

A forum for woodworkers of all skill levels to share their common interests

# NORTHWEST WOODWORKERS' GUILD

## THE SAWDUST NEWS

May 2010

<http://www.nwwguild.org>

**Next Meeting:**

**McKinnon**

**Furniture**

**Thursday**

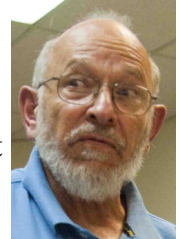
**May 27, 2010**

**6:30 PM**

6520 5th Avenue S.  
Seattle, WA 98108  
206.768.2484 Local

## President's Message

— by Bob Schaefer



From what I have heard it is apparent that the last meeting was not only informative and interesting but also productive in terms of future directions of the Guild. There is a lot to think about and input from all members is welcome. It's good to be back home. We had a fine time in Switzerland despite mostly cold and rainy weather.

Those of us who have been to the previous meeting at McKinnon furniture will remember that it was a most enjoyable and enlightening program with insights into how a furniture manufacturing company does its thing. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Details of our April 29 meeting may be found in the secretary's minutes on page 2.

### Guild Officers

**President**—Bob Schaefer  
**Vice-president and Membership**—Sally Wright  
**Treasurer**—Chris Green  
**Secretary**—Rick Tydings  
**Programs**—Al Falco, Don McNutt, Jack Martin, Ed Moore, Ray Ross  
**Raffle**—Tom Murray, Herb Stoops

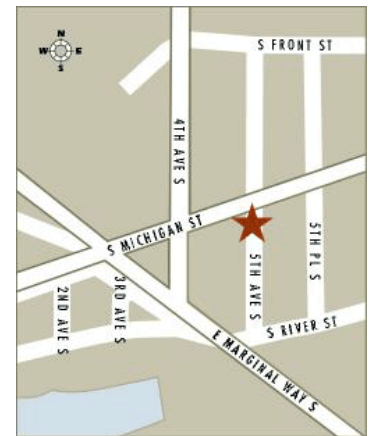
The following are volunteer positions and are not Officers of the Guild:

**Webmaster**  
Tom Howorth  
[thoworth@gmail.com](mailto:thoworth@gmail.com)

**Newsletter**  
Steve Krauss  
[catbert@oz.net](mailto:catbert@oz.net)  
425-746-5067

## Directions to McKinnon Furniture

I-5 to Downtown Seattle: Take "Exit 162 Corson Ave to Michigan St." (if Northbound, the exit is from the left lane). Continue on Corson Ave S and go South for 0.1 miles. Turn right on S. Michigan St. and go West for 0.3 miles. Turn left on 5th Ave S and go South for about 100 feet to 6520 5th Ave S.



## Complete Woodshop For Sale

**ACCEPTING BIDS:** Complete woodworking shop. Hobby turned one person business. Power tools, hand tools, everything needed for light production. Fits in one car garage stall. All equipment in excellent shape and in use daily. Many years left. Everything to the walls! Available mid June. Serious bids only. May be seen by appointment! Award winning arrangement! Call David: 206-232-1714. No email.

A forum for woodworkers of all skill levels to share their common interests



Northwest Woodworkers Guild  
Steve Krauss, Newsletter Editor  
16204 Main St  
Bellevue, WA 98008

## Member's Discounts

All members in good standing receive a membership card that will allow them to get a discount at the stores listed below:

**Crosscut Hardwoods**  
4100—1st Avenue S.,  
Seattle 98134  
10% Discount

**Rockler Woodworking**  
3823 Stone Way N.  
Seattle 98103  
10% Discount (not valid on power tools)

**Woodcraft Supply**  
5963 Corson S.,  
Seattle 98108  
10% Discount (not valid on power tools or workbenches)

**Edensaw Woods**  
8032 S. 194th St.  
Kent, WA 98032

Please present your current membership card to receive your discount.

## April Meeting Minutes:

Bob Schaefer and Jack Martin were both out of town for the meeting and so Rick Tydings conducted the business and presentation portions. Sally Wright reported we now have 94 members and Chris Green reported \$2304.00 in the treasury.

Tom Murray and Herb Stoops conducted the Raffle and it was the focal point of the meeting featuring books from the library, \$25 gift certificate from Woodcraft and a very special book on tables that featured Chris Green's table. Congratulations to all the winners.

Special thanks goes to our webmaster Tom Howorth at <http://www.nwguild.org>, Steve Krauss for his endless doing the newsletter and Ron Hall for his generosity for providing Woodcraft for our meetings.

The Thursday May 27 2010 meeting will be at McKinnon Furniture at 6:30 PM

Program Committee Phone numbers  
Al Falco 206-242-6557  
Don McNutt 206-949-4642<new  
Jack Martin 253-854-4282  
Ed Moore 253-854-5781  
Ray Ross 206-782-7416

We had a very lively meeting centered around the programs that most interested the group. Emphasis was placed on our need to support Woodcraft for allowing us to hold our monthly meetings in their facility along with the massive investment in their expansion and state of the art meeting and shop facilities.

The Evergreen Woodworkers club was discussed and their success with interesting classes. This group has 10 special classes a year put on by skilled woodworkers at a cost of \$50 per person and up. Similar classes will be available at Woodcraft and members are encouraged to support their efforts.

**DOVETAIL AND MORTISE AND TENON DEMONSTRATION**  
Woodworking requires Joinery. With many methods available to join two pieces of wood together, use of the Leigh Dovetail, and Mortise and Tenon jigs are two alternatives. Both methods require fine tuning of the machines to get a perfect fit so we went through the process of adjusting the size of the tail and adjusting the jigs for the fit. The group was also exposed to the advanced process to obtain inlaid dovetails. Those interested can go into [leighjigs.com](http://leighjigs.com) and order the free DVD for an overview of the actual processes.



## Monthly Shop Tip Submitted by Herb Stoops

no strain, no pain

# Panel-Moving Shuttle

If you've ever put off starting a new project because the thought of wrestling yet *another* sheet of plywood was more than you could bear, then this panel-moving shuttle is for you. From lifting a sheet out of the stack, moving it into the shop, and even raising it to a comfortable work height, this simple shuttle makes plywood management as effortless as it gets.

### Shuttling Sheet Goods

The three-step photo sequence below shows exactly how this shuttle makes working with sheet goods remarkably less strenuous.

With the shuttle unfolded, simply roll it under the edge of a sheet of plywood and tip the shuttle

## 3-step sheet shuttling



### ▲ LIFT THE SHEET FROM THE RACK

Roll the unfolded shuttle under the edge of the sheet of plywood. Lean the shuttle and the sheet back until the plywood lifts clear of the storage rack.



### ▲ LIFT SHEET TO TABLE HEIGHT

Rock the shuttle back onto its curved sides to elevate the sheet of plywood to the height of the cutting table. (Plans for the cutting table begin on page 46.)



back to lift the plywood clear of the storage rack (see Step 1 below). To lift the sheet onto a table or bench, rock the shuttle back onto its curved sides (Step 2). Now use the “leg” to prop the shuttle up while sliding the sheet onto a cutting table (Step 3). Note: To build the cutting table shown here, turn to page 46.

### Other Ways of Working

Besides taking the strain out of moving plywood, this shuttle is all the more useful since you can do quite a bit of cutting with the sheet still on the shuttle.

One way to make a quick cut is to simply lean the shuttle back so it rests on its curved sides (see Photo at right). In this position, the shuttle offers just enough clearance at the bottom of the sheet to accommodate a circular saw or jig saw. In fact, the arc in the sides and the wheel size and placement are all important design considerations to make the shuttle work this way.

By the same token, the curved sides make it easy to roll the shuttle into a table position. A leg made from a length of metal conduit supports the shuttle in this position and turns it into a handy cutting table.

The shuttle is also great for moving sheets of plywood more than just a few feet to a cutting table. To use the shuttle for longer hauls, lift the sheet of plywood off the storage rack, just as before. But this time, fold it closed to turn it into a two-wheel cart (Photo, below right).



## always ready for a Quick Cut

To quickly and easily cut sheets of plywood into smaller, more manageable panels, simply let the shuttle rest on its curved sides and make the cut. In this position, the bottom edge of the plywood is far enough off the floor to allow clearance for a circular saw.



### ▲ TRANSFER THE SHEET OF PLYWOOD

With the shuttle propped up by a metal leg made of electrical conduit, you can move to the end of the sheet and slide the plywood onto the cutting table.

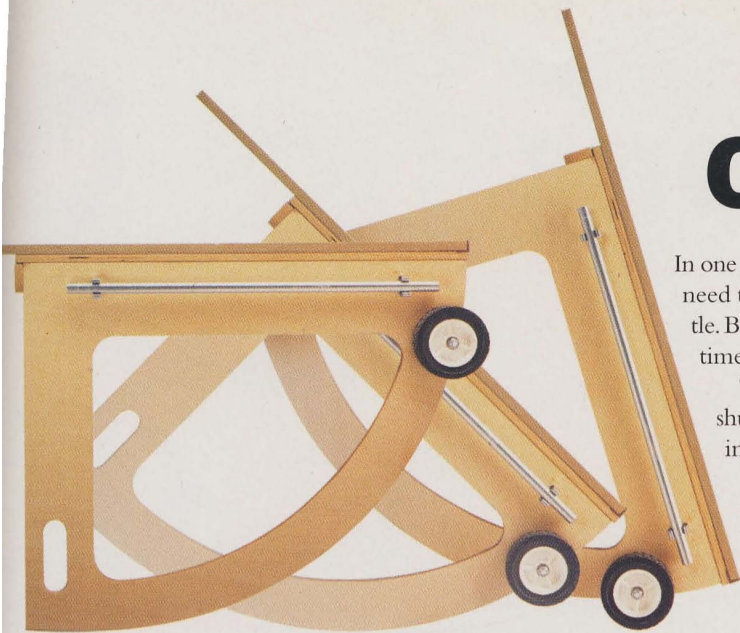


## always ready to Roll Ahead

When you need to move a sheet of plywood more than just a couple feet, fold the shuttle into a two-wheeled cart. This is excellent for taking sheet goods through gates or doorways, or even moving it from your truck to your lumber storage rack.



# Shuttle Construction



▲ The curved sides of the shuttle make it easy to rock the shuttle back and lift the weight of a full sheet of plywood up to table height.

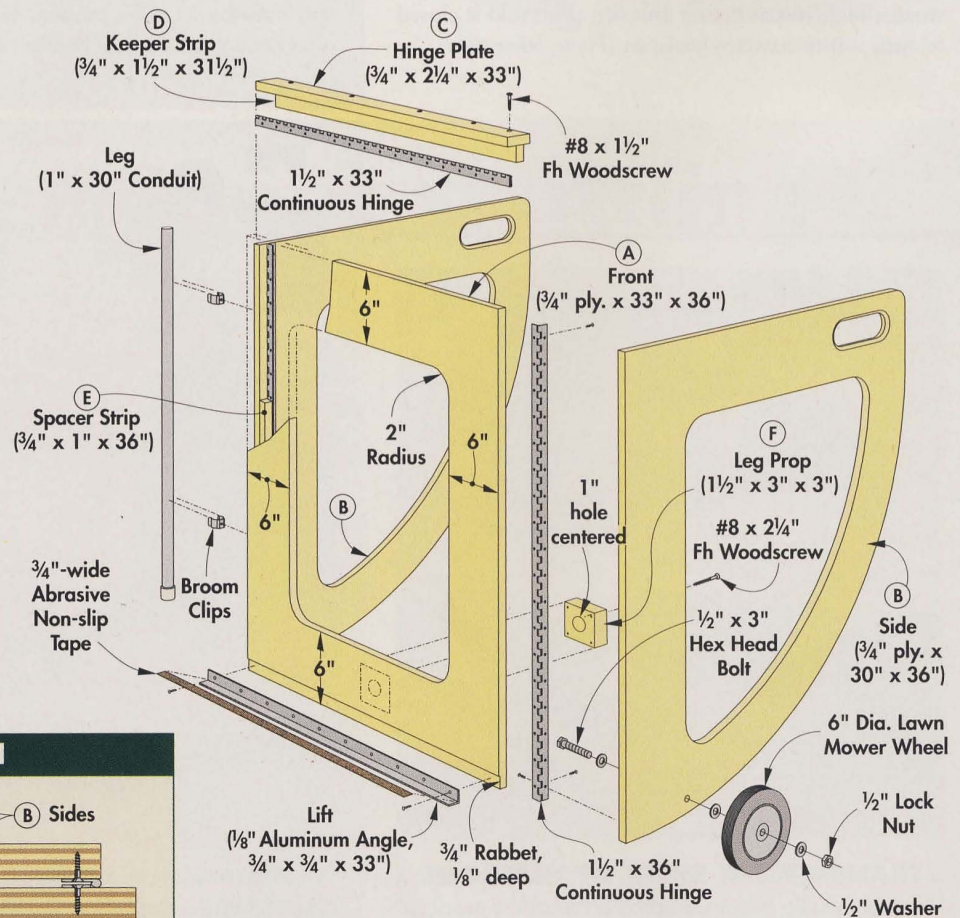
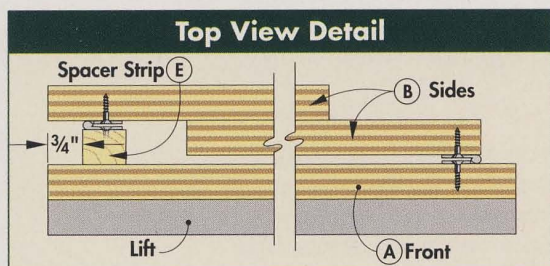
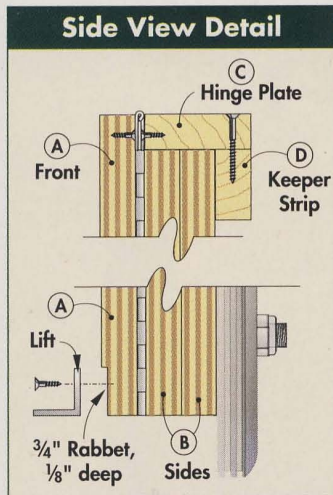
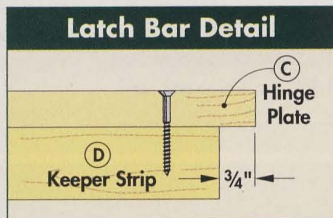
In one of those funny ironies that keep woodworking interesting, you'll need to wrestle one sheet of  $\frac{3}{4}$ "-thick plywood to build this shuttle. But only one. And on the bright side, it will probably be the last time you move a heavy sheet of material without the shuttle.

The first step is to rough cut the front (A) and sides (B) of the shuttle. To reduce the weight of these pieces, there's a large opening in each one.

Laying out this opening on the front is pretty straightforward. Simply draw the opening and add a 2" radius at each corner. But laying out the the openings in the sides is more involved because of its large, sweeping curves. Here, you'll want to use the centerpoint shown in the *Side Elevation* on page 45, strike the inside and outside arcs, and then cut the openings with a jig saw.

This is also a good time to cut a handhold in the side pieces (*Handhold Detail*). Then to produce a com-

## CONSTRUCTION VIEW





portable grip, rout a 1/4" roundover on both edges of the handholds.

**Add a "Lift"** — There's one final cut to make on the front piece. That's a shallow (1/8") rabbet for a piece of aluminum angle. This angle serves as a "lift" that's used to pick up the sheet of material and hold it on the shuttle.

Because this rabbet is so wide, it didn't make sense to cut it in the conventional manner (face down on the table saw). Instead, I used a tall auxiliary fence to steady the workpiece and made the cut with the piece standing on edge (see Photo at right).

**The Wheel Deal** — After attaching the lift with screws, you can turn your attention to the wheels. I used 6" lawn mower wheels that I picked up from the hardware store.

The wheels are attached to the sides with bolts that serve as the axles. The location of these bolts is shown in the *Wheel Detail* below. As simple as it sounds, this location is critical to making the shuttle work in the three

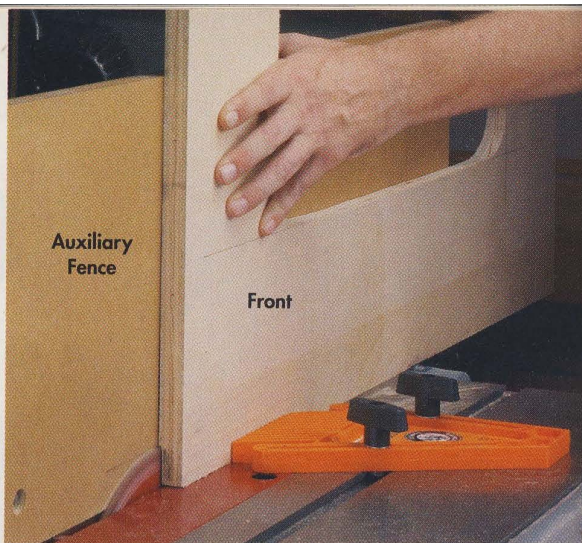
configurations shown on page 44.

**Folding Features** — To hold the sides of the shuttle in position (open or closed), I built an L-shaped latch bar. It consists of a hinge plate (C) and a keeper strip (D) made from 3/4"-thick hardwood. After gluing and screwing these pieces together, attach the latch bar to the front of the shuttle with a continuous hinge.

Next, to allow the sides of the shuttle to fold flat, I attached a wood spacer strip (E), as shown in the *Top View* on page 44. This spacer strip allows one of the sides to overlap the other when the shuttle is closed.

With the spacer strip in place, it's time to hinge the sides and front together. I used epoxy to increase the holding power of the short mounting screws (see *Tips from the Workbench Shop* on page 32).

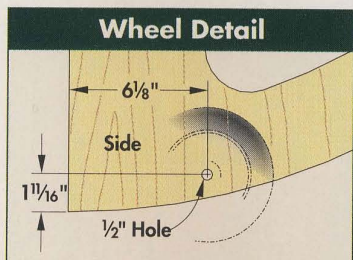
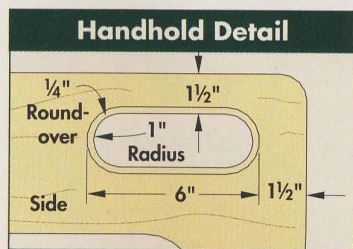
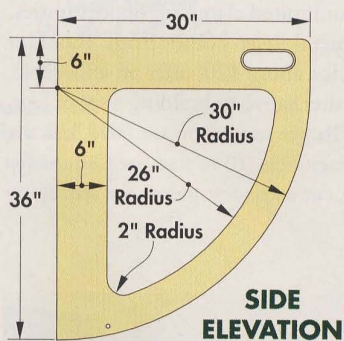
**Metal Leg** — One last important piece is a metal leg that's used to prop the shuttle up when sliding a sheet onto the cutting table (See Step



3 on page 43.) The leg is made from electrical conduit and attached to one side with broom clips. To keep the leg from slipping while it's in use, it fits into a prop (F) that's screwed to the front of the shuttle.

**Ready to Roll** — The shuttle is ready to go to work. However, it may not be obvious *how* to fold and unfold the shuttle. The *Sidebar* below illustrates the three-step sequence.

▲ When cutting the rabbet for the aluminum "lift," a tall auxiliary fence helps steady the workpiece.



## Unfolding the Shuttle

Changing the shuttle from one position (closed) to the other (open) hinges quite literally on the latch bar. Its job is to hold the sides opened or closed.

To open the shuttle, simply flip the latch bar up and over (see *Illustrations below left*). This allows the sides to swing freely away from the front of the shuttle.

When the sides are fully opened, flip the latch bar back down (Drawings, below right).

Now it will serve as a doorstop of sorts, keeping the sides from folding back into their closed position.

To close the shuttle, flip the latch bar out of the way and close the side *without* the hinge spacer first. Then close the other side and flip the latch bar down. With both sides folded flat against the front, the latch bar straddles the sides and holds them firmly together (see *Side View Detail* on page 44).

