

THE Woodrack



NEXT MEETING: Wed., June 5th, 6 p.m., Brush Barn, Smithtown

Our annual picnic. Please note the earlier time. Bring your families!

We encourage all members to contribute to The Woodrack. Please send all ideas, articles, photos, items for sale, etc. to Mike Daum . He can be reached through our website: www.liwoodworkers.org



President's Message

Gabe Jaen



Secretary's Report

Owen Brady &
Steve Costello

Well, It was an impromptu workshop at the Brush Barn on Saturday, May 11th and there were 14 of us who weren't sorry we spent from 9:00am till about 2:30pm sharing information on routers and router tables. Several of us brought in our router tables that we had made. Mine was store bought. John Sieple had the biggest and Jim Macallum had the simplest. I had the ugliest and another member had the prettiest. Let me explain that as I go along.

The workshop was designed to spend some time with routers, to discuss their differences, their versatility, their pros and cons. We had several things going at the same time which included router basics, router table design and use, and the features of my router/shaper combo. The router basics explained the motor and the different bases such as 2 handle, pistol grip, and plunge. We compared the different router manufacturers and their pros and con. I must say that Porter Cable routers were in the favored majority. We discussed various types of bits, the material they're made of, the benefits of each type, and the feel of feeds and speed. We even got one or two beginners to overcome the basic concerns they had when using routers by actually having

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Gabe opened the meeting to a standing room membership on this mild first day of May. By count there were 102 in attendance, which is by any means a good group. **GABE** opened by thanking and congratulating the members for the fine job that they did for Show 2002. The two day attendance was over 2,100. The comments from the visitors, vendors and members were all positive. The show was great by any standard. There was something for everyone exhibits, demonstrations, the toy factory, previously owned tool sale, seminars and vendors. Members who have worked at previous shows commented that this show was strong even until late Sunday afternoon when in the past, interest waned. Gabe especially thanked the committee and for the fine work that was done to organize this event. He made special note of one of the members, **BOB URSO**, who for years has been a tireless worker/organizer/promoter and self-appointed crusader for the show. When there was a Doubting Thomas regarding the feasibility of putting on the show, Bob stayed his course and with untiring effort persevered over the naysayers. Our hearts, thanks, and hats (for those who wear them) are off to Bob. Gabe made a presentation to Bob Urso. For the past 7 years he has chaired the show committee and also rounded up the vendors. A presentation of a Lie

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The SHOW Must Go On

by Karl Blessing



Recently I spent every waking hour that I was not working (at my day job that is), in the shop with **MIKE DAUM**. To say that it was an education does not give it the gravity it deserves. In three short weeks I went from having read all I could on woodworking to actually working with wood. This was a good thing.

It all started with a polite but firm You have to make something for the show! from our show s co-chairman. I hemmed and hawed and finally agreed to try and build a nightstand called a Somae that I found in a book. The only real problem was I hadn t a clue what to do and how to do it! Well along comes Mike, he of the firm but polite, who says Lets get started and we ll use my shop , and so we did.

Mike was good enough to go to J&A Lumber in Ronkonkoma and select the wood (quartersawn white oak) since I was unavailable. Damn pretty wood it turned out to be too. That was to be the only thing he did without me being there. I learned it all - from tossing out the original cut list to redesigning when things did not work out as planned. I had a lot to learn. We spent the first day with the thickness planer cleaning up the oak to see the grain and figure and making up a rough-cut list. Detecting the flaws and figuring out what goes where was much harder then I imagined. Finding out how inadequate the plans cut list was came as a bit of a shock, but Mike has faced these problems before and helped me navigate the waters quite successfully.

To say Mike is a good teacher would be damning with faint praise. He taught and I learned. I learned how to use a table saw and not curse it, how to use a jointer, thickness planer, biscuit cutter, belt sander, router table, random orbital sander, cabinet scraper, cutting gauge, mortising gauge, mortising chisels, and also how to repair the inevitable mistakes (*modifications* in Mike s lexicon). The most important thing I learned was I could do it, but I need more time. Time for everything. I will be making a mate for the nightstand in the future. I suspect it will take less time the second time around. At least I hope so!

W ithout raising his voice even once, Mike was able to steer me to the right conclusions and allowed me to make some mistakes. This reinforced the ideas and procedures and I feel I will not forget them any time soon. If anybody else is looking for a mentor you ll have to wait cause I m not done picking his brain. This could take a while .



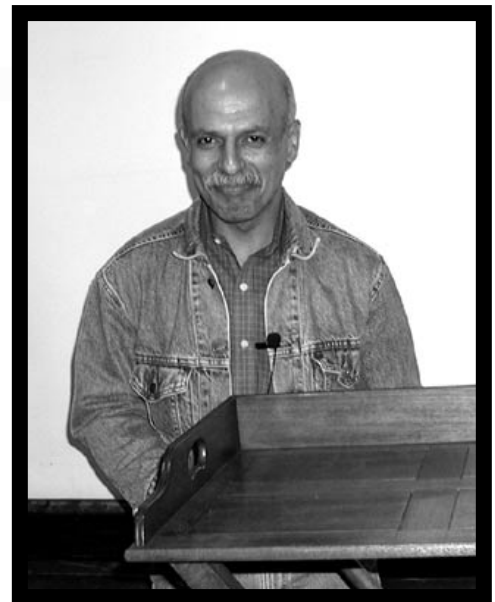


At the May meeting



Mario **R**odriguez

Renowned cabinetmaker and teacher demonstrates the mahogany serving tray he taught for this year's



Secretary's Report

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Nielsen shoulder plane was made to Bob and we will have it engraved with an appropriate inscription.

This Show 2002 is, and should be, a source of pride for all the members of the club. We have, as a group, put on the most successful woodworking shows on Long Island. Everyone who planned, worked and attended the show rightly deserve to have their egos way up there. With a 100% volunteer group we have accomplished something spectacular. We can all be proud to say that we are members of the Long Island Woodworkers Club. Gabe wanted to thank **STEVE DELANEY** for providing the time and equipment for the taping of the show seminars. I know that our library will benefit from these tapings. Gabe did not want to start naming all the names with the thought that he might miss someone. But if he had I don't believe our guest speaker would have had time to make his presentation.

Last year the show ended up clearing over \$500 dollars. We did far better this year, and there will be a board meeting first to establish how much and what to do with the proceeds. The club collected approximately 1,150 new names for our mailing list during the show. This was made possible by the free drawing of a cherry shelving unit with flared legs donated by Owen Brady and Steve Costello, as well as the raffle.

President's Message

cont. from page 1

them due edge cutting and cutting stopped slots using a router fence, all the time stressing the correct cutting direction. We ended the basics phase by discussing the router/shaper and its features as a shaper and a router.


Now, to the part about the router tables. Jim has a router mounted on a 3 ft. by 5 ft. piece of melamine coated MDF. With this table you can put the router table at 90 degrees to your workbench and be able to clamp to your bench without any interference. Think about it. The business end of your router table overhanging your workbench. Simple, yes! Then he made this really good-looking fence. It had a high fence so you can put all kinds of clamps and feather boards on it. All this simplicity with exhaust ports. Then there was John's table. It is about 3 ft. wide by 2 ft. deep by about 40 inches high. It had all kinds of drawers for cutters and things and a big net base with 2 large doors for more storage and exhaust ports. All this was on wheels. Then there was the prettiest. It was a clean design, one you take anywhere, mount it in

Gabe read a tribute to the show received by email from Charlie Babcock, a former president of the Arborist Society. Surprisingly, there was no show and tell and the membership chairman reported that there were 190 paid up members. The club's new membership was very impressive, for there were 14 new members, including several picked up from the show. One can only surmise that the show had something to do with demonstrating the quality of the club. New members were **JIM WEINER, BILL GUYER, LARRY RAMSDEN, ROGER DORAN, JOHN CLISTI, BILL MUSCARA, THOMAS WHITE, TIM MAHAN, PAT CIRASOLE, BOB BELLOWS, ROBERT HEATHWOOD, MARK and DARLENE SPECHLER and ALFRED KAISER**. Each new member had their own reasons for wanting to join and we welcome all. We hope that they will participate and benefit from all the club has to offer. We look forward to meeting all of you and working together to make this an even greater woodworking club.

MARIO RODRIGUEZ was introduced for the night's presentation by Bob Urso. He presented a slide show on making a traditional mahogany serving tray with folding, turned legs. A real tour de force. It was noted that several of our own members are in the process of making the serving tray at Mario's F.I.T. class in Manhattan, and their presence was evident in the slide show. Once again, a great job by our good friend Mario.



something, and you're in business. The drawers were fitted with foam for your bits, and the top was slick for smooth movement of your work piece. It was made like a piece of furniture.

All things said, it was a very productive day. Ideas sprang forth from the attendees which included a session using the router table to make raised panel doors, and having a workshop on just the sharpening of most shop tools like the plane iron, lathe tools, chisels, etc. This would be a workshop where members could have a hands on experience with the sharpening process, and the various sharpening media like scary sharp sanding, water stones, and grinding wheels and their attachments. What we had is called woodworking and sharing. I had the opportunity to spend quality time with other members and I hope it was mutual. Both sides were sharing information and experiences. I know Bob Urso and the others enjoyed it as much as I did. They must have because the last thing I heard as I was leaving was hey,  let's do this again. You bet.




Notes from the Editor

Mike Daum

It has become quite apparent that the success of Show 2002 has renewed much interest and vigor in the club. This has affected the newsletter as well. Article submissions are steadily streaming in, and DARYL and I no longer have to scrounge for last minute space-filling ideas. The page count has doubled and quadrupled, and we have included many more photos of club events and member projects. In the months to come, you can expect a newly designed newsletter, worthy of space on the coffee table you built!

I would also encourage more members to check out the forums on our website at www.liwoodworkers.org. It has also become more spirited and active, and is a great place to pose questions and make comments about any aspect of the club.

The sharing of information and the common bond of interest is what I most benefit from the club. Along the way I am making great friends with interesting people as well. This is what motivates me to volunteer my time and energy into the newsletter, the show, and the club in general. A club member once said in the newsletter you will get back what you put into it. Attributing this to the biblical as you sow, so shall you reap, I have found this very true. If at any point you do not feel you are benefiting from the club, perhaps you could try making yourself more visible to the members, not only at the meetings, but by printed words of imparted wisdom and knowledge, or quizzical questions and memorable experiences. Type em out or  email them to me. What have you got to lose?

UPCOMING IN THE WOODRACK

- An interview with the Hintemann brothers, our Best in Show winners.
- The further adventures of Bernie Hunt, foreign correspondent!
- Mike Daum on finishing.

Heard at Show 2002

"I didn't put handles on my table's drawers because I didn't want anyone to see that I made my handcut dovetails wrong by putting the tails on the front of the drawer, and Rich Macrae kept threatening to tell Ian." - Gabe Jaen

Ian Kirby's comment about my project: "In the end, an almost pleasant, but ultimately failed attempt." - Daryl Rosenblatt

The Please Do Not Touch sign on Brian and Harry Hintemann's cherry Serpentine chest might have well as read, "Go ahead, touch all you want, and while you're at it, pull the drawers out all the way too!" - Mike Daum

"Norm Abrams, please come to the front entrance, Norm Abrams, please come to the front entrance". Mr Abrams is from the LI Woodturner's Club and was needed to judge the turning category. When Bob Urso suggested this deceptive announcement be made over the loudspeaker, all heads turned to the front entrance. About 2 hours later, a show patron pulled me aside and informed me he had been waiting to see "Norm" since the announcement was made, and if there was a chance he could speak with him. Riddled with guilt for the ploy, I could only state, "Sorry, he had to go." Thanks a lot Bob! - Mike Daum

Overheard in the exhibit area: "I made a bed for it, then when it was tight enough, I screwed it real good. For the finish, she got a good coat of oil, even on the underside." - anonymous contribution

It was fortunate for a thoughtful individual that Strother Purdy brought his pearwood box to exhibit and provide a safe place for the walnut handle that he or she broke off the box while attempting to open it!

"Many of us were so busy with the show functions that we didn't START buying from the vendors until the last thirty minutes of the show! The vendors didn't mind some of us dropping \$500 - \$700. each, but to me all that racing around felt like winning a shopping spree - in reverse! I just grabbed what I thought I needed as fast as I could and when time was up, my wallet was empty. But I had my prizes, didn't I?" - name withheld for fear of spousal retribution

Saturday April 20, 2002

Entering main entrance to Sports Plus Event

Centre

Dialogue: (approximate)

Female cashier: *Hi! Do you have a discount coupon?*

Patron: *No, but I'm a club member.*

Male ticket handler to female cashier: *Charge this guy double.*

Female cashier: *Don't you have a discount coupon?*

Patron: *No.*

Male ticket handler to female cashier: *Charge him double.*

Joe Bottigliere's Flag Case

About four years ago, my uncle had passed away and my aunt gave his ceremonial flag to me. Shortly thereafter, my brother-in-law passed away and my sister received his colors.



About that time, my mom was moving in with my sister. While packing she uncovered my father's flag and passed it on to my brother. That following Christmas, I thought it would be a fine gift to honor our loved ones and their memories. A flag case seemed like an appropriate gift for my brother and sister and a practical solution for myself. I was never quite satisfied with the designs I've seen in catalogs and, being the designer that I am, standard plans just would not do. So I set out to make something not entirely unique, but just a little different with some interesting details.

Since there was no intention of frequently removing the flag, I could make a more rigid construction. Access to the flag is provided via a screwed on rear panel let into rabbets cut into the three primary pieces. These I cut on the table saw, but could just as easily be cut with a router. If you plow through on the base as I have done however, you will need to make two filler pieces for the ends, to bring that surface flush. I did the same at the front of the base for the Plexiglas. Here again, you will need fillers for the very ends of the base. Alternately, you could run stopped grooves on the router table.

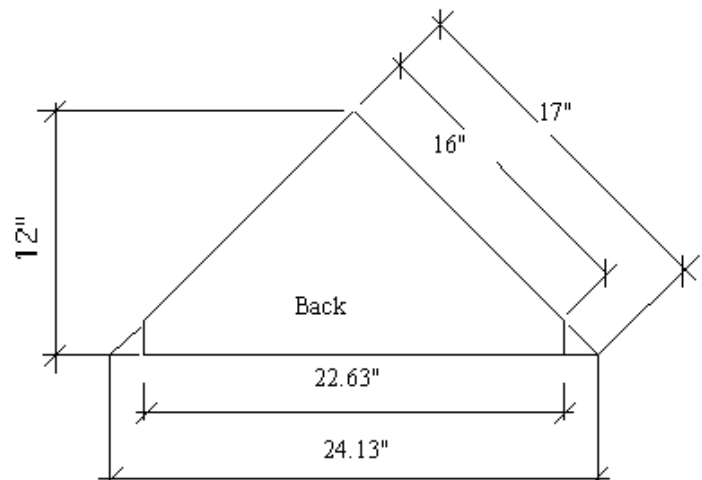
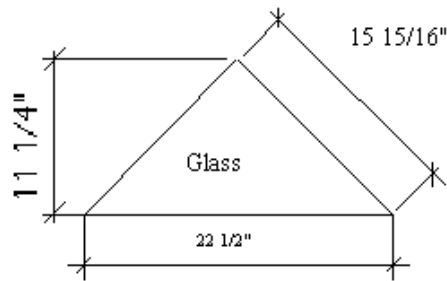
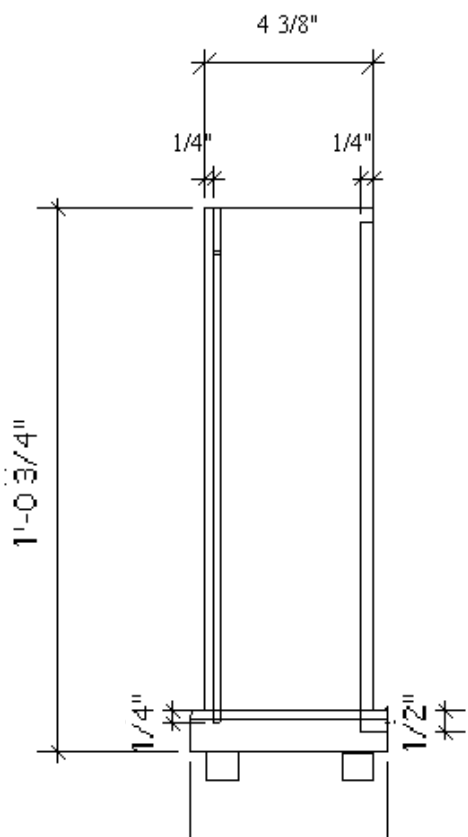
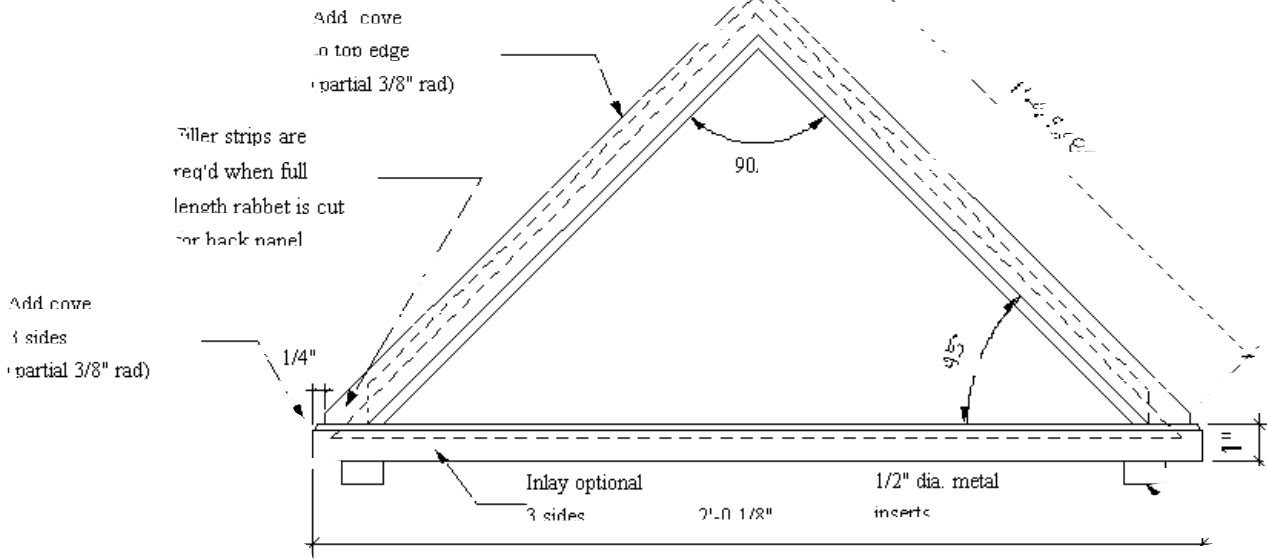
The top halves are cut at a 45 degree angle. Initially, I joined these two pieces with several finish nails. On the remaining two cases, I opted for biscuits. Both methods proved sufficiently strong. I shaped the front edge of the top and three of the top edges of the base with a portion of a 3/8" radius cove bit on the router table. Here, I experimented to achieve a proportion I liked. As an option, I routed a shallow groove for a store-bought inlay. I made two of these cases in cherry and the other out of walnut. The maple and walnut banding was less noticeable on the darker wood but stands out rather nicely on the cherry. Be sure to center the inlay on the base and match up the ends as it wraps around. Yellow glue works well here, however, I used it as a hot melt application. I'll refrain from detailing that technique that's another story.

I joined the top to the base simply, with a couple screws at each end. I also drilled for and installed four turned brass feet. I choose them over wood because I felt they added a little elegance to an otherwise simple piece.

I finished the cases with Bartley's gel varnish a first for me. It was easy to use and results in an extremely smooth surface when properly prepared. As with most of my work, I plane and scrape away any machining marks. I then sand with 120 through 240 grit paper. Thoroughly clean the surface and apply the finish as directed.

One more word of caution, please check over the dimensions for yourselves. I tried to be thorough, but dimensions and details change and evolve as you go along, so double check. Have fun.





JOE BOTTIGLIERE'S FLAG CASE - PLANS NOT TO SCALE

Methylene Chloride Hazards

By JOHN BORGHARDT, Chemist III (EC) Suffolk County DPW



The purpose of this article is to alert my fellow woodworkers about the dangers of using Methylene Chloride. As an environmental chemist, I have access to information on many hazardous materials, some of which are ingredients of products that we use as part of our woodworking experience. The information I will be giving you comes from the EPA, OSHA, NIOSH, and other related sources.

Methylene chloride (also called dichloromethane, MeCl) is an ingredient in many paint/stain-stripping products. Its chemical nature makes it very effective in dissolving paints and other finishes. It will also dissolve plastics, latex and rubber. In its pure form it evaporates rapidly making inhalation the primary concern. Skin contact, though, should be avoided since it will dissolve the fatty tissue and be absorbed. Virtually all of the commonly available types of gloves are ineffective protection as methylene chloride will either pass through or dissolve the glove material. Multiple layers of gloves offer very little improvement.

“Any organic vapor mask/cartidge is ineffective protection against MeCl because MeCl quickly penetrates the cartidge in a very short time, rendering them useless.”

Inhalation, however, is the real danger. In September of 2000, OSHA issued several changes in the requirements relating to MeCl safety. These new requirements lower the death rate (from cancer) from 125 to 3.6 deaths per thousand workers with lifetime occupational exposure. This was accomplished by reducing the 8-hour exposure limit from 500ppm to 25ppm. The 15-minute exposure limit was set at 125ppm. Since the odor threshold is about 500ppm, one cannot smell MeCl near the STEL (short term exposure limit). The dangers of MeCl exposure are even greater for children.

MeCl is now classified as a known carcinogen. Specifically, it can cause biliary cancer and astrocytic brain tumors. Short-term exposure can cause dizziness and other neurological symptoms. Since MeCl metabolizes into carbon monoxide in the bloodstream, one can feel effects such as tiredness, fatigue, and lightheadedness for days or even weeks after exposure (my personal experience at work can attest to this). Carbon monoxide is a chemical that blocks the blood's ability to take up oxygen causing these symptoms. Furthermore, persons with heart conditions such as coronary artery disease, dysrhythmia, etc. are at greater risk for stroke or heart attack upon exposure. OSHA requirements state that anyone with these conditions should be protected from ANY exposure to MeCl.

It is difficult to use MeCl safely. Any organic vapor mask/cartidge is ineffective protection against MeCl because MeCl quickly penetrates the cartridge in a very short time rendering them useless. Only a positive pressure supplied air respirator is permitted by the standard. These are not sold at Home Depot! Working outside, away from an open window, upwind, may be O.K. but it is important to remember that if you can smell it, it is likely that you've exceeded the STEL by 4-5 times. Gel MeCl strippers, as they are commonly sold, only slow the rate of evaporation. The vapors will always be present. To give you an idea what some of these exposure numbers mean; less than 1 gram of liquid evaporated into a 8 X 10 X 15 room will exceed the STEL and not be detectable by smell.

Finally, if you have some MeCl, please don't pour it down the drain. A very small amount can contaminate an enormous amount of water. There are several private companies that will take MeCl and other hazardous materials in 3-5 gallon amounts free of charge. Also some local municipalities offer free HAZMAT disposal as well.

References:

Federal Register, Methylene Chloride; Final Rule #63:50711-50732, 29 CFR 1910



Just Plane Good

by BERNIE HUNT

If you've been to many of the woodworking shows, you've run across the Kreg pocket hole people. Somewhere along the way, I succumbed to their pitch and bought a pocket hole jig. I cannot say it is the most used tool in my shop. I can't even say it's a commonly used tool in my shop. I can say that it's been worth its weight in gold a couple of times. I bring all this up because I needed it again the other day. It was definitely not a fine woodworking project. I needed to toenail some 2x4s in a ceiling so I could patch the drywall. I couldn't get my hammer in to nail, and I didn't want to drag the compressor over to air-nail it.

Pocket screws were perfect.

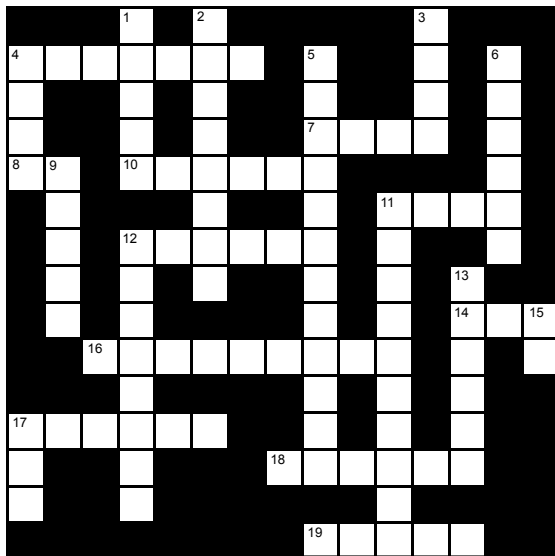
I clamped the jig in place with a pair of vice grips and cut my pockets. Extra long screws to get through the 2x material and I was set. I could easily position my piece and accurately screw it in place. I think this completes the range of use for my jig. I've used it for lofty work like jointing face frames together. It's helped with many a cabinet carcass. The extended window sills in my living and dining room are held in place with some cleverly hidden pocket screws. Now I've even found a use for it in basic construction.

While I don't think it's the answer to all woodworking problems, I think pocket screws are a handy tool to have available when you need it. If you've never seen them before, check out www.kreg-tool.com on the web or call them at



Crossword Puzzle

by Mike Daum



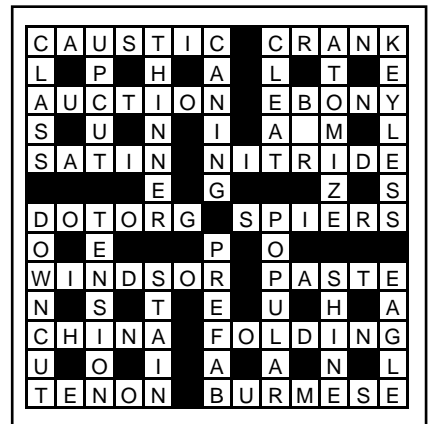
- 11. what you may fill on red oak
- 12. popular furniture style of religious separatist origin
- 14. type of finish
- 16. used to create a burr on a cabinet scraper
- 17. what many decorative edge profiles are
- 18. sought by beginning woodworkers
- 19. our website attraction

- 9. in ripping, set parallel to a saw blade
- 11. device for measuring angles.
- 12. Bob Urso was presented with a new _____ plane
- 13. the tool featured for our next Barn _____ demonstration
- 15. determined by board length (abbrv)

DOWN

ACROSS

- 1. often used inside cases for fastening
- 2. dado blades are used on a _____
- 3. what a jointer will make a board
- 4. a roughsawn board
- 5. gap filling glue
- 6. Owen & Steve's shelving legs



Answers to May's Puzzle

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE LIWC

June 5: Annual Picnic at 6 PM (note
the time change)
July 10: Monthly meeting (note date
change)
Round Robin
August 7: To Be Announced

The Marketplace

12 Rockwell Lathe, 39 between centers, 1/2 HP
motor variable speed 340 to 3600 rpm, heavy duty
headstock has double row preloaded ball bearings.
Comes with over \$2,000. of accessories including com-
pound sliding rest, boring bars, chuck and collets,
4,6, and 12 tool rests and more. Includes a floor stand.

Price \$750.

LIWC Board of Directors

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