

THE CHARLOTTE SAWDUST

The Official Journal of
The Charlotte Woodworker's Association

www.charlottewoodworkers.org

Small Talk

Alas!

We finally have a new (old) home for the Charlotte Woodworker's Association. The Incarnation Lutheran Church has graciously offered to let us return to their campus for our meetings. This was the home of CWA previous to the Woodworking Shop location. Hopefully we have finally found a permanent home and can concentrate on other improvements to the club. We appreciate your patience with us.

I hope that you don't mind that the content of the newsletter sometimes relates to the problems that I have encountered in my own woodworking skills (or lack of them). I more than welcome articles or even suggestions for articles from you but lacking those suggestions, I have so many skill deficiencies that I can look up information for articles enough to fill this newsletter for decades to come.

Recently, on a search for a long 8" wide 8/4 teak board for my boat a discovered a wood store in Atlanta that is incredible for unique and exotic woods.

Atlanta Hardwoods
5400 Riverview Road
Atlanta, Ga
(404) 792-0910

They are off I-285 to the northwest of Atlanta at exit 15. An example of their most unique piece of wood, they had a slab of 8/4 bubinga that was approx. 5' wide by 12' long. I couldn't get it in my car nor did I have the \$1,800 to purchase it.

See you at next week's meeting.

Sincerely,

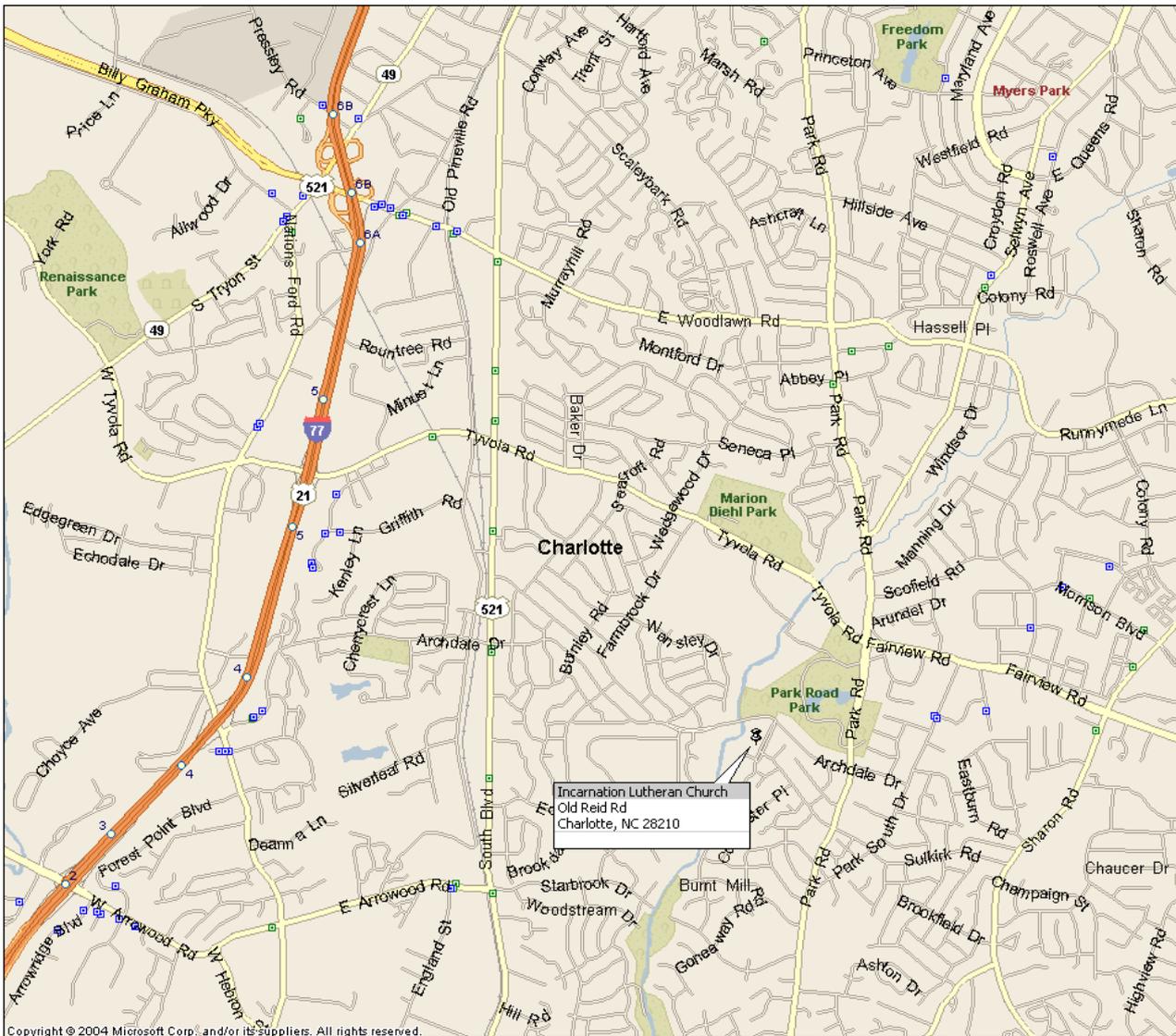
Mike Dyer
mdyer@adwarchitects.com
(704) 379-1919 days
(704) 814-9580 evenings

March Program

Kyle Edwards will be giving a program on “sawing wood, drying wood and common defects.”

Meeting Time

Meetings of the Charlotte Woodworker’s Association are held the third **Tuesday** of each month, except for December. Meeting is to be held at the Incarnation Lutheran Church, 6400 Old Reid Road, Charlotte, NC (just off Archdale Drive).



Following a social and refreshment time that starts at 5:30pm, our meetings start at 6:00pm. Get to the meeting early and get to know your fellow woodworking enthusiasts. This will be our first time at our new meeting place but we hope that it will become a great home for us.

Write an article for Sawdust (thanks for all the help from those that have)

Please consider writing an article for The Sawdust, this is your newsletter what do you want from it? What do you want to share with your fellow woodworkers? Everyone likes to share, share your successes, failures, and mistakes, have fun with it and share with others at the same time. Contact Mike Dyer @ secretary@charlottewoodworkers.org or call (704) 379-1919 days or (704) 814-9580 evenings.

CWA Mentor Program

The following members have offered their help to anyone interested in learning skills or new techniques in their area of interest. Contact each person to arrange times to get together if interested.

Name	Area of Interest	Phone	Email
Wayne Cooper	***	704.409.1417	cooper@arconmfg.com
Bill Golden	Shopsmith & Accessories	704.525.9691	popstoyshop@earthlink.net
Dwight Hartsell	Woodturning	704.598.6029	woodwight@aol.com
Wayne Manahan	Sharpening	704.786.0768	wmanahan@vnet.net

Classified Section

\$\$ For Sale \$\$

Contact me if you have any tools, wood or services for sale. This section is offered for free.

My office needs some fixture (shelving) work done with Melamine veneered plywood. The shelving is approximately 26'-0" long x 7'-8" high. Please contact:

Mike Dyer
(704) 379-1919

Self-Squaring Picture Frame Jig

If you've ever built a picture frame you've experienced the frustration of trying to get all of the parts to fit perfectly. While trying to "dry-fit" and clamp the frame's pieces together the parts often fit perfectly. But add glue, and a little clamp pressure, and the parts begin to slide apart. It can be a frustrating race against the clock to even things out before the glue begins to set.

The good news is that there's a solution that's both simple and inexpensive. The jig pictured below was built in about an hour from scrap 3/4" plywood.



This simple jig is self-squaring and requires only one clamp to firmly secure the frame. When pressure is applied, the jig evenly distributes the pressure to the four corners. The "L-shaped" cleats prevent the frame pieces from sliding out of alignment. The jig pictured here will work for frames twice as large. 2-1/2" carriage bolts are used to hold all of the parts together. Larger or smaller frames can be clamped by drilling additional holes and moving the cleats.

Tip: Coat the surfaces of the jig that will be exposed to glue with paraffin wax to prevent the jig from sticking to your frame.

Selectively Stain Before You Glue

We've all experienced the frustration of wiping stain across our woodworking project only to find light spots where glue was left on the wood. The glue seals the wood's grain preventing the stain from penetrating. Quite often even the most vigorous sanding won't take care of the problem.

Because of this many woodworkers prefer to selectively stain their project before gluing. Care should be taken though because glue may not stick to the stained surfaces. Because this may result in glue joints that fail this tip should only be used if you're sure the project will not be effected. The final finish can be applied to the assembled project.

Preventing Brush Marks in Polyurethane

Question:

When I brush polyurethane finish I always end up with brush marks in the finish. What can I do to solve this problem?

Problem:

Most oil based polyurethane finishes are too thick to brush straight out of the can. Thicker finishes take longer to "flow together" and even out. The problem you are having is that the brush marks aren't flowing together before the finish dries.

The solution to this problem is to thin the finish 10%-15% with mineral spirits or paint thinner. The thinned finish will take longer to cure and allow more time for the brush marks to disappear and bubbles to escape.

Reducing Bubbles When Brushing

Question:

I'm trying to finish an old nightstand with glossy polyurethane and I keep getting bubbles in my finish. I don't shake the can and I stirred it very carefully to avoid bubbles. Some of the bubbles will pop out before the finish dries but not all. What can I do to prevent this?

Answer:

When brushing on a finish some bubbles are inevitable. The trick is to get them to pop out of the surface before it starts to cure, or harden. To accomplish this you will want to try to lay on a very thin smooth coat. You can do this by "flowing" the finish on with smooth motions. Brushing with back and forth strokes like you're painting a house is just asking for bubbles.

The second trick is to thin the finish with paint thinner or mineral spirits (if you're using polyurethane). This will cause the finish to take longer to dry and allow the bubbles to pop out. The downside to this approach is that the longer a finish takes to dry the great the chances are dust will land on the surface.

Bubbles can also be caused by wood that warms as the finish cures.

Warming Wood Creates Finish Bubbles

Have you ever experienced the frustration of bubbles that appear in your finish as it dries? This may be caused by the temperature changes in the wood while the finish is curing.

Usually, bubbles in a finish are caused by rough brushing during the application process. Finishes that take longer to cure can allow the bubbles to work their way out. Sometimes though there can be another culprit - heat.

The surface of wood is made of microscopic pores and tubes that were used to carry water and nutrients up the tree. When the wood is cut and dried the water is removed from these tubes and air fills them. The problem starts when you turn on the heat in your shop and begin applying the finish.

As the wood warms up the air is pushed out of the pores and into the finish - leaving bubbles. The solution to this problem is simple, make sure the wood is warm and at a constant temperature during the finishing and curing process.

Note: There is also a school of thought that prior to finishing, the room should be over-heated. After the finish is applied the room is allowed to slowly cool. The thought is that this will help to pull the first coat of the finish into the wood thus creating a stronger foundation for subsequent coats. The success of this process will depend on the wood being finished as well as the viscosity of the finish being applied. If you've used this technique let us know how it turned out.

Shop-Made Foam Brushes

I use foam brushes to touch up small areas. But it seems that I never have any when I need them. So I make "instant" foam brushes by sticking pieces of self-adhesive foam weatherstripping on sticks made from scrap pieces of wood. For larger brushes, wrap the weatherstripping around the end of the wooden stick.



Store bought foam brushes are an inexpensive alternative to bristle brushes for small areas and difficult to clean finishes such as 2 part epoxies and stain. Even though their not very expensive we still hate to waste a foam brush for a small touch-up job.



Jointer Adjustments

Last night as I was trying to joint a board, I noticed that I was getting some rocking on the board after I passed it over the knives. I have never adjusted the tables since I bought the jointer more than 15 years ago, so I looked up the procedure on the internet and got the following instructions from Delta (mine is another make).

Adjusting Jointers with Gib-bars and Lock screws

The following procedures outline the steps required to align the tables on jointers that use the Gib-bar and lock screw method for aligning the tables and yet allowing them to move smoothly up and down. Note: These procedures are given under the assumption that the jointer has been checked for other operational problems, such as knife adjustments (too high or too low) or fence out of square and the tables have been discovered to be out of level with each other.

Tools required:

- 1) A machined steel straight edge. Minimum length, 4 foot.
- 2) Wrenches necessary to loosen and tighten the lock screws and lock nuts.
- 3) 2 pieces of board, to be used as props. Lengths should be long enough to reach from the bottom of the tables to the floor.

Procedures:

- 1) Loosen any locking handles or stop bolts that are designed to prevent the tables from moving during use of the machine.
- 2) Raise the infeed table to zero. Level with the outfeed table. NOTE: The outfeed table should be no higher than .015" above the cutterhead body. This allows the knives, when properly adjusted, to protrude no more than .015" out of the cutterhead.
- 3) Place the straight edge on the jointer, parallel to the line a workpiece would follow. This will allow a continual view of the table alignment during the adjusting.
- 4) Loosen the gib locking nuts and lock screws.
- 5) Using the 2 lengths of boards, wedge them under the ends of both the infeed and outfeed table to the floor, so the tables are inclined down toward the cutterhead.
- 6) Tighten all gib lock screws and remove the prop boards. Note: At this point, if a marble were placed on either table, and released, it would roll toward the cutterhead.
- 7) (the straight edge is still in place) While watching the surface of the tables and the straight edge, slightly loosen one table's gib lock screws. The table's end should drop slightly.
- 8) Slightly loosen the other table's gib lock screws. It's end should drop slightly.
- 9) Repeat steps 7 and 8 (alternating from one table to the other) while watching the table surfaces and the straight edge.
- 10) When the tables have dropped enough to become level, snugly tighten the gib lock screws and lock nuts. Note: The gib lock screws must be tightened enough to prevent further dropping of the table ends, yet not so tight as to prohibit table movement up and down. The outfeed table screws may be tightened a bit more than the infeed since it is typically not required to be free to move.
- 11) Re-tighten all locking devices that were loosened in step 1.

I tried this method. I still had some droop and was told by the dealer to remove the gib, rotate it 180 degrees, reinsert it and try again. (They said that the gib can wear over time and be thinner at one end.) I will try again tonight.

H & S Lumber

Mr. Robert Boland, Manager
 4115 Monroe Road
 Charlotte, NC 28205
 704.333.3130 (sponsor)

Harbor Freight USA

Mr. Martin Treadwell, Manager
 3852 E. Independence Blvd.
 Charlotte, NC 28205
 704.569.0182 (contributor)

The Woodworking Shop of Charlotte

4728 South Blvd.
 Charlotte, NC 28217
 704.521.8886 (contributing/sponsor – except power tools
 and wood)

Woodcraft

Mr. David Boyuka
 1725 Windsor Square Drive
 Matthews, NC 28105
 704.847.8300 (contributing)

Show your CWA membership card at any of the listed
 places and receive benefits (except for Woodcraft and
 Harbor Freight USA, which are not able to provide
 sponsorship in the form of discounts).

2006 CWA Officers

President	Wayne L. Manahan pres@charlottewoodworkers.org	(704) 786-0768
Vice President	Bruce Bogust vp@charlottewoodworkers.org	(704) 321-0979
Treasurer	Jaye Peterman treasurer@charlottewoodworkers.org	(704) 527-8768
Secretary	Michael L. Dyer secretary@charlottewoodworkers.org	(704) 379-1919

The Charlotte Woodworking Association

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Next Meeting:
 March 21, 2006
 At the Charlotte Art League
