

WOOD WORDS

FEATURED THIS MONTH

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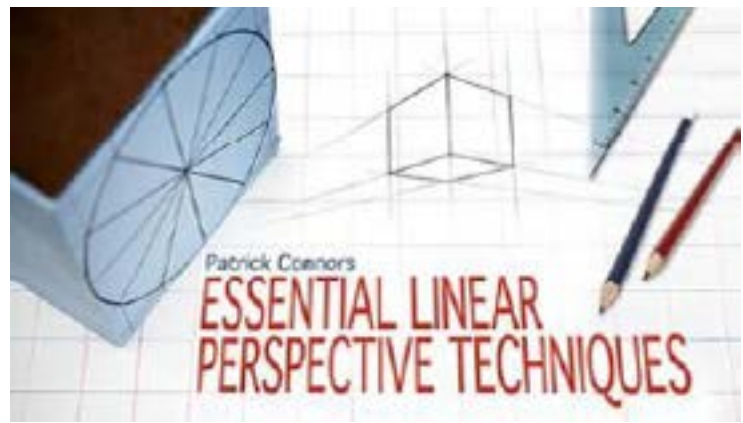
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THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

I like to draw, with pencil and paper, ideas I may have for a furniture piece I'd like to build. I see a piece in a showroom, or in a book, or listen to my wife's description and I struggle with drawing the piece in a manner that conveys depth and scale. The drawings never quite look correct. Either the piece is skewed too far to one side or the scale is just all wrong.

Often, the idea of the furniture is reduced to wadded paper in the trash can.

So, off to the Internet. First stop is **Craftsy**, now called **Blueprint**. I bought the class *Essential Linear Perspective Techniques with Patrick Connors*. It's a good basic class on the definitions of perspective drawing.



The science of linear perspective is the study of the relationships among these three elements: The Eye, the Picture Plane, and the Figure.

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☞ Eye (station point or viewer): The place (actual or imagined) from which the figure will appear to be viewed.

☞ Eye level line: An important element in spatial depiction because it determines the orientation of pictorial structure. It is often confused with the horizon line which occurs in nature. The eye level line is actually an imaginary moment on an imaginary plane: the picture plane.

☞ Picture plane: In classic perspective it is thought to be parallel to the viewer and perpendicular to a level ground plane — the most conceptual invention in all of Western Art. It enables the artist to think about and subsequently execute, if desired, the depiction of light. (When you depict light you simultaneously depict space.) It is an imaginary plane upon which imaginary moments such as vanishing points, measure points, and vanishing traces exist.

☞ Figure: That which you wish to draw, sculpt or paint. To begin a perspective drawing one must determine the figure's relationship to

the picture plane. This is best done by viewing that relationship in the plan or aerial view. In this regard, among the three possible views: plan, front and side (the last two are also called the elevations); the plan is the most important in that it gives the angular relationship of the figure to the picture plane.

With this information it can be determined if the figure is to be depicted in one- or two-point perspective. The terms one-, two-, and three-point perspective refer to the number of vanishing points employed to draw a box (usually a cube).

Wow! That's a lot to take in.

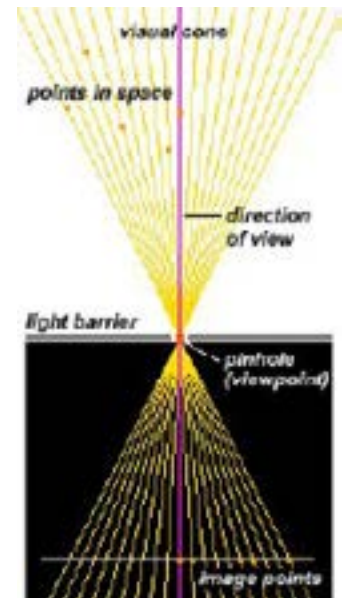
So off to another website: Handprint. (<http://www.handprint.com/HP/WCL/perspect1.html>) This site is really good at getting to the science of perspective. I quickly felt lost in the weeds. And, as I plowed through the text and drawings, the concepts began to click, sort of. I made my way through the four perspective facts:

1. Light travels in a straight line between any two points in space.
2. An image is formed by light passing through a single point.
3. Visual rays through the

viewpoint define a visual cone centered on a direction of view.

4. Every image is a cross section through a visual cone.

With the understanding of the basic geometrical framework for mapping objects in space, I



should be able to convert them into a two dimensional image on a piece of paper.

Yeah, right!

The Olathe Library had a book, *Perspective Sketching, Freehand and Digital Drawing Techniques for Artists & Designers*.



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"HOBBS"ERVATIONS

When I think of woodworking it never takes me too long to think about my father. He has been my instructor, taskmaster, encourager, problem solver, critic (sometimes constructively), my best man, teacher, friend, and idol.

Ben Hobbs began his journey with serious woodworking when he became interested in a nearby 18th century house that was being restored in North Carolina. He eventually bought his own house built in 1765 and began making it ready for his young family. He was in his mid-twenties. He then starting thinking about proper furnishings and approached a cabinetmaker about a set of dining chairs. When he saw the price, he thought he would never be able to afford them. That's when he found that the woodworker was holding classes.

He soon enrolled and dove in with both feet. He learned as much as he could, did his "homework" between classes, took another class, and soon was ready to leave his career as a math teacher to build furniture professionally.

So I was able to learn from one of the best, who never let anything but the best leave his shop. To this day I love the few times a year I get to work in the shop with my Dad. I call him often to ask how he would approach a project, a technique, get tool recommendations, etc. Most of all we talk about the amazing blessing we have of family, friendship, and faith.

So, what does this mean to you? First, if you are a seasoned woodworker, share your craft, be a mentor, teach someone to learn and grow new skills. Second, if you are interested, take a class, push yourself, dive in with both feet. You never know where it might lead.

This February 21, Ben Hobbs will be the ripe old age of 71. Happy birthday Dad!
Cal

Cal Hobbs
Vice President
Kansas City
Woodworkers'
Guild



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I chose this book because it had furniture on the cover. This book discusses the basic principles of perspective. With a user-friendly approach, this step-by-step guide helped me with the basics of scale drawing, contour line drawing, linear perspective, and tone and texture with a couple of practical examples.

After reading all these websites and books, I learned one thing: Just like making the furniture, it takes practice to draw it, too.

Sincerely,
Craig Arnold
President
Kansas City
Woodworkers'
Guild



MEMBERSHIP MEETING PROGRAM TO FEATURE "HOW TO SHIP YOUR PROJECTS" BY UPS PACKAGING REP

Have you ever wondered how you were going to package that sewing table or that violin so that you could ship it to someone who just bought it from you, but lives two states away? Or maybe you got lucky and that large toy box that you developed and advertised on Instagram went crazy and now you have to ship 200 hundred for Christmas. Well, David Melvin, the local UPS packaging Rep will be here in February to demonstrate the equipment that they use to safely package items so that they can arrive intact, even after they toss them or drop them from their trucks and they bounce around on the ground before they get delivered. They actually create a mold specifically for your product and it will be very informative and useful to know, just in case you do start shipping stuff.

Matthew Nowak
Director of
Programs



RESTORING HAND WOODWORKING TOOLS

Facilitated by William Johnston

When we talk of restoring woodworking handtools, most of us think handplanes. However, there are many handtools used by the unplugged woodworker, blended woodworker, or even the power tool woodworker, that are up for preservation and restoration.

Things to consider: Should this tool be restored? Do I have the skill to do the restoration, and last, to what condition am I restoring this tool?

Collectors, almost never, want you to restore a tool they're buying. That being said, a tool that is rust free, clean, and tuned will be worth more to a user than one in an currently unusable or poor condition. Restore tools for your pleasure and use, though, not for its future improved value to someone else.

With these points in mind we will be discussing: How do we get rid of rust? Acids, other chemicals, electrolysis, abrasives? What is rust and why is it different from other forms of oxidation? How do we keep rust from coming back? Finishes for bare metal: oils, waxes, black oxide, paint.

We will also explore making repairs to metal components, restoring, repairing, and replacing wooden components,

and removing and replacing wood finishes.



We will have a large number of tools to illustrate the restoration principles discussed.

It would enrich the discussion if attendees would bring additional examples of tools that haven't been or shouldn't be restored, unrestored tools needing restoration, and tools that you have restored, including modified and over restored tools. We're looking for variety including but extending well beyond planes such as saws, drills, measuring and marking devices, and chisels.

Questions and comments can be addressed to William Johnston, johnston@everestkc.net.

Kansas City Woodworkers' Guild

HAND TOOL SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

**Meets Sunday, February
24, 2:00 - 4:00 P.M**

**All Guild members,
potential members, and
guests of members are
welcome and encouraged
to attend**

**We will have a large
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restoration principles
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**It would enrich the discussion
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drills, measuring and marking
devices, and chisels.**

ARE YOU GETTING PAID ENOUGH?

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, woodworker's median pay is \$30,850 per year. Education qualifications are typically a high school education or equivalent. Here is what they say a woodworker does:

- Understand detailed architectural drawings, schematics, shop drawings, and blueprints
- Prepare and set up machines and tooling for woodwork manufacturing
- Lift wood pieces onto machines, either by hand or with hoists
- Operate woodworking machines, including saws and milling and sanding machines
- Listen for unusual sounds or detect excessive vibration in machinery
- Ensure that products meet industry standards and project specifications, making adjustments as necessary
- Select and adjust

the proper cutting, milling, boring, and sanding tools for completing a job

- Use hand tools to trim pieces or assemble products

The BoLS goes on to say:

“Although the term “woodworker” may evoke the image of a craftsman who uses hand tools to build ornate furniture, the modern woodworking trade is highly technical and relies on advanced equipment and highly skilled operators. Workers use automated machinery, such as computerized numerical control (CNC) machines, to do much of the work with great accuracy.”

Even with all of that, here is there picture as example of a wood worker.

Similar trades to woodworking include Carpentry, Computer Programming, Kraft and Fine Artists, Jewelers and Precious Stone and Metal Workings, Machinists and Tool and Die Makers, Sheet Metal Working, and Ironworkers. Of all of these pro-

fessions, woodworkers made the least amount of annual income.



In order to become a woodworker, it is recommended beyond your high school diploma, you get extra training in computer applications and math (maybe because it seems that schools don't teach fractions any more). Even with that, woodworkers are typically trained on the job where other skilled people can pass on the techniques needed for success.

Qualities of a person who would be successful as a woodworker according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics include:

- Detail oriented
- Dexterity
- Math Skills
- Mechanical Skills
- Physical Stamina

- Physical Strength
- Technical Skills

With all of that, why would anyone want to do this? Because it is fun. Learning the various ways to accomplish a task and finding that quicker way that provides better result for you gives that extra sense of accomplishment. Turning a piece of rough lumber into something useable and beautiful can be exhilarating. Sharing your knowledge about a woodworking technique with others is heart warming. Sometimes, turning off the machines and seeing what you can accomplish with just hand tools is peaceful.

We do woodworking for many reasons, pay is usually the least reason. It is mostly about the improvement of ourselves and joy that we bring to others from the results of our efforts. What is that worth a year?

Until the next article, keep the sawdust flying and enjoy your low rate of pay.

Happy
Sawdust,
Norm
Carpenter
Director of
Training



SPONSORSHIP "HOUSE CLEANING"

Most of our traditional sponsors are missing from this month's newsletter because sponsorship renewals for 2019 are lagging. Their information is also being removed from the web site. Be sure to mention their missing sponsorship if you are considering doing business with one of our traditional sponsors.

Lie-Nielsen, Cedar Creek Sawmill and Tom the Sawyer have confirmed their sponsorship in 2019 by providing payment (or in kind donation) or providing a pledge to make payment during this year. Our thanks go out to them. They are making real contributions to our Guild. Be sure to seek them out first when you need the products and services they offer.

In early October and then in early January, each of our 2018 sponsors, and some additional, likely sponsors, were advised on the need to and how to renew their sponsorship for 2019. Those emails also advised of the approaching end of 2018 sponsorships. Sponsorship is like membership. It expires each December. In fact, a sponsorship includes at least one membership - for the primary contact within the sponsor's organization.

As 2019 progresses, we expect to receive sponsorship dues payments or in kind donations or pledges to make payments from more sponsors, including our traditional sponsors. As those contributions arrive during the year, those sponsors' logos and information will be reinstated or added to our monthly newsletter and web site. At that time, you will also be advised of the activation of those other 2019 sponsors for the Guild.

Denny Walton

Director of Sponsorship



KCWG SCROLL SAW SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG) SCHEDULE FOR 2019

Date

February 23 Introduction to Scroll Saw Class
Maximum 5 people. Fee is 15.00

March 23Easter Sunday Project
Maximum 5 people. Fee is 15.00
Completion of Intro to Scroll Saw Class is recommended

April 20 Fretwork Scroll Saw class
Maximum 5 people. Fee is 15.00
Completion of Intro to Scroll Saw Class is recommended

May 18 Introduction to Scroll Saw Class
Maximum 5 people. Fee is 15.00

June 22 Wood Jigsaw Puzzle Class
Maximum 5 people. Fee is 15.00
Completion of Intro to Scroll Saw Class is recommended

July 20 Introduction to Scroll Saw Class
Maximum 5 people. Fee is 15.00

August 24 Open Shop
A chance to get help and ask questions about scrolling

September 21 Halloween Theme Project
Maximum 5 people. Fee is 15.00
Completion of Intro to Scroll Saw Class is recommended

October 19 Thanksgiving Day Theme Project
Maximum 5 people. Fee is 15.00
Completion of Intro to Scroll Saw Class is recommended

November 23 ..Christmas Ornament Project.
Maximum 5 people. Fee is 15.00
Completion of Intro to Scroll Saw Class is recommended

Dec 21 Introduction to Scroll Saw Class
Maximum 5 people. Fee is 15.00

SKILL BUILDERS

By Mike McCauley, Assistant Training Director
assistantraining@kcwoodworkersguild.org

Skill Builders are held the 1st Saturday of every month. Typically they are conducted from 2:00p – 4:00p but some instructors prefer a 10:00a – Noon time slot (check the announcement, typically the Wednesday before the Skill Builder.)

You do not have to have a Green Card, or even be a member, to attend a skill builder clinic. If you are at the Guild for open shop, during a skill builder clinic, please voluntarily shut down and join the skill builder, you'll probably learn something useful and those straining to hear the clinician will appreciate you.

January – Our very own Training Director Emeritus, David Kraatz, who has 60+ years woodworking experience, led 25 participants in a discussion/demonstration on “What Every Woodworker Should Have In Their Tool Bag”

February – The Guilds Assets Director, Chuck Sanders, trained 25 participants in “Domino Joinery.” Those in attendance learned not only that the Guild has a Festool Domino machine but, how

and when to use it to properly align and join boards which is particularly useful when building a table or joining boards in a “T.”

March – Japanese Hand Tools – Noriko Kosukegawa was trained in the art of traditional Japanese woodworking. Japanese hand tools cut on the pull-stroke as opposed to Western hand tools that cut on the push-stroke. Come to learn how these tools work and how you can increase your skills utilizing these tools.

April – Adjusting and Care of Hand Planes – Rob Young and Andrew Carr – There are many types of Planes, each one has a different function. Come learn when to use which plane, how to properly care for a plane, and how to adjust the various planes to achieve the best results.

May – Fitting Drawers – Cal Hobbs – Even the best woodworkers occasionally have trouble properly fitting drawers. Come join Cal as he demonstrates and leads a discussion on “How to Properly Fit Drawers,” whether you are building a dresser or you have an old chest of drawers in need

rehabilitation.

June – Radial Arm Saw (10-2) – Chuck Sanders – Our well-versed Assets Director will demonstrate and answer questions about using the “new to the Guild” radial arm saw.

July – Technology and Woodworking – Chris McCauley – Our very own audio and video guru will discuss how You Tube, Facebook, Sketch-Up, Computers, and Computer Numeric Control machines are changing the ways we accomplish our projects.

August – Tarmek Sharpening System – Craig Arnold – Our Guild President will show us how to utilize this under used sharpening tool.

More to Come, If you have a suggestion for a monthly Skill Builder Clinic, please contact: assistantraining@kcwoodworkersguild.org

Respectfully,
Mike McCauley,
 Assistant
 Training
 Director



FROM THE SHOP

Chuck Saunders Director of Assets

The Efficient Hobby, I'll admit that is a phrase somewhat at odds with itself. As a hobby by its definition is to pursue an area of interest without needing to account for the time spent as spending the time on the task is the main purpose. Of course since a hobby is not a commercial endeavor we try to economize by trading our labor for lower cost materials and tooling. One brilliant way to economize on tooling is to join the Guild and get access to well equipped shop for less than \$10 per month (reminder, don't forget to renew your membership). Much cheaper than stocking up at Grizzly.

Now, how can you save on materials? Often we will see savings by reclaiming wood from other uses such as pallets, barns and old furniture. This approach can get you wood for as cheap as free or at a great discount (think old growth large timber from old barns.) Though cheap or free will ignore you time to disassemble and clean the wood of any fasteners or other foreign matter that could wreak havoc with the machinery (and it will). Cleaning will take time and diligence and some creativity to remove embedded nails without damaging much of the wood.

Another way to save is to choose wood species that are lower cost than others. There is a tradeoff as wood generally is priced based upon its appearance and stability as well as its abundance. Using construction lumber is much cheaper than walnut and cherry but the wood is not stable since its moisture content is much higher and the defects of knots tend to permeate the wood.

Another factor in selecting your wood is getting wood that is close to the sizes you need for your project. Wood that is much thicker than the wood you need will require more time on the machinery reducing the board down to the size you need. Give thought to how you will reduce the size. While the widebelt sander will



reduce your 6x6 post down to the 1/2x6 piece you need, it would take just short of forever and require far more machine time than resawing on the bandsaw. Not to mention the waste of wood, electricity, sanding belts, tool life and your time while adding nothing over the result from resawing. Same goes for planing 8/4 stock down to 3/4". While I welcome you to spend your time woodworking however you find enjoyment, I do ask that you think of the cost to the Guild of excessive, inefficient machining of materials.

By Chuck Saunders
Director of Assets



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP BY FEBRUARY 28!!!!

The website is up and accepting your renewals. If you want to renew at the meeting – we do accept credit cards but it is the slowest option – it can become a real bottle neck at the meeting. If you want to speed things up – a check or cash (exact change helps) are the best ways to go.

REMEMBER, the renewal period is being shortened this year. To maintain your membership and Green card status you must renew by February 28, 2019. After February 28th, you will be considered a new member and will need to re-qualify for your Green Badge.

Changes to Membership Dues for 2019

| Membership Level | \$/yr |
|------------------|-------|
| Benefactor | \$150 |
| Woodworker Plus | \$125 |
| Sawdust Maker | \$95 |
| Regular | \$50 |
| Senior | \$35 |
| Student | \$25 |

There is an increase in dues for 2019 for those members who use the shop. Here is the new dues structure:

- This represents a \$25.00 annual increase for Benefactor and Woodworker Plus, a \$20.00 annual increase for Sawdust Maker, and

no change for Regular, Senior, and Student.

- We will maintain the 20% discount on Guild classes and merchandise for WW+ and Benefactor members.
- We will continue the \$5.00 discount for renewals between December 1, 2018 and January 31, 2019.

Even with the dues increase – membership in the Guild is still one of the best deals around. If you want to arrange for a gift membership – see Wayne Peterson or Joseph Greisen.

Wayne Peterson
Membership Director



NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY: PLANS AVAILABLE FOR BORROWING!

Hey all, I'm pleased to announce that we have plans for borrowing in the library. Last year we got a massive donation of Fine Woodworking plans, as some of you have already noticed. I was at a loss to how to display them and so they stayed in the boxes they came in.

That problem was solved earlier this year by one of our sponsors. Woodcraft kindly donated two of their magazine racks to the guild and those racks are perfect for displaying the plans - so you can flip through them and quickly find something

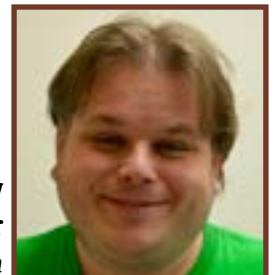
interesting! They're reorganizing the store a little bit and are now putting out two pallets of fancy

offcuts and turning blanks, sold by the pound. If you haven't, drop by the store and check them out.



To borrow the plans, use the clipboard by the computer to sign them out. You should be able to run large format copies at the local Kinkos/Staples/copy shop if you want to mark them up or just take care to not mark them.

Andrew Carr
Librarian



THE FEBRUARY 2019 INTERESTING VIDEOS....

YouTube and other video sites are great resources for woodworkers, here are a few presented in no particular order. Each of these videos caught my or other's eye for various particular reasons, be it the education, the project, or the film itself. If you run across interesting videos, please send a link to me at Library@kcwoodworkersguild.org

Did you know that the Guild has a YouTube channel? The videos below will be on a playlist for ease of watching. Take a look! <https://www.youtube.com/user/kcwoodworkers/>

Enjoy!

Stop Buying Double-Sided Tape! (3 Minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8i8qEnHA58>

Marc from The Wood Whisperer changes the game (well, passes on the information) when it comes to temporary attaching things to wood, like templates or hinges. Just make sure to use a tiny amount of glue....

How to Make Trugs (13 Minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQ0gAFRDXCY>

Coming from 'Woodlands TV', a channel out of England, is an interesting look at how the iconic garden baskets are made. The style reminds me 'The Woodwright's Shop' a bit and the rest of the channel has a bunch of gems as it seems they interview people in the crafts and wood trades around England.

How to Build an Organizational Shop Cabinet with Simple Drawers (16 Minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26tegrN-FFI>

Jon Peters creates a simple shop cabinet from plywood and screws. Nothing fancy but elegant in the simplicity. He does a good job explaining what he does without overdoing it.

Table Saw 101 with Stumpy Nubs

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-gT7JMZFYjdLyzXQ6-TeJsFvB2mZjUe6>

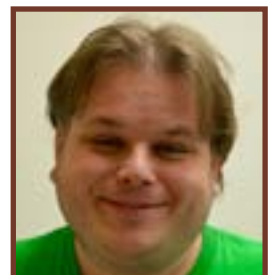
Changing it up a bit, this link points to a playlist where James Hamilton breaks out the basics of the table saw in a 5 part series. All 5 videos should be posted by the time the newsletter goes out. The best part is that he also uses a Saw Stop cabinet saw.

How to Make a Miniature Table Saw Sled (10 Minutes)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T2DOf8I_fkS

If you're going to be working on a project that has a ton of tiny parts, it's in your interest to create a tiny sled so you don't have push the larger, heavier, sleds back and forth. Tommy Rich creates a quick and simple sled that can be stashed in a tool bag.

**By Andrew
Carr**
Librarian



FINANCIAL UPDATE

We are off to a good start in 2019. January membership renewal and new member registration were above expectation. Members understand the need for the first increase in membership fees since 2011 and that the Guild continues to provide a great value. The membership discount for early renewal is over and the membership renewal period ends February 28th. If a 2018 Guild member has not renewed by March 1st, they will be dropped from the membership roster and will be considered new members

when they rejoin. That means they will be required to go through the safety orientation process before they get a "Green" badge.

Registration for classes was also above estimates. That indicates the Guild is offering the training wanted and needed by the membership. We should all appreciate all the time and effort all those that teach, organize and schedule all the wonderful training.

I look forward to a productive year. The Guild is in a strong

financial position and we should have a good year in front of us.

The monthly "Statement of Operation" is available on the Guild website in the "Members Only" section. The report provides detail on the revenue received and the disbursements made. Please review the report and contact me if there are questions.



Gary Mielke
Treasurer

SHOP SAFETY

We've had a very busy winter in the shop. When the temps drop, the activity increases. With the increased activity in the shop, the need for increased awareness becomes more apparent. Simple little things like sawdust collecting on the tile floors around the machines, becomes a slipping hazard. Please be sure to clean up after yourself. The worst areas for this are at the large jointer, the miter saw and the table saws (especially the rip saw when ripping sheet stock). There are times when you can't use the blade guard on the table saw due to the close proximity to the rip fence. When you have to rip without the blade guard, this is a major contributor to the sawdust accumulation around the saw. This

using the saw, to clean up this area around the saw. As a reminder, our Foremen are there to assist with questions, keep an eye on everyone to make sure everyone is operating the machines safely and take care of the machines should they break down. The Foremen are NOT there to be the janitor. Again, please clean up after yourselves. This is a major safety concern that everyone needs to participate in. Remember.....this is OUR shop. We all collectively have a stake in the care and condition of the shop, just as we all have a stake in making sure we are working safely. Our attention to safe conduct as well as safe conditions is everyone's responsibility.

Also, I plan to have the AED cabinet ready this week and installed. I hope and pray that we never have to use it. All of our Foremen have been trained in the use of the AED as well as a crash course on dealing with severe hand trauma injuries. A big "Thank You" to Kevin Fogarty and Roland Mohler, for taking the time to train all of us in the use of this device. Our Guild is a better place for having this AED onsite.

I look forward to seeing all of you in the shop.



Mike Jones
Director of Safety

YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY REVIEW FOR FEBRUARY 2019

Belt Thickness Sanders

These sanders are similar to thickness planers in that they remove material from the upper surface of a board. However, instead of using a series of rotating knives and shaving the material, they use a sandpaper belt to abrade it. The sanding medium spins above the workpiece, which feeds past it on a conveyor belt.

Safety Rules

1. Use these machines to sand only workpieces 6" long or longer. Shorter workpieces cannot be safely supported as they pass through the machine.
2. Check the integrity of the conveyor belt and sanding medium before turning the machine on. Any ripped belts or burn marks should be reported to the shop foreman.
3. Set the depth (with the sander and conveyor OFF) so that the abrasive is in contact with the workpiece just firmly enough that you can still pull the workpiece free. Do not attempt to remove large quantities of material in a single pass.
4. Start the conveyor at 50% of its full speed, adjusting up or down in small increments to improve the quality of the sanding.
5. Beware of getting your hand caught between the sanding medium and the conveyor belt when the machine is operating; serious injury could result.
6. Push the workpiece from the in-feed side until the belt catches it. Remove your hands and let the conveyor belt feed the material through the machine.
7. Stand to the side of the machine while sanding to avoid kickback.
8. Avoid feeding more than one piece through the sander at once. Gang-feeding material may result in kickback. A proper cut is achieved by balancing the depth of cut with the feed rate, keeping in mind the qualities of the material being sanded. A soft wood can have a greater depth of cut and rate of feed than a hard wood.



COBBLER'S HAMMER AS MY GO TO SHOP HAMMER, AS A HAMMER FOR KIDS, AND AS A SEGUE INTO HAND TOOL RESTORATION

Text and Photo by William Johnston

The cobbler uses the hammer to start small tacks with the narrow curved tail while putting heels on shoes. The large face can be used to hammer tacks home or even as an anvil when used with another hammer.



In this article I will be discussing three topics ... using the cobbler's hammer as my go to hammer in my woodworking shop, what a great hammer the cobblers hammer is for kids, and how the experience of restoring a cobbler's hammer is a great segue to learning hand tool restoration such as hand planes and hand drills.

Cobbler's hammers are inexpensive and plentiful. I suspect at some time in old tool history nearly every household had one. They weren't just for cobblers. Shoes and boots had to have loose heels tacked back on, harnesses and horse tack had to be mended. Often the old times was a do it yourself time both for economy but for lack availability of others to do such work.

These hammers survived. Frankly the dropped forged head was hard to damage. Second, the tool was easy to rehandle, when broken, with a spokeshave and a piece of hickory from a larger broken handle, from the woodpile or a replacement handle from

the hardware store. Even in later times when making do was not as necessary, the head without a handle was too good to throw away and small enough to tuck into most any nook in the shop or barn.

While I do find myself working with leather as a woodworker ... vice faces for better grip, chisel boots for edge protection, bolsters for turned chisel handles, faces on wooden mallets, I rarely use tacks and almost never use nails. But I do use my cobbler's hammers.

Cobbler's hammers are useful for tapping dowels, tapping home wedges, tapping drawbore pegs, working with center punches, maybe an awl (agh! Maybe not) and a many other uses where a small hammer is needed.

So what is inexpensive? A new cobbler's hammer can run \$35 to \$60. Wow! In the wild, I've paid as little as \$1 to \$5 for a head needing a handle and \$4 to \$10 for a handled hammer. Rarely have I seen one for as much as \$15 in flea markets and antique shops. Sometimes the iron is rusty or the handle is loose. Often not.

Woodworking with Small Children with the Cobbler's Hammer.

To me, small children are those old enough to stand or sit on my lap at a short bench and play with tools while I pay attention, usually age one up to age 5 or 6. We're talking tool play here, not building something. As a child starts reaching age five they start wanting to build something. Before that they just want to play with tools ... your tools.

No matter how young, small children really like to pound with a hammer or mallet. Children's "tools" sets are for the most part inadequate and frustrating. Hammer

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handles are scaled down too small and turned round, hard to hold. The heads are too lightweight to accomplish anything so there is no reward. Your tools are more attractive but your hammer handles are too long and choking up produces too much handle behind to hand that's just plain in the way.

A cobbler's hammer is just about perfect. The handle is short, no need to choke up. The handle is full thickness ... easier for a small child to grip. Oval in cross section ... easier to orient to the target. The head has just the right weight to get a result (the reward, a peg moves). The face is quite large ... can't hardly miss. And since you are most likely holding the target of the hammer, the larger face doesn't hurt or pinch your fingers. Rarely will you use the tack face but the opposing end adds nice balance.

So pick up and restore a cobbler's hammer and tool play with the small child in your life.

A cobbler's hammer is a segue into tool restoration for such items as grandpa's plane or that garage sale hand drill.

Most cobbler's hammers are labeled, "dropped forged". A red hot ingot is placed on a die. An identical die is lifted high above the anvil and by heavy weight crashes down forging the

ingot into the hammer head. The forged head is cleaned, flashing removed, maybe machined on more expensive examples. It is often blackened (black oxide) for appearance, oiled for rust protection, and put in a wire basket to be sent for the wood handle attachment.

When you find one it may be in good shape or fallen into a state needing repair. Since the hammer is itself practically indestructible, you have a perfect vehicle for tool restoration practice. Often the wood handle will either be missing or loose. You should remove it. If the handle it is still serviceable, remove any finish with acetone or mineral spirits and refinish it with mineral oil, beeswax, or other favorite finish like Danish Oil. Or it could be a great opportunity to use your spokeshave and some woodpile finds to shape a new one. Both hickory and ash were used originally. I've used plum, walnut, cherry, purpleheart leftovers, and maple, but most any dry wood from the woodpile will do.

Typically, the curled tack side opposite the face will have a formed burred edge. This can be ground off, filed off, or a combination of both. Try to do it nicely. This is practice. Typically the face might need some truing as well.

Next remove any rust. Clean the head with mineral spirits followed by soap and water. I remove rust with a wirebrush on a motor arbor. But you may want to practice other rust removal techniques such as electrolysis, Evaporust, steel wool and light machine oil (mineral oil), Simple Green, or abrasion. You can't hurt this thing but I would not use acids. Acids work but it is bad practice.

After cleaning and rust removal you will need to oil or wax the bare metal immediately. Mineral oil will do nicely.. I use something different. The metal will appear unattractive after rust removal and cleaning. I apply Burchwood Casey Black Oxide gun bluing which greatly improves the appearance. Wipe the liquid on the clean metal with a paper towel, the steel immediately turns a dull black. Additional application increases the depth of black. Dry the head and apply oil. I use new synthetic motor oil. Synthetic motor oil, wiped on, fills the tiny pores in the black oxide layer and dries overnight to a satin paraffin coat that is great looking and quite durable.

Take pleasure now in fitting and wedging your handle.

Questions and comments may be addresses to William Johnston, johnston@everestkc.net.

CNC SIG MEETING WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH AT 6:00PM

As most of you know the CNC is back and the last-minute fine tuning is complete. We are now busy creating training documentation and a training video. The SIG web page needs updating, and a training schedule needs to be prepared. The updates should occur before the newsletter goes out. If there are delays, you will be notified by email.

I would like to thank Mike Resch and Bob Detwiler again for all their time and effort. They put in a lot of hours to add hardware and software functions. The CNC by looks and function is a new machine and its operation is much different. Hence, we need training. We didn't require training on the old CNC and there were a lot of mishaps which we are now trying to avoid.

While the documentation is being prepared please review or get familiar with VCarve Pro or Aspire. Vectric, the creator of the software, allows you to download a trial version of the software and provides very good tutorials on how to use the software. Once your similar with the software there will be training prerequisites.

Before signing up for the CNC operating training you need to be able to create projects using VCarve Pro or Aspire. The training will require:

1. That you have two projects on a flash drive. One of the projects should not cut all the way through a board and the other should cut all the way through the board. One of the two projects must use two different router bits. Each project should take no more than 6 minutes to cut.
2. View the training video and be familiar with "Basic Operation of the CNC" links to both are available on the Guild website on the CNC SIG page.
3. Bring the router bits that will be used to cut the project. The Guild does not provide bits for CNC use.



4. Bring the two boards that will be used to cut the projects. The boards should be flat and have 90-degree angles.
5. The lower left corner of the boards should be used for the reference point.

As part of the training each member will secure the board to the CNC table, load the G-code, insert the router bit into the spindle and cut the project.

I recognize that this is taking a lot of time but in the end, we will all have a better understanding of how to properly operate the CNC and eliminate the mishaps that have occurred in the past.

Using the CNC turning function will not be covered in this first round of training. After we complete this round of training there will be a sign up for training to use the turning function.

Several members will have completed the training by the SIG meeting. We will use the SIG meeting to complete training for as many members as possible. There will be a sign-in sheet at the SIG meeting and training will be in order of sign in.

We are almost there. Thanks for your patience.

Gary Mielke

PLEASE WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED THE GUILD IN NOVEMBER 2018

| FIRST NAME | LAST NAME | HOMETOWN | STATE | MEMBERSHIP | JOINED |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Dana | Alley | Olathe | KS | WW+ | 1/8/2019 |
| Michael | Banka | Independence | MO | Benefactor | 1/4/2019 |
| Bob | Bjerg | Kansas City | KS | Sawdust | 1/7/2019 |
| Bret | Cleveland | Weatherby Lake | MO | WW+ | 1/11/2019 |
| Molly | Dillon | Kansas City | MO | Regular | 1/4/2019 |
| Thomas | Franklin | Leawood | KS | Senior | 1/31/2019 |
| Brian | Frehner | Prairie Village | KS | WW+ | 1/21/2019 |
| Sherry | Gibbs | Kansas City | MO | Sawdust | 1/10/2019 |
| Serge | Goudreau | Independence | MO | WW+ | 1/22/2019 |
| Tyler | Hilgenkamp | Lenexa | KS | Sawdust | 1/28/2019 |
| Anthony | Kratke | Kansas City | MO | WW+ | 1/14/2019 |
| Bruce | Kunz | Kansas City | MO | WW+ | 1/11/2019 |
| Jeff | Macke | Kansas City | MO | WW+ | 28/2019 |
| Michelle | Macke | Kansas City | MO | Regular | 1/28/2019 |
| Steven R. | Martin | Excelsior Springs | MO | WW+ | 1/27/2019 |
| Steve | McGuire | Prairie Village | KS | Sawdust | 1/9/2019 |
| Phil | Munoz | Bucyrus | KS | WW+ | 1/2/2019 |
| Justin | Myers | Overland Park | KS | WW+ | 1/16/2019 |
| Jean | Ochs | Independence | MO | WW+ | 1/3/2019 |
| Tom | Peterson | Overland Park | KS | WW+ | 1/21/2019 |
| Michael | Rice | Overland Park | KS | WW+ | 1/2/2019 |
| Chris | Richmond | Overland Park | KS | WW+ | 1/29/2019 |
| Jack | Rohr | Shawnee | KS | WW+ | 1/11/2019 |
| David | Ruiter | Leavenworth | KS | Sawdust | 1/16/2019 |
| Garrett | Schmidt | Lenexa | KS | Sawdust | 1/21/2019 |
| Owola | Shields | Olathe | KS | Sawdust | 1/24/2019 |
| Tanner | Smith | Prairie Village | KS | Sawdust | 1/27/2019 |
| R.J. | Stephenson | Tonganoxie | KS | Senior | 1/11/2019 |
| John | Stickney | Independence | MO | Sawdust | 1/14/2019 |
| Carla | Valentine | Shawnee | KS | Sawdust | 1/19/2019 |
| Brian | Williams | Liberty | MO | WW+ | 1/13/2019 |

Kansas City Woodworkers Guild February 2019 Open Shop Schedule

*Supersedes all previous
Open Shop Schedules
for this time period*

| day | February | Date | 9am | 10 | 11 | 12 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9pm |
|-----------|----------|------|----------------|----------------|----|--------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|---|----------------------------------|------------|---|-----|
| Friday | February | 1 | | | | | | | | | | Andrew Carr | | | |
| Saturday | February | 2 | Mike Jones | | | | | Basic Skills Class | | George Rexroad | | | | | |
| Sunday | February | 3 | | Chuck Saunders | | | | | Chris McCauley Powertool SIG | | | | | | |
| Monday | February | 4 | | | | | | Ron Haw | | | | Gary Strohm | | | |
| Tuesday | February | 5 | Gary Creek | | | Craig Arnold | | | | | | | Kara Paris | | |
| Wednesday | February | 6 | Roger Bartlett | | | | Roland Mohler | | Scott Engelmann 3:30 | | | LC Meeting | | | |
| Thursday | February | 7 | Gary Mielke | | | | | | | | | Basic Woodworking | | | |
| Friday | February | 8 | | | | | | | | | | Bill Lintner | | | |
| Saturday | February | 9 | Dave Kraatz | | | | Norm Carpenter | | | | | | | | |
| Sunday | February | 10 | | Rob Young | | | | | | Mark Waugh | | | | | |
| Monday | February | 11 | John Johnson | | | | Ron Haw | | | | | Woodturners General Meeting | | | |
| Tuesday | February | 12 | Matt Nowak | | | Ron Lomax | | | Craig Arnold | | | Rick Chandler Safety Comm Mtg | | | |
| Wednesday | February | 13 | Bob Caldwell | | | | Roland Mohler | | Scott Engelmann 3:30 | | | Scrollsaw SIG | | | |
| Thursday | February | 14 | Gary Mielke | | | | | | | | | Basic Woodworking | | | |
| Friday | February | 15 | | | | | | Mike McCauley | | | | Marselle Bredemeyer | | | |
| Saturday | February | 16 | Dave Kraatz | | | | | | George Rexroad Safety Orientation | | | | | | |
| Sunday | February | 17 | | Chuck Saunders | | | | | Chris McCauley | | | | | | |
| Monday | February | 18 | | | | | | Ron Haw | | | | Gary Strohm | | | |
| Tuesday | February | 19 | Gary Creek | | | Craig Arnold | | | | | | | | | |
| Wednesday | February | 20 | Roger Bartlett | | | | | | | | | General Meeting | | | |
| Thursday | February | 21 | Gary Mielke | | | | | | | | | Basic Woodworking | | | |
| Friday | February | 22 | | | | | | | | | | Bill Lintner | | | |
| Saturday | February | 23 | Dave Kraatz | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sunday | February | 24 | | Rob Young | | | | Handtool SIG | Wayne Peterson | | | | | | |
| Monday | February | 25 | | | | | | Ron Haw | | | | | | | |
| Tuesday | February | 26 | Matt Nowak | | | Ron Lomax | | | Craig Arnold | | | Rick Chandler Carving SIG | | | |
| Wednesday | February | 27 | Bob Caldwell | | | | Roland Mohler | | Scott Engelmann 3:30 | | | Kevin Thomas CNC SIG | | | |
| Thursday | February | 28 | Gary Mielke | | | | | | | | | Basic Woodworking | | | |

Kansas City Woodworkers Guild

March 2019 Tentative Open Shop Schedule

| day | March | Date | 9am | 10 | 11 | 12 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9pm |
|-----------|-------|------|----------------|----------------|----|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------------------|----------------|---|----------------------------------|------------|---|-----|
| Friday | March | 1 | | | | | | | | | | Andrew Carr | | | |
| Saturday | March | 2 | Mike Jones | | | | | | Basic Skills Class | George Rexroad | | | | | |
| Sunday | March | 3 | | Chuck Saunders | | | | | Chris McCauley Powertool SIG | | | | | | |
| Monday | March | 4 | | | | | | Ron Haw | | | | Gary Strohm | | | |
| Tuesday | March | 5 | Gary Creek | | | Craig Arnold | | | | | | | Kara Paris | | |
| Wednesday | March | 6 | Roger Bartlett | | | | Roland Mohler | | Scott Engelmann 3:30 | | | LC Meeting | | | |
| Thursday | March | 7 | Gary Mielke | | | | | | | | | Basic Woodworking | | | |
| Friday | March | 8 | | | | | | | | | | Bill Lintner | | | |
| Saturday | March | 9 | Dave Kraatz | | | | Norm Carpenter | | | | | | | | |
| Sunday | March | 10 | | Rob Young | | | | | Safety Orientation | Mark Waugh | | | | | |
| Monday | March | 11 | John Johnson | | | | Ron Haw | | | | | Woodturners General Meeting | | | |
| Tuesday | March | 12 | Matt Nowak | | | Ron Lomax | | | Craig Arnold | | | Rick Chandler Safety Comm Mtg | | | |
| Wednesday | March | 13 | Bob Caldwell | | | | Roland Mohler | | Scott Engelmann 3:30 | | | Scrollsaw SIG | | | |
| Thursday | March | 14 | Gary Mielke | | | | | | | | | Basic Woodworking | | | |
| Friday | March | 15 | | | | | | Mike McCauley | | | | Marselle Bredemeyer | | | |
| Saturday | March | 16 | Dave Kraatz | | | | | | | George Rexroad | | | | | |
| Sunday | March | 17 | | Chuck Saunders | | | | | | Chris McCauley | | | | | |
| Monday | March | 18 | | | | | | Ron Haw | | | | Gary Strohm | | | |
| Tuesday | March | 19 | Gary Creek | | | Craig Arnold | | | | | | | | | |
| Wednesday | March | 20 | Roger Bartlett | | | | | | | | | General Meeting | | | |
| Thursday | March | 21 | Gary Mielke | | | | | | | | | Basic Woodworking | | | |
| Friday | March | 22 | | | | | | | | | | Bill Lintner | | | |
| Saturday | March | 23 | Dave Kraatz | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sunday | March | 24 | | Rob Young | | | | | Handtool SIG | Wayne Peterson | | | | | |
| Monday | March | 25 | | | | | | Ron Haw | | | | | | | |
| Tuesday | March | 26 | Matt Nowak | | | Ron Lomax | | | Craig Arnold | | | Rick Chandler Carving SIG | | | |
| Wednesday | March | 27 | Bob Caldwell | | | Roland Mohler | | | Scott Engelmann 3:30 | | | Kevin Thomas CNC SIG | | | |
| Thursday | March | 28 | Gary Mielke | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Friday | March | 30 | | | | | | | | | | Andrew Carr | | | |
| Saturday | March | 29 | Mike Jones | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sunday | March | 30 | | Chuck Saunders | | | | | | Mike McCauley | | | | | |
| Monday | March | 31 | | | | | | Ron Haw | | | | | | | |
| Tuesday | March | 29 | Gary Creek | | | Craig Arnold | | | | | | Rick Chandler | | | |
| Wednesday | March | 30 | Roger Bartlett | | | | Roland Mohler | | Scott Engelmann 3:30 | | | | | | |
| Thursday | March | 31 | Gary Mielke | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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