



From The Shop



The newsletter of the Lehigh Valley Woodworker's Guild

Issue 07.2009

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 21st, 7:30 PM
Location: Woodcraft on Lehigh Street in Allentown

Topic:
Planes – Craig Bentzley

Craig's presentation is going to be aimed at what's new in hand planes. He'll be showing the new WoodRiver planes and the new Stanley Sweet Heart planes. He will compare them to vintage Stanley's, Lie-Nielsen's, and Veritas planes. He'll also get into bevel-up and bevel-down geometry, the advantages and disadvantages.

Last meeting highlights:

Router Magic – Bill Hylton!

Bill Hylton Router table magic – how to use ANY router table.



"... and you can palm a basketball like this to practice holding a router with one hand.."

Bill did his demo on a router table he built himself – and we have seen before – for \$175. Bill points out that \$75 went into the switch and the dust collection hardware, so reality is that this is a \$100 table. You can rig up a cheaper switch and dust collection if you like. Bill advised that there is not a lot you cannot do on this table that you could do on a commercial one costing \$500 - \$1,000. The top of his router is a piece of 3/4" thick MDF. It is cut and drilled to fit a 2 HP router and Bill is using the Milwaukee fixed base. The underside of the top shows that the area where the

router base is screwed to the top is boxed in to allow for better dust collection.



This is a great setup that can be made easily and with a little patience that will give results as good as ones costing many hundreds of dollars.



This shot shows how the router is boxed in to enable excellent dust collection. But remember, when cutting a dado, the sawdust has one way to go – OUT OF THE DADO! Lift top affords easy access too. Oak frame is evident. Bolt in front corner supports oak frame on top of table leg.

What do you need to know about ANY router table? The table must be flat. Bill favors screwing the router into the MDF top and does not use a drop in insert. The top of his table lifts and a jackknife support holds it in place for changes. Very handy. Bill advises that drop in plates are designed to make a router easier to get out of the table for changes, and with a tilt up top there is not a problem with that. Bill also advised that using a drop in creates problems of their own. Leveling, etc. Bill advised that keeping the table top level can be a matter of using some shims between the top and the hardwood frame. Bill's table is fully supported by a hardwood (in his case Oak) frame. The entire top rests directly on the top of the legs. I asked Bill how often he has had a top go out of level in practice and he said very rarely. Bill uses router opening reducers crafted from 1/4" MDF and the router bit opening is rabbeted to allow them to drop right into place. 1/4" MDF is generally available.



Plunge routers were all the rage in router tables years ago and are still very easy to micro adjust. Bill removes the plunge springs for use in a table.

Bill does not understand the current trend of using above the table adjusters and router lifts and all this gadgets that cost a LOT of money. Every other tool adjusts from the bottom – jointers, table saws, etc. Plus these things enter a great deal of complexity into something that can be kept simple. With the system he has, and the Milwaukee design (not unlike other fixed base routers) , you grab the motor, pull it out, make your adjustment, Put it back. You can buy extra motors and just swap them too. Bill has used plunge routers in tables and typically dedicates them to table use and removes the springs from them to make them easier to adjust. He also favors the Eliminator chuck as access to the collet is not as easy as with fixed base. Plunge routers are a bit easier to micro adjust.

Speaking of adjusting, Bill talked a little about backlash – that force which causes all your adjustment to slip a bit after everything it put back into place and the machine turned on. This is especially important what you are doing things like rails and stiles. The

precaution for this is simple and should be rule of thumb anyway – make test cuts and fine tune. I thought Bill said backwash – like when you are eating crackers and drinking soda and the pieces of cracker crumbs runs back into the bottle and float around and it is really disgusting.



A homemade adjustment tool made by Bill. Pretty neat!



Veritas height shims. Drop in 1/4" MDF disk inserts seen here as well.



Another Veritas height tool you can use with routers or table saws.

Bill advised that there are a number of very cool devices and some not so cool ones to adjust the bit height. Names that come to mind, and Bill had some with him, are Lee Valley and Veritas. He also had a home made gizmo that looked pretty effective.



Decent shot of Bill's fence. Oak butt joint frame with MDF split fence face. Common hardware. Here, Bill is clamping on a micro adjust.



Home made micro adjust. An allen head bolt screwed into a drilled out hardwood block.

Bill gets a kick out of these folks who think that the router fence has to be parallel like a table saw fence. Parallel to what? A router bit is a point, a table saw blade is a flat surface. Bill also pointed out that if your fence is anchored pretty well on one side, your bit is centered on the table and fence, and you need a $1/16^{\text{th}}$ adjustment, all you need to do is to loosen one side of the fence and move it twice as much. Move it $1/8^{\text{th}}$, and you get $1/16^{\text{th}}$. Bill's fence worked quite well and was adapted from the "American Woodworker when it was Rodale" router table. Bill uses an oak support for an MDF faced fence. The oak is trued up during construction and butt joint glued together. Assembled, it can be trued on a jointer very easily and then the MDF bolted to it using the bolts made for this purpose with the large heads, or good old toilet bowl installation bolts. There are plenty of good pieces of hardware for these types of things available in Woodcraft. Bill makes the grooves in the MDF faces using a template and using a collar on his router, using a large bit for the recess groove and a smaller bit for the through groove. He also does this on both sides so that it is reversible when one side gets worn or when the router bit chews up the center – just flip them around. Good idea – as long as you are doing the routing, may as well make life easy - May want to consider making a spare set as well.



Another good look at the fence.

There was a conversation about router bit tip speed. Bill was involved with some rocket scientists who calculated that maximum tip (read cutter) speed of a router bit is about 130 mph. The fastest I ever drove was 115 miles an hour. That's fast. We are likely talking about bits like panel raising bits or those that make a lockable corner joint for cabinets. Bill had a chart that showed relationships between RPM, Bit diameter, and tip speed. Most variable speed routers

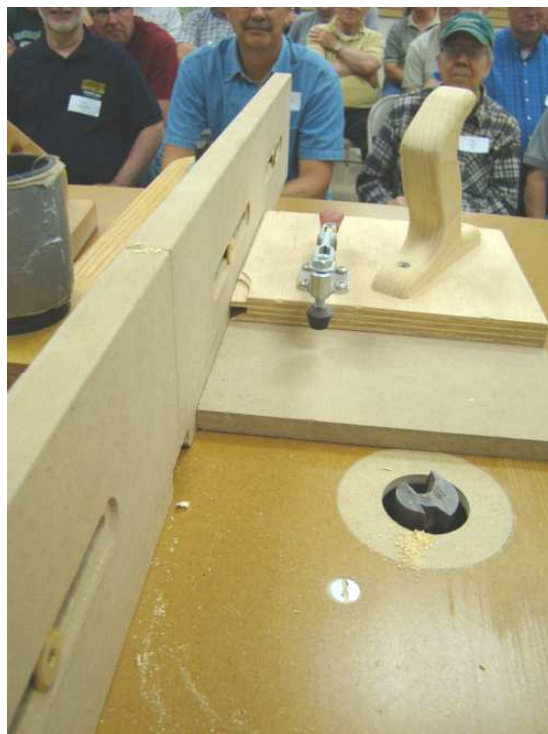
are indexed on their speed control (Bill's Milwaukee's are not VS, FYI...)The conversation sort of wandered into "Doctor, how can I be sure of how fast my router is turning? Will I ever REALLY be sure? Really?" READ THE MANUAL. You do not have the manual? DOWNLOAD ONE. You do not know how to download one? MAKE A FRIEND WHO DOES (not me!) Go to the store and ask to see a manual if one is available. Woodcraft may let you do that. Home depot – probably not. Find a friend who has a similar model and has the good sense to save the manual and ask them. Go on WOODCENTRAL and ask someone. RTFM – read the XXXX manual. Be a little resourceful. Stand on a street corner in Allentown with a sign around you saying "Help me. I need tool manuals." On the other hand, not a good idea.



HERE!! It's all HERE!

Bit direction. Nothing to do with movies. Feed direction. ALMOST always, you feed work into a router table AGAINST the cut or right to left. You move a router on work LEFT TO RIGHT. Going WITH the cut of the router is called a CLIMB cut and is used in specialized situations. It is potentially dangerous and can take the work right out of your hands and also tear up the wood. And your hands. By the way, this assumes that the work is being cut by the front side of the router bit as you face the table. If for some reason you are cutting with the BACK side of the bit, this is NOW a CLIMB cut! Try to avoid trapping the work between the router bit and the fence. There may be situations where you would actually want to do this but I cannot think of one.

Bill demoed several styles of push sticks, most home made. Interestingly, he used a mouse pad as an anti-skid surface glued to the bottom of one of them – great idea. Push sticks can increase the stability of a cut and increases the safety.



Nice hold down sled for doing ends of rails.



A pretty cool looking push stick Bill made with a little grip edge on the back. Bill uses a mouse pad for a slip proof surface. Next time folks are giving them away, TAKE THEM!



Another style of push stick. Common features are a little push edge in back and a flat surface that acts to hold down work.



Back of a push stick – AND – A box of shims. AKA playing cards.

Fine tuning – how do you do this? Playing cards. Feeler gauges. Bill had a couple of jigs where he uses a fixed block clamped to the table and a bolt through a hunk of wood as a fence tuning device. Effective. Bill showed the use of a couple of feather boards both in front of or on top of the work, and the double feather board was pretty interesting and stable. Bill makes his on a table saw. Paul Anthony mentioned it may be easier and safer to do it on a band saw, as doing these on a table saw requires the blade to be up very high. A suggestion worth considering depending on your comfort level with the table saw.



Dual Featherboards.



Another style of home made feather boards.

Well, Bill ran well over and he stopped here. Always informative. Always with AFFORDABLE solutions that work as well as pricey ones. Always entertaining.



Bill Waving hello.

Drag and Brag:



Jerry Kaplan and his clocks.



Jerry Kaplan brought in a couple of clocks that had some interesting design aspects to them. One, made of white oak, started life as a diamond shaped clock but the grain did not lend itself to this when Jerry got it together so he added some mahogany trim pieces and made it a square. The face of the white oak was decorated with brass foundings. Pretty interesting. The other one was a 45 degree pattern of Cherry framed in walnut. He got these ideas from the "ClockIt" catalog.

Steve Kirk brought in a spice chest done at Chuck Bender's 6 day class. The case is made of walnut with drawer sides and unseen parts made of poplar. The drawers use hand cut half blind dovetails. Hard to do, per Steve. My first question, based on my recollection of Chuck, was "does it have any secret compartments?" – in fact, it has 2 and Steve would not reveal where they were. Got something to HIDE? Raised panel was done on a shaper. The rest by hand. Ball and ball hardware used. The piece was finished with 2 coats of Garnet and 2 coats of blond shellacs.

Very nice work. We send stuff to the LVWG mail list whenever I get it from Chuck.



Steve Kirk's work gets better and better. This one was a project from Chuck Bender's Ancanthus workshops.



Nice grain on the door panel and drawer fronts – nicely matched.

JULY PICNIC! ARRIVE HUNGRY!

Judy Muth yelled at me again. She said that 3 years ago I forgot to mention the July picnic where they bring all kinds of good food. I think she is related to my ex wife. They could both do serious damage with a baseball bat or a knife. PLEASE arrive hungry. Also, the Christmas meeting fund bucket is a little sparse. It is a fun evening in December with good food and lots of gifts.

For Sale

Grizzly table saw model G1023Z, 3HP., 220 V. Includes miter gage, both insert plates plus zero clearance plate. 26" shop fox fence – right tilt. Also spring loaded board buddies for kickback included. - \$350.00.

Contact Terry Green
610-298-2874 (home)
610-657-7964 (cell).

Letter to the Editor

Something to Think About!! From Lou Supina.

First I want to make it clear that the following comments are mine alone. These comments have not been discussed with or condoned by the Steering Committee.

I thought the guild was a group of men/women who had a common interest. People who shared their knowledge with others in the guild and shared their time with our community.... That's what I thought.

Now lets look at the reality of the situation.

1. Membership: Membership dues are used to pay speaker's fees, supplies for Judy's refreshments and other miscellaneous costs such as funeral flowers. Annual dues reminder announcements are made at meetings and also in the newsletter. After three months of "reminders the newsletter is withheld from those people who have not paid their membership dues and their names are excluded from meeting name tags. In spite of these actions, some people still DO NOT PAY DUES but continue to come to meetings, enjoy the speaker presentations and partake of the refreshments. These people are not members!! They are *freeloaders* and therefore not welcome.
2. Participation: Except for the faithful few who are always available there is obviously little effort to participate in any guild function. The exception was when Abu made his presentation – those attending the meeting made a fantastic donation - a credit to all who attended. When I say little effort a good example is the "show and tell" at the beginning of each meeting. It is always the same small group that makes the effort to display a piece of his/her work.
3. Blocks: The first year we made blocks the guild donated 97 bags of blocks. The second year the guild donated 57 bags of blocks. Last year the guild donated 23 bags and ONE MEMBER made 20 of these!! Tim Enot and his wife made 100

canvas bags to hold the blocks!! During 2008 Andy brought several truckloads of wood for use in making blocks. Many "members" took the wood. One truckload provides wood for much more than 23 bags of blocks. Where did all that wood go??? This year we have 12 members signed up for making blocks. This is an embarrassment for the guild!! If each member made 2 blocks per week we could donate more than 50 bags of blocks for needy children. I don't think it's asking a lot.

4. Newsletter – Dan has asked several times if another member would volunteer to write the newsletter. Dan has been doing the newsletter for several years – it takes a lot of time – taking Dan away from other obligations. Before Dan, Art was newsletter editor for several years. (Editor's note – I did it for 5 years before Art got it!) We need someone to step up to the plate or *there will be no newsletter.*

It is my opinion that the Guild should strive for quality rather than quantity. In other words, we would be better off with 20 members who really want to participate than to have 50 people attending meetings and doing nothing.

I do not intend to offend anyone – I just wanted to put on paper what I feel. I don't believe in being politically correct –that's BS. If you feel that I'm out of line – send me a note – my email address is louissupina071@gmail.com

Editor's note: For the record, I agree with much of what Lou has submitted here. It is not bad enough people took wood and did not bring back blocks. It always seems to be the same few people stepping up for this or that.

HELP!

On that note, we are ALWAYS looking for speakers. Writers! Articles! 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

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

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

2009 Meeting Calendar:

Month	Topic	Speaker
June 16th	Bill Hylton Returns – ROUTER TABLE MAGIC	The one and only.
July 21st	Hand Planes - AND A PICNIC!	CRAIG BENTZLEY!
August 18th	Fein Multi-master Wymysical Creations – CARVING	Frankie “the Hit Man “Vitucci Scott Michaels

Next Meeting: July 21st, 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: Hand planes, old, new, all you want to know
With Craig Bentzley
AND LOTS OF FOOD! PICNIC!**