



# Wood Words

Kansas City Woodworkers Guild [www.kcwoodworkersguild.org](http://www.kcwoodworkersguild.org)

Volume 22 Issue 7

July 06

Guild Meetings:  
Jacob's Well Church,  
1617 W. 42nd St.,  
KC Mo. 64111

**Bring your own jig  
"Any Jig"  
to the Guild meeting  
for open discussion**

**July Raffle:** Bill Evans will have his usual assortment of items

**Next Meeting Wed. July 19th, 7 PM**

**Program: Bring Your Own Jig**

## Sawdust: The Presidents Corner

*Jim Bany*



This month's meeting is focused on jigs, woodworking aids and devices. I've realized that they are as integral to my woodworking projects as are my tools.

I try to keep all of my jigs so I can maybe use them on future projects. My problem is space. My collection is starting to get sizable. I probably have thirty to forty jigs stacked up in a corner of my shop. Some I've built and only used once and others I've reused dozens of times.

The students in the basic woodworking class have been introduced to a couple of jigs while working on their projects. The legs were cut with a tapering jig and the tenons were cut with a tenoning jig. It is apparent to me that one has to become

proficient at making jigs to become a better woodworker.

Jigs and woodworking aids have been around since woodworking began. Their purposes are numerous. Some produce accuracy. Some produce speed. Some eliminate difficulty.

Some produce uniformity. Most increase safety. A tapering jig includes all of these advantages. I can't imagine cutting a tapered leg without using a jig.

A few years back I built some stools for a Christmas present. Building the jigs actually took more time than building the stools themselves. Fred Chael and I were talking about this soon after.

He considers the number of jigs you have to build to be one of the factors if a project is really worthwhile. To

Fred, the quality of the jigs and the quality of the project are related.

So I've started making

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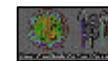
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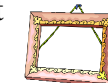
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## DIRECTORS-OFFICERS:

**President:** Jim Bany  
(913) 341-3559  
[jimbany@aol.com](mailto:jimbany@aol.com)

**Vice President:** Mike Jones  
(816) 204-6406  
[sportsturf@kc.rr.com](mailto:sportsturf@kc.rr.com)

**Secretary:** Dave Roth  
913 338-2433  
[chefroth@everestkc.net](mailto:chefroth@everestkc.net)

**Treasurer:** Paul Twenter  
816 781-9407  
[paul@twenter.com](mailto:paul@twenter.com)

**Events:** Roger Grout  
(913) 829-4654  
[grout@weitz.com](mailto:grout@weitz.com)

**Communication:** Nan Melton  
(913) 831-9809  
[nan\\_luvbeachtravel@yahoo.com](mailto:nan_luvbeachtravel@yahoo.com)

**Sponsorship:** Kevin McAndrew  
913 381-5714

**Membership:** Wayne Suter  
816 916-6230  
[tandkstair@aol.com](mailto:tandkstair@aol.com)

**Training:** John Johnson  
(913) 642-0054  
[johnsonje@bv.com](mailto:johnsonje@bv.com)

**Education:** Chuck Slagle  
913 402-8336  
[slaglecs@earthlink.net](mailto:slaglecs@earthlink.net)

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better handles, knobs and hold-downs on my jigs. Making better quality jigs also makes them last longer and they are more accurate.

The products on the market now are much more numerous than they were a few years back. Baltic birch, MDF, plastic, hardboard, plastic laminate, hardware and knobs are available everywhere.

I've purchased several different types of hold-down clamps that change from jig to jig. They have become one of my most versatile tools in the shop. What I've come to realize is the better I've become at building and using jigs, the better woodworker I've become.

So, this upcoming Guild meeting should be interesting. I hope everyone brings a favorite jig to show and share. I've narrowed my selection of jigs to show to ten or twelve.

### **Program: Mac Dressler - Hand Cut Dovetails**

David Roth

Chuck Slagle introduced Mac Dressler who spoke on making hand cut dovetails. Mac helped us with the chair project and also has his own company "Traditional Woodworking" and has been running this business for 12 years. He has spent around 35 years in the woodworking industry and has been with the guild for about 5 years.

Mac passed out a hand-out on hand cut dovetails and their procedure. The hand-out is on using hand tools to make the dovetails. Mac said that there are members who make dovetails by using the band saw, Router, and table saw.

Mac thinks dovetails are fun to do. It a good joint and it is strong. Dovetail joints take advantage of wood movement.

Mac likes to make the tails first then marks the pins

off the tails.

It is important to be accurate when making hand cut dovetails. You want to make the cut for your tails clean and Make sure you have parallel edges and faces, and your thickness should be even and the ends of the board square.

When using a marking gauge you are registering to the wood with the gauge. Once your stock is prepared you then want to determine the length. Mac likes to add a 1/16th of an inch to the length so it can over lap itself, so the pins protrude on one side and the face of the tails protrude on the other. Then he likes to pare the extra off with a chisel in two passes.

Once you have your boards laid out, mark your faces and determine the best face and grain direction. Then mark your faces top, front, bottom inside & outside so you don't get mix up. Mac passed several dovetail pieces around in the steps that needed to be followed to make a hand cut dovetail.

Next, gauge your stock with the marking gauge to the thickness of your cross stock. Mark all four sides from end to end on both boards and lay out your tails. Mac likes to put a good score on the wood. Check all of the scoring and make sure to mark the waste.

When Mac repairs old furniture, he likes to check the type of joinery of what people used to do. On some of the dovetails that he checks out a lot of the dovetails are done by eye. That is they didn't mark the tails with tools. If you were to stack all of the drawers together they wouldn't all match.

If they did use tools to mark out the tails it just looks a lot more that they were machine made.

Mac likes to use Lee Nielson Saws, one's with a rip set on the teeth. He uses the 15 teeth per inch saw which is very aggressive. Mac also uses a crosscut 13 teeth per inch as well. And if you were to just get one saw it would be best to get

the 13 teeth per inch saw.

Mac likes to put the board straight up in the vise and to have it two inches above the vise. When putting your boards into the vise. Try and get into the habit of making it straight and plumb each time. It is good training for the eye.

When cutting the tails Mac likes to look at both faces as he cuts his tails and he also likes to saw on the waste side of the line. If you cut past your score mark don't worry to much about that.

Now remove your waste with a chisel, a hand saw or a scroll saw. Traditionally the waste was cut out with a chisel and was chopped out half way on each side of the board.

Now take your tail board and put it on the pin board. Just like the way you want the boards to line up. Then take your marking knife and score your line well. If you do this and cut your pins well, you will have a good tight joint. Some days you'll hit it right on and some other days you might do a lot of paring with your chisel.

Mac also mentioned that the more dovetails you do, the easier it is going to get and you will get a lot faster at making them as well.

Mac also likes to use walnut and mahogany for his dovetails. It makes the joinery go well together, more so than your Oaks because it is grainier and can get a little messy when cutting the dovetails.

Also on Macs hand-out sheet, there were other dovetail applications:

THROUGH DOVETAIL

HALF-BLIND OR LAPPED

HOUSING (sliding dovetail)

BREADBOARD END (sliding dovetail)

DOVETAILED COUNTER BATTEN (tapered slid-

ing dovetail)

DOVETAILED HALVING (wedged)

BUTTERFLY TENON DOVETAILED

HALVING (right angle or other)

DOVETAILED HALVING (scarf)

HOUSING

Standard angle for dovetails is 80 degrees or 1:6

**Thanks for an exciting program Mac!**

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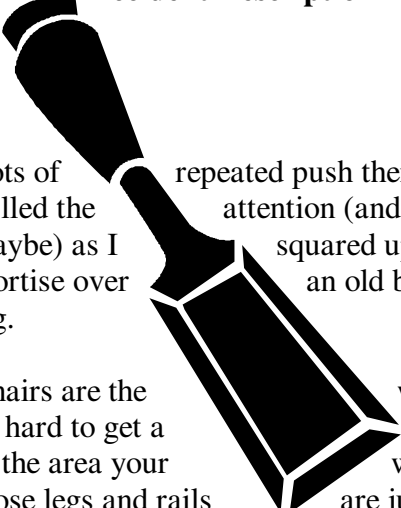
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## Shop Safety

### Accident Description

#### Accident Description



Lots of repeated push then pull motions dulled the attention (and the chisel too maybe) as I squared up the flying-mortise over an old break in a chair leg.

Chairs are the worst, cause it's so hard to get a clamp in close to the area your working, and those legs and rails are just the right size for your hand to wrap around them, I just find myself holding on ever closer to where the chisel is cutting. You can guess the rest.

### Advice to other Woodworkers

Take the extra time to get clamps in close to where you're working, and then let them dull your chisel, rather than your fingers. Take a minute in the store soon and find some small butterfly band aids for pulling wounds together.

Normal band aids just don't do this well, nor do they absorb much blood before leaking, so get some sterile gauze wrap too. Sharp tools are safer tools because you don't have to force them as much. However, sharp tools slice tissue cleanly and it takes longer to clot.

So buy a second roll of gauze. By the way, its very hard to open a band aid package with only one hand, it's even harder if you have to use that hand to hold a wound closed. It's great to have another person nearby for this, but start thinking about self-applied first aid now.

### Accident Description

I was cleaning up a complex bevel on a mahogany boat transom. I had a nice 2" chisel that was razor sharp. The transom was clamped to a bench and somehow I ended up cutting with the chisel pointed at my face. (yeek!)

These were small trimming cuts in great wood with a sharp tool, so I did not have to horse the chisel around. But, as you have guessed by now, the chisel slipped. It hit me in the columella.

That is the part of the nose that divides it into two nostrils. I cursed myself for stupidity and bled like a stuck pig. Fortunately the wound was minor and healed within a few days.

### Advice to other Woodworkers

None of us are really all that stupid, but we do some stupid things once in a while. I hardly need to tell anyone not to work with a sharp chisel pointed at your face.

I am describing this accident because it was so incredibly foolish, probably a great deal more so than any others I have read here. It was caused by the common thread of many of these reports - inattention and departure from common sense precautions. Stay safe - may all be well and happy.

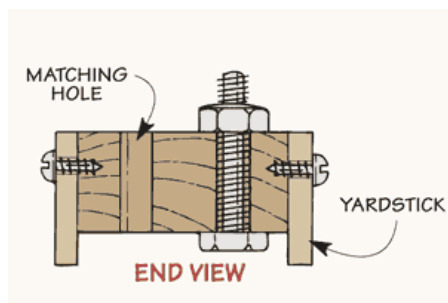
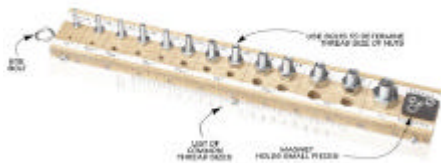
## Shop Tip

### Thread-Sizing Gauge

Over the years, I've managed to accumulate quite an assortment of nuts, bolts, and fasteners of all sizes. Unfortunately, they all seem to wind up in one big jar, making it almost impossible to find the size that I need. So I finally decided to sort them out.

To identify all the different sizes, I made this convenient thread gauge. It's just a block of wood with various sizes of bolts. The bolts range in size from #4-40 to 1/2"-13. I marked the thread size right next to each bolt. And in front of each bolt, I drilled a hole that matches the diameter of the fastener.

I also cut a couple of pieces from a yardstick and screwed them to the sides of the gauge. A small magnet on the end of the jig holds loose nuts, washers, etc. And an eye bolt on the end allows me to hang the gauge up on the wall. Now when I run across a lone bolt, machine screw, or nut, I no longer have to try and guess the length or thread size.



### Under-Bench Paper Storage

I tend to use my workbench for just about any task that comes up - from layouts to glue-ups to finishing.

But some of these jobs can get pretty messy. So to save on cleanup time and to keep my bench top in top shape, I came up with a way to do a quick and easy "cover-up."

As you can see in the photo, I suspended a roll of heavy, brown paper from the underside of the bench top. A long dowel runs through the center of the roll and then hangs on two large hooks screwed into the bench. Now, whenever I need to protect the bench top, I simply roll out a length of paper and go to work. And when I'm done, the paper gets cut off and tossed in the trash.



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**Newsletter Deadline: 1st of the month:**

Please send all submissions for articles, tips, want ads announcements and anything else to Wayne Wainwright: 816 635-9815 email: [wwrig01@mail2web.com](mailto:wwrig01@mail2web.com)  
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## Tool of the Month

Don Kruse

### OLD TOOL OF THE MONTH

This month's antique tool is the Challenge plane patented on Sep. 11, 1883 and Feb. 19, 1904 by Arthur T Goldsborough of Washington D. C.

Since there are very few of these planes found today and there has been only one advertisement found for it in an 1889 issue of the Builders & Carpenters magazine, it is possible that only one production run was made of these planes.

The advertisement states that the planes were for sale by Tower & Lyon of New York. They were probably made by the Iver Johnson Company since the initials I. J. CO. have been found on the casting under the handles of some of the planes.

The plane pictured is the largest of the three sizes of the Challenge planes found to date. It is about the same size as a Stanley number 8, around 24" in length. The other two sizes are about the same size as Stanley's number 4 and 5 planes.

The plane has at least one design flaw in the slotted arch that holds the blade and the depth adjustment screw. The arch is slotted for the blade and also drilled and tapped for the adjustment screw so that half of the threads are on each side of the slot.

This screw also has to resist all of the forces carried to the blade which tends to split the two halves of the arch apart. These breaks are found in most of the Challenge planes found.



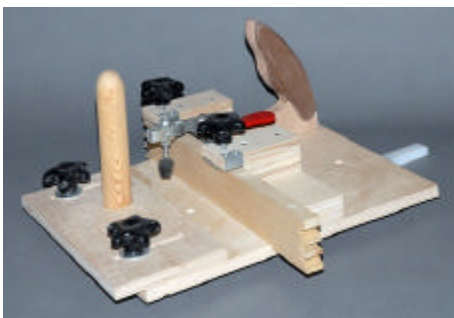
## Show & Tell



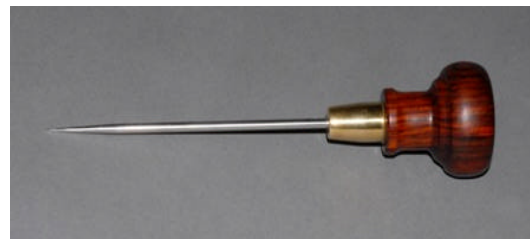
**Phil Akers** Fir plywood Rocking horse with a poly finish



**Bob King** Photo Boxes. Maple and Lyptus and Walnut and Wenge.



**Russ Amos** Coping sled made from scrap material that has no finish.



**Brian Kemp** Picture frame of Red oak and walnut with a lacquer finish.



**Anthony Harris** Acorn box of box-wood and bi-metal nut. **Bill Jones** Box, of boxwood and 2 whistle tops of boxwood and walnut.



P.O. Box 413922  
Kansas City, MO. 64141

### Meeting Minutes

**New Members:** Guest: David Knight, Bill Coomer

### **News / Business:**

Jim Bany opened up the meeting about how the guild members working on the hall table has had three classes. And John Johnson talked about the class as well. John said that they are finishing up on the tendons and other joinery this Saturday. A Fifth class will be announced

### **NAME TAG RAFFLE**

Frank Lane - 150 grit sand paper, David Bennett - 150 grit sand paper, Roger Grout - Sanding block, Bill Coleman - Safety glasses

### **RED TICKET RAFFLE**

Roger Grout - The Bosch clamps, Robert Settich - Height gauges, Robert Stuart - Hand saw, John Johnson - Brad nailer, Robert Cardwell - Set of clamps, Nan Melton - Set of small clamps, Scott Engelmann - Flash light set, Jesus Zapien, - Square and KCWG shop apron, Kara Paris - Large set of clamps, Kevin Thomas - Punch set, Phil Akers - Hole saw kit, David Roth - Counter sink bits, Bob Ladue - Rasp holders

### **WHITE TICKET ITEMS**

Bob King - Delta miter saw, Bill Evans - delta air filter system

### Show and Tell:

**Bill Evans** talked about the jigs he is using to make the picture frames that the guild is working on.

**Jim McCord** showed the cribbage board he made. One side holds the dominos and the other side holds the cards. and explained about all the holes he drilled for the cribbage boards around 2,400 holes he made for the ten cribbage boards. The project was made out of walnut.

**Parker Nicholson** talked about the bowl he made out of koa he brought back from Hawaii.

**William Johnston** made a center finder and a scratch awl. The medal is brass and the wood is paduke and the finish is cherry Chap Stick.

**Anthony Harris** just got from Utah and he just finished up a demo and he brought those items in. It took him about an hour and a half. Anthony did a left handed tread on these items and this is his third or fourth time doing left handed threads.

Anthony also brought in a piece of wood that someone gave him and want to know more about the wood.  
Anthony also brought in some quill pens.

### Calendar

Executive Meetings, 7:00pm Kansas City Public Library 1410 W 10th St. KC MO 64105

Guild meetings, 7:00 p.m., Jacob's Well Church, 1617 W. 42nd St., To reach us "during the meetings, call: KCMO. (816) 561-8177

#### Executive Meetings

#### Guild Meetings

2006

January 4th  
February 1st  
March 1st  
April 5th  
May 3rd  
June 7th  
July 5th  
August 2nd  
September 6th  
October 4th  
November 1st  
December 6th

January 18th  
February 15th  
March 15th  
April 19th  
May 17th  
June 21st  
July 19th  
August 16th  
September 20th  
October 18th  
November 15th  
December 20th

All members are welcome at any board meeting. A call to one of the Officers is all that is necessary.

**Bill Coleman** brought in his 2 by 4 contest item that he made at the turners guild. One of the turner's guild requirements was to make it out of a construction grade pine two by four.

Bill also explained how he made his project and gave proper definition of the techniques he used. He came in third place at the competition.

**Jim Ramsey** went up to Marc Adams School of woodworking and took a class on Inlay. He brought the items in and also showed and explained about the tools they made to make the inlays.

**Scott Engelmann** brought in their canoe that they are going to use in Canada in July. The canoe is made out of Ash western cedar strips, and Mahogany He has layers of fiber glass on the inside and outside with a epoxy resin and has spar varnish on the outside.

Ways approximately 65 pounds and the canoe is 16 to 17 feet long. He is thinking about building another one.