

St. Louis Woodworkers Guild



January 2012
Issue 319

Our Next Meeting

Thursday 7:00 PM
January 19, 2012

Creve Coeur
Community Center
300 North New Ballas Road
Creve Coeur, MO 63141

Veneering with Martin Goebel

This month Martin Goebel will give a program on veneering. Martin is a local professional and does extensive veneer work in his pieces. His work has been featured in Fine Woodworking magazine.

At Our Last Meeting: Spray Finishing with Scott Wunder

In November, Scott Wunder showed up with his HVLP system and entertained the crowd with a mix of sanding humor and finishing enthusiasm. He led off with the important things, like which finish to use in which case. It is pretty easy for him, because he almost always uses lacquer. He also likes to use conversion varnishes, which are two-part formulations that set up quickly and are resistant to almost everything. They are especially good in kitchens and bathrooms, where moisture is a concern.

Scott's program focused on spray finishing, but any quality finish starts with good sanding. He only uses 150 grit paper for surface prep before applying the finish. Scott contends that anything rougher just leaves scratches and anything smoother is like "kissing your sister," you just don't get the work done quickly enough.

After preparing the material, it is important to prepare the spray area. Mask off any areas where you don't want finish. Remember, as Scott says, "Overspray is not your friend" and will get where you don't want it. He also covered other ideas like leaving the backs off of your pieces for a smoother finish inside your cabinets.

The next step is preparing to spray. Think about what you are going to spray and how you are going to attack it. Practice your pattern on early coats, so that you have a smooth approach on your final coats. It is important to keep a wet edge and eliminate overspray that can cause a rough finish.

The first finish coat that Scott sprays is a sanding sealer. This is done after any base staining is completed and as the first step of building up the finish. Sanding sealer is formulated to be easy to work and not clog up sandpaper. Scott, however, prefers to use a razor blade to denib the finish after the sealer coat. If he does use a sandpaper, he uses Trizact "green", which is a man made paper that is long-lasting, non-clogging, and consistent. He also recommends using your bare hand

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▲ **Scott's favorite trick (one he picked up from "This Old House") is to use a razor to scrape the finish smooth between coats. It doesn't clog and only removes the nibs.**

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314.621.7711

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636.485.5217

Wayne's Sawdust January 2012

Happy New Year to all of you! I trust that you had a wonderful holiday season and that Santa Claus, (or whoever fills in for him,) left something special for the woodshop! If so, bring it to the next meeting so that we all can drool at your good fortune. I did not receive that "one tool that will bring me greatness" but I am going back to Colonial Williamsburg this month for their "Working Wood in the Eighteenth Century" seminar. I was able to attend last year's conference and had a great time. This year the seminar's subject is the furniture of George and Martha Washington. It will also include a special visit to Mount Vernon for a behind the scene examination of the period furniture made both in England and in the Colonies. It might seem like an academic exercise for scholars, but the staff of the Hay Cabinet Shop, as well as invited craftsmen, actually reproduce pieces of furniture right on the stage. During breaks you are able to examine the work and talk with the presenters. It is all quite informal and very, very rewarding.

2012 should be an exciting year for the Guild. We have the Woodworking Show coming up on February 10th, 11th, and 12th. Rich Weitzman has been working hard on major upgrades to our display. Mark Koritz has generously agreed to allow us the use of his display materials so that we will have a sharp professional image. I would like to see some larger projects to exhibit this year. If you volunteer to exhibit one or more items, we will pick up your work and transport them to the show and then return them to you. Please contact Rich and let him know if you can help. As in years past, we will need volunteers to set up and man the booth through the three days the show is in St. Louis.

Mike Sistek is putting together a superb line up of programs for the upcoming year. From stair building, to veneering, to sharpening, there is something for everyone. Kurt Hermann has the responsibility for pulling together the mini-workshops. If you have a particular topic that you would like to see covered, or would be willing to host please talk to Kurt and we will try to oblige.

Wayne

Product Review: White Chapel Ltd Locks

by Ethan Sincox



White Chapel half-mortise lock

and started looking around. It turned out to be a very high quality site; easy to navigate and easy to use. They provided me with several options for my box lock needs, from a quality low-budget pressed brass lock to a high-quality lock made by hand the same way it was done 200 years ago. There was an in-between option, as well. Most importantly, all of the locks they sell are made in England – I don't feel nearly as badly about sending my money to the UK as I do sending it to China.

So, when I received my next box commission, I told the customer of my desire to try a new source for box locks and what the cost was going to be. (I've found over the years that as long as I'm up-front with the costs of my supplies, most buyers do not mind paying more money for quality materials; you just have to be upfront about it.) The customer was perfectly fine with the costs (I ended up going with the mid-range lock that cost about \$34), and so I made the purchase.

After I placed my order, the website immediately requested site feedback. When I provided them with information on a few minor layout and graphic issues, I received an e-mail from the webmaster less than an hour later, thanking me for my feedback. And when I checked the website again later in the week, all of the issues I'd mentioned were fixed!

Less than a week later, I received my hardware. The lock was very well-made – I got the impression it would take quite a bit to break it, which is not a feeling I got from some of the locks I'd previously purchased at the local woodworking stores.

But I noted the biggest benefit when it came time to install the lock! The directions provided were no different than the method I already use, but they were well-written and easy to follow, and would be of great benefit if you'd never installed one before. That, combined with solid construction, made it the easiest half-mortise lock install I'd ever done. The fit and finish are of the highest quality and I know the client will be as impressed by it as I was.

So, as you're gearing up for your next project, and you start thinking about hardware, consider installing a quality product onto something you've invested your time, money, and sweat (and sometimes blood) in and check out White Chapel Ltd. I dare say you won't be disappointed.

Excepting the projects I make for use in my shop, I've never understood why someone would spend five or ten hours making something and then put cheap \$4 hardware on it from the local big box store – especially if it is something you are going to sell. When it comes to hinges, I've never had Brusso do me wrong. But for the longest time I've had a hard time finding quality extruded brass locks for my boxes.

Earlier this year, someone suggested I give White Chapel Ltd, www.whitechapel-ltd.com a try and see what I thought about their products. I went to their website

Announcements

Upcoming Meetings

January 19 - Veneering with Martin Goebel from Goebel & Co. furniture

February 16 - Brian Berger will give a presentation on constructing custom wooden stairs. His recent presentation to the St. Louis Artists was well received and we hope to learn a lot from him, as well. His company works with domestic and exotic woods and most of their parts are shaped using a 5-axis CNC machine. We are trying to get a shop tour with Brian scheduled for this month, as well.

March 15 - The March meeting will be our annual show-and-tell and silent auction. Details for the requirements of both the show-and-tell and the silent auction will be forthcoming (probably the February newsletter).

November attendance

There were a total of 50 people in attendance at the November meeting.

Raffle Winners

Congratulations to the two raffle ticket winners – Jeff Morgan won the \$50 Woodcraft gift card and John Stevens won the \$20 Rockler gift card. Congratulations to you both!

Toy Report

In November of 2011, 294 toys were delivered to hospitalized kids. In December, another 195 items were delivered. For the year of 2011, a total of 1,921 items were delivered, bringing our grand total up to 34,207 toys since the program's inception in 1994.

The Toy Committee chairmen wish all of the guild members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and want to remind everyone that we still have a need for toy kits to be made! Upcoming holidays include Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day, so any toys along those themes will be needed. But we can also still use plenty of the popular items, like cars. If you have not yet made any toys for the Toys For Hospitalized Kids program, then please consider doing so in the new year!

If you need patterns, please see the web site or contact John (314-843-0616) or Steve (636-922-1947) to have some sent to you. We can also help arrange pickup or delivery of said toys.

Guild Library

Have you checked out the guild library lately? Our new librarian, Kevin Wieser, can bring requested items to the next meeting if you're interested in checking something out. If you have had something checked out for an extended period of time, please bring it back so that others might be able to use it. Finally, as you are cleaning up and organizing your own woodworking library (New Year's Resolution #41), consider donating any unwanted or duplicate books to the guild library!

www.stlwoodworkersguild.org

Spray Finishing with Scott Wunder (continued from cover)

a lot to feel for imperfections and clean the surface before spraying the next coat.

Often, Scott incorporates stain in his topcoats which are applied after the sealer coat. He likes to use TransTint stains and puts in enough so the final color is achieved in multiple light coats instead of one thick coat, which tends to show color streaks. The topcoat is engineered to flow smoothly and not be worked. At this point the surface should be smooth and as dust-free as possible.

After the color build up, Scott will apply a glaze to make a piece look old if that is desired, then apply the final topcoat. He recommends at least two topcoats on top of one sealer coat. Many of Scott's finishes with a color build-up and glazes will require 5-7 coats to complete.

After discussing the spraying methods, Scott then addressed some of the issues when spraying and how to avoid them. One problem with lacquer is blushing, where the finish looks hazy when sprayed in high humidity. The haze can be eliminated in subsequent coats by using lacquer retarder, which is just a slow-drying solvent that allows the humidity to escape before the finish dries. Orange peel is also a problem and is caused by the finish being too thick. Simply thinning the finish and spraying lighter coats will fix this problem quickly. The final tip Scott shared is that if you get something in the finish when it is wet, don't mess with it, just walk away. Let the finish dry completely, then deal with the problem. The issue usually isn't as bad after it dries and then you can work on it without making a bigger problem.



On hard-to-stain woods like maple, start out with a light version of your color (TransTint) mixed with water. Spray the wood until it is saturated and wipe off the excess. After it is dry, spray a coat of sanding sealer.



After the sealer is dry, scrape the surface smooth, then apply a topcoat with TransTint mixed in. The stain color should be light enough that three coats will achieve the desired color. Sneak up on it.



Next apply the glaze and wipe off. Most of it will come off, but be sure to leave some in the cracks and crevices. Regular oil-based stain (walnut) works great. Skip this step if you don't want the old crusty look.



To finish up, spray a final clear topcoat and call it a day.

Show and Tell

Paul Hanson - brought in an Irish walking stick (that was made in Ireland), presented to him for his 80th birthday.

Cecil Robertson - passed around his box made from oak cutoffs donated to the guild a while back.

Phil Haskins - announced that Winchester Hardwoods, located in Fenton, MO, is a lumber store worth looking into. They are located at 1686 Larkin Williams Road, Fenton, MO 63026 and can be found online at www.winchesterhardwoods.com.

Allen Carlson - brought in a Pegasus puzzle he'd made.

Kevin Wieser - passed around some books that were recently added to the guild's library.

Annual Woodworker's Show in Belleville, IL: Feb. 10-12

Rick Weitzman is organizing the St. Louis Woodworkers Guild booth for the Woodworker's Show in Belleville, IL, this year. He needs volunteers to man the booth, volunteers to perform live demos at the show, and completed woodworking items for display at the show. Please contact him at: rweitzman@sbcglobal.net if you are available to work or demo or if you have items for display.



Wayne Watson and Denny Krupinski at last year's show.

New Guild Website, Same Address (www.stlwoodworkersguild.org)

The Guild website has been redesigned with a brand new look and new features:

- Announcements page & events calendar
- Photo gallery
- Question and answer forum
- Link to members' own woodworking websites

There is a private members page where the members list and contact information is stored. You will need a user ID and password to access this private page and also to post to the new forum. Instructions for getting the user ID and password were emailed in December. If you need the instructions or are having difficulty gaining access, please email the webmaster at webmasters@stlwoodworkersguild.org.

If you have photos of your work that you would like added to the members gallery, please copy the photos to a CD-ROM, DVD, or a flash drive and give it to Chris Law at a Guild meeting. The items will be returned at the following Guild meeting. Photos emailed to the webmaster address will be accepted, but is discouraged so as not to clog up the email account with large emails.

Checkout the new website!

Mini Workshop

The mini workshop on hand plane tune-ups was held on Saturday, January 14th. Seven guild members were in attendance. The workshop included a review of bench planes, based on Stanley's numbering system, the "Bailey patent" adjustment vs. other systems, what to look for and avoid in purchasing flea market finds, and some steps for restoring planes to working condition. This included tuning, sharpening, and adjusting hand planes for various operations. Other topics covered included the use of the scrub plane, shooting boards, and the miter jack.

There are currently four people who are interested in attending another session if one is held. If you missed this first mini workshop on tuning a hand plane, and would still like to attend one, then please contact Kurt Herrmann (kurtdee@sbcglobal.net or 314-608-8602) to inform him of your interest. The fee for this workshop is nominal.

Advice & Tips

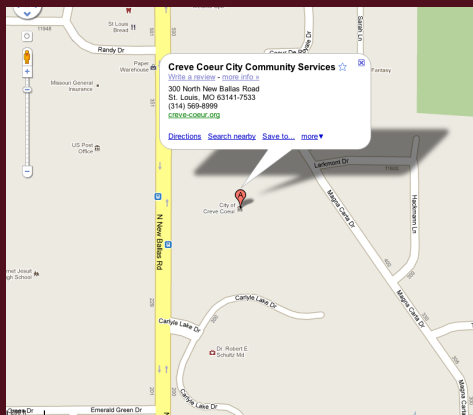
Do you have a woodworking question you haven't been able to find the answer to? Or do you have a tip or trick that has worked for you and you want to spread the knowledge? If so, then speak up at the next guild meeting when Wayne opens the floor for Advice and Tips!

Dues Are Due!

It's that time of year again! If you haven't already paid your 2012 Guild Dues, then please do so as soon as possible. Maintaining your active guild status means you will continue to receive the monthly guild newsletter and will have access to the Member Only section of the new guild website. Bring your checkbook to the next meeting! (Your membership expired in November.)

Meeting location.

Creve Coeur Community Center, located at 300 North New Ballas Road, St. Louis, MO 63141.



Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Occupation _____

Type of woodworking you enjoy _____

E-mail address _____

Where did you obtain this application and learn about this Guild?

If you would like to join the St. Louis Woodworkers Guild please attend our next meeting or mail this application and your check for \$25 for one years dues to: St. Louis Woodworkers Guild, c/o Treasurer Larry Grzovic, 2849 Championship Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63129.