

# The Wood Rack

Newsletter of the Long Island Woodworkers' Club

March 1996

Volume 7 Number 1

**Next Meeting -- March 6**

**The Home Depot**

**Jericho Turnpike, Commack  
7:30 P.M.**

**DeWALT High Performance  
Industrial Tools**

Please note that the March meeting will take place at The Home Depot store on Jericho Turnpike in Commack. It will feature an exciting presentation by Jordan S. Berman, a DeWALT Company representative. He will begin with an overview of portable electric power tools, including routers, sanders, biscuit joiners, and cordless drill/drivers.

Next, club members are invited to "roll up your sleeves" for a hands-on session that will be supervised by six representatives of the DeWALT Woodworking Team. Finally, DeWALT and the Home Depot will be offering an exclusive promotion for club members who wish to purchase DeWALT tools during the presentation. Included in this promotion are free accessories, hats, T-shirts with the purchase of a tool during the presentation.

All members in attendance will receive a gift from DeWALT as well as a chance to win a DeWALT Barn jacket through a raffle at the close of the presentation. (See attached flier for promotion details.)

The DeWALT Woodworking Team is honored to have been invited to make a presentation to the L.I. Woodworkers' Club and looks forward to a delightful evening of woodworking on Wednesday, March 6, 1996.

Jordan S. Berman

## President's Message

First off I'd like to commend Howard Whitman for a fine program on jigs, fixtures, and homemade shop devices. Howard brought down to the Barn many of his jigs and homebuilt machines and machine accessories. I would also like to thank the rest of the membership for their enthusiastic showing of jigs.

A new secretary has been nominated to replace Jackson Lowell. Bob Hall will now take minutes at our Board Meetings and Club Meetings and report back to the Club in the monthly newsletter.

I'd like to thank Mike Bonchonsky for supplying us with donuts and coffee for the last year at all our meetings. Mike is stepping down and handing the task over to Neal Ferguson. Thanks, Mike, for all that you've done and thanks Neal for volunteering.

I'm looking for a volunteer to put out and bring in the sign at every meeting. Please call me or see me at the next meeting.

Bill Hermanek

360-1216

## HVLP Sprayers

I refinish furniture as a side business and have been interested in buying a spray system to replace the Airless Wagner gun that I've used for the past 8 years. An article on Spray Systems in the August issue of *Fine Woodworking* compared all three systems -- airless, air compressor, and high volume low pressure systems (HVLP). I purchased a HVLP system, and I will share with you the differences I found between the units.

I should start by explaining how a HVLP system works so you understand the differences compared to an air compressor. An air compressor works on high pressure, 30 to 40 pounds of air flowing through the spray gun. The material to be sprayed is siphoned from the cup and atomized at the gun's tip. A HVLP system works on a high volume of air -- around 115 cfm flowing through the gun with only 5 psi

of air pressure. The air pressure forces the material out of the gun's cup, into the flow of air, atomizing the material at the spray gun's tip. The thicker the material, the more air flow that is needed to properly atomize.

The more I looked at different units and talked to salespeople, the more questions I had. I called a number of manufacturer's technical reps, and some were very knowledgeable and others really didn't know how to answer my questions. I looked at Graco, Titian, Wagners and Apollo spray systems. I purchased the Apollo because of their quality and technical service. They asked me questions to make sure I was getting the right system for my needs. I made a list for myself to compare the systems and see the differences. I will give you my list so you know what to look for and compare.

The motors are either one, two, or three stage turbines. This indicates the number of fans that produce the air flow. Fans come in two sizes, 5.7" or 7.2" in diameter. Most motors will be manufactured by Ametek-Lamb, who are major producers of turbine motors. Their turbine motors are made from cast aluminum, which helps in removing heat build-up. When comparing air flow, find out if it is restricted or unrestricted. Most flow rates are given in unrestricted cfm's. The difference is whether the air flow is coming directly from the turbine motor or from the air hose. Another important item is proper air filtrations, the more the better. You want to have

at least a dual air filtration system that can be maintained. This is what is coming out of your spray gun, so you want it clean.

The air will flow through a hose to your spray gun. Most units are sold with a 3/4" diameter hose. Apollo spray units are the only manufacturer that has a 5/8" diameter hose. Some units will come with a flexible two foot end to connect to your spray gun, a much-needed item. You want to get the longest length of hose you can purchase so you are not limited in your reach. The air hose should have quick release couplers to ease removal and attachment. Avoid the screw-on type.

HVLP spray guns vary. Metal spray guns offer longevity. Plastic wear quickly and are subject to warpage and solvent wear. Plastic parts or "O" rings increase spray gun maintenance. The ideal spray gun should have stainless steel for all fluid passage ways if you choose to use waterborne coatings. Also invest in a Teflon cup for your gun; these will prevent pitting and rusting. The Apollo spray guns have no "O" rings to replace and have stainless steel passage ways.

Spray guns are classified in two categories, bleeder or non-bleeder types. A bleeder-type spray gun will have air continually flowing out of the tip. A non-bleeder spray gun will only spray air when the trigger is pulled. For a HVLP spray system the best spray guns are the bleeder type. This prevents back pressure on the turbines. Non-bleeder spray guns on turbine

systems can reduce motor life by up to 40%, according to Ametek-Lamb. A good spray gun will make the difference between a good finish and a great finish.

I realize that HVLP spray systems are not for everyone. They can be expensive for the average woodworker. I spent \$775.00 for mine. There are many advantages to a HVLP system: portability and mobility, low energy consumption (110 volt), clean warm air (no moisture contamination), easy clean-up, and dramatically less overspray. Some manufacturers claim they reduce overspray by 80%. If you do any type of spraying, give a look at the HVLP systems. I swear by mine. I wish I had bought mine years ago. If you have any questions, please feel free to call.

Paul Cappy

499-3756

## Exhibition '96

(Editor's note: The article which follows is an abridged and slightly edited version of one that appeared in the February, 1996 edition of *The Wood Rack*.)

Exhibition '96 is planned for Saturday, March 30, at the Barn, from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M. (We need to be out of the Barn by 5.)

The purpose of the exhibition? It's to promote the reputation of the club, find out what members have produced in their workshops, and show off what

we make to the public. This will be the first of what we hope will become an annual event.

What might you exhibit? If it's wood and can fit into the Barn, it is probably appropriate for the show. Clocks, cabinets, chests, turnings, toys, sculpture, indoor and outdoor furniture, are all candidates for the exhibition. There will be no jury to decide what is appropriate, nor will there be a competition.

We intend to provide transportation for pieces that won't fit into your vehicles, provide security for your woodwork, and we promise that you will not have to stay the day. You may, however, leave business cards near your items and hang around to promote your work.

What we need at the March meeting is a finalized list of who will participate. Bill Hermanek and I will be available early in the evening of this meeting to get your name and what you intend to display. And if you have something that is just impossible to have transported, then we may use the stage

**The Long Island Woodworkers' Club  
c/o Jim Cosgrove  
3570 Manchester Road  
Wantagh, New York 11793-3011**

to display photos of your work.

Roger Schroeder, Trustee

## **North Jersey Woodworking Show**

I attended the North New Jersey Woodworking Show on Saturday, January 6, 1996. I stayed about four and a half hours and started by attending a workshop on bandsaw boxes given by Jim Colangelo that was basic, but still interesting.

I watched many demonstrations that day, but the one that stands out the most was the demo about the Inkra-Jig Ultra, since I received one for Christmas. They really make it look easy.

I purchased numerous small items such as sandpaper discs, dust collector hose, and drill bits at very good prices. It was a good show, and next year I would like to attend one of the three hour seminars, especially if Frank Pollaro is teaching one again.

Joe Pascucci

**First Class Mail**