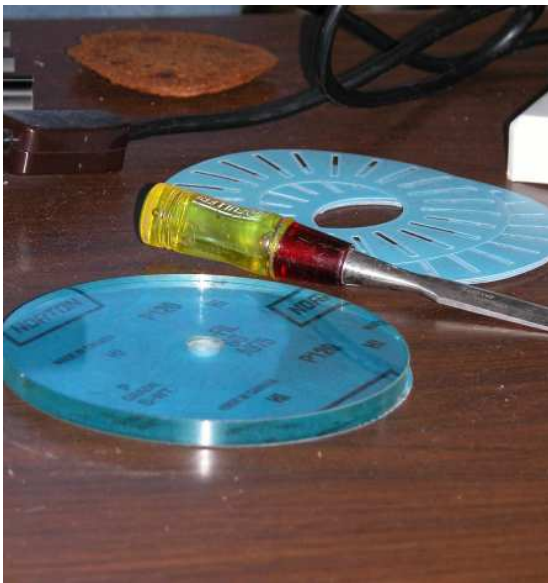


The Lapsharp. Made in USA. Priced highest, and accessories are extra, but a finely built machine.

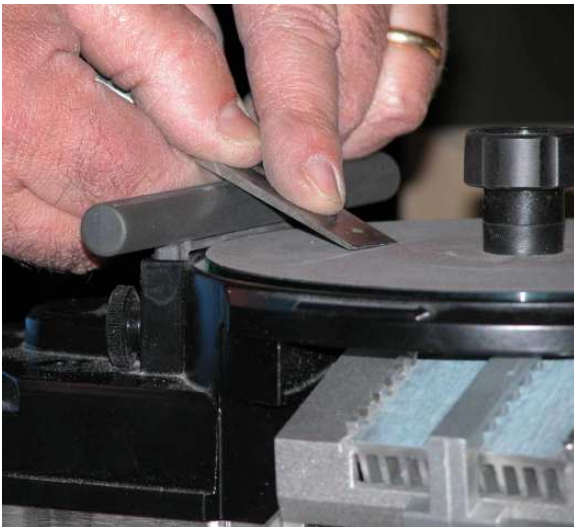
The LapSharp is American made and carries a price tag of \$595. I took photos of it, but for some reason, then did not show up well, so I borrowed some from their web site. It comes with a foot pedal, handy to have. But other accessories, such as a guide bar, will set you back more money. It uses aluminum disks with a square center hole for easy and sure mounting with no slop. There are color coded plates so you always know which one you are picking up. It has a slower RPM and abrasives go on one side only. Bill advised that the company offers a huge assortment of abrasives, Graded in microns. Bill remarked that this device is built like a tank, with great workmanship for the hefty price tag. This device is also capable of wet grinding, with a water ring (you pay extra for this) and a spray bottle, or there is an optional system with a drain hose for water circulation. This is sort of a special unit and, by the time you outfit it with all the goodies, you are close to \$1,000, so you really better want to use it often.



The Worksharp, made by the Drill Doctor people, uses a bottom sharpening jig built into the unit. No brainer, works well.



Abrasive platen is glass. Cool looking. Slotted paper, used with the slotted platen, in the rear of the photo.



You can also use the top surface to sharpen freehand using the guidebar. No other jig is available for the bar.

Worksharp was the last one demoed, and the most popular, also with a low price tag. It is made by the "Drill Doctor" people. It is a neat little no frills system that has some "cool" features. This is another disk system, but the disks are glass and you stick abrasive sandpaper pads onto it.. It has a jig where chisels and plane irons go into it and actually sharpen using the bottom surface of the wheel, which is somewhat disconcerting as you cannot see what you are doing. It has a small tool rest for use on the top side which does not look particularly useful as remarked by several folks as there are no real jigs you can use with it and travel is quite limited. There is also a slotted wheel accessory so you can "see through" the slots when sharpening from the bottom, but it is still not the same view you get when sharpening on the top surface. But, according to some folks in the room, if you want a quick and foolproof system, this is fast and works great for the money. The old 90 / 10 rule – how much are you willing to pay to get the last 10% of the functionality?



This is what the unit looks like. In this photo, the perforated platen is attached and you can see through it if you want to see the sharpening.

Let us not forget about the old grinding wheel. I can only speak for myself, but I have an 8" Delta grinding wheel that rotates at 3450 rpm. I can totally ruin a lawn mower blade on that sucker, but I have seen folks hollow ground a chisel on them. Probably a better choice for prepping tools is the same type of grinding wheel that works at 1700 RPM. Less aggressive and develops less heat. Heat is the enemy when grinding. Once the edge is heated to a point where it loses its temper, you are going to have to take off a lot of material to get to a usable piece of metal again.

I am looking forward to Bill's write up on these machines. I may not be a very active woodworker with hand planes and sets of chisels (the most under valued, overlooked tool in the amateur's shop) or turning tools, but I am a cook, cook every day, and

require sharp knives. Yes, I use the sharpening steel often, but the edge gets beyond a point where the steel helps. I'd like one of these puppies to keep the knives sharp and also to keep those chisels sharp. Truth is, I have one chisel that I DO keep sharpened in my "Norm Belt" (what I call my tool belt). An old Stanley $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide chisel I keep sharp. I use it for slicing and paring little imperfections from wood, no matter if it is something fine I am doing (like a pallet) or something coarse, like a deck. Super useful tool when sharp.

Bill, thanks for offering us another great performance. I often express how lucky we are to have folks like this in our guild. This presentation is yet another reminder. You cannot get the quality of speakers we have anywhere else, my opinion.



Paul Anthony, and Bill discussing the merits of the various machines. Made me recall a fond Bob Tinsman memory - I vividly recall stopping in to the old American Woodworker shop in Emmaus when the late Bob Tinsman was working there. Paul has him sharpening chisels on a waterstone, and Bob was toiling because the edge was "not quite good enough.." for Paul. Bob was good naturedly complaining and then admitted it was better when he got done to Paul's satisfaction.

Gerry Chiusano and some shop tips!!

Gerry Chiusano stepped up at our last meeting. We are ALWAYS LOOKING for members to step up and share something. Some of the things Jerry shared may have been seen before and some were new (at least new to me). It is amazing, though, when you see something you have seen before, maybe in a magazine or a book, and pass over, and then someone who reminds you about it and used it makes you think.

Gerry first showed how he used a climbers hook and a metal ring to make a quick clasp for his shop apron. Never saw that one before. By the way, I have my Lehigh Valley Woodworkers guild shop apron (Still available from Andy Anderson!) and will be using this, but I also have cooking aprons where this comes in handy as well. Not good in the washing machine is all, and we never wash our shop aprons.

Gerry also showed us a circular saw straightedge that is super easy to make, customized for a certain saw, and makes it easy to cut straight edges fast and accurately and easy to line up because it is automatically offset for your saw. All you need to do is to rip a couple of STRAIGHT pieces of plywood, nail and glue them together, and rip the offset for your saw. From then on, you line up the edge with your cut edge, clamp it on the other side, and go.



Ring at the top on one cord, climbers hook at the bottom on the other cord, a quick shop of kitchen apron fastener that is also preset!

Lastly, Gerry does basement refinishing. As such, he has a lot of reason to do vertical measurements. Sometimes under a pipe, against a wall, etc. Using a tape can be a pain, especially if you are alone. Gerry has a stick, marked accurately at 60". Setting that on the floor, and measuring from his 60" mark (which is good for his particular eye level – if you are like 6'2" tall, you may want to mark at 70", and if you are 4'6" tall, maybe at 50"), he hold the tape up to the point he wants to measure and then gets the number at the 60" mark and adds 60. So if you got a measurement of 24" at the 60" mark, you got 24 + 60 or 84". Neat.

Gerry also saw something about removal of excess glue using a soda straw. I did not rally capture it properly for the write up. I tried that and had a hell of a time getting my teeth unglued. On the other hand, I lost 5 pounds...



Gerry demonstrates his circular saw cutting jig.

Thanks Gerry and LETS HEAR FROM others. Or perhaps no one has any ideas....

Gerry also talked about a good experience he had with Woodcraft. Apparently he bought an HVLP sprayer and had it shipped to avoid the drive into Allentown. When he got it and used it, it was not what he wanted. Woodcraft took the USE SPRAYER back, no questions asked, paid return postage. Obviously Gerry cleaned it up, but this is pretty good policy. Gerry was impressed. And thanks for passing this along. Thankfully, we have an excellent set of Woodcraft friends on Lehigh Street!

Drag and Brag



Andy is at it again with the little trees.

Andy Anderson is back in the little tree business. He had some cutoffs of nice wood – too nice to toss or burn, so he made his little trees. These are pretty cool little things. They will make a nice decoration for his room when they put him in the home.... Actually they are nice little gifts or give ways.



Will Schmidt brought in an oak root finished with oil and poly, and some paint. Base is unknown material.



Will was a featured artist in the East Penn newspaper.

Russ Reinhard brought in a box with small bottles of Gorilla Glue – a LOT of them – Thanks, Russ!



Speaking of Drag and brag, we are treated monthly to Judy's home made delights. She puts so much thought into the items she brings in. A special lady. Thanks for all you do.

Steering Committee Meeting Notes

I could not attend due to a class I was in. Lou Supina called to advise that the rules for the October contest are changed to make people feel more comfortable in participating. There will be 3 categories and I hope I got this right: 5 years or less, 5 – 10 years, over 10 years as a woodworker. 2 prizes in each, \$25 and \$50. One overall prize of \$100.

That is all I know about the meeting. Sorry.

Q & A

. We had the Q&A session and Lou Supina, in the process of building a 17 x 32 or so shop, had a question – if you had to build your shop over, what would you do different? The Muth's offered more outlets. I offered all cabinets be built off the floor at a 38" height to allow max use of floor space. Another person offered all tools on roller bases. Another comment was the value of a floor sweep port to your dust collector. Another was that you should put down some moisture barrier and a softer surface that concrete, not only for comfort, but if you drop a sharp tool, the edge will be ruined. This brings me to my shop tip of the issue - if you have cat-like reflexes as I do,

and you drop a sharp tool, you can merely stick your foot out to stop it from hitting the floor. The sharp tool with then pierce your shoe and stick in your foot. The soft tissue of your foot will prevent the edge from being damaged.

VIRTUAL SHOP TOURS!

We had some excellent ones and are looking for more – if you have a shop you'd like to show, no matter how humble, take a few photos and bring them in!! See ANY steering committee member to arrange it!!

COME ON! STEP UP!

Paul Anthony had a couple of books for sale, one of which I bought and it is a very good book for the money, on how to use power tools. Paul edited it and wrote the jigsaw section. Our friend Tony O'Malley also contributed the biscuit joiner section. This book is a great general guide and I am buying another one as this one is going to my stepson.

Bill Hylton did not have time to tell us he has the new paperback edition of Illustrated Cabinet

And the Woodcraft winner is...



ED NEASE!

Lake Powell	
Adam Clayton Powell	
Boog Powell	
William Powell	
Web Site Administrator :	
Lou Supina	610-965-2520
Lou Ferrigno	
Lou Costello	
Louie Prima	
Treasurer:	
Harold Andy Anderson	610-965-4828
Book / Purchase Coordinator	
Russ Reinhard	rcww@rcn.com
Guild Contact Person – E-mail	
Russ Reinhard	rcww@rcn.com

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

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The newsletter of the Lehigh Valley Woodworker's Guild
2008 Meeting Calendar:

Month	Topic	Speaker
May 20th	Table saw use – everything you wanted to know about setups!	The incomparable Paul Anthony.
June 17th	Charles Bender – Fine furniture maker and woodworking teacher.	Charles Bender
July 15th	I am sure there is someone – no idea who.	
August 19th		
September 16th	FESTOOL DEMO	FESTOOL – arranged by Woodcraft
October 21st	CONTEST TIME!	
November 18th	FREUD DEMO!	Freud tools –arranged by Woodcraft

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

Location: Lehigh Co. Senior Center

Topics: Table Saw Jiggery, with Paul Anthony

To get the most from your table saw, you need to outfit it with an appropriate jig for crosscutting, mitering, tapering, joinery, pattern sawing, or whatever you're up to at the moment. Paul will share lots of cool jig designs and techniques from his forthcoming book "The Complete Illustrated Guide to Table Saws."