

THE Woodrack

January 2021



December Meeting

EDITOR'S NOTE: I DON'T THINK ANYTHING BROUGHT ME MORE PLEASURE THIS YEAR THAN TO PUT THE DATE OF THE ISSUE AS 2021. ENJOY READING IT, BECAUSE **NOBODY** I KNOW WANTS TO SAY THOSE FOUR DIGITS IN THAT ORDER EVER AGAIN.

LIW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>President</i> | Mike Daum |
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| <i>Secretary</i> | Michael R. Mittleman |
| <i>Treasurer</i> | Steve Fulgoni |
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| <i>Turner's Guild SIG President</i> | Jim Moloney |
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| <i>Website</i> | Jim Heick |
| | Jim Moloney |
| | Emma Hendler |
| <i>Show Chair</i> | Bill Leonhardt |
| | Harry Slutter |
| <i>Raffles</i> | Brian McKnight |
| | Mark Oriano |
| <i>Refreshments</i> | Jean Piotrowski |
| | Charlie Felsen |
| <i>Audio/Video</i> | Rich Riedel |
| <i>Programs</i> | Corey Tighe |
| | Bill Leonhardt |
| <i>Photographer</i> | Jim Moloney |

THIS MONTH:**SECRETARY'S NOTES****LICFM****TURNERS GUILD****LISA****PUZZLE****THE PLANE TRUTH****STRUTS FOR A MODEL BIPLANE****SECRETARY'S
NOTES****MICHAEL
MITTMAN**

The December 2nd General Meeting was called to order by LIW President Mike Daum at 7:00 PM. Once again, the session continued the live-streaming format due to COVID-19 restrictions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Mike D. reported that all incumbent board members, including SIG presidents, have been re-elected. LIW charity work is alive and well. Barry Saltsberg has received a thank you letter from the Beads of Courage organization for our contributions earlier in the fall. The Toys for Tots initiative is in full swing. Besides the numerous drop-off locations available throughout Nassau and Suffolk, Mike Yowhan has generously offered to deliver all donations dropped off at his house. Members seeking drop-off assistance can contact Mike Daum or Mike Yowhan for help.

OTHER BUSINESS Mike Daum indicated that Tom McLaughlin, founder of Epic Woodworking, and host of TV's Classic Woodworking, will be a guest speaker in either January or February.

LIW Vice President Bill Leonhardt provided an update regarding potential locations for the 2021 LIW Annual Show. Bill has been in communication with both the Cradle of Aviation and OBVR (Old Bethpage Village Restoration). Both of these sites have been beleaguered by the impact of COVID-19. OBVR mentioned \$8K for use of the barn exposition space. Bill is looking for alternative venues and he asked members with suggestions to email him. One possibility in Port Jefferson was mentioned by member Robert Crespolini. He will take a deeper dive and report his findings to Bill L.

Mike Mittleman reported on the progress to date regarding the transition to 501(c)(3) status. We have been granted a corporate name reservation of Long Island Woodworkers, Inc. by the NYS Department of State. The LIW Certificate of Incorporation has been updated to reflect that name. The application to establish a new organization using that name will be submitted shortly.

Jim Moloney, Woodturners Guild SIG President, indicated there will be a Zoom meeting on 12/10. Ben Nawrath, Cabinet and Furniture Makers SIG President, has scheduled a Zoom meeting for 12/8. Jim Hennefield is scheduled to present. Steve Kelman, Scrollsaw SIG President, has scheduled a meeting on December 17th. Member Alain Tiercy will provide a demonstration. No Carver meeting is scheduled.

NEW MEMBERS None presented.

The Woodrack

Volume 30 Number 1

Next meeting
Wednesday January 6th, 7 pm

Virtual Meeting

Pre meeting chat starts at 6:30

TREASURER'S REPORT Treasurer Steve Fulgoni indicated that rent covering a quarter-year was submitted to the Smithtown Historical Society for use of the Brush Barn. Current balances exceed historical amounts because of the cessation of rent for in-person meetings.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT Joe Bottigliere reported there has been little change in membership levels. Joe also reminded members that donations are welcome.

SHOW AND TELL Ben Nawrath displayed tool handles he has made. An interesting feature is the perfect circular scoring he etched into the handles using his lathe and fine, coarse wire to burnish the circles.

Brian Monks and Charlie Felsen also exhibited handles they had created.

Alain Tiercy showed Christmas Trees which included exhaustive fret work. Alain's construction material was 1/8" plywood. The detail was amazing.

Rick Nicolini shared photographs of a life-size creche he is building.

Steve Price made a tissue box using ebony for the end pieces and an unidentified Hawaiian wood species for the sides. Steve also had a spoon and fork he carved from that same mysterious Hawaiian wood. Nice work, Steve.

Mike Luciano displayed a handsome rocking chair in the Sam Maloof style he is building. Sapele was used throughout. Gorgeous.

Member Norm Bald exhibited creches he has built using post and beam construction. As always, Norm's work was meticulous.

Rich Riedel showed cherry wood spoons he has carved. Beautiful, Rich.

Joe Maday showed a set of four drawers he has made which include hand-cut half dovetails connecting the sides and fronts. They are components of a period bamboo dresser under construction. Joe's brilliant craftsmanship was on full display.

DRAWING WINNERS Skipped due to the meeting format.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

JANUARY MEETING There will be a live-stream General Meeting starting at 7 PM on January 6, 2021. The session will be on Zoom and Facebook.







LICFM



BOB WOOD

Some administrative business was first brought up for the December 8th meeting.-finances and no board changes.

SHOW AND TELL Daryl Rosenblatt showed a model ship hull covered with forty-three hundred copper tiles, you read it right “4300”. Daryl uses only Tite Bond II, not I or III to attach the tiles which he also recommends for metal inlay.

Rick Nicolini is making a Christmas lawn display which is based on a brick fireplace facade he got from Fortunoff’s; it was going to be thrown out. Part of the fireplace is a textured plywood.

Roger Ehrler was next with a cutting board made of five-eighths inch Bamboo, which he bought from Rockler-eight inch by thirty-two-inch strips. Roger made some grooves-straight and decorative. Routing the grooves must be done very slowly to avoid splits.

Ben Nawrath brought up a tip for filling gaps or cracks. Mix sawdust with the liquid that is going to be used to finish the project. Ben believes he saw the suggestion on You Tube entitled Bourbon Moth. Some members said that white glue works fine and dries clear.

Tony Fuoco made a plywood laminated table approximately twenty inches high and sixteen inches wide. It was configured into a serpentine design and done in sections about two inches wide to get to the total width.

Tom Ryan made banding of diamond shaped Purpleheart and Maple.

Some discussion was of the proper bits to use in a router table and there were suggestions on how to secure the bit in the collet or by marking the bit itself.

One product was praised for its ease of use and accuracy-the Incra Miter Express Sled.

Jim Hennefield was the main presenter and started using a spice cabinet as his focal point. Jim pointed out two plugs that showed because the grain wasn’t oriented correctly with the carcass. Jim’s solution was to turn the plug until the plugs disappeared. Jim advised when using plug cutters to wax the insides frequently.

Jim’s cabinet was dovetailed and the dovetails were placed so that the cabinet could be cut in two on a bandsaw. When making then cut Jim made sure the bottom of the cabinet was kept against the fence. Jim set the hinges with glue and tape. The handle was made of Cocobolo, Mahogany with a Maple inset. Two magnets keep the door closed.

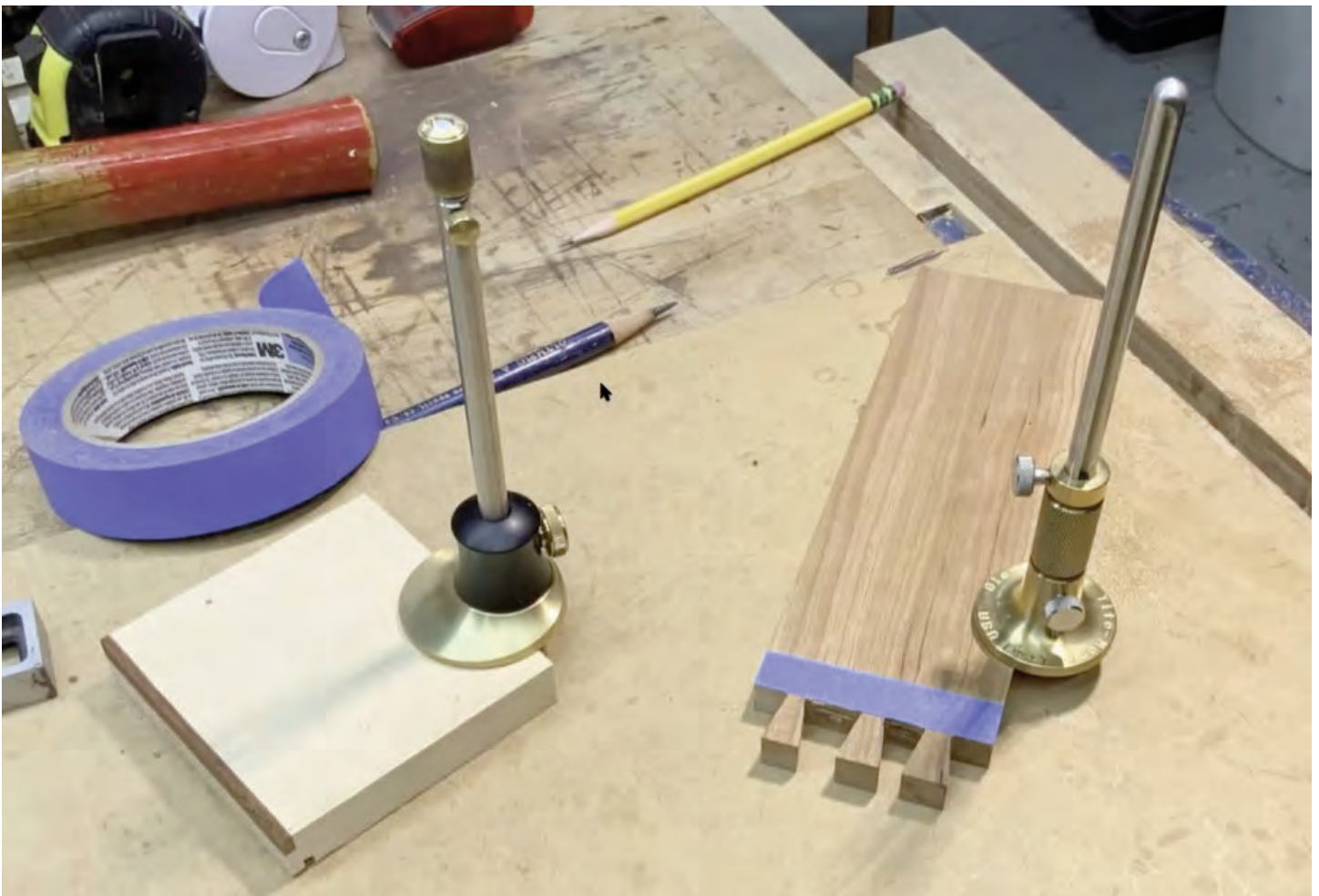
Jim made the through dovetails using a marking gauge over tape. Jim’s dovetails are six to one at nine and a half degrees. To mark the dovetails, Jim uses a dovetail square like a saddle square. Jim advises using two marking gauges. Jim especially likes the Glenn Drake gauge. Jim saws the dovetails on one side; the side where you can see the marks and then turn the board around and saw the rest. The trouble is not cutting the dovetails but cleaning out the base. JIM USES A ROUTER AND A “BIRDS BEAK” JIG. HAVING THE TAPE ALSO HELPS IN THE ACCURACY. AN ARTICLE in Fine Woodworking in 2012 shows the use of tape so that the marking knife does not get pulled away by the grain. Some very good points were made in Jim’s presentation and there was good interaction while Jim was demonstrating.

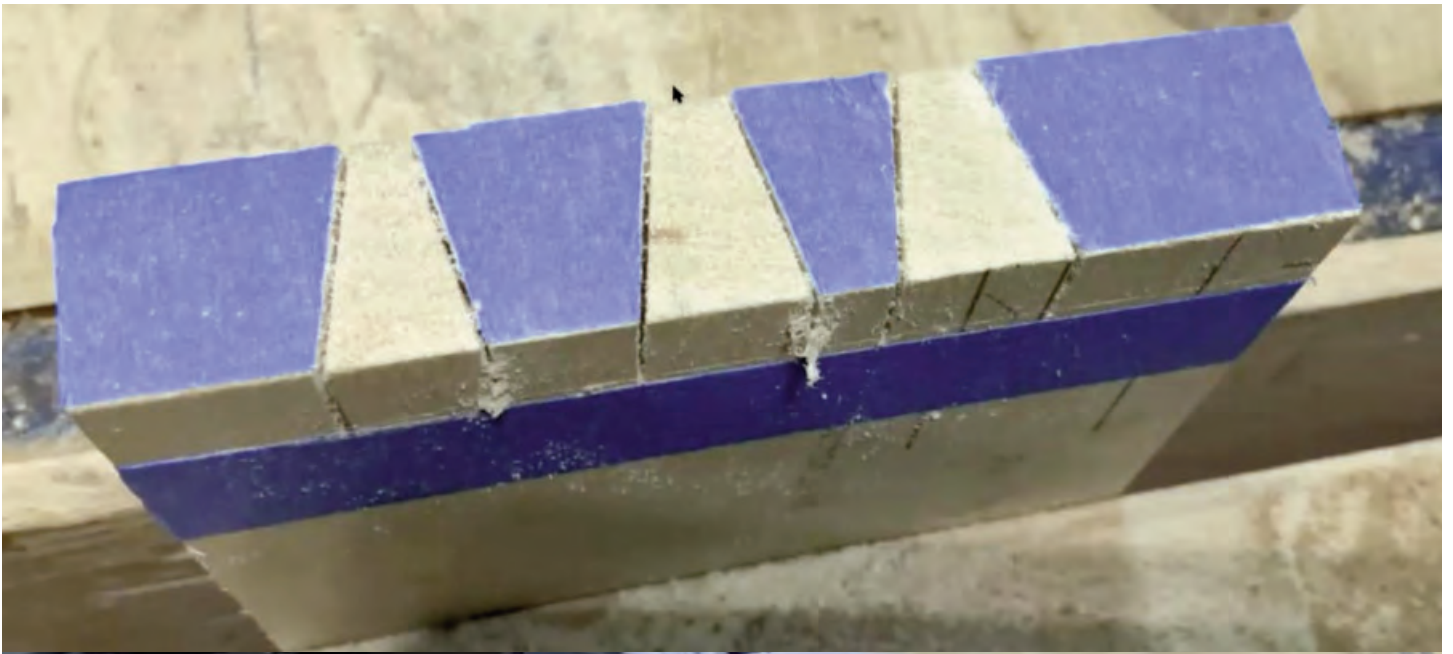
The presentation was followed by a related topic of grain patterns and how to determine the inside and outside of the tree looking at “cathedrals” in the wood.

Joe Maday gave the group a follow up of his authentic Bombay chest. The research and actual work are months in the making. Joe said he made the patterns from eighth inch Homesote and uses CA glue on the edges so they are more rigid. Joe, in keeping with authenticity, uses cut nails for some of the assembly. Joe predrills the holes for the nails and places them wide part with the grain. Joe will probably finish with a mixture of Asphaltium, Mineral Spirits, Turpentine and Linseed Oil.









TURNER'S GUILD







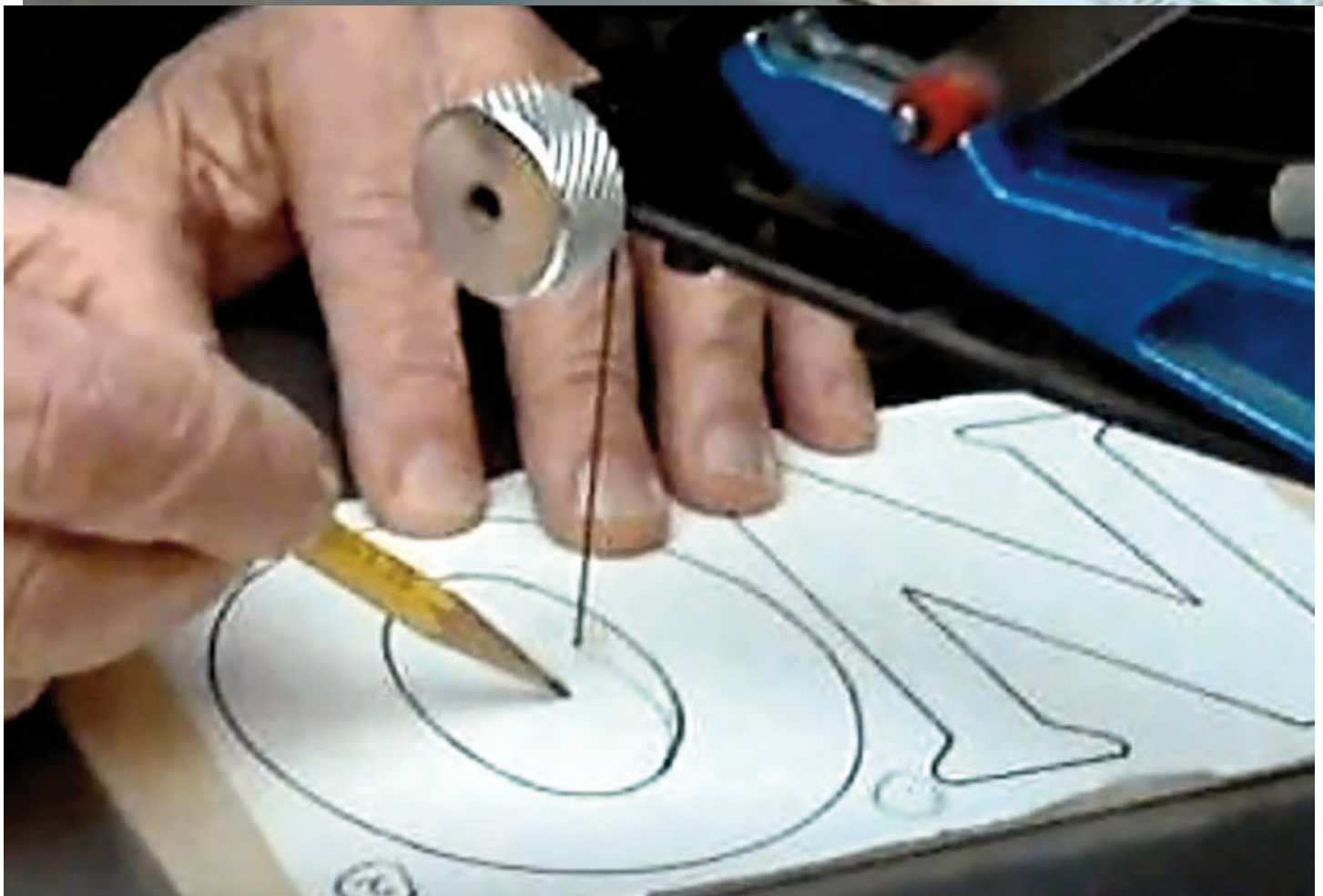
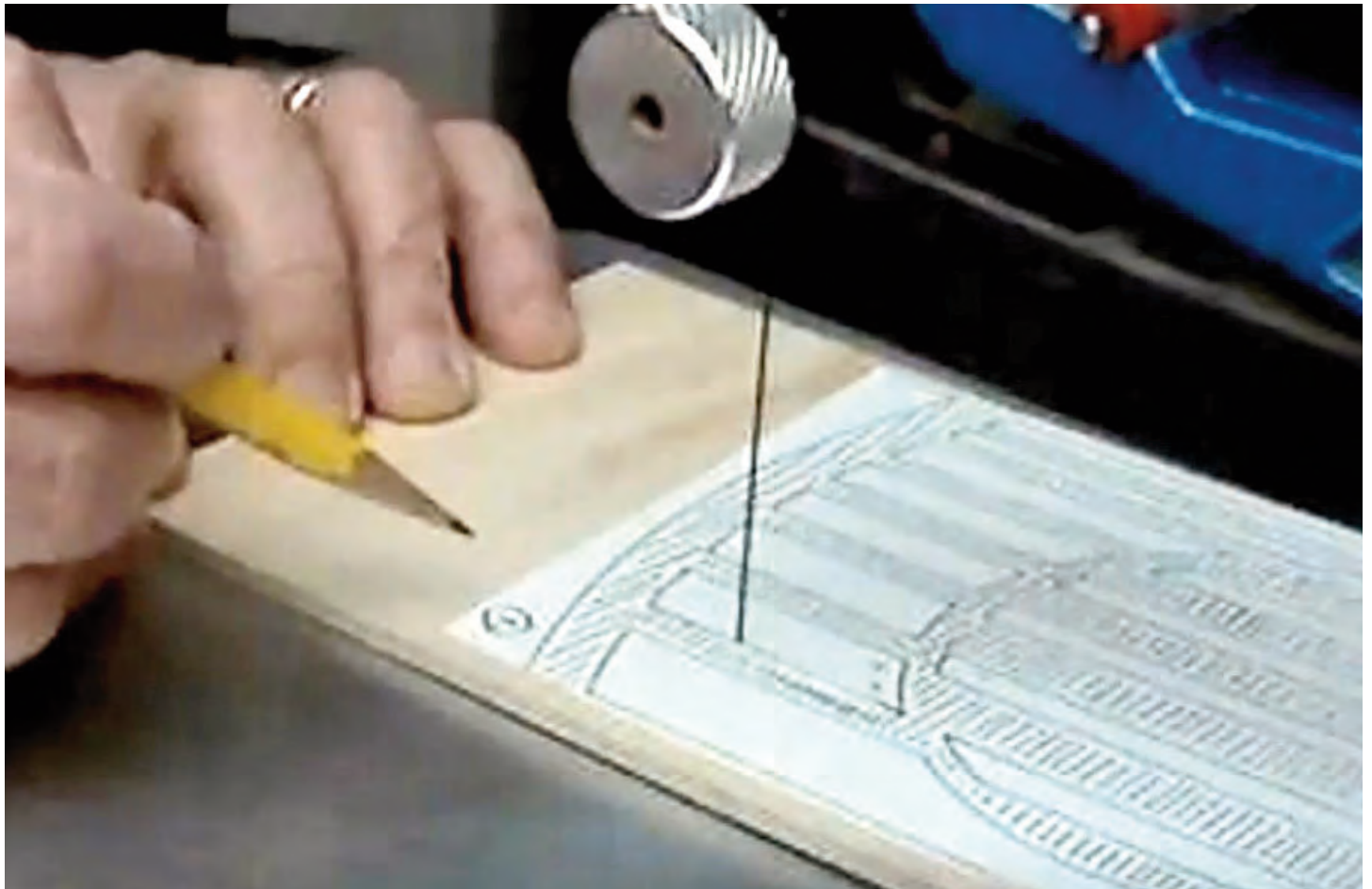
LISA PHOTOS

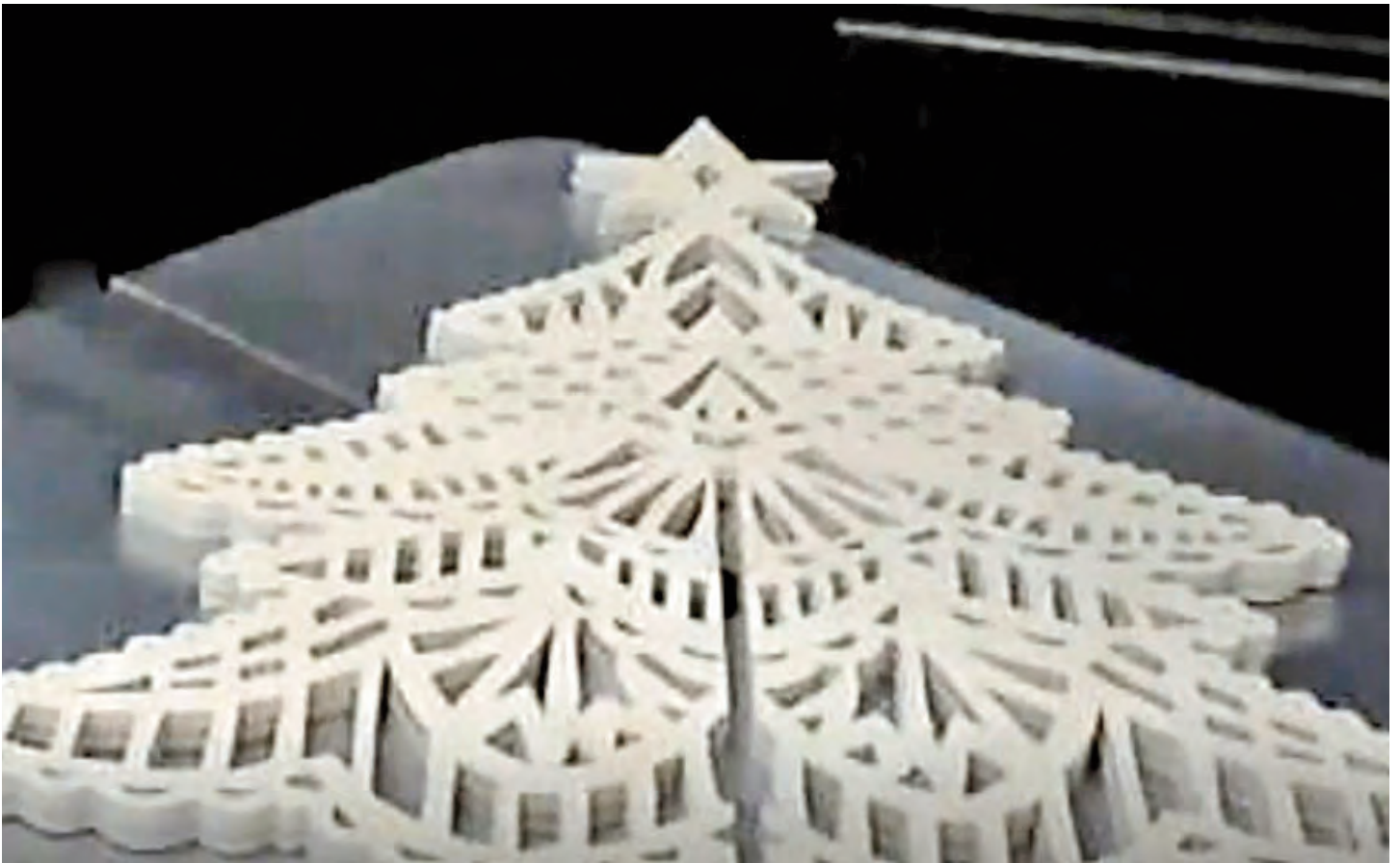












PUZZLE

MICHAEL R. MITTLEMAN

Ring in the New Year

Michael R. Mittleman

| | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | |
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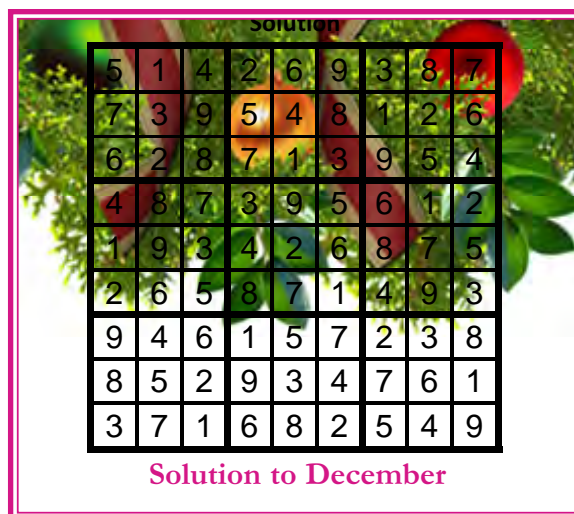
Clues

Across

1. Waits
7. Rings
8. Everyday
9. Release
10. Be a go-between
11. Put (away)

Down

1. Juries
2. I need air!
3. "Can you believe it?!"
4. The top
5. Go by, as time
6. Dirty?



HOW TO STEEL A PLANE



DARYL ROSENBLATT

We've heard this over and over, one way to improve almost any plane is to get a better plane iron. OK, let's check it out: The Big Three, Lie-Nielsen, Lee Valley and Hock Tools all have very well deserved reputations for providing quality steel for blades (planes, chisels spokeshaves, etc.). The options are as follows:

Lee Valley: Provides irons in O1, A2 and PM-V11 (their new proprietary alloy).

Lie-Nielsen: Provides only A2 steel

Hock Tools: Provides A2 and O1.

Two internet sources were very helpful in writing this: Mike Mittleman sent me a link to a website: <https://www.wallybois.com/hard-steel-or-soft-steel-for-sharp-edges/> which talks about the differences in tool steels, going deeper into the topic than is the scope of my article, which is really meant to address only two questions: What are the good and bad points of the three current types of steel used for plane and chisel blades, and why should you mix and match them for different tools? And the YouTube channel of British woodworker Matt Estlea, who is very entertaining. Since I'm a flat boarder, I leave high speed steels for turners to someone who has that expertise. (I should point out, I am NO expert. I just did some digging and am happy to share what I found out.).

Which do you choose? Any of them, actually, since each steel has its own pluses and minuses. ALL are an improvement over 80CRV2 - a chrome vanadium alloy now best left to kitchen knives (and was the high end steel used by Primus for their wood planes). If you haven't read last month's article on infill planes, shame on you. It's still available for download, go ahead, I'll wait ... There is a section on how wood has changed over the years, and how tool steel has risen to the challenge. Kiln drying alters some of the characteristics in wood, making it more difficult to work by hand. The newer steels were designed to compensate for that.

O1: As the Wally Bois website noted, the "O" stands for Oil quenched, while the "A" stands for air quenched. This impacts the molecular structure of the steel. O1 is a relatively soft steel, it sharpens very well, sharper than the other steels mentioned here - a plus. However, since it's softer, it won't keep the edge as long as the others - a minus. That means you have to stop more frequently to sharpen, but it's also easier to sharpen than the other steels. In my opinion, O1 is at its best in tools like shoulder and rabbet planes, and any others needed for spot-on joinery. This is where you really need a well-tuned blade. The idea is that your blade will take off the light shavings a shoulder plane requires. O1 allows that razor sharpness required. But once it gets a little dull, it stops cutting. It's time to sharpen again.

A2: Lie Nielsen only uses these. It's harder, so it's going to hold an edge longer than O1. However, it takes a bit longer to sharpen. Theoretically, it won't be as razor sharp as O1. This is really a relative issue, since it's still going to be really sharp. For me, this kind of steel is good for bench planes and chisels, where you want to keep working. Unless you are really going for that final gossamer wisp of wood (let's say with a smoothing plane), it's sharp enough (and in many cases, you are going to scrape or sand the surface anyway).

PM-V11: It's a compromise steel. It lets you get sharper than A2 and it holds up longer than O1. If you are an absolute master of hand tool joinery, you might prefer O1 in your shoulder planes, I think most of us might not notice the difference.

How to sharpen is another article, or really 50 articles, because everyone has their own method and swears it's the

best. I've decided not to be a sharpening bigot; I have water, oil and ceramic stones, a granite plate and sandpaper, as well as a WorkSharp. I'll use whatever I need to get to sharp as quickly as possible. I should note that, in the first draft, I had a paragraph on cryogenically treated blades, which I don't like for a variety of reasons, but realized, they went beyond the scope of this article.

So which steel to choose? If I had to go with only one, it would be A2, since I prefer working to sharpening. I'm not such a maven that I worry about my shoulder plane not being the perfect tool it already isn't (this was pointed out by Matt Estlea). And A2 is cheaper than PM-V11. Hock Blades sells both A2 and O1. If you aren't sure, just call and ask Ron. He usually answers the phone. If I were getting planes from Lee Valley, I guess I would go the extra mile for the PM-V11. But if you don't mind sharpening and want the keenest edge, I would go with O1. I personally wouldn't, but who am I to argue? While I don't mind sharpening, I'm also not a perfectionist, which is why I would recommend A2. There is also the: "If it's good enough for Lie-Nielsen, it's good enough for me" rationale.

The only real suggestion I can make is to keep your tools sharp, and then it won't really matter which of these new tools steels you pick.

Editor's (OK, in this case, writer's note): This article was prepared with the help of Joe Bottigliere. He said he didn't need any credit, but if you disagree with any of the points here, those are clearly his, and he can take the blame instead.

A SUPER-SIMPLE BANDSAW PATTERN-CUTTING JIG



MICHAEL R. MITTLEMAN

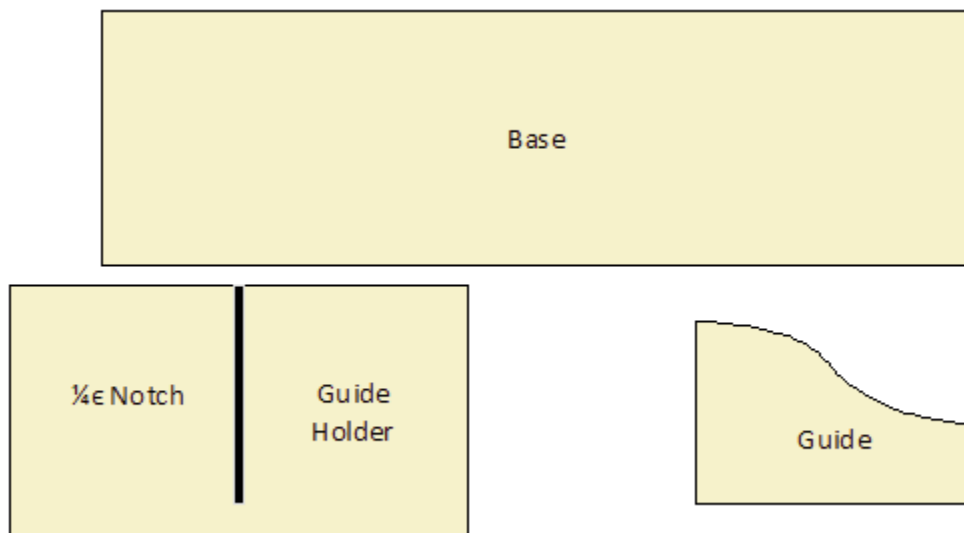
Ok, let's admit it – most of us do not have Michael Fortune's ability to maintain a hand-guided 1/8" or less cutting line when using a bandsaw, at least I don't. The idle hours posed by COVID-19 isolation have provided more hours of 'Net surfing and YouTube time. And lo and behold, occasional gems pop-up. On one such foray, I came across a short video that does not include audio*. It demonstrates the jig in use and its construction. Careful viewing reveals some general metric measurements for the three parts used in the build. After converting to the imperial scale and adjusting for the 14" bandsaw I use, the jig emerged. Not only does it work, the total cost of materials was about \$1.50. Build time was about an hour. Interested? Well, read on.

The materials include:

| Part | Pcs. | Thickness | Width | Length | Notes |
|--------------|------|-----------|-------|--------|-----------------------------|
| Base | 1 | ¾" | 5 ½" | 19" | Solid wood (ply won't work) |
| Guide Holder | 1 | ½" | 5 ½" | 10" | |
| Guide | 1 | 1 ½" | 4" | 5 ½" | Vertical Grain |

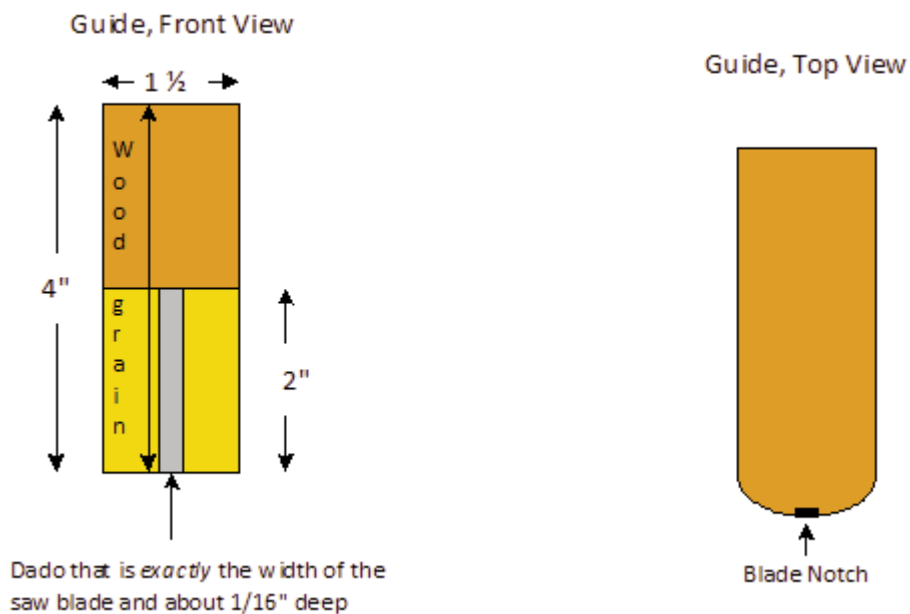
| Hardware | Size |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| ¼-20 Hex Lag Screws | 2 ¼-20 x 1 ¼" |
| ¼-20 Fender Washers | 2 ¼-20 x 1" |
| Flathead Wood Screws | 2 #10 x 1 ¼" |

Here are sketches of the three main components:

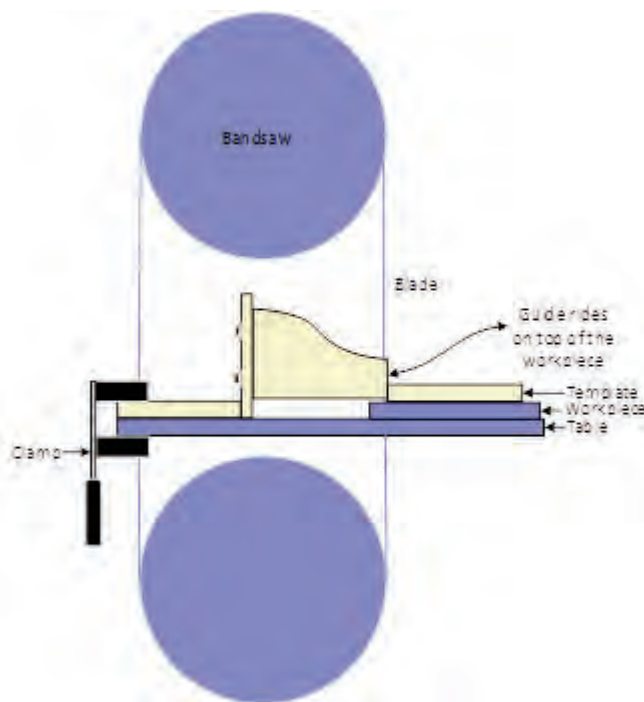


* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6aCnrkKQSI&list=WL&index=1&t=380s>.

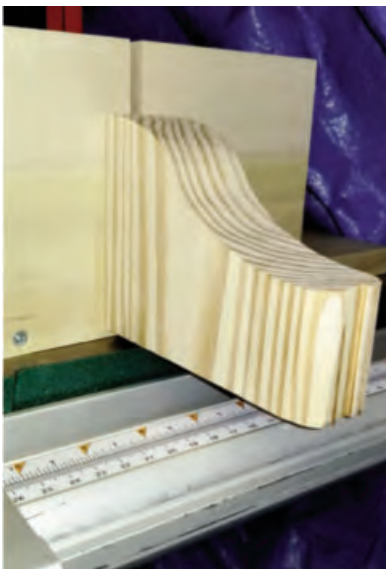
The base is simply a flat board of solid wood that is $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $5\frac{1}{2}$ " x 19". The guide holder is also a flat board of solid wood measuring $\frac{1}{2}$ " x $5\frac{1}{2}$ " x 10". The thickness could be greater, say $\frac{3}{4}$ ", but be sure that the hex lag screws are long enough to accommodate the washers, thickness of the holder, and go at least $\frac{3}{4}$ " into the guide. The holder's $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide notch needs to be precise and fit snugly around the hex lag screws. Stop the notch about $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the bottom. Last, is the guide. It is cut from 2" x 6" scrap and measures $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x 4" x $5\frac{1}{2}$ ". It is important to note that the wood grain should run vertically.



Once assembled, the jig should look something like the following:



Once the materials for the jig are assembled, the actual construction should be under one hour. In terms of performance, the jig assures precise replication which is especially useful when cutting multiple pieces. Checkout the photos below:



The northeast and northwest pictures give an idea of how close the jig cuts to the template. There is a $1/16'' - 1/8''$ edge beyond the pattern, just the amount needed for template routing. The southwest picture emphasizes the guide's vertical grain direction and the shallow dado for the bandsaw blade. The photograph in the southeast corner shows how the hex lag screws and fender washers lock the guide into position once the proper height relative to the template is established.

As designed in this article, the jig will handle workpieces ranging in thickness of near $0''$ to $1\frac{1}{2}''$. Go ahead, spend a couple of bucks, and risk an hour of your time to construct a bandsaw pattern-cutting jig of your very own.