

Tidewater Woodworkers Guild



January 2006

Notes from the Wood House

Happy New Year fellow members. My apologies for getting the newsletter out late. Thanks to a fire in the building next door to me on December 14th, I have been displaced to Virginia Beach from Norfolk. No injuries occurred but due to water damage, most of my belongings are scattered throughout Tidewater. We will be getting a new kitchen, but no one has told us when this will happen. I finally have my computer back and internet access.

One highlight to the fire (other than no injuries) was the wood I salvaged. The building next door had four porches supported by large beams. These beams are 95 year old heart pine; I was able to salvage 14 beams. Each beam is at least 7' in length (4 are 14') and have dimensions of 6" X 9". Many thanks to Gary Scott for the use of his truck and his back

to move the beams to a dry location.

I have no doubts that our membership is curious as the new board's plans for this year. The board and I want to get more people involved. We hope to create sawdust at each meeting as well as have presentations from different manufacturers. We are hoping more of you will be a bit more anxious to brag about your shops and "show off" your skills each month for Show and Tell and bring in some of your creations

Another feature I would like to incorporate is a tool review. It is a known fact that you can never have too many toys, oops, tools in your shop. If you have a new toy, please tell us about it.

With the assistance of the board and those who volunteered for the various committees, I hope to see more attendance at our meetings. Over the next few months, we will be introducing some new aspects to the club including "Open Shop". Once a month, we hope that one fellow member will clean the sawdust from his or her floor and tools and introduce us to their dusty realm.

Lastly, I would personally like to thank and acknowledge Pat Taylor for his 20+ years as president of the Tidewater Woodworkers Guild. If his dedication and commitment to this group was any indication of his commitment to our country and the US Navy, then we should feel privileged. My goal as president this year will be to continue the same dedication and commitment.

Next Meeting

January 23, 2006
7:00PM

Woodcraft of Norfolk
5802 E. Virginia Beach Blvd.
Norfolk, VA 23502
(757) 466-1166

Monthly Meeting

4th Monday of Each
Month

Find Us On the Web

www.twwwg.com

Please note that parts of the site are password protected. The password is provided to those whose dues are current.

Club Dues

Dues are \$15.00 per year and are payable by check or cash.

Upcoming Meetings

Bret Lancaster will be coordinating presenters and demonstrators each month. If you know of someone that would be a good presenter or if you would like to demonstrate your talents, please contact Bret.

January

Guest Presenter

Paul Garrity

Professional Sawyer

February

Guest Presenter

Derrick Flores

Dewalt/Delta/Porter-Cable Tools

The Executive Board

Andy Steinberg	President/Editor	624-9151
Bret Lancaster	Vice President	631-0634
Bill Hoffman	Secretary	420-7087
Gene George	Treasurer	499-7281
Pat Taylor	Past President	481-3167

Tips and Techniques - Table Saw Alignment

To get an accurate crosscut on the table saw, the blade has to be parallel with the saw's miter gauge slots. If your blade isn't parallel to the miter gauge slots, the table saw trunnion needs to be adjusted. The trunnion is the assembly that holds the saw's arbor to the underside of the saw table. Normally, all you need to do is loosen the bolts that hold the trunnion and tap the trunnion in the direction needed. Of course then you need to tighten the bolts to hold the alignment.

A quick way to check your table saw alignment is to use a combination square and a magic marker. To check that your blade is parallel with the miter gauge slot, **FIRST UN-PLUG THE SAW**, and mark one tooth. Then place the combination square in the miter gauge slot and adjust it so the end of the square just touches the side of the marked tooth.

Next, slide the square and rotate the blade until the marked tooth aligns with the square. If the square just touches the side of the tooth, the slot and the blade are aligned.

If not ...

1. **POWER OFF?** Disconnect **POWER** to the saw, pull plug/fuse or shut off and tag the circuit breaker.
2. Align saw tabletop extensions with tabletop. Use true flat bar/surface to judge extension wings in relation to main table. Normally, two or three bolts under table support each wing; loosen and adjust, shim if necessary, especially if outer edge of extensions are high. Use paper shims above or below bolts to adjust extensions height up or down. Retighten wing bolts gradually and alternately/frequently rechecking that wings remain flush and flat with table.
3. Remove and clean the saw blade. Insure arbor washer (between nut and saw blade) bearing surface is flat and true against saw blade. Check visually for wear/bearing markings and sand washer as required to true the surface that bears against the blade. Check arbor for nicks or burs, which would prevent blade from mating flat against arbor face.
4. Align tabletop perpendicular to the blade. Use a flat steel surface mounted on saw arbor. It is possible to use a steel disc sander without the sandpaper or Velcro/adhesive coating. If using a saw blade, insure it is perpendicular to saw table surface without touching a blade tooth. Raise blade to its full height. Crank blade angle to the zero/vertical stop. Adjust lock-nut and stop nut feature on the saw's trunnion (angular adjusting stops) to achieve blade perpendicular to the saw table when adjust wheel is at the zero mark. Adjust as required by backing off angular adjusting stops.

If blade is not true/perpendicular to table, using a known true engineer's square to sight for gaps, move crank off zero mark, reset stop on trunnion, and return crank to zero and re-measure with square. When true, lock trunnion nut with stop nut. Perform same measurement with blade cranked to the 45 degree stop, using known true (drafting) triangle, and similarly adjust the other lock nut and adjusting nut to achieve 45 degrees with saw stop so set.



5. Measure saw blade parallel to miter gauge slot. If a dial gauge is not available, check to insure blade is parallel to miter gauge slot using a steel rod locked in the miter gauge face, or with an adjustable square. In both cases, measuring the distance from miter slot to the same saw tooth (marked with magic marker) rotated to front and then back of saw table.

If slot is not parallel, loosen saw table top from base, usually one bolt at each table corner, and tap table top at corner(s) with mallet to align /parallel table's miter gage slot to blade. Make this measurement and adjustment from the miter gage slot that you most frequently use. Recheck blade parallel to the other miter gage slot and retighten table hold down bolts. Again, alternately tighten and in gradual steps. Frequently recheck settings to insure tabletop did not move during tightening sequence.

A note of CAUTION! If your saw has a splitter/anti-kickback attachment (recommended for safety) be sure you do not move the table too far to one side such that the blade-to-splitter alignment is thrown out of kilter. This will either bind your stock between the fence and splitter or prevent the stock from being feed properly and smoothly thru the saw.

6. Align fence to blade and to the miter gauge slot. This can be done with a variety of screws and/or bolts -peculiar to the particular saw fence in use. Insure the front and rear bars/rails on which the fence rides are solid/firm to the table edge. The out feed end of the fence is normally adjusted to provide approximately an extra 0.003 (3 thousands) of an inch clearance away from the blade to prevent the stock from binding at the completion of a rip cut. This clearance should be readjusted each time the fence is moved from the right of the blade to the left of the blade. Perform a rip cut on a piece of scrap to determine if blade teeth are dragging. Perform precise width measurement on a piece at least 16 inches long.

Tips and Techniques - Table Saw Alignment (cont'd)

7. Clean the miter slots. Use a flat blade, putty knife, or similar tool to insure that the entire trough of the miter gage slot is clear of any build up. A little sandpaper scrap or Scotch scrub pad used on the bottom and sides of the trough will insure a clean surface.

8. Miter gage adjustment. The miter gage should be checked for any side play in the travel of the bar in it's slot. There are various correction kits available thru woodworking mail-order catalogs that call for drilling and taping the bar in several places along its length, and inserting Allen screws and Teflon bushings or spring loaded ball bearings which can be adjusted to provide a true and firm miter gage ride. Inquire to confirm that these kits provide instructions, the proper drill bit, and if necessary, the threading tap to do the job without additional resources. Once the miter gage side play is removed, adjust your 90-degree crosscut setting by again using an engineer's square to set your miter stop lock. Place one edge of

square on saw blade, (not on teeth) or use your flat steel plate/clean steel sander disc, and the other face against the miter gage fence. Square up and tighten lock handle, adjust stop to setting. Loosen lock handle and reset miter gage up to stop, lock handle and recheck to confirm setting. Similarly, set 45-degree stops on miter gauge with an accurate triangle.

I hope the above information will help you align your table saw and get the quality saw cuts your projects deserve.

Bob Fred, Member TWWWG

Many thanks to Bob Fred for his input.

Editor

Wood'n You Like To Know

Each month we are going to feature some general information about a wood that you saw in the stores or heard about in conversation but maybe you never took the time to inquire about the wood.

The Tree: Purpleheart is a very tall, handsome canopy tree, averaging 120 to 150 feet in height in the natural rainforest, with diameters of 2 to 4 feet, and a clear, straight, cylindrical bole of 60 to 90 feet, above a moderately buttressed base. Nazareno is leguminous or nitrogen-fixing.

Status: Purpleheart has been exploited extensively for years because of its high strength and durability as well as its unusual color and beauty. It is increasingly rare, and is nearing extinction in parts of its original range. Purpleheart is listed as threatened in "Arboles Maderables en Peligro de Extinción en Costa Rica."

The Wood: One of the most distinctive woods in the world, purpleheart is prized for its very unusual deep purple color. When freshly cut, this dense hardwood is light brown. Within minutes the surface turns an astonishing bright purple. Upon prolonged exposure to sunlight, the color gradually changes to a chocolate-purple color. This beautiful wood is straight to wavy grained, fine and uniform textured and fairly smooth with a medium to high luster. Purpleheart turns smoothly, is easy to glue, takes finishes well and is highly durable.

Uses: Purpleheart reaches the world market only in small quantities. It is prized for fine inlay work, turnery, fine furniture and cabinetry, parquet flooring, decorative and figured veneer, and many specialty items such as handles, billiard cue butts and carving



Upcoming Regional Craft Shows

FEB	Dates	Deadline	Cost	Space Size	Location	Contact #
Roanoke Big Flea Market	19-20		\$90	9x10	Roanoke Civic Center, Roanoke Va	757-430-4735
Annual Valentine Arts & Craft Show	10-12				Statesville, NC	828-437-5002
MAR						
Ashboro Spring Arts & Crafts Show	4-6				Randolph Mall, Ashboro NC	828-437-5002
Craftsmen's Classic Arts & Crafts Fest	5-6		\$250	8x10	State Fairgrounds, Columbia, SC	336-274-5550
Chesapeake Library (Great Bridge)	12		\$35	10x10	Chesapeake Library	
Craftsmen's Classic Arts & Crafts Fest	11-13		\$250	8x10	Richmond Raceway , Richmond,VA	336-274-5550
Craftsmen's Classic Arts & Crafts Fest	24-26		\$250	8x10	Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly, VA	336-274-5550
DC Big Flea Market	5-6		\$150	9x10	Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly Va	757-430-4735
Easter Arts & Craft and Kids Fair	25-27	3/24	\$150	10x10	Convention Center Ocean City MD	410-524-7020
Richmond Big Flea Market	19-20		\$90	9x10	Virginia Beach Pavillion	757-430-4735
Spring Arts & Crafts Show, Staunton	19-20		\$50	10x10	Colonial Mall, Staunton, Va	336-274-5550
APR						
Daffodil Festival	2	1/7	\$75	10x10	Gloucester,VA	804-693-1264
Craftsmen's Classic Arts & Crafts Fest	31-2		\$250	8x10	Coliseum Center, Greensboro, NC	336-274-5550
DC Big Flea Market	30-1		\$150	9x10	Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly Va	757-430-4735
Hampton Spring Crafts Festival	22-24	4/22	\$375	10x10	Hampton Roads Convention Center	757-417-7771
Suffolk Civil War Weekend	3-4		\$30	10x10	Main Street , Suffolk, Va	757-923-3883
Va Beach Spring Craft Market	15-17	2/15	\$450	10x10	Virginia Beach Pavillion	757-417-7771
Spring Craft Show	15				Chincoteague Island, VA	757-336-0614
Easter on Parade	16				Richmond, VA	804-788-6466
Dare County High School Arts Show	3-24				Manteo, NC	252-475-1500
Merlefest	27-30				Wilkesboro, NC	800-343-7857
Fayetteville Dogwood Festival	28-30				Fayetteville, NC	910-323-1934
Sugarloaf Craft Festival	7-9				Gaithersburg, MD	800-210-9900
Tarpon Springs Fine Arts Festival	8-9				Tarpon Springs, FL	727-937-6109
Rivers & Spines Festival	20-22				Clarkville, TN	931-552-9006
Artishere International Arts Festival	21-23				Greenville, SC	864-271-9398

A new feature to our newsletter will be a listing of upcoming events in our area as well as events throughout the Mid-Atlantic. We will try post events 3 months out. As we gather more information regarding each event, we will update each month. Some of these shows have prize categories

As a club, we should consider visiting one of the shows to get an idea of what is involved in attending and displaying our creations.

If there is further interest, those interested should contact the club to pool resources. With some collaboration to represent the

TWWWG, it may be possible that the club can offset the entry fee (with approval by the membership).

For those of you interested, please feel free to call the number listed or contact Debbie Glaze (mnshine38@aol.com or 535-0754) for more information. Also, if you are aware of any other functions not listed, please let us know so that we may include them in the list.