

WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern
Woodworkers
Association

February 2005, Vol. 14, Number 2

February Meeting to Feature Mid-Hudson Chapter

Thursday, February 10th, 7 pm.
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany

- John Michne

The NWA has a couple of chapters for members in areas a bit removed from the Capital District. Just what are these chapters all about? How do they relate to the main NWA organization? Well, we are about to find out. The Mid-Hudson chapter of the NWA will hold a 'chapter meeting' at the regular February monthly meeting on Thursday, February 10 at 7:00 pm at the Shaker Meeting House. Chuck Walker and the gang from down the river will bring their brand of meeting merriment for all to enjoy.

Now for the meeting to be a success, Chuck needs us to help out by bringing in an item for Show and Tell. The tables and chairs will be arranged in a big rectangle all around the room, sort of a 'meeting in the round'. The evening promises to be highly entertaining as well as informative, so gather up your latest project, bring it along and join the fun! 🪵



*The wood whackers from
Mid-Hudson will be up on
February 10 to enliven,
enrich and entertain...*

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From the President

- Pat McCord

Board of Directors Meeting

The next meeting of the NWA Board of Directors will be held at 7:00 PM on Thursday, February 24th, at the Hillcrest Firehouse, 95 Pruyn Hill Road, Mechanicville. All NWA members are welcome. If you would like to have a specific topic on the agenda, please contact Charlie Goddard at 370-0388 or Cgodd@aol.com. Please feel free to discuss any ideas, concerns or questions you might have with any of the Board members at any time (officers and chairs are listed in the newsletter).

Web Editor and Historian Volunteers Needed

The NWA Board of Directors has been advised that Bill Fahy, our Web Editor, will be resigning that position due to other demands on his time. Bill has dedicated a great deal of time and effort keeping our website up to date and will be missed greatly.

Additionally, the NWA Historian position has been vacant for some time and we would like to have someone in the post to document our activities and maintain a repository for important information (meeting minutes, programs, etc.).

Both the Website Editor and Historian sit on the Board of Directors. If you are interested in either position or would like additional information, please contact Pat McCord at 439-1232 or tmccord@localnet.com. 🐾

Showcase 2005

- Charlie Goddard

By the time you read this there will be less than two months before *Showcase*. Have you decided what you will exhibit? Have you signed up as a volunteer? Are you making birdhouses for the Toy Factory?

There is still plenty of time to make something or dust off an older piece for the exhibit hall. Last year we had a record number of exhibitors, but we can do better. If you have not exhibited in the past, the process is very simple. Just fill out the entry form that was included in the last newsletter and send it to the NWA address, bring the item to the City Center Friday evening before the show and pick it up again Sunday after 5 pm. We will prepare a label, which will be available when you deliver the item, and place the item in the appropriate place in the exhibit hall for you. If you want to have your work judged simply check the "For Judging" column on the entry form. That's all there is to it!

We need volunteers. Last year more than 300 members volunteered their time. Some worked multiple shifts, both Saturday and Sunday. If you have volunteered before I hope you will consider doing so again this year. If you have never volunteered, how about signing up this year? You get free admittance to the show and become eligible for a door prize available only to volunteers. You can save a phone call by signing up now. Let Wayne Distin know you want to be put on the list (674-4171, wpswan@capital.net).

Jay VanVranken is still looking for birdhouses. The Toy Factory will be giving away birdhouse kits which need to be made in advance of the Show. If you can make some kits let Jay know (664-3034, svanvran@nycap.rr.com).

Hal Bigelow is coordinating the Women in Woodworking special exhibit. If you are a female woodworker please plan to enter your work. If you know of a woman woodworker that you would like to see represented in the special exhibit let Hal know (587-3847, hbigelow@nycap.rr.com).

The other special exhibit will be measuring tools of all kinds. Let Ken Miller know if you have measuring tools that he might want to include (753-6334, millek3@rpi.edu).

Other things that are in the works are: band saw for the raffle; professional gallery in the adjacent Prime Hotel; Jigs and Fixtures organized by the folks who brought you the Practical Workshop last year; website (www.nwawoodworkingshow.org); simultaneous lectures in four meeting rooms in the Prime; the Education Booth; turners, carvers and scrollers; and a few new faces in the commercial area.

Plan to participate in as many ways as you can. 🐾

Volunteers needed for Showcase 2005

- *Wayne Distin, Volunteer Chairman*

The telephone committee will begin calling members in early February. We will be asking volunteers to spend at least one 2 1/2 hour shift working at *Showcase* on Friday, April 1, Saturday, April 2, or Sunday, April 3. If you want to save us a phone call, please e-mail or phone Wayne Distin at wpswan@capital.net or (518) 674-4171.

Areas that need to be staffed are:

Setup – Friday between noon and 9 pm

Takedown – Sunday afternoon beginning at 5 pm

Door Hosts – Ticket taking and handing out programs

Floor Hosts – Walking showroom floor, protect exhibits, answer questions

Ticket Sales – Sell show tickets from booth

Lecturer Assistant – Help with lecturer's setup/takedown

Membership – provide info on NWA, take membership applications

Sawmill Assistant – work short shift outdoors/assist sawmill operator

Raffle – Sell Fiske Fund raffle tickets during show

Truck Drivers – Friday and Sunday pickup and deliver equipment

"Anywhere Needed" – If you can't decide or have a flexible schedule, give a time and we'll place you where help is most needed and notify you by postcard

Remember, only those who work on *Showcase* either before or during the show may get in free and are eligible for a 'volunteers only' door prize drawing. Markers will be placed on your nametag to indicate you have helped.

We will also be recruiting volunteers at the February and March general meetings.

Showcase is run completely by NWA members who unselfishly devote their time and energy to make it a success. Become a part of the unique event. You'll be glad you decided to participate. 🐾

Cytech Hardwoods, Inc. Opens Warehouse Outlet

- *Clark Pell*

Cytech Hardwoods has opened a new 4,000 square foot outlet for sales of kiln-dried hardwoods direct to end users. Located at 1785 State Highway 5s outside of Amsterdam, NY, Cytech currently has red oak, hard and soft maple, cherry, tiger maple, tiger oak, butternut and quarter-sawn hickory in addition to solid 3/4" hardwood flooring. They will also be stocking rift & quarter sawn lumber in red oak, white oak, sap hard maple and cherry at some point in the future.



Aerial view of Cytech Hardwoods, located west of Amsterdam along the NYS Thruway.

NWA members can receive a discounted price with proper identification. For further information Cytech can be contacted at (518) 843-2551 or russ@cytechwood.com or at their website www.cytechwood.com. 🐾

The crisis of today is the joke of tomorrow.

H. G. Wells

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Your next issue of **Woodworkers News** will be published in early March.

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NWA maintains two websites, the first noted here operates continuously. We also offer selected links to other sites of interest to our membership.
Webmaster - Justin Rohrer
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The second site operates from January 1 to May 30 and carries specific information about SHOWCASE.



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Confessions of an Apostate Flat-Boarder

- Herm Finkbeiner

A few Saturdays back Charlie and Karen Goddard, Fran and I took a drive to Bob Opdahl's place in Hurley to be a part of the open house that celebrated the new shop that the Mid-Hudson NWA members had built in Bob's old garage.

The results of their work were shown in the January newsletter and the shop is simply great!

While there Bob showed me some work that he described as "inside-out turnings". The part that intrigued me was that the pieces had flat, straight sides and there as nothing round about them! That sort of thing could make even a dedicated flat-boarder begin to think that there could be a non-corrupting use for a lathe.

Having completed a few attempts at "inside-out turnings", I am now convinced that the opportunities are unlimited and I submit the pictures and description below as means of convincing other followers of the straight, the true and the square that lathes have a place as long as their use isn't too obvious.

The approaches I have developed may be useful to others and I offer them with some modesty and much trepidation.

1. Determine the cross section dimensions of the turning block to be prepared. As an example assume the final block will be 1" x 1" x 7". Prepare 2 pieces of stock that in this case are, $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 3" x 7". Cut a piece of kraft paper (e.g. a brown paper grocery bag) $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x $7\frac{1}{2}$ " and glue it between the two stock pieces using ordinary white glue. Fig. 1
2. After the glue has set, trim the excess paper and cut two $\frac{1}{2}$ " strips from the block. Fig. 2
3. Cut a second piece of kraft paper $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x 7" and glue between the two pieces just prepared. Fig. 3
4. Square the ends of the turning block and locate the centers of the ends in order to be able to mount the block on the lathe. Fig. 4
5. Turn the desired profile. It will require some experience and intuition to adjust to the idea of negative turning and be able to determine the profile needed on the lathe to give the sought-after effect when the reversal is carried out. Fig. 5
6. With a sharp knife part the turning by cleaving the kraft paper. Kraft paper is made in layers and parts very easily between layers but is very tough across the layers. Fig. 6
7. Reassemble the four pieces with the "outside" in and permanently glue the pieces together. Fig. 7,8 9
8. For those that cannot stand the sight of the straight, the true and the square the outside can now be turned to whatever shape pleases the eye and fills the need. Fig. 10

Clearly even the most dedicated flat boarder can be corrupted! A word to the wise should be sufficient warning. 🐼

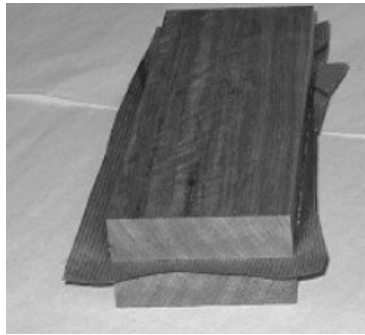


Figure 1. Kraft paper glued between two blocks.

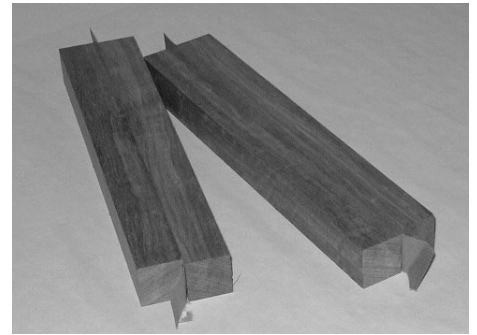


Figure 2. Stock ready for second gluing.



Figure 3. After 2nd gluing.

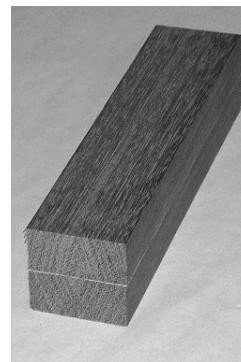


Figure 4. Block ready for turning.

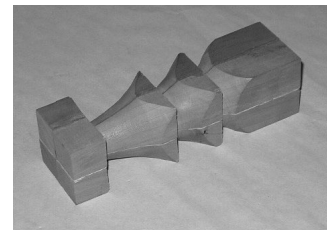


Figure 5. After turning the "outside".

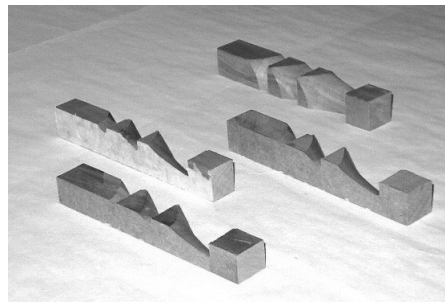


Figure 6 Blocks after parting the kraft paper.

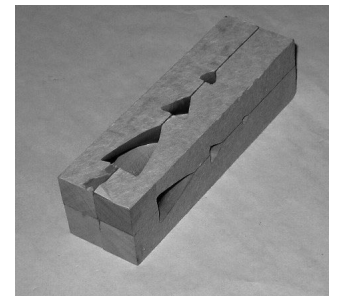


Figure 7 "Reversed" and ready for final gluing



Figure 8 A Pattern!



Figure 9 No two alike (can't do that yet)



Figure 10 Turn if you must!

BLADE RUNNER

Knowing your saw blades will improve your shop's efficiency

B Y C H A R L E S S E L F

Every pro woodworker knows that a good blade, one matched to the work to be done, is an essential in any production shop.

If your woodshop is one of the few still running all steel-blades, it is definitely past time to investigate upgrading to carbide. If you have been pleased with the work coming from your current blade brand, then make changes slowly, only when a blade is worn past redemption. In a few cases the blade brand may disappear before you are ready, but generally this is a field of increasing competition, both in price and quality.

New technologies, most specifically laser cutting of the blade bodies, have made quality easier to find and, often, cheaper to buy. Almost no one uses older methods of shaping blade plates these days.

At one point most shops needed a really superb and fast rip blade, and a fine quality, smooth cutoff blade. Then Forrest Manufacturing pioneered the move to general blades aimed at producing super smooth rip and cross cuts, with good speed and excellent durability, regardless of which type of cutting was involved. Since that time, general blades have just about replaced combination blades and may help save a lot of hours of blade change and saw set-up time.

It is still wise to inventory one or

two rip blades and several types of cutoff blades. But since every saw is not a table saw, blades with different geometries become essential to meet the needs of those tools. Most shops contain a compound miter saw, about as many have a slide compound miter saw, and a large percentage of cabinet and furniture makers still find the radial arm saw an essential tool.

of hook angle — were developed.

The hook angle is the amount of forward or backward lean each tooth has. The angle is measured by the intersection of two lines: one drawn flush with the face of the carbide tip and the second drawn vertically through the center of the arbor hole. Basically, the greater the hook angle a blade has, the more pull or grab the blade will have

blades, nonferrous metal cutting blades and the two-sided smooth cutoff blade (often the exact same blade used for melamine and other fine cutoff work). Tip counts range from 18 to 80 in 10" blades. You'll find tip counts as high as 110 in larger diameter (16") blades, while 96 to 100 are common in 12" blades.

Many manufacturers rate their blades for particular uses. For example, CMT rates its melamine and fine cut-off blade (model 210.080.10) as excellent for plywood, two-sided melamine and crosscutting. You might hesitate a bit at the fair rating for ripping, and you certainly don't want to try that in cherry or maple, but for its intended use the 80-tooth, 5-degree hook blade is exceptional. Whether or not it can actually be run without a scoring blade depends on your needs.

The rip blade cuts with the grain, removing a great deal of wood, often on a long cut. Teeth are large, as are tips, and gullets are deep because a lot of material is removed by each tooth. Flat top grinds (FTG) show up a lot, as in Freud's 24-tooth version with a 20-degree hook. DeWalt's Finish Rip blade has a less aggressive hook, more teeth (40), and smaller gullets, producing a finer finish. It mixes the FTG with a

continued on next page

If your woodshop is one of the few still running all-steel blades, it is definitely past time to investigate upgrading to carbide.

The need for other blades — blades not designed for table saw use — becomes quickly obvious.

The book on hooks

Possibly the best example of different needs is the radial arm saw. Once problems with adjusting radial arm saws are settled, the biggest problem becomes climb cutting, which tends to mess up schedules as well as material. Climb cutting is nothing more than an overly aggressive blade angle causing the blade to attempt too fast a feed into the material. Thus, less aggressive blades — with 5 to 0 degrees

on the material being cut.

Aggressive 20-degree hook angles are found on rip blades to pull the wood into the blade. Standard hook angles range from 5 to 15 degrees. Negative hook angles, usually -5 degrees, are used to prevent self-feeding of materials and give the operator maximum control over the feed of cut.

Basic blade division

Rip and crosscut blades are the two basic blade types. From there, we meet general use (today's very popular category), combination blades, super fine melamine and laminate



TOOTH CONFIGURATIONS



Triple Chip — The first tooth, or lead tooth, has a double 45-degree angle corner bevel, followed by a topped raker tooth ground lower than the lead tooth. The raker tooth removes the corners left on both sides by the beveled lead tooth. For use on cutting hardwood, plastics and laminates.

Pros:

- Good wear resistance
- Low tooth drag and balanced cutting force
- Free chip flow

Cons:

- Difficult to sharpen
- Tendency to produce chip-outs



Alternate Top Bevel — The tops of alternating teeth are beveled to one side of the blade or the other at about 15 degrees. Tips are sharp and pointed. Used for plywood, veneer, hardboard, fiberboard and particleboard.

Pros:

- Shear cuts material without chipping or splintering
- No chip buildup

Cons:

- Leading point susceptible to wear and damage
- Difficult to sharpen



Flat Top Grinds — The top of each tooth is ground square, perpendicular to the sides of the blade. Used for heavy-duty cutting.

Pros:

- Cuts both sides of the kerf simultaneously
- Stays sharp longer

Cons:

- Chip-out or tear-out more likely
- Chip buildup likely

Multipurpose blades for the small shop

One size may fit all for some shops. Certainly a pro shop is going to find a number of blade types essential, but with today's grinds and general quality some time may be saved by installing a multipurpose blade. You can leave it in place on the saw until a job that shrieks "dedicated blade" comes up.

Combination and general-purpose blades are slightly different approaches to getting a single blade to both rip and crosscut well enough to please even persnickety woodworkers. Some of the best ones are amazingly good at both jobs.

Combination blades use a series of tips with small gullets, followed by a deep gullet, to do their work. The deep gullet is necessary to clean out the kerf on rip cuts, while the small gullets between cutting tips help produce a smooth cut. The alternate top bevel-raker (ATB + R) grind finds a pair of alternately beveled tips, followed by a flat raker tip. The blades now crosscut and rip quite well, but ripping is limited to slow feeds and woods under 2" thick.

General purpose blades make great, super-useful, seldom changed cutters for many shops. The 10" (and most are 10") will have 40 or 50 teeth, with an ATB grind, and a fairly aggressive 15 to 20 degree hook angle. Gullets are deep, as deep as those on a finish rip blade, so you can rip at slightly higher feed speeds.

— Charles Self

triple-chip grind (TCG) for cleaner cuts.

Anti-kickback designs on Freud and CMT blades do seem to work, by the way. They're not a total cure, but in this writer's experience seem to reduce the frequency and power of kickbacks. Deep gullets on most rip blades make such features more valuable than they might be on crosscut blades, because the anti-kickback features effectively reduce gullet depth in one sense, while exposing less of each successive tooth to the possibility of being grabbed.

The crosscut blade cuts across the grain, most often in shorter cuts. Blade tips are smaller in size, and are usually alternate top bevel grinds (ATB). In uses as a cutoff blade for radial arm

saws, you may find some makers like to use four ATB teeth followed by a TCG for a cleaner cut. Hook levels vary a lot, sometimes ranging from -6 to 20 degrees, depending on intended use. Many are in the range of 15 degrees.

The combination blade does both cross and rip jobs reasonably well. It's not as smooth as the crosscut blade nor as fast as the dedicated rip blade. Tip grinds are often ATB, with a raker tooth in triple-chip grind to do some light scoring. Hook is medium, from 12 to 15 degrees for most.

General blades, such as the Forrest Woodworker II, present another view of doing nearly all jobs with a single blade. The Woodworker II has an ATB grind

and 40 teeth. Delta offers an 18-degree hook on a similar blade, CMT's General has a 20-degree hook, and Bosch uses 15 degrees. Freud is in the process of re-designing its F400 series blades, so we're not presenting the information on its general blade line (Premiere blades) because it is expected to change.

Rip blades

For most woodworkers a rip blade and a crosscut blade for the table saw suffice. Rip blades should produce a clean, reasonably smooth but not slick finish cut for glue joints. The 10" blades usually have 24 teeth and are used on table saws. Gullets are large and deep, leaving plenty of room for



Crosscut blades with an ATD grind slice through the grain to produce a smooth cut.

the large amounts of material being removed to escape from the kerf. The hook angle on the glue rip blade is an aggressive 20 degrees, and the FTG chisels wood out along the grain. Delta's 24-tooth rip blade is for slower feeds, with a 14-degree hook angle, but does use the FTG tip.

Rip blades are essential for a table saw, for most woodworking, and must be chosen with great care. The thin kerf blade also comes into its own here, as the power needed to rip is great, and lower horsepower table saws can benefit greatly from thin kerf (as low as .079", compared to a standard .120" to .126"). Thin kerf blades may be a help but are more easily deflected and warped from heat because of a lack of plate thickness (plate thickness may be as little as .055", as compared to a regular plate that is about .90").

Some companies produce a 30-tooth finish rip blade. Other companies retain the 24-tooth configuration, but reduce gullet size (which reduces usable feed rate). DeWalt still makes its 40-tooth finish rip blade.

Crosscut blades

Crosscut blades vary widely in tooth number, though most have 60 or 80 teeth in the 10" size. Tooth design similarities are great. An ATB grind works well, with a 10-degree hook, and alternate grind angles set at 20 degrees (one point to one side of the saw plate, the other pointing over the other side). These produce knifelike edges that slice through cross grain to produce a smooth cut. The 10-degree or similar hook is only moderately aggressive, thus doesn't create overfeed problems.

Crosscut blades for sliding miter saws differ markedly because the hook angle is less aggressive. Sliding compound miter saws also do well with -5-degree hook angles, as do radial arm saws. Both types of saws have a tendency to overfeed, resulting in torn-up work surfaces.

Manufactured wood blades

Melamine is rough on saw blades. The particleboard interior uses glues that are abrasive when dry, and the melamine itself is abrasive. The melamine also chips like crazy if extreme care and a good, correctly made blade aren't used.

A melamine/veneer cut-off blade is essential in most shops. A blade that works well in melamine also works well with standard wood veneers on plywood. Important considerations are ease of cutting, finish of the entire cut surface, and reduction or elimination of chip-out in the cover coat, whether laminate, melamine or veneer.

Rip blades are taboo, naturally enough, and unless experience in scrap material dictates differently, using a combination or a general blade is not the best idea either. Blades that best handle melamines come in 60- and 80-tooth versions: more teeth equal a smoother cut, but also equal a shallower cut. Fine cutoff blades

continued on next page

Proper blade care will yield better results

Given the investment even a one-man shop will have in saw blades, it makes sense to take care of them. Certain steps make a great deal of sense:

- Do not drop the blades. Even a short drop may deform a blade. Contact with a hard surface is almost sure to knock a tooth or two off. Don't slap then down on the saw table, either, when changing blades.
- Clean your blades. Whenever resin buildup is visible, use Simple Green or a similar cleaner to remove the buildup. Oven cleaner is said to be so caustic that brazing of the carbide tips may occur, so until research proves differently, avoid.
- If feed is difficult, have the blade sharpened right away.

You're wasting time and materials using a dull blade.

- Store blades carefully, preferably flat, on wood surfaces. If blades must be wall hung, use dowels just slightly smaller than the arbor hole. Do not hang on nails or other metal objects. If blades are stacked one on another, make sure there is a piece of plywood or cardboard between them.
- Protect uncoated blades from rust. This can be done with any of a dozen substances, including Boeshield T-9 and paste floor wax. Avoid silicone-bearing substances that mess up finishes, such as many car waxes and furniture polishes. Run about a 16" to 20" of scrap through the blade before running project material through.

— Charles Self

Accuracy in Measurement

- Ken Miller

At the summer picnic Clark Pell was surprised and dismayed to find that his steel tape varied by about 1/16" from several others used in The Great Ruler Race. This discussion about accuracy is an appropriate introduction to the upcoming special exhibit on Measurement and Layout Devices for Showcase 2005.

Webster's dictionary defines accuracy as freedom from mistake or error. An accurate ruler compares exactly with a national standard stored at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Washington, DC. Keep in mind that this statement depends on our ability to make the comparison. A ruler graduated to 1/16" or even to 1/64" may imply accuracy to that degree, but is it?

To make my point, take one of your steel tapes and double it back on itself so you can see how the distance from 10" to 20" compares to the distance from 40" to 50" or 50" to 60", etc. Some of these distances differ by more than 1/32", but over the length of the ruler the marks come out about right. While this does not determine how accurate your ruler is, it can indicate the internal inaccuracies. Can your ruler be more accurate than this internal variation? In fact it may be less accurate. The next step would be to compare your ruler to a standard guaranteed to be accurate to the one at NIST.

Just because your ruler is graduated to 1/16", except for the first inch that may be to 1/32" and even 1/64", there is no guarantee that the ruler is accurate to this degree. The manufacturer may divide the ruler as fine as possible to give the impression that you are getting a good (accurate) product.

An accurate ruler is required when you purchase hardware to fit a predetermined space. However, for many projects an accurate ruler is not required, but only your ability to transfer a measurement. This can be done with a story stick on which you have put tick marks for distances. Our exhibit will give examples on measurement and layout to ensure good fit. And of course suggestions on humor are appreciated.

(Editor's Note: Now days, whenever someone asks me for the size of an object, I automatically add 1/16" to each dimension in order to compensate for my crummy tape measure.) 🐢

Classes at Woodcraft – February, 2005

Feb. 3, 10, & 17- Build A Native American Courting Flute- Instructor Eric Marckzak

Feb. 5 - Beginning Veneering - Instructor Andy Pate

Feb 6 - Lathe Turned Bottle Stoppers - Instructor Bill Cherry

Feb. 12 - Building A Fireplace Mantel - Instructor Seth Honeyman

Feb. 19 - Build A Display Case - Instructor Jeff Carrig

Feb. 20 - Sharpening With Water Stones - Instructor Gene Bigaoutte

Feb. 26 - Shaker Box Weekend Workshop - Instructor Steven Grasselli



General purpose 10" blades often feature 40 teeth, an ATB grind, and a 15- to 20-degree hook angle.

use an ATB grind. The hook angle is small, from -5 to 6 degrees. Gullets are small. Combined, these features give a smooth, almost glass-slick cut. Radial arm saws need these blades, with their neutral feed characteristics (a result of the tiny hook angle).

Laminate blades

The thicker material of shop-installed laminates, along with a different chemical makeup, means there's a need for a different blade than that used for melamines, though melamine blades also work decently. It's just that better may be possible.

A slightly modified TCG concept

helps. One tooth is ground flat on top, while the next tooth is ground with an angle at each edge and a flat-top center (TCG). The flat center of that grind helps lower edge tear-out. A 10-degree hook angle is used to reduce feed force. A small gullet is used. Blades such as CMT's Cabinetshop also excel at cutting MDF, which is a recommended substrate for laminates. The 10-degree hook angle makes them too aggressive to work well with slide miter saws and radial arm saws.

Sliding miter saw blades

For woodworking, a glass-smooth cut is a desirable characteristic when making crosscuts with a sliding miter saw. There are a number of blades today that produce such cuts. Often, the blades have a -5-degree hook angle, very small gullets and a very large number of teeth: the bigger the blade, the greater the need for the negative hook, which helps keep feeds under control.

In addition to the negative hook angle, look for at least 72 or 60 teeth (12" and 10", respectively). Tooth count may rise to 96 in 12" slide miter saw blades, and 80 in 10" blades. The bevel (side-to-side) angle on some (DeWalt, for one) brands of ATB tips is 20 degrees, making what is called a high ATB grind for clean cuts. Infinity uses a similar 20-degree ATB grind in its Super General blade, resulting in a very smooth cut, while Amana's melamine blade (80 tooth, 10"), has the high ATB grind, plus a -6-degree hook angle. ■

Showcase 2005: "Layout and Measurement Devices"

- Ken Miller

Before most persons fashion anything, they transfer measurements from a model or drawing to the material. There are many ingenious ways to do this, and I am asking for suggestions and contributions of all kinds of instruments showing the variety of methods and devices.

Some items inspire collecting such as plumb bobs or dividers. If we get enough of these and people are willing to have their pieces part of a general display, we will make a display capable of demonstrating their use and showing the diversity of design. As in previous years with the lathes, saws and planes, it is again our intent to have a number of pieces shown in use, such as stair-tread marking devices, mortise markers, etc., to create an educational experience. One possibility is to have a section on direct-measurement devices (measuring the work piece) and a smaller one on indirect measurement devices (setting or tuning tools and machines). The following list includes some items; additions are welcome.



A great variety of measuring and layout devices are used by woodworkers.

Awls, bevel gauges, calipers, center finders, compasses, dial indicators, dividers, doweling jigs and centers, founders rulers (shrink rules), levels, marking gauges, marking knives, micrometers, plumb bobs, pocket knives, protractors, rulers, story boards, scales (rulers), site levels, squares, tape measures, T-bevels, trammel points, transits (surveying), Vernier calipers and yard sticks.

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If you wish to make a contribution, email me at millek3@rpi.edu or call (518) 753-6334 with a name of the item so I can prepare a label card. Then bring your contribution labeled with your name directly to *Showcase 2005*. 🐘

Monotony is the awful reward of the careful.

A. G. Buckham

Buying carbide

When selecting carbide-tipped saw blades, look carefully at tip thickness. Width determines kerf size, while carbide tip thickness determines the number of sharpenings you should get. Look for at least six or eight sharpenings for longer-term use of the blade. Remember that worn-down carbide can be replaced, as can broken carbide.

Tips must be C3 or C4 carbides. These are exceptionally fine micro-grain carbide materials that take, and hold, very sharp edges. C4 is used only in true premium blades.

Sharpening should be carried out with grits from 400 to 600, depending on blade quality. The finer the grit, the smoother the cut, though a lot depends on sharpening machinery and procedures. Choose a qualified local sharpener or send blades to a manufacturer that offers sharpening services.

For example, Forrest Manufacturing offers extensive sharpening services, including tip replacement, straightening plates, opening gullets and boring holes to a larger size. The cost to sharpen a 32- to 40-tooth blade is about \$20. Contact Forrest at 800-733-7111.

— Charles Self

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Origin of the Term "Inch"

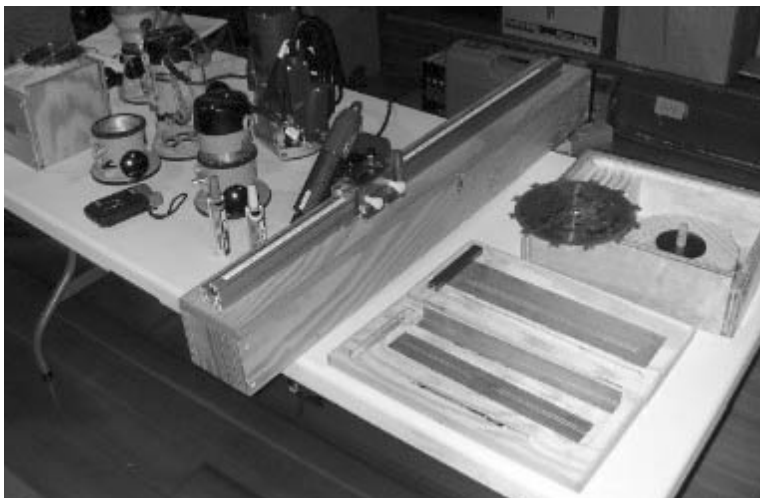
- Mike Miller

The King and his wife were cooking together one Sunday morning, as was their wont, and the King was instructed to put a pinch of salt into the muffins. The King dipped his thumb and forefinger into the salt bin, pinched them together to get some salt and put it in the mix. Well the muffins came out salty and the queen said his pinch was too much, she needed a little less and, being a huge fan of word games and word puzzles, jokingly dropped the "p" from pinch and said next time to only give an "inch". He laughed and looked at his thumb as he pinched it to his forefinger, then looked at his thumb with it not pinched to his forefinger, and partly to commemorate this humorous moment and partly because it was now an inside joke, declared the width of his un-pinched thumb to be an "inch". 🐜

Birdhouse Kit Contest

- Jay Van Vranken

Now that everyone has built some birdhouse kits for *Showcase 2005*, let's have a little fun. Take one of the kits and assemble it. Build onto it or keep it the same. Decorate it however you would like. The only rule is that the original kit has to be a part of the birdhouse that you end up making. They will be displayed in the toy factory at Showcase 2005, and a distinguished panel of judges will examine them with a major prize awarded to the "best in show". Let your imagination soar and see what you can create. 🐜



NWA members should keep in mind that many tools are available for loan from our Tool Crib.

Soapboxes are Round

- Ken Evans

When talking to some wood workers about *wood projects*, you sometimes get a seriously *skewed* response. I get so annoyed with their *chatter*, I want to part ways with them. I wish they would take up *bowling* as a hobby and stop trying to *turn* my life around. *Wood that I were green* with envy over the *nuts and bolts* of their projects, but I cannot get too *revolved* as I have my own *saw to dust*. Sometimes they *barley twist* my arm to get me to *rail* against my *style* of making *shavings*, but I usually *size up* the situation and resist their attempts at laying a *gilt trip* on me. I'll *bedaned* if I will allow them to *grind* me down or push me over the *edge*.

In my world of wood projects, the *exotic* is considered for its *polychromatic effect* and its *allergic reaction*. Some simply *pine* for the *acanthus on agathas corbel* above the fireplace, but I for the quest the *bead and cove* arrangement. I am often hard *pressed to drill* an argument home in an attempt to *offset* their position and not *chuck* the entire hobby.

In Oneway, I sometimes wish these workers of *lignum wood* stop *flapping* their *tungs* about their work and get about *rounding out* their experience with a liberal portion of *Cherry Pi*.

Then again, in a *General way*, there must be room for all! 🐜



Captured in Ken Evans workshop, a turning bug was on display at the January meeting. If you see one of these, squash it immediately.

C L A S S I F I E D S

For Sale: Ludell Grinder 6" _ HP Grinder w/ grinding wheel and wire wheel - \$20.
Belt and Disc Sander 6" x 48" Belt / 9" Disc w/ Stand - 1 HP - \$75.
Router Table w/Router - Craftsman 1 _ HP Router, floor model - Fence w/ Dust Collection - \$50.
Call Norman Ayers 518-587-6841 or e-mail nayers@nycap.rr.com

For Sale: 4" Rockwell/Delta Jointer. 32 year old, American made deluxe model with stand. Needs new motor. Very good condition. Extra blades included. \$75 or best offer. Call John Hodgson (518) 456-0308.

CHAPTER NEWS

Mid-Hudson Chapter News

- Wally Cook

The December meeting focused on the upcoming venue at the Opdahl Building. Based on input from the membership, Stan Rosenberg is planning a series of turning projects that will include peppermills, pens, bottle stoppers, planting dibbles, eggs, and Christmas ornaments. These projects will be initiated throughout the year appropriate to the season. In addition, Stan is arranging a session on airbrush techniques for turned objects.

Sessions will be announced in the newsletter...keep an eye out for information on demonstrations for scrollwork, carving, dovetailing, and marquetry.

Joe Kennedy and Ron Mower will be co-chairs of the Jigs and Fixtures exhibit at *Showcase 2005* this year. Joe is soliciting assistance for transport, set-up, and participation at the booth. Anyone interested in working at the Jigs and Fixtures booth should contact Joe at jkenn23333@aol.com.

John Franklin reported on the new NYS Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) regulations restricting volatile organic compounds (VOC's) in paints, stains and finishes. John reflected that the new statutes, effective January 1, 2005, have been enacted without any fanfare, yet they present the toughest standards in the country and will restrict access to many products using volatile drying agents.

The object of the new regulations is to control emissions from VOC's that could be released by painting or spraying. As a consequence, some products will no longer be available...or only available in smaller volumes of a quart or less. For example, John stated that polyurethane will no longer be sold in gallons, but can be distributed in quarts.

Other popular products affected by the new laws include Sikkens 1-2-3, Minwax stains, polyurethanes and oil-based floor enamels. Retail establishments in New York will be allowed to sell current stock and products manufactured prior to December 31, 2004. Further questions can be directed to John Franklin at Williams Lumber; his telephone number is (845) 876-7011.

Sacandaga Chapter News

- Gary Spencer

Our December meeting was an excellent program by Paul Petrie on making ropes and spirals on vases and goblets. This outstanding presentation gave all of us some challenging ideas to consider for our future projects. Thanks Paul!

In January our excellent program was a return visit by John Olenik to discuss wood expansion in the construction of cabinets. He also revisited finishing for fine woodworking projects. This was an exciting program of much interest to all. Thanks to John for coming out in iffy weather.

For February, we will meet at the A & P Cabinet shop on Perry Street in Johnstown (7:00 P.M.). This program will be on the design and construction of kitchen and other cabinets, and should appeal to persons with various levels of woodworking skills.

In March we will return to our usual meeting place at the Mayfield High School. Our Chapter has undertaken the task of getting birdhouse kits ready for the NWA Showcase on April 2nd & 3rd. We will have a short program with the remainder of the evening devoted to assembling birdhouse kits. Come on out and have some fun!

Remember we have door prizes at every meeting but you do have to be present to win.

Our regular monthly meetings are the second Wednesday of each month and begin at 7:00 P.M. at the Mayfield High School woodshop. Everyone is welcome, and light refreshments are served. Come on out!

For additional information or directions contact Bob Beyer, 883-3617, Dick Edel, 762-4851 or Gary Spencer 863-6433.



President Joe Mikesh presides over the discussion of upcoming woodworking demonstrations



Ron Mower's natural edge hickory bowl



Bob Boisvert intarsia

Ron Mower and Win Crans listen as Joe Kennedy discusses Jigs and Fixtures plan



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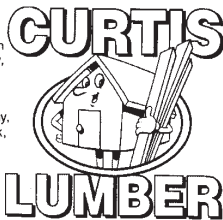
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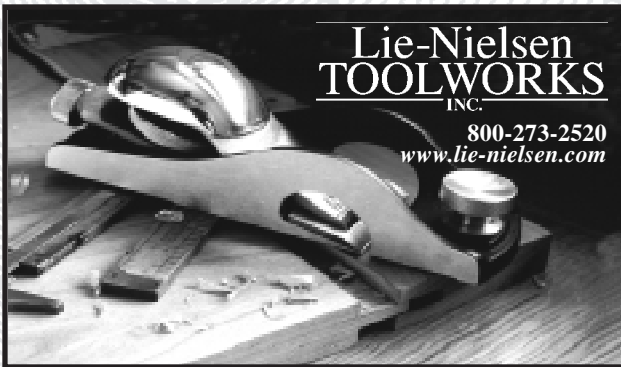
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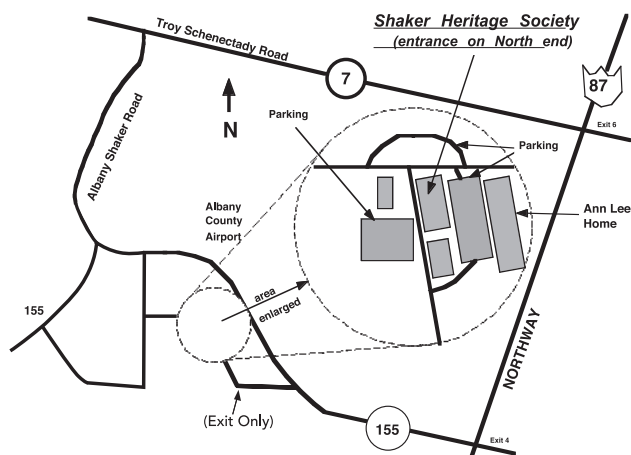
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Northeastern Woodworkers Association
P.O. Box 246
Rexford, New York 12148-0246



NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, February 10th, 7 pm.
Shaker Heritage Society Meeting House
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany
(near Albany airport)

GENERAL MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

NWA Program Schedule – 2004-2005

Jan. 29-30, 2005	Woodworking Weekend
Feb. 10, 2005	Mid-Hudson NWA Program Shaker Meeting House
March 10, 2005	“Finishing” with Jeff Jewett Shaker Meeting House
March 11-12, 2005	Jeff Jewett Workshop
April 2-3, 2005	NWA Showcase 2005 Saratoga Springs City Center
April 21, 2005	“Turning” Shaker Meeting House
April, 2005	Workshop Tours Dates and Locations to be Announced
May 12, 2005	“Double Bevel Marquetry” - Clark Pell Shaker Meeting House
May 14, 2005	Marquetry Workshop – Clark Pell Sears

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

Adirondack Woodturners Association - The AWA is active throughout the year. Meetings are every first Wednesday of the month (except in January and July when it is the second Wednesday), and are held at the Curtis Lumber conference room on Route 67, Ballston Spa. Beginners' sessions begin at 6 pm; the main program at 6:30 pm. Saturday “Learn and Turn” sessions are also scheduled. www.adirondackwoodturners.org
Contact: Ken Evans, 753-7759 or Kevans1@nycap.rr.com

Carver's Guild - meets every Tuesday evening at the Clifton Park Senior Center from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Sessions are intended for every NWA member who is interested in carving, from beginners to those wanting to learn a new technique. No reservations are necessary, just show up! Contact Bill McCormack, 233-7260.

Scroller's Guild - Meets the third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Woodcraft, Latham. Contact Will Charbonneau, 371-3709 or wcharbol@nycap.rr.com

CHAPTERS

NWA Mid-Hudson -The chapter meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday, except July and August, at the Central Hudson Electric Company Community Center, Route 28, Kingston. Contact: Joe Mikesch, (845) 687-4285

NWA Sacandaga - The chapter meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at Mayfield High School in the woodworking shop. Park by the section of the building that protrudes further into the parking lot and enter the nearest of the (5) doors. Contact: Gary Spencer, 863-6433.