

Northwest Woodworkers Association

THE SAWDUST NEWS



May 2018

An association for woodworkers of all skill levels to share their common interest

The Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, June 28, 2018 at 6:30 PM

Location: To Be Determined

Program Highlight: To Be Determined

Note: Details regarding the next meeting will be conveyed to the membership via email prior to the meeting.

May 2018 Meeting Highlights ***Meeting Photos by Scott Wilson*** ***Meeting Notes by Tim Newsome***

The May 2018 meeting of the Northwest Woodworkers Association was held on Thursday, May 25, 2018 at the NE Seattle Tool Library (previously the Lavilla Dairy building.)



Fourteen members and guests attended this interesting and informative meeting. **Tony Grosinger** conducted the meeting.

Show 'N' Tell



Dan Cordwell brought along a shop-made table saw sled with some interesting custom features, including a removable, adjustable stop and a combination travel guard, operating handle, and chip deflector box. He noted that this custom configuration provided greater versatility and additional safety features.

He also showed us a clever, shop-made transfer square for transferring layout lines around the periphery of a part.

Good job, **Dan!** Some really innovative thinking there!

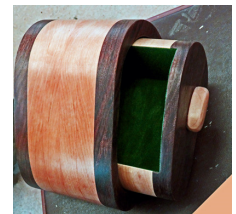


Ben Severson brought along a couple of his recent projects -- a lovely maple and walnut serving tray and his first bandsaw box. **Ben** noted that the design for the tray came from an issue of **Popular Woodworking** magazine.

The angled serving tray frame was assembled with tongue and groove joints and 1/4-inch walnut ply was used for the tray bottom. The lovely grain pattern and color contrast was striking. Great job, **Ben**. Thanks for sharing with us.



Ben noted that although the maple and walnut bandsaw box was a new challenge for him it was an enjoyable project. The contrasting maple and walnut woods and the green felt lining really complemented one another.





Tim Newsome showed us an interesting project he made for a friend – a feedback/suggestion box with an innovative design, incorporating some difficult joinery and hardware installations.

The box was designed to be stackable with similar units, incorporating pockets for index cards and pencils, and a diagonal split line to provide maximum access to the contents. Barrel hinges were employed and a metal latching mechanism was used to hold the box closed. Mitered corner joints with contrasting splines enhanced the appearance of the box.



Note the pleasing color and unique configuration of the box.



Tim discussed several challenges he encountered in the project. He said he found that his bandsaw capacity wasn't great enough to resaw some of his 7" wide material. He used a crosscut sled to cut the miter joints. He discovered that material should be fed into a router bit *against* the rotation of the cutter and that the feed direction and grain direction need to be correct to minimize or eliminate tearout.

He noted that the drilling of the holes for the barrel hinges is not as easy as he anticipated! After blowing through the wall of the box, he was able to repair the errant holes by making a dowel and sizing it through a steel bar with the appropriate sized hole. Then after assembly he discovered that the latch wouldn't close, so he had to alter the configuration. He also mentioned that he improved his finishing technique by employing a light shone at a shallow oblique angle to the surface to enhance sanding scratches for removal. Tung oil was used for a final finish.

[**Ed. Note:** You did an amazing job on this project, **Tim!** This would be a challenging project for most of us with more experience and equipment. And I especially like the fact that you learned several basic woodworking techniques with the router and figured out how to repair a fabrication error (like we all make.....) in an aesthetically pleasing way, and moved on to complete the project! Good job!!]



Herb Stoops showed us an interesting box for a potted plant made from some **Holly** wood purchased from an estate sale. He noted that the live edge pieces of wood were very uneven in thickness, warped and distorted, and presented some real challenges! That said, he was taken with the beautiful colors and grain patterns of the material.



Finding four pieces of the twisted, uneven boards suitable for the box required some real imagination! Fortunately, he was able to saw and joint one edge of each board and prepare some “guess and by gosh” miter joints on the ends. The boards were too warped to use his drum sander so he smoothed the pieces with his ROS.

After much patient muttering and tinkering, **Herb** was able to fit and assemble the four sides of the box into what he called an “unsquare box”! Wonder how he found enough hands to clamp those weird angled sides.....??



Deciding that the box needed a sturdy base, **Herb** used some aromatic cedar which he enclosed with some trim pieces made from some amazingly straight narrow pieces of **Holly**.

However, deciding that the contrast with the vivid colors of the cedar was too overwhelming, he later covered the inside of the bottom panel with a more neutral piece of thin **Baltic Birch** plywood.



To further enhance the trim and set off the randomly shaped live edge material, he incorporated some decorative, graciously molded features into the base.

After carefully sanding the uneven surfaces of the box, **Herb** sealed the surfaces with a coat of shellac. This was followed by multiple coats of thinned water-borne **Minwax Polycrylic** finish, topped off with a coat of paste wax.



Herb's Live Edge Holly Planter Box



Beautiful Grain Patterns and Colors

Without a doubt, it would appear that with this project, **Herb** made a strong challenge to the old saying, “**You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear**”! What a marvelous project made from a pile of wood that looked like it should have been bound for the fireplace!

This is indeed a testimony to your patience, creativeness and outstanding visualization skills, **Herb**. Thanks for sharing this skillful photo documentation of a beautiful project that required a high degree of flexibility of thought and adaptation to the conditions and materials you had to work with. Very well done, indeed!!

Program Highlight – Adding Useful Storage to Open Tool Cabinets



Our program presenter for the evening, **Herb Stoops**, led off his discussion with a photo of an open frame tool stand that is familiar to a lot of us..... :-) For whatever reason, miscellaneous tools, accessories, wood, sundry bits and pieces, flotsam and jetsam, that long lost gizmo we have been looking for, and other assorted stuff seem to find a home in a pile under our tool stands!



Having experienced this phenomenon, **Herb** decided he would document some solutions he implemented in his shop that we could adopt and/or revise to suit our situations. His presentation showed his unique solutions applied to three different shop tools.

SuperMax 16-32 Drum Sander



One of **Herb's** newest tools is the **SuperMax 16-32 Drum Sander**, which came equipped with a typical steel angle open frame stand. As can be seen in the photo, there is no shelf, and both the ends and sides of the stand are tapered outward to increase stability.

After analyzing the situation, **Herb** decided that he would design and fabricate two different types of storage methods to best suit the configuration of this open steel stand – a box with drawers for the center area, and a custom-shaped, open storage compartment for each end of the stand. The tapers on all sides of the stand produced some interesting design and fabrication challenges.



Drawer Box -- Front View
Note: Tapered Side Furring Strips



Drawer Box -- End View
Note: Slanted Drawer Faces



Face Frame w/ Harbor Freight Pocket Hole Jig



Face Frame/ Drawers Installed



End Storage Compartment



End Storage Compartment Installed



Completed Storage Cabinet



Loaded and Ready to Go!

Herb mentioned that his preferred method of fabricating face frames is using pocket screws, because the parts are typically pulled tightly together by the action of the screws. He also noted that he appreciates the rigidity and durability of the all-metal construction of the **Harbor Freight Pocket Hole Jig**, (<https://www.harborfreight.com/portable-pocket-hole-jig-kit-96264.html>) which can be purchased for about half of the price of the popular, mostly plastic, **Kreg Pocket Hole Jig**.

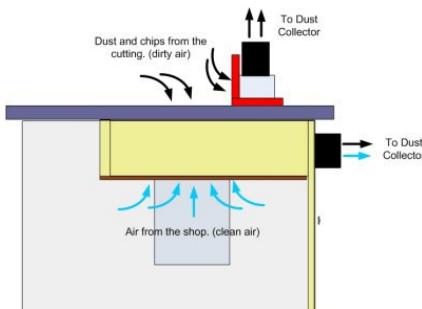
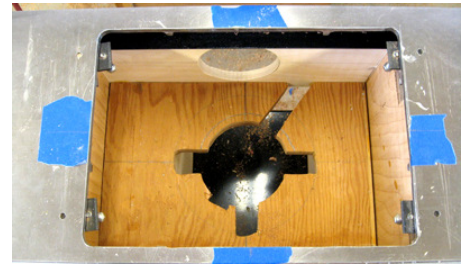
MCLS Router Table



One of two router tables in **Herb's** shop is this **MCLS Precision Cast Iron Router Table**. This tool is also mounted on an open frame steel stand which includes a steel shelf to provide rigidity and strength to mount this heavy router table. One unusual custom feature of this router table is the incorporation of a sliding aluminum table, occupying the front half of the table area.

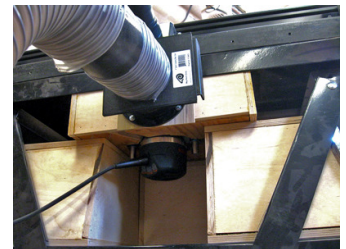
Table Modifications

As with all router tables, this model mounts the router under the table with the motor suspended vertically. To increase the table versatility, **Herb** used a **Dremel** tool with abrasive cut off wheels and edge guides to modify the cast iron top to incorporate a **Rockler Router Plate and Lift**.



Bill Huber's Design Concept

Using an idea demonstrated by Texas woodworker **Bill Huber** some years ago, he also fabricated a dust box enclosure to surround the router and lift to provide dust entrapment and evacuation. Note that the router/lift **protrudes through the bottom of the box** so that the cooling air for the motor, entering the bottom of the router, would be free of routing dust and debris.



Router Table Storage Modifications

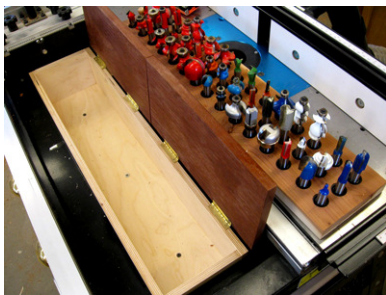


The configuration of the router table required **Herb** to fabricate two different drawer box configurations – a deep box on each end with a shorter box in the middle to accommodate the router protrusion. Due to the angled ends of the stand, note the use of tapered furring strips to compensate for the angled legs of the stand.

Using pocket screws again, he fabricated a face frame, **Baltic Birch** plywood drawers, and handsome hardwood drawer faces to grace this finely crafted storage solution.



To further maximize the storage capacity of the router table, **Herb** decided he would make a custom router bit storage box that would fit under the sliding portion of the router table. Using his drill press and Forstner bits, he made custom holders for his wide array of router bits.



Jessem Router Table



Another of the world class tools that reside in **Herb's** shop is this **Jessem Mast-R-Lift Excel II Table System**.

This router table is also mounted on an open steel angle frame, but with vertical legs, making modification much easier.

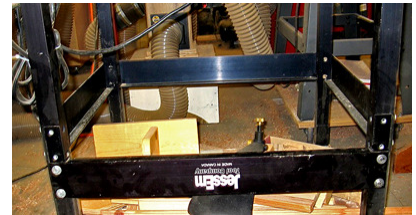
Router Table Storage Modifications

Modification of this router table was much more straightforward, without having to contend with the angled frame members.



Upon close inspection of the stand, **Herb** noted that the vertical legs of the horizontal frame members were about two inches high, which would cause a loss of usable height for installation of a drawer box.

But, he reasoned, if he inverted the front frame member, putting the long leg on the bottom, he could recover the lost space. Hopefully the **Jessum** folks won't mind having their logo inverted. A clever observation and adaptation, **Herb!**



That issue resolved, he built a plywood drawer box to mount drawer slides for three drawers of different heights, faced with striking hardwood panels, and surrounded by a face frame made with his **Harbor Freight Pocket Hole Jig**.

Herb bored custom panels for one of the drawers to hold his 1/4-inch shank router bits. Note the black plastic inserts used to adapt the 1/2-inch bored holes to the smaller bit shanks. The other drawers are used for storing tools and accessories for his router table.



Without a doubt, these modifications to already fabulous tools, increased their functionality and recovered valuable real estate in **Herb's** shop! [Ed. Note: My shop sure doesn't have purty furniture like that!!]

Thanks for sharing your practical, innovative, design ideas, **Herb**. Hopefully, they will be used to help many of us organize, reduce clutter, and make better use of our available shop space. As usual, your photo documentation of these projects was superb, making for a very graphic description of your solutions to some challenging design obstacles. Well done!!

Note from the Editor



I want to take this opportunity to thank **Herb Stoops** for his informative, well illustrated presentation. He presented a lot of new ideas and innovative ways to modify our tools and cabinets to better use our available storage space – always at a premium in all of our shops. I also want to applaud his extensive and creative photo documentation of his projects. There is a lot of truth to the saying,

“A picture is worth a thousand words”!

I, personally, have found that project photo documentation, so easily done with our popular low cost digital point and shoot cameras, is an invaluable source of information for future reference, for illustrating a **Show’N’Tell**, a planned or potential presentation, or just sharing an idea or concept with a fellow woodworker. I would encourage all of you to avail yourselves of this useful technique. It requires no special equipment or talent, so there is no reason that we can’t all do it.

There are a couple of simple things to consider when taking project pictures: 1) take one or more picture of each step of the project, perhaps showing different angles or perspectives – future editing will allow you to sort and eliminate unwanted photos, 2) take the pictures as if you were going to tell a story with them – take them as if they were what **you would like to see if someone else was telling the story**, and 3) eliminate miscellaneous unrelated “stuff” from your picture background – junk, tools, debris, etc. View the picture after you take it and check for background “stuff” – remove the junk and retake if necessary.

We all love the **Show’N’Tell** part of the meetings and really enjoy presentations which have a lot of supporting photos. All of us have something to offer the **Association** at the meetings – why don’t each of you think about bringing some project photos to add to our woodworking smorgasboard?? You may be able to show me something I need to see! I look forward to seeing your photos at the next meeting..... 😊

Happy and Safe Woodworking,

Paul

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Northwest Woodworkers Association Contacts

Membership—Allen McCall allen.mccll@gmail.com
Treasurer—Chris Green chrisandrenegreen@gmail.com
Secretary—Jan Erickson ajemski@comcast.net
Raffle—Herb Stoops hcstoops@comcast.net
Webmaster --- Tony Grosinger tony@grosinger.net
Newsletter Editor--- Paul Stoops pmstoops@comcast.net
Photographer— Scott Wilson somrev2@comcast.net

Steering Committee

Don Beacom DonBeacom@aol.com
John Gonder John.Gonder1@frontier.com
Tony Grosinger tony@grosinger.net
Tim Newsome tim@casualhacker.net
Scott Wilson somrev2@comcast.net

If you have a woodworking-related problem, question, comment, or item that may be of interest to the membership, we encourage you to contact any of the above individuals. We will endeavor to connect you with someone who can help.

In addition, please visit our website: <https://www.nwwoodworkers.org>