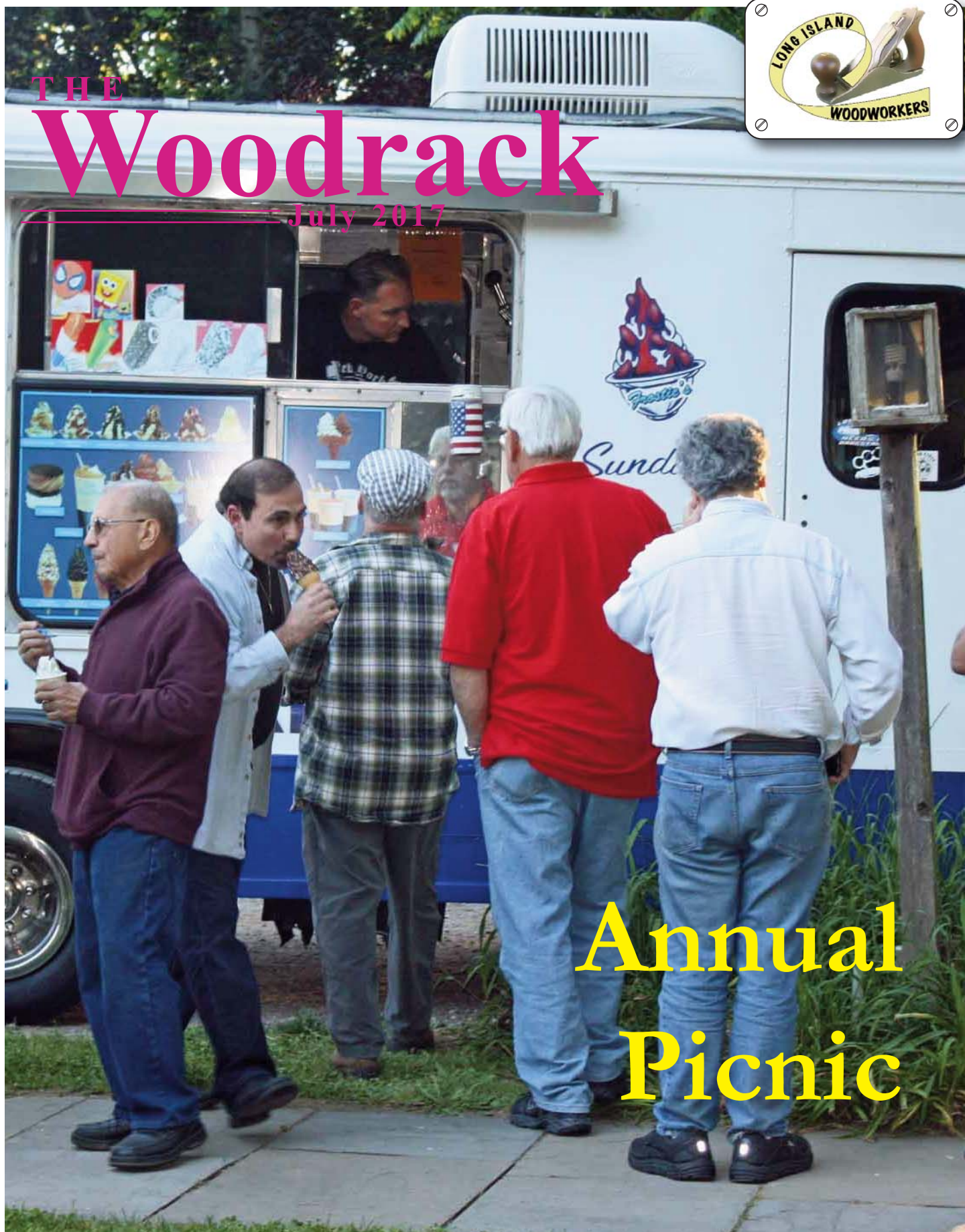


THE Woodrack

July 2017



Annual Picnic

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<i>Photographer Emeritus</i>	Jim Macallum

THIS MONTH:

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

LICFM

THE PUZZLE PAGE

CHISEL RACK REDUX

ROUBO BOOKSTAND

NOTES FROM
THE EDITORDARYL
ROSENBLATT

Naturally, things never work out the way they are supposed to. A few months back, I was asked to get "The Woodrack" back on a 15th of the month release date. The first month was a bit tough since the SIGs hadn't sent in their minutes yet, but it's getting ironed out. So why else don't things work out? Looking at this issue, you might feel it's a bit different... and it is. For the first few years editing our newsletter (this goes back to 2001, so all I can do is sigh), Mike Daum (he was the editor, I was the layout editor) and I went begging for material. In 2004 I even created an April Fools' issue that I was really proud of. Thanks to Steve Fulgoni, who pointed me in the right direction, I was able to find an archive of it online. So now I have to work with Emma on placing it back on our website. It does feel as though I created it a long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away...(it makes sense when you see it).

Anyway, what makes this issue different is we have not one, but TWO articles, another gem by Michael Mittleman, one by Ben Nawrath, and yet another puzzle by Michael. So why isn't it working out? Michael and Ben got their articles to me on time for the new deadline, but I was away. My son Eric and I travelled to Scotland and I didn't get back until this week, so I'm late. Sorry about that. Ok, I hiked my way through Scotland.

I came across a furniture show that was going on in Edinburgh while I was there, so naturally I went. It was a student show for the Chippendale International School of Furniture. I had a good time looking at the great furniture, talking with the students and finding Greyfriars Kirk, the church where the show was held. Greyfriars Kirk is a very big deal in Edinburgh and the world. It was the church where Robert the Bruce (Robert de Bruuse, if you want it right) killed a noble which set him on the path to becoming King of Scotland (don't pay attention to Braveheart, William Wallace was a lot older than Robert). And it's also got a killer cemetery (feel free to groan). This is where an unknown writer just struggling with ideas found inspiration in the headstones and took some of the names for her use. So JK Rowling also got her start there. It was a great trip and I'm not at all sorry for the "The Woodrack" publishing delay.



The Woodrack

Volume 26 Number 5

Next meeting
Wednesday
July 5th 7 PM

Round Robin

The Round Robin is coming up in July, and that means we need YOU.. If you have something you want to demo, or maybe you have a problem and don't know how to do it. Bring them in. We've had members demonstrate french polishing, inlay, and one member couldn't figure out how to lay out dados for a bookcase. So we all had fun teaching him and doing it at the same time. Because if ten members know how to do it, guaranteed that eleven methods will be discussed.

Do you want to know how to sharpen a plane or chisel? Bring them in (plus your sharpening method so we can all have fun showing how there is only ONE WAY (or maybe a thousand) to do it!!!



PICNIC PHOTOS



LICFM



BEN NAWRATH

Tonight's meeting was slightly delayed so Harry could grab a case of waters for the group, our first meeting in hot weather! And they were greatly appreciated. It gave me time to chat with 3 new members that came to check us out. Always good to see new faces.

After officially starting the meeting and welcoming the new folks, Ken, Mike and Jillian, Joe Botts reminded us all that there will be a workshop in October with Jeff Miller helping us to build a Shaker side table. It will be a Friday evening lecture/intro, then all day Saturday and part of Sunday hands-on building. These types of workshops are a fantastic way to dive into a project, and conveniently close to our November show, so I expect a whole section of Shaker tables! Look for details at the July big club meeting.

We're still looking for some help filling in secretarial/note taking duties for meetings if anyone is interested in getting more involved.

For show and tell, Harry showed us benches they're making for Harvard University from trees that had to be removed from campus. Live edge slabs that show the beauty of the wood.

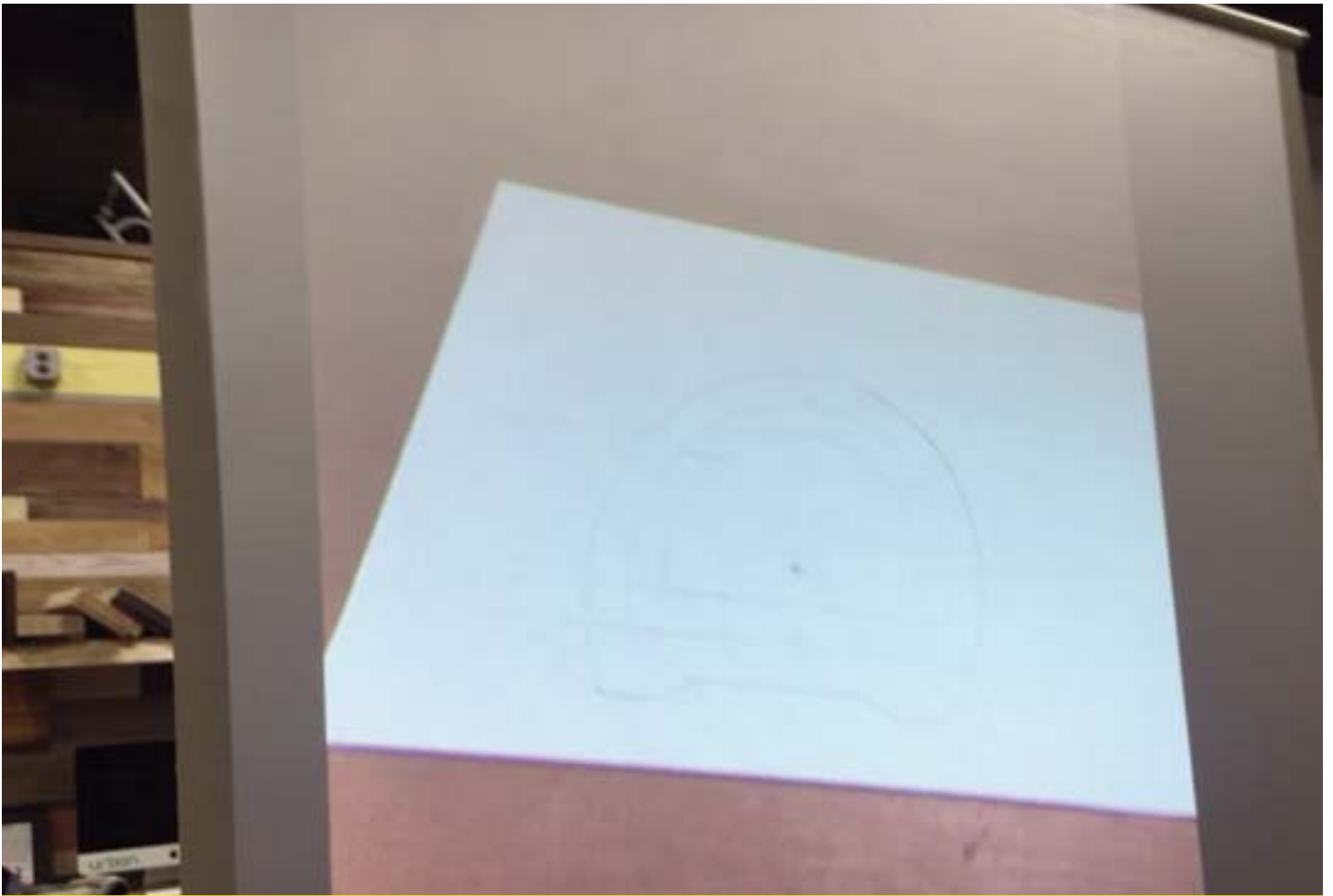
We're reviving our tip of the month segment with Don. This month: glue mess. The tip is originally for cleaning glue off bench, but it works for squeeze-out too. Wood shavings! A mix of planer shavings and fine sawdust work best. Scrub your part with a handful, and presto-changeo, glue's gone.

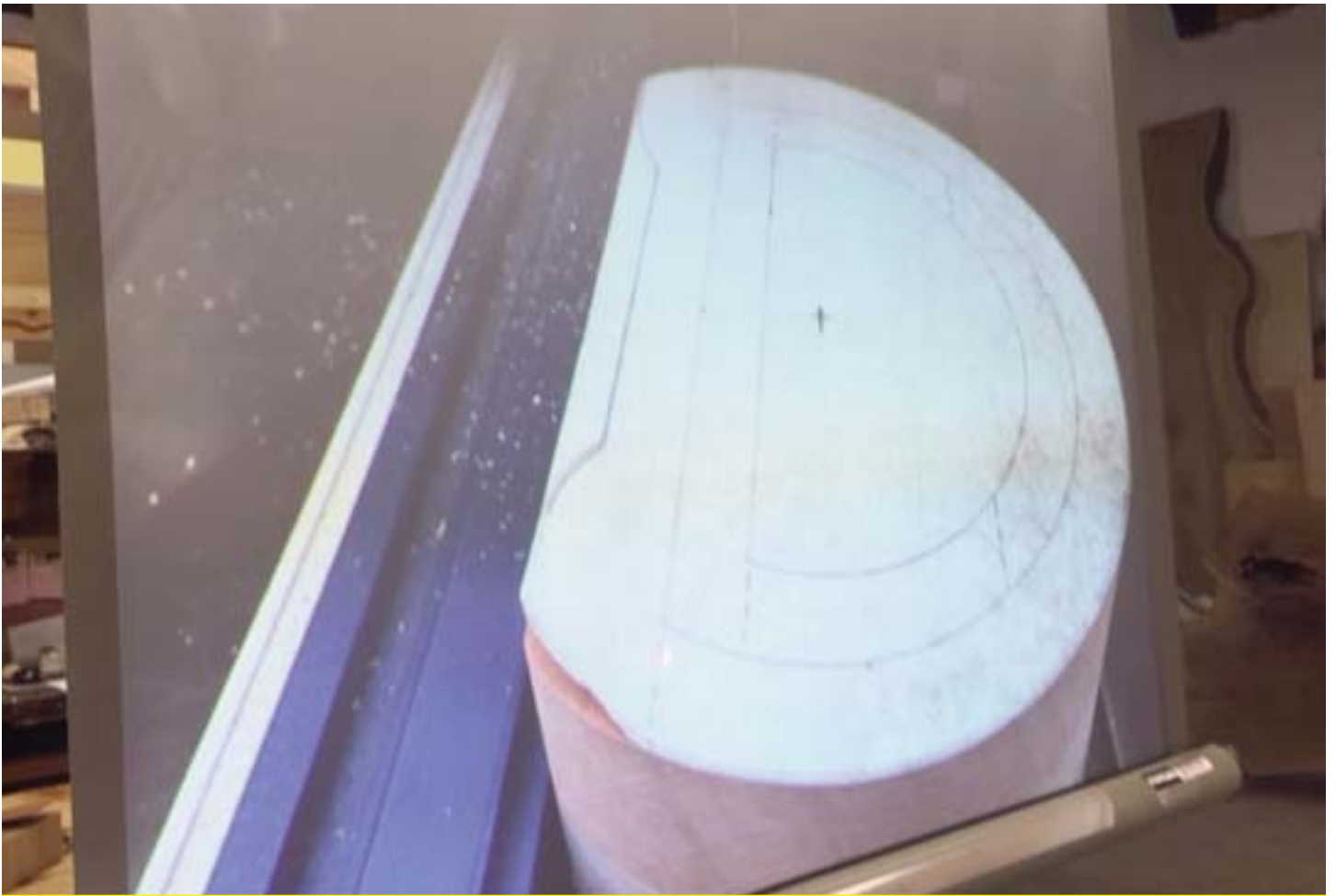
Also, milkshake straws work well at cleaning glue from inside corners. Follow with a damp rag.

Tonight's main topic was band saw boxes with Norm. A quick google/YouTube search will show you a bunch of different varieties, once you decide what you're going for, it's best to make a 1:1 scale drawing of your plan. Solid wood or laminated blocks are both fine and offer a variety of finished looks. Norm likes Baltic birch ply for middle layers. Make sure all pieces are sanded flat for glue and as a reference face. Like most joinery tasks, start square!! Some types of boxes may require different steps or techniques, but this is the basic procedure for the single drawer unit Norm showed us. Glue your pattern on to the front face with spray adhesive. Cut out the outer shape, in this case an arc. Resaw the back off your case, then sand the cut faces since you'll be gluing them back together. Cut the bottom off where the bottom edge of the drawer face will be. Sand your pieces! Cut out the drawer shape from the arc of the case being super careful to follow the line in a single cut. Then cut the front and back of the drawer off. Hog out the inside of the drawer, depending on the shape this can be tricky so plan your cuts! Glue the drawer front and back on and sand the outside of the drawer smooth. Glue the case back onto the bottom using the off-cut as a clamping block, then glue the back of case back on and sand everything flush. Use felt on inside-bottom of the case as a "drawer slide" to lift and center the drawer in the opening. The saw kerfs will have made the drawer smaller than the opening, Norm likes to leave the drawer inset from the front a little and round over the edges.

Everyone really liked the idea of this project, so much so that a few of us are planning to make some in my shop this summer, and Harry even suggested a group workshop! Stay tuned.









WOOD 'N SAWS



MICHAEL R. MITTLEMAN

Circle the words from the list below. Words can appear up, down, backward, forward and diagonally. There is a secret message spelled out by the unused letters.



BALSA

BAND

BEECH

BONE

BOSSE

BOW

BRIAR

BUCK

CHAIN

CHOP

COPING

DOVETAIL

DOZUKI

EBONY

FRET

GABON

HACK

IROKO

JIG

KARRI

KAURI

KEYHOLE

LAUAN

LILAC

LIMBA

MAHOE

MAPLE

MASONARY

MITER

MOABI

NARRA

S	A	B	E	R
P	L	A	N	E
E	U	L	E	R
L	L	A	M	A
L	A	U	A	N

Solution to last month's puzzle

CHISEL RACK REDUX

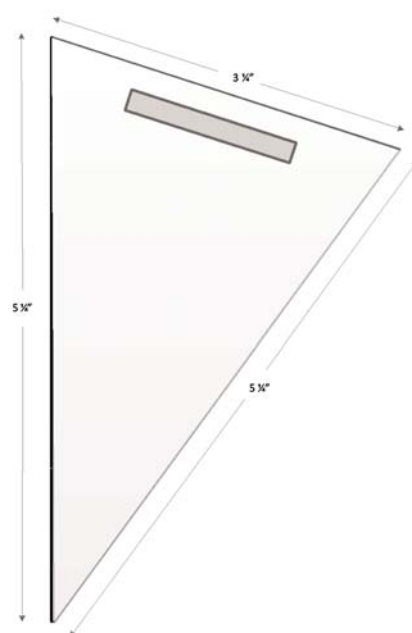
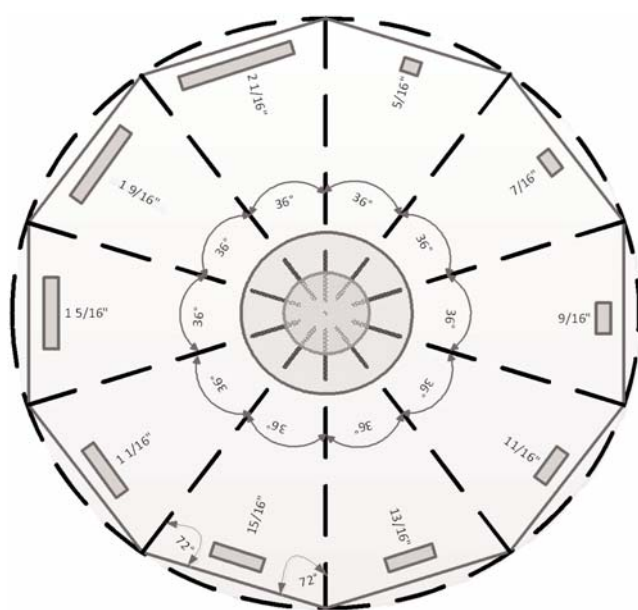


MICHAEL R. MITTLEMAN

The May 2017 issue (Vol. 26, No. 5) of *The Woodworker* newsletter contained a brief article on the construction of a portable chisel rack authored by yours truly. Well, that project exacerbated the author's barely controlled OCD tendencies which in turn led to another design. Instead of a rectangular shape, a decahedron (10-sided figure) emerged.

Decahedron Chisel Holder – Layout Plan and Slot Segment

The imagined storage rack would be height-adjustable and mounted on a Lazy Susan tray. It would hold chisels of



varied widths: $\frac{1}{4}$ ", $\frac{3}{8}$ ", $\frac{1}{2}$ ", $\frac{5}{8}$ ", $\frac{3}{4}$ ", $\frac{7}{8}$ ", 1", $1\frac{1}{4}$ ", $1\frac{1}{2}$ " and 2". Each holder slot was the nominal chisel width plus $\frac{1}{16}$ " for ease of placement and retrieval.

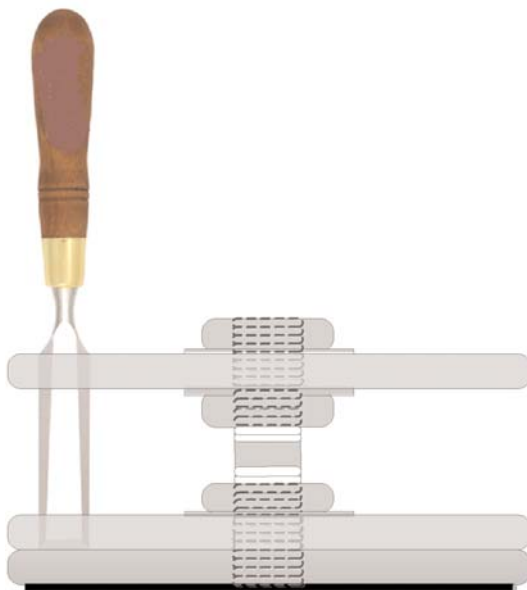
Determining the Chisel Rack Dimensions

As the graphic above shows, the slots can be viewed as a series of ten acute isosceles triangles with common apices of 36° , equal length legs (sides) and base angles of 72° . Thus, each triangle is composed of angles equaling $36^\circ + 72^\circ + 72^\circ = 180^\circ$. Okay so far, but what are the overall dimensions? It is a given that the triangles must be identical in all respects, except for the chisel slot sizes. To maintain matching dimensions, the largest chisel slot ($2'' + \frac{1}{16}''$) had to be accommodated. It was decided to add $\frac{1}{2}''$ to both ends of the largest slot for structure strength, so $\frac{1}{2}'' + 2'' + \frac{1}{16}'' + \frac{1}{2}'' = 3\frac{1}{16}''$ for nominal triangle base length. To simplify the layout process, $3\frac{1}{16}''$ was rounded to $3\frac{1}{4}''$; this was the final size of each base. From that information the triangle side lengths were easy to calculate since angle-side-angle information was now known (72° - $3.25''$ - 72°). Using an online calculator (<https://www.triangle-calculator.com/?what=vc>), it was determined that the side lengths would need to be approximately $5.25''$. Once again referring to the graphic above, the reader can see that the triangle legs (sides) are equivalent to the radius of a circle. Multiplying the radius by 2 provided the diameter of the circle ($5.25'' \times 2 = 10\frac{1}{2}''$);

this is the width of the chisel holder at its maximum point(s).

The height of the holder was obtained empirically by direct measurement of the longest chisel blade. From that figure the thicknesses of the Lazy Susan, base, top, cap nut and washers were summed. The length of the threaded center post was adjustable as determined by practical needs and aesthetics.

Decahedron Chisel Holder – Side Elevation



Construction

As can be seen from the table below, the decahedron chisel holder's minimal parts requirements were easily and inexpensively obtained. However, lessons learned from the build argue against using pine or plywood in any future construction; both chipped and splintered easily when cutting the chisel slots. Maple or cherry would have been better choices and either would not have added significantly to the parts cost.

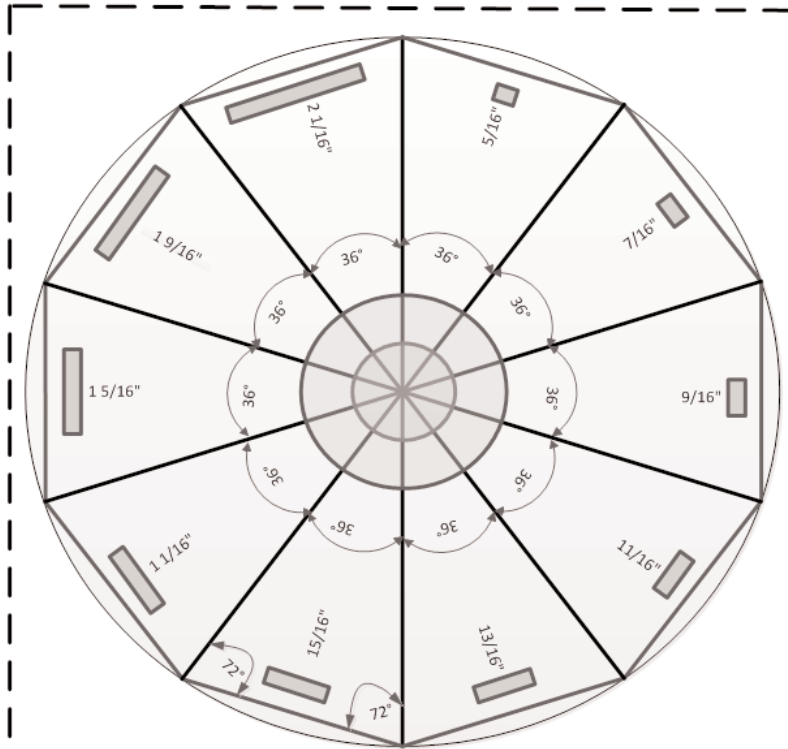
Materials

Part	Dimensions	Pcs
Pine Board	12" X 48" X $\frac{3}{4}$ "	1
Oak Board	6" X 24" X $\frac{3}{4}$ "	1
Maple Dowel	1½" dia. X 36"	1
Lazy Susan Tray	9" dia.	1
Screws	#8 X 1"	4
Parts needed		8

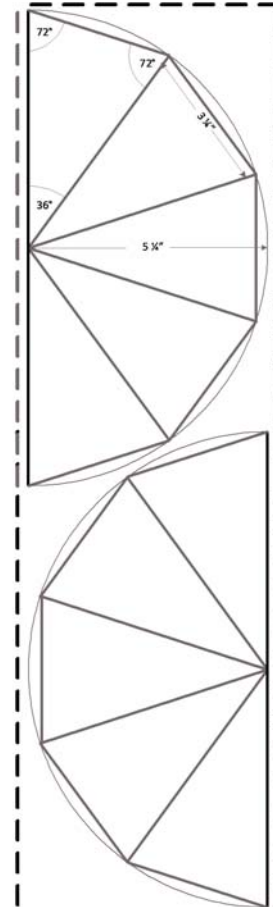
The three shelves (1 on top; 2 for the base) may be formed using two different layouts, see below.

Decahedron Chisel Holder – Alternative Shelf Layout Approaches

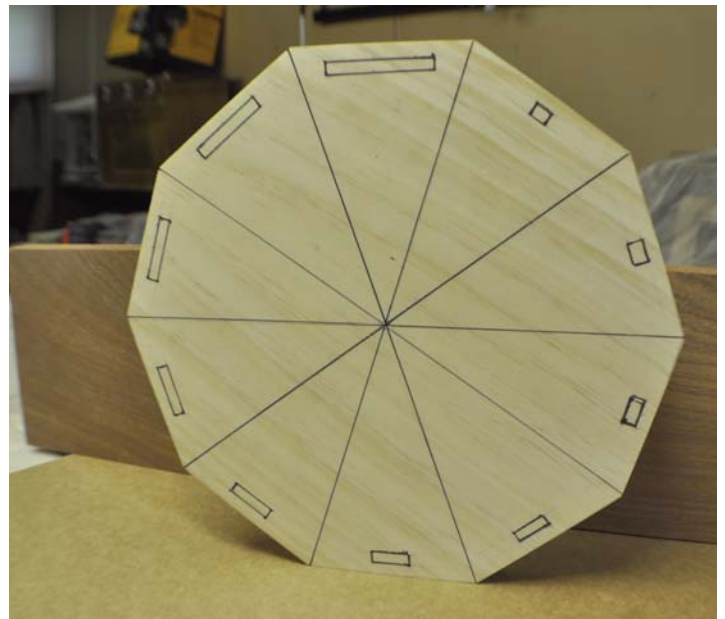
1" x 12" Board



1" x 6" Board



In this project the single board (12" X 48" X $\frac{3}{4}$ ") approach was selected mostly to avoid the dowels + glue + planing and sanding necessary with the second method. Using a compass, three 10½" circles were drawn and then cut from the board as separate 11" X 11" squares. Below is a photo showing most of the raw materials (oak and screws not shown); the other depiction displays the first tray minus cut chisel slots.



Accurately cutting the 10 edges which form the decahedron using a table saw or bandsaw would be challenging without a crosscut sled and precise miter gauge. Using a router and a template could be considered. For those wishing to develop their deltoids, a handsaw should work too. Two of the three trays required identical chisel slots, i.e., the slots were cloned with respect to length, width, depth and placement. Next, a 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ " diameter hole was drilled through the centers of all three trays.



After the chisel slots were mortised into the trays, one of the platters was glued to the remaining non-slotted tray forming a 1 1/2" thick base. Both the top and bottom were routed with a 1/4" roundover bit.



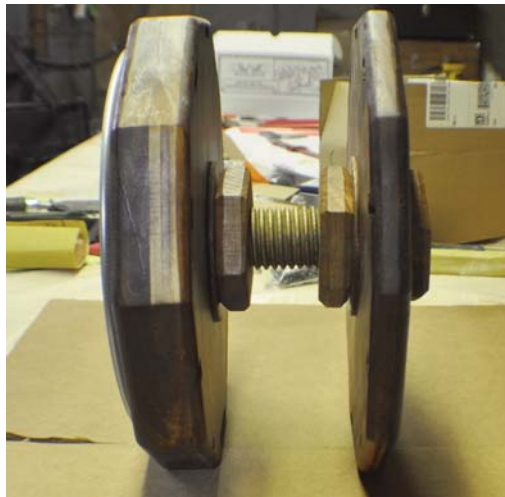
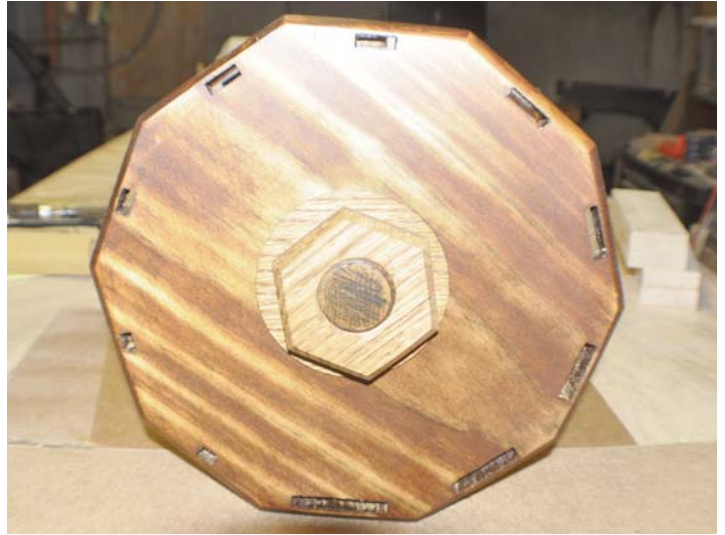
Using a 1 1/2" tap and die set for wood, 6 TPI threads were cut in the tray center holes, support post and three oak nuts.



The parts were dry-assembled to verify fit, then disassembled, sanded and finished with stain and 3 coats of polyurethane. The Lazy Susan base was attached to the bottom.



Final assembly results in one's very own, adjustable height, decahedron chisel holder mounted on a Lazy Susan platform!



ET VOILA!



LICFM

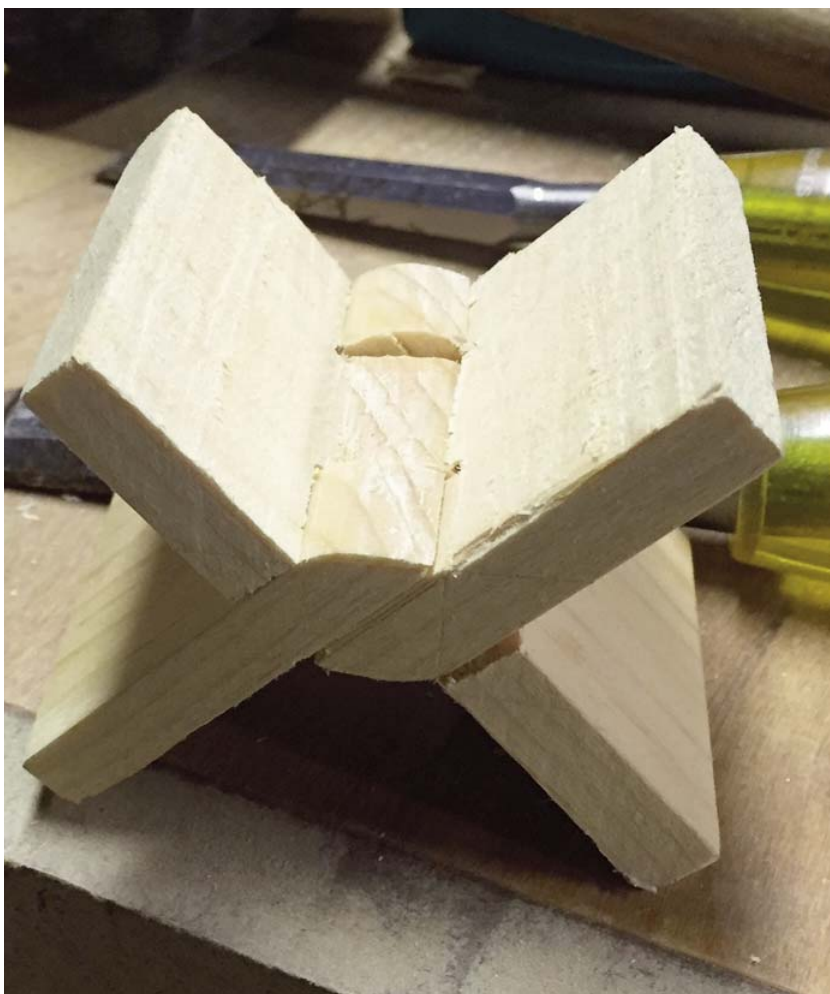


BEN NAWRATH

Want to learn how to do something? Volunteer to do a demonstration.

A couple of years ago, I was headed down a very deep YouTube rabbit hole, when I came across an episode of “The Woodwright’s Shop” where Roy was making a Roubo bookstand. I was drawn to the concept of taking a single board and making it into two interlocked pieces that move, as opposed to most of what I’d done, which is taking multiple pieces of wood and joining them so they didn’t move. I did a whole bunch of Googling and found several more videos of people making these bookstands. Some were better than others, both in the quality of the bookstand and the video production, which goes a long way in keeping my attention! They also varied in their approach and tools used, which I found enlightening.

Fast forward several months (which happens to my projects a lot with a toddler around), and I found myself with a couple of hours of shop time. I spent the first hour cleaning up and uncovering my bench and table saw (also happens too often), and I was looking for something to do, but I didn’t want to start on a big project that would drag on for weeks. A “test joint” for the bookstand would be perfect! I had watched so many videos that I had the basic steps laid out in my head no problem. Saint Roy used an egg beater drill, but I decided I didn’t need to be the hero of my own garage, so I reached for my 12 volt Bosch. Otherwise, a few basic layout and hand tools were all that’s needed. And my camera. It turned out to only take an hour to do! It’s only a piece of 1X4 with 3 “knuckles” in it, but the fundamentals were there. It also highlighted some shortcomings in my tool collection. A couple of lunch hours spent online shopping cured that J



Fast forward another couple of months, our November show was approaching, and the call for demonstrators had gone out. Another one of these test joints would be the perfect demo to do leisurely at the LICFM booth. I knew I could do it in an hour, it didn’t require any big tools or lots of wood, and in my own head I had a lot to say about it. Naturally, I didn’t get a chance to do any more test pieces, so I went into the demo cold. It went surprisingly well with the small crowd staying interested and asking good questions. But I felt like I didn’t say half the things I intended to, and that I fumbled through a bit. Afterwards, a friend of mine asked me how many of those I’d made. Judging by the look on his face when I told him “that’s number 2,” I think he assumed I practiced a lot. So apparently I put on a good show!

Fast forward a whole year and I had not only made a few more test pieces at the round robin, but I was working on a larger version, so I was confident I could do a real demo for the show. I had a couple of new saws to try out, and I even brought my egg beater drill. Well, the holes I drilled came out about ¼” off on the back side of the board. I guess that’ll

happen when you're clumsily cranking away with a drill bit measured in 64ths of an inch. Another great example of how this project provokes self-reflection. But overall it went well. I even had a couple of members say they were inspired to make their own. I've seen Norm's, but I'm still waiting on a certain member whose name I won't mention specifically, but it rhymes with "Tim Fancy".

That same day I told Corey that I'd be happy to do a demo at a club meeting, knowing I was working on a larger version. So a few months later I drew up a pattern in the CAD program at work to make an E size print to show the layout, and packed a bag with various squares, chisels, saws, etc. I made a clamping/angle block jig to help chisel out the knuckles, and I experimented with a couple of different rip saws. That night at the meeting, I didn't do any cutting, but I showed all of the steps needed and the tools I used. Most importantly, I wanted to highlight how this project was a great layout and hand tool exercise that really made me focus on some fundamental techniques I could apply to any project. The folks in attendance were great as always, asking questions and offering suggestions for different techniques and tools to make things easier and more accurate.

Too often I think people get so immersed in a project and following a plan that they don't take a step back and really think about and simplify what they're doing. At least I know I do! It happens a lot in the engineering/design world where you think you've "started fresh", and then someone walks up to you and says something simple like "why is that round? Why not make it square?" and the palm immediately goes to the face. Over the course of a couple of years, I had gone from using a cheap square and pencil to a nice square, marking gauge and knife for layout. A coping saw blade with the end snipped off, to a fret saw or scroll saw. An old back saw to a new Japanese rip saw for the final cut. Two different hand drilling styles to the drill press. A quick grip clamp on the edge of my bench to a dedicated jig to hold the work. And from eye-balling the chisel cuts to using an angled paring block. Volunteering to show others gave me motivation along the way to improve my technique. I've always said, you don't really realize just how much you do, or don't, know about a given topic until you try to teach or explain it to someone. By the end of the night, I realized I knew a lot, but had a ways to go. And understanding you *don't* know everything is the key to learning to be better at something.



The Marketplace

Routers,Sanders,Drills and more for sale,

Dennis Taddeo 631 543 2256

I have to sell my shop; all the tools. They are currently in storage in Garden City, and need help cataloging and sorting it. That also gives you first crack at buying them. Among the tools are a 3 HP Saw Stop; a dust collection system, Sears drill press; Lie Nielsen bench; 2 speed Delta planer; 6" Powermatic jointer; 14" bandsaw; dust collection system; Festool vacuum; router table; air compressor; drills, hand tools etc.

Harry Aristodou 516-306-4780 aristidouhc@msn.com