

# THE Woodrack

July 2023

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## The Roubo Bookstand Weekend Workshop

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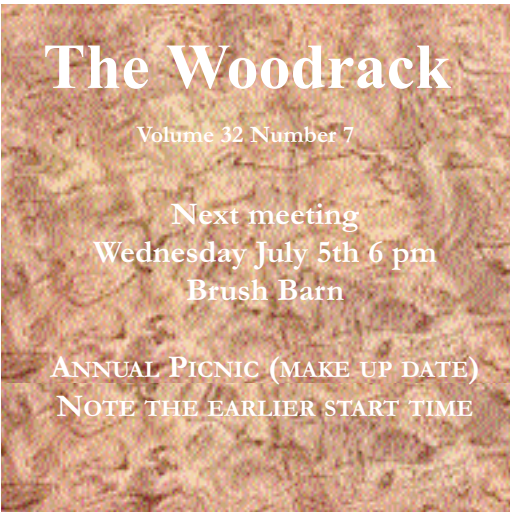
They say, all good things must come to an end. For me, a very good, perhaps a great thing is coming to an end. Since my sons moved down to South Carolina last year, Brenda and I have been in turmoil over our future and where it will play out. After many prayers and tears, we have decided to join them while life allows us to enjoy our time together. Though we had put the house search on the back burner, our boys found a place for us that hit all the criteria we had set, including a 5-minute proximity to Adelina, our sixteen-month-old granddaughter as well as a 45' by 24' detached shop. It was an offer we could not refuse. We will be closing on our home here in Bohemia on July 31<sup>st</sup>.

Part of that turmoil I have been experiencing comes from the fact that I have been a member of the Long Island Woodworkers for 28 years. In that time, through this club, I have met some of the most important people in my life. I have made some of the closet friendships and I have undoubtedly had some of the most memorable times of my life. This organization and the people in it have meant so much to me. As proof of that, we would plan our family vacations, trips, and parties around the club's meeting schedule. That is proven out by the fact that in all those years I have missed only one general meeting. That happened to be the June 2015 BBQ for which I required emergency back surgery. (I tried to convince my doctor to postpone, but it was either that or run the risk of never walking again. Maybe, I don't love the club AS MUCH as I thought I did.)

*Continued on the next page*

**THIS MONTH:**

- JOE BOTT'S FAREWELL**
- SECRETARY'S (BRIEF) NOTES**
- MIKE JOSIAH EXHIBIT**
- ROUBO WORKSHOP**
- SHOW ENTRY FORM**
- LICFM MINUTES**
- TURNERS' GUILD MINUTES**
- LISA MINUTES**
- LOCK, STOCK & DARYL**
- WATCHA DOIN'**



**Secretary's Notes - Michael R. Mittleman**

This month's general meeting and the annual picnic were canceled because of the dangerous air quality produced by drifting forest fire smoke from Canada. The picnic has been rescheduled for July 5th. It will start at 6 PM. We hope to see you there.

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**SIG MEETINGS FOR JULY**

LICFM Meeting, Ben Nawrath, SIG Pres., 7/11/2023. There will be a picnic hosted by Harry Slutter. Details to follow.  
 LIWG Meeting, Jim Moloney, SIG Pres., 7/13/2023. Topic TBA.  
 LISA Meeting, Patti Lerner, SIG Pres., 7/20/2023. Topic TBA.  
 SSOW Meeting, Frank Napoli, SIG Pres., 7/25/2023.  
 Open individual carving.

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The next Board Meeting July 17th, 7pm, Hauppauge Palace Diner.

During that tenure, I have been honored to hold the position of Membership Chairman after Joe Pascucci had stepped down. I was nominated by then president, Gabe Jean Jr. in 1998. Saying yes to that request was one of the smartest and most rewarding decisions I have ever made (... right behind asking St. Brenda to marry me). Thanks to my responsibilities, I was afforded the privilege of meeting and conversing with each of you. Likewise, I've read your comments and concerns on your renewal forms. I shared these with the board, and we worked together to accommodate each of them. Meeting each of you made me feel like an important part of this group and I want to thank everyone of you for giving me that blessing. I cannot express how grateful I am for that opportunity.

In 1991, we held our first members' exhibition in the Brush Barn. Thanks to the amazing leadership of Bob Urso, Mike Daum, and others, that show grew to amazing heights, rivaling any other show that traveled to the east coast – bar none! We moved the show from the Barn to Sports Plus and onto Hofstra University Arena. Despite the internet, hurricanes, and a pandemic we eventually returned in glory to our current venue, the Cradle of Aviation. (Thank you, Bill.) What an amazing journey; What talent and dedication; What camaraderie, enjoyment, and fulfillment. Speaking of the show, I must also thank you for letting me ramble on and on about iron tools with sharp steel in them. So rewarding. I don't know about the rest of you, but I always feel amazing pride just talking about our "prom." I hope to return this year to visit the show. Make it another good one.

I have conspicuously omitted many names here primarily because I don't want to give any of them a swelled head. Seriously, it would be so very difficult to include all of you who have impacted me. Daryl has only so much room for print. So, please do not be insulted if I do not mention your name. It does not mean I forgot you or you had not won a place in my heart. You all have.

Leaving New York is difficult in itself (though, it has gotten much easier). It has been my home for sixty-two years. Both Brenda and I have family we are leaving behind. But our friends are just as important to us. I count you all among them. If you still wonder why I had any doubt about leaving, you have not been paying attention. This club, its members, you guys and gals have been such an amazing influence on me -for good or bad. It has been like a second family to me including my favorite siblings, the annoying little brother, and even the red-headed stepchild. But it's been a family. I will miss this organization, the show, the board meetings, and my chairman responsibilities. But most of all I will miss all of you. I will long for those chats in the back of the Barn with Brian, Rob and countless others. I will recall with great amusement the witty banter, the lively discussions and, most of all, the heckling during a presentation. I love it all. I will miss y'all. Thank you for being a part of my life!

Mike Josiah's work is on exhibit through mid August in the LI Woodturners Association cabinet in the lobby of the reception center at Old Bethpage Village.  
Round Swamp Road  
Old Bethpage, NY



## THE ROUBO BOOKSTAND WORKSHOP: INSTRUCTOR ASSESSMENTS DARYL ROSENBLATT AND BEN NAWRATH

### DARYL:

Our Roubo bookstand class can best be summed up by Bill Leonhardt's quote, "I feel like a woodworker; I'm chiseling stuff.\*"

We can blame Ben Nawrath; at Show and Tell over a year ago, he brought in what looked like a simple sketch project: A bookstand designed originally by Andre Roubo, an 18<sup>th</sup>-century French cabinetmaker. His bench designs are all the rage now, but he also figured out how to make a folding bookstand out of one small board, which, after some careful cutting, chiseling, and sawing, becomes a really cool craft piece. Like everyone else, I applauded what looked like a nice weekend project. Then about a month later, my son Eric asked if I could make him a bookstand for when he cooked. Bingo! Call it synergy, call it fate, call it what you will, but I knew I was going to bother Ben about his stand.

He pointed out the YouTube videos for it, and after checking those out, I made my own bookstand (twice, since I forgot to check the square of my bandsaw fence the first time out). I added a few of my own touches when I added some inlay—a few to cover mistakes, a few for decoration, and then Ben said, "You know, we have to have a club workshop on this." We had all spoken since the COVID years (remember those — mostly, we don't anymore) about how we missed those weekend workshops, and we knew this would be a good opportunity to bring them back. We spoke at meetings, over emails, got a date, and finally nailed things down at dinner before a SIG meeting, and we were ready to roll. We came up with a price (which was actually a bit too low, but that's a Board issue after all) and sent notices to all members (as well as the Facebook outreach portal), and 12 members signed up (it was actually 13, but one had pressing family business and pulled out early).

The Historical Society, the Barn landlords, confirmed the date, Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, and we had 5 hours booked...we didn't want more because of the expense, and then we found out we HAD to be out by 2 pm. No problem for a club that did the same for the Cradle of Aviation Museum for our annual show. We started sort of on time, and by 1:30, we were out the door, with almost every member walking away with at least one small folding cell phone stand. The long-standing Barn issues deterred nobody. The lighting is not great, but Woody (Bob Wood) solved that issue for himself by putting his workbench outside; the Lerner's brought the fanciest portable (meaning the 11-ton fixture had a handle) light in the universe, plus small lamps. Ben anointed Bob Nyman as the teachers' pet since he finished first and then got started on a second, larger stand (we brought wood for both sizes). I disagreed with Ben. What kind of teacher's pet doesn't bring apples to the teachers?

Everyone had a great time; the pizzas helped that as well. Here are a few quotes:

"This is the perfect Saturday workshop!"

"I'm getting a lot farther than I did with the dovetail class."

The tuition rate will have to be evaluated based on all the costs involved, but I hope we have a lot more weekend workshops in the future. After all, who doesn't like chiseling stuff\*?

\* In the interest of journalistic accuracy, it should be noted that Bill did NOT say "stuff," meaning the last word of this missive is also not "stuff." We just didn't want to offend anyone. Feel free to use your imagination. Also cut down one letter.

**BEN:**

Daryl did a great job summing up the workshop from inception to execution. I just wanted to add a few footnotes, both for myself or anyone else who may run a workshop and to elaborate on Daryl's thoughts.

First of all, it was a great success, money lost or not. We figured that for the money we spent, 15 people at \$41 was a break even. We had 12 at \$35... Considering we're just getting back into it and that we pulled the price out of our ascots, that really wasn't a bad guess. It's an investment! There will always be scheduling conflicts. We'll never get everyone there who's remotely interested, so I think it's ok. You'd understand if you could see and hear everyone there after an hour or so of working. The spark was there. Also, because this workshop is new all over again, we now have all these people to publicize the next one! In the end, they all got to take home some skills AND a functioning project!

Secondly, the members made it great. It's no secret that we're all fun people to be around, especially me, but when folks show up who are enthusiastic and ready to go, it really sets the tone for the day. Everyone there was at a different level of experience and speed, but everyone there was on the same level as a member and participant. When it came to helping each other out, asking for help, lending tools, etc., nobody hesitated, nobody got too frustrated, and nobody huddled in a corner, avoiding people; it was great. Woody kept apologizing for taking too long, which of course, didn't matter, and we only had one do-over.

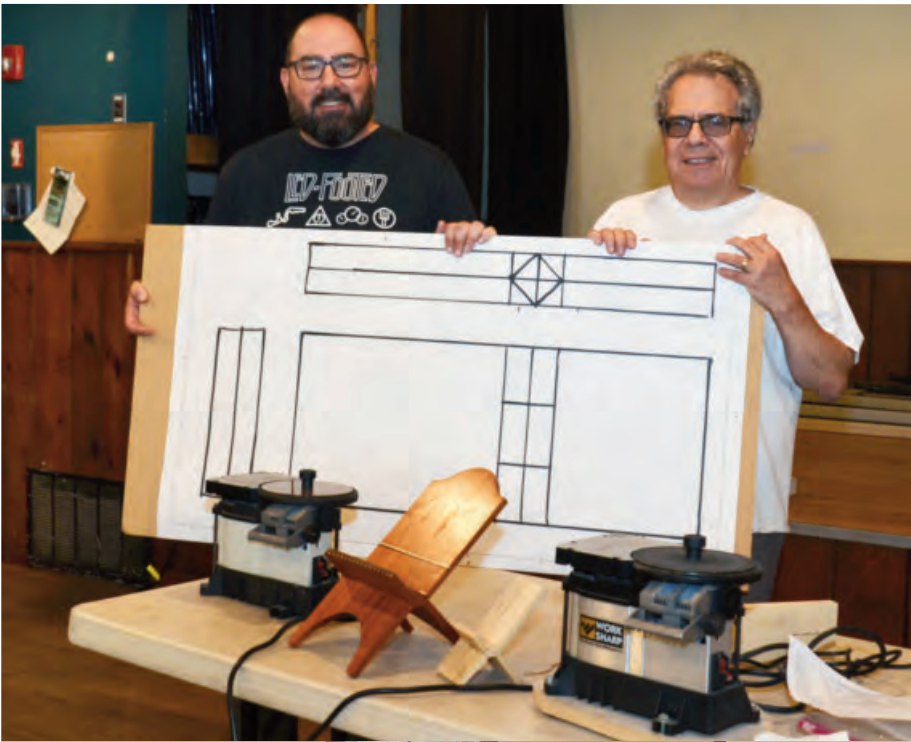
Perhaps more importantly, they all showed up with (mostly) sharp chisels! Patti's brownies and cookies helped. I always thought the club needed a den mother, and I think we got one. Oh, and nobody got upset when I couldn't remember their names. Of 12 people, we had a Patti, Jim, John, Tim, Bill, two Joes, two Robs, and three Bobs! That's FIVE Roberts out of 12! Even if you count Daryl and me, that's more than a third.

And lastly, I learned some things that make me better prepared to do workshops in general. Example: Daryl and I never saw the diamond on the side layout as the weak point of the directions. We got a few exes instead. I showed it in my layout drawing, but NOW I know it needs to be emphasized! Also, I painfully reaffirmed what I already knew about myself. I should write things down and then check them off as I go. I forgot a marking gauge... I mean, come on! I also didn't get a chance to play around with my fret saw before that day, so there was a lot of fumbling there.

I've led small group things, I've given demos and talks for the club, and I've done stuff in front of groups in other areas of my life, but one thing that always happens is that I have fantastic ideas and have a hard time fully realizing them in the moment. The night before, I'll think, "OK, first I'll do X, then we'll do Y, and that will lead to Z, easy-peasy." Then the blessed event comes, and I forget part Y.2 or something. Having Daryl there to help plan and do some running around (and remembering a push broom) was a HUGE help. I've always liked working in groups, but it doesn't always work out. This time it definitely did. And he made the tool list! So, I'll leave you with a link to the video that got me into this project in the first place! It's 8 minutes of worthwhile watching.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JU-rcivcdk>

Thank you, and goodnight!



From left and then counter clockwise:

Ben and Daryl beginning the demo. Note the mysterious diamond in the middle of Ben's diagram.

Patti and Bob Lerner

Robert Wood solving the lighting problem.

Teacher's non pet Robert Nyman (next time bring an apple!) John Cronin is in the far background.

Robert Musraca, adding to the constant Robert stream.





Clockwise from top left (because we did counter clockwise the previous page).

Tim Dosey and Bill Leonhardt, questioning Andre Roubo's sanity.

Jim Moloney pretending to be a flat boarder

Joe Vanek drilling the holes.

Bill Leonhardt after he chiseled some stuff

**LONG ISLAND WOODWORKERS SHOW APPLICATION TO EXHIBIT**

**2023**

Name

Address  
City

Phone  
Email

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Only ONE project per category per member and FIRST time in exhibit will be eligible to be judged. Display preference is Table/Wall/Floor**

Project Name	Year Made	Display Preference	
Category (from list below)	Type of Finish	For Sale?	
Materials	To be judged?	Price if yes	
Was this project exhibited before:?	Original Design?	Assembly Required?	
Size L            W            H	Transportation Assistance Required?		

Project Name	Year Made	Display Preference	
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Was this project exhibited before:?	Original Design?	Assembly Required?	
Size: L            W            H	Transportation Assistance Required?		

**CATEGORIES**

**FURNITURE 1:** Beds & Table (no drawers)

**FURNITURE 2:** Desks and casework/cabinetry

**FURNITURE 3:** Chairs & Benches

**TURNING:** horizontal or vertical; solid material

**SEGMENTED TURNING**

**TOYS/CRAFTS/GAMES:** Includes miniatures

**ACCESSORIES:** Cutting boards, holders, clocks, etc.

**SCROLLWORK**

**INTARZIA**

**MARQUETRY:** May be incorporated in furniture or accessory

**INLAY:** May be incorporated in furniture or accessory

**CARVING**

**UNIQUE:** project not fitting into another category (boats, instruments, etc.)

**NOVICE**

Fill out as many applications as needed. PHOTOS and drawings are very helpful and can be attached. Projects are not required to be judged. The judges reserve the right to change categories during the judging process.  
All projects **MUST** arrive the Friday before the show. for mandatory photography and registration  
All projects **MUST** remain in the exhibit area until 5 PM on Sunday. Arrangements should be made for transport

MAIL TO: Mike Daum 4 Pam Court South Setauket, NY 11720 or email: twwstudio@aol.com



LICFM



BOB WOOD

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** The June 13th cabinet and furniture makers meeting was held at Harry's Urban Specialty Woods. Members were reminded that the LIW Annual Show will be at the Cradle of Aviation on September 9th and 10th.

A former club member, Ed Smyth has a sliding table saw under a tarp. If interested, he can be reached at 631-790-4765 or 631-852-5281.

Joe Bottigliere has wood available that can be used for paneling. Joe is also giving away wooden hand planes.

Bob Urso has logs for turning.

**SHOW AND TELL** For Show and Tell, Tom Ryan brought in a Garden Obelisk. There is not a single 90-degree angle in the structure. It was made of cedar. Using multiple jigs, Tom got the proper angles for each section. The top of the obelisk is made from a 4 X 4 cedar block. To make the crown, Tom would slice one side off, retape it to the original block, turn it over, and repeat the process for the other sides. It was finished with a marine varnish.



**PRESENTATION** The featured speaker was Don Daily. He discussed the steps necessary for making a cabriole leg.



Don showed the various shapes, uses, and flexibility of the legs in furniture construction. They can be used with footstools, for the base of a chest, or chair and table legs. The height can vary depending on the application. The leg can be quite simple and sleek, which is what Don would be doing. But it can be substantial and highly decorative with carvings such as claw foot legs. The shapely cabriole leg dates to ancient Greece and China, but generally, it is considered an 18<sup>th</sup>-century design. The cabriole leg was used in France and in all the Germanic countries. Of course, it was used in England and came to America around

the 1700s.

Many people have heard of Queen Ann, Chippendale, and Hepplewhite styles. They all incorporate this leg with varying degrees of ornamentation. The pictures below are examples of various cabriole versions.



Don explained that an end table, a coffee table, and a dining table use basically the same profile, but each is progressively longer than the previous type.

The term leg makes sense since a “leg” has a knee, ankle, and foot. Here’s an example of a cabriole leg with some carving on it, especially on the foot. The bottom part is also called a slipper. Another detail to note is that a three-legged pedestal is easier to sit flat than one with four legs.

Don’s project is a leg with a pointed slipper toe. The first step is designing it. Don started sketching the design on one-inch graph paper. The curves can be drawn with various tools, including plastic flexible tubes, a bow and string, or plastic artist’s curves. Don suggested playing with and adjusting the various curves to make sure the leg is aesthetically pleasing and sturdy enough to be functional. Hash or reference marks on the paper help to make the leg proportionate and give reference points to which sections should be slendrer and which should be beefier.

Once the paper sketch works out the proportionality, the next step is to transfer the paper sketch to a template. The template can be made from quarter-inch plywood or MDF. Make sure the template curved lines are all smooth. Don men-



tioned various tools to use - files, rasps, sandpaper, bow sanders, or other smoothing devices. Don emphasized smoothness because little bumps will be exaggerated in the final product.

The next step is to trace the template onto the wood. In this case, the stock was 2 ½ inches by 2 ½ inches. Don did mention that if there is a mortise, that must be done first.

Next in the process is to verify that the stock grain aligns with the template. Failure to do so will compromise the strength of the leg. Cut out the shape with a bandsaw after tracing the template onto the wood. As usual, cut outside of the pattern lines. To keep square surfaces for each side of the leg, reattach the cut part back onto the wood itself. Don uses a painter's tape and CA glue process. Don mentioned that the legs don't all have to be identical but should look similar. Some of the tools used in shaping the leg after it has been cut are rasps, round and flat files, rattail files, and sanding blocks with sandpaper 120 to 150 grit. If using a spoke-shave, tilt the blade a little to adjust for light or heavy cuts. Do not use a draw knife. To remove the corner of the round portion of the leg, use the bandsaw or hand saw and then some chiseling. File to get a circle on the bottom. The slipper part should meld into the round part.

A chamfer must be created on the rest of the leg, there can be no sharp points. Don showed the group the various methods of getting the ankle to the slipper to the round part so it all flowed together.

Don recommends forming the same parts of each leg at the same time. Do not do all contouring on one leg at once, then move to the next. Muscle memory will help quasi-duplicate the shape of each leg.

Overall, it was a highly informative presentation. Don made the process seem to be more simple than daunt-



TURNER'S GUILD



BOB LERNER

SIG President Jim Moloney called the June 8th meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** LIW members get a 10% discount from Penn State Industries. Contact Jean Piotrowski to be added to the list.

We had a cake to wish Joe Botts well in the future.

**SHOW AND TELL** Patti Lerner – Brass mallet with a zebrawood handle. This is her first turned project. It was made for the Roubo bookstand workshop.

Bob Lerner – Brass mallet with a walnut handle. He liked Patti's design for her handle and copied it.

Tony Fuoco – Vase with wipe on poly finish.

Barry Saltsberg – Knitting bowl made from spalted maple. It had nine coats of finish.

Gary Mayhew – Beads of Courage box made from walnut, cherry, and chestnut.

**UPCOMING DEMOS** Date TBD - Steve Fulgoni: sharpening lathe chisels.

**TODAY'S DEMO** Rob Demarco is making many vases for his niece's wedding. He presented at the May general meeting on how he makes them. Tonight, he went into more detail and turned one.

Rob starts by gluing up nine pieces of 1" square stock, with the length being the desired height of the vase. He used different species of wood to make a nice pattern. Rob mentioned that keeping the joints tight during the glue-up is essential. After the glue dries, he drills a 5/8" or 1" hole for the plastic or glass test tube that is inserted into the vase to hold the flowers. He then mounts the blank between a drive center and a 60-degree live center. It was then turned to the desired shape and sanded to 220 for an oil finish. Rob then applied Simple Finish which is an oil and wax blend. He said it's about \$40 per quart.

Thank you, Rob, for an interesting presentation. I'm sure your niece will be thrilled with the selection of vases you are making.



Left: Barry Saltsberg knitting bowl

Right: Rob DeMarco demo vase.

Below: Gary Mayhew lidded box



Far left: Patti Lerner brass mallet.



Below: Joe Bottigliere's farewell cake.



LISA



BOB LERNER

President Patti Lerner called the June 15th meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Please continue making toys for the Sept. show. We sent out plans by email for a sampling of toys that can be made. During the August meeting, we will be attaching the wheels to the cars and airplanes. Ray Bohn has a large supply of 2x4 and 2x6 cutoffs that can be used to make the toys. Please contact him to arrange to get some.

**NOTE: For the cars, drill two 7/32" through holes using a drill press for the axle pegs.**

Drill one 9/32" through-hole for the airplane using a drill press for the 1/4" dowel axle. Use only glue to attach the wing and horizontal stabilizer (NO NAILS).

The August meeting will supply axle pegs, 1/4" dowel axles, and wheels.

It's not too early to start working on the Christmas tree ornaments to be raffled off at the show. We would like to limit the size to approximately 3" in diameter. This will give the tree a more uniform look.

We have been invited to display our work at the Mineola Library. Further details will be announced when they become available.

Patti will be looking to recruit volunteers for the Sept. show in the near future.

Roberts Plywood is once again extending a discount to club members. You have to ask for it.

We will purchase a new sign for the SIG before the show. Tom Ryan will be leading the effort. He needs an appropriate high-resolution image.

**Show and Tell** Steve Gazes – Gear clock from a Clayton Boyer plan made from maple and walnut.

Norm Bald – Made several "practice pieces," as he called them. There was a sign, a cutting board, and a cross. They were very well done.

Patti Lerner – Two dragonflies with carved bodies. One had veneer wings the other was segmented scrollwork. Intarsia tulip from the Intarsia Workshop. Angelfish in an aquarium and birds on a plaque scrollwork. Fretwork Rosemaling circular design. The last 3 are Charles Hand patterns.

Rolf Beuttenmuller – Santa and his sled with reindeer that balanced on a post. It had a base with houses and scrolled and carved trees. This is a project for a future Gadgets & Gizmos book.

Arnold Schaeffer – A workshop sign. Two lighthouse-themed, framed scroll works with felt or colored film as a background. An NYPD Police boat that his son serves on. It's an original design he created from a photo.



Steve Gazes gear clock WIP



Arnold Schaefer lighthouse



Norm Bald circular design



Patti Lemer birds plaque

Rolf Beutenmuller

Rolf's Santa (distorted a bit to fit in the frame)





**LOCK, STOCK & DARYL****BEN NAWRATH, MICHAEL  
MITTLEMAN & DARYL ROSENBLATT****Contributor:** Daryl Rosenblatt**Website:** <https://www.youtube.com/@katzmosestools/videos>**Presenter/Author:** Jonathan Katz-Moses**Description:** Techniques and custom tool accessories

**Description:** Jonathan Katz-Moses is entertaining, accurate, inventive, and fun to watch. He has links to his website, where he has plans (some of them free) and accessories like small clamps and stops that are very well made: [www.kmtools.com](http://www.kmtools.com). I have his adjustable dog hole clamp, which works really well (it's not perfect, maybe I'll do a review one day). His YouTube channel is fun and informative. I recommend you give it a try.

**Contributor:** Mike Mittleman**Website:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aB07GUYAKKk>**Presenter/Author:** The Wood Whisperer / Marc Spagnuolo**Description:** Buy This, Not That | Measuring ; Marking / Length: 8:29

**Description:** This short video captures subtle differences in measuring and marking tools, leading the presenter, Marc Spagnuolo, to recommend specific designs. The tools are ubiquitous and found in virtually every woodworker's equipment set. While the video seems targeted to beginner-level woodworkers, all can benefit from Marc's review. Tape measures, rulers, striking knives, squares, and pencils are covered. The presentation is short and sweet. The information is solid. Marc Spagnuolo, The Wood Whisperer, is a dominant and longtime presence in internet-based woodworking. Generally, his advice and instruction are helpful. Recommended.

**Contributor:** Ben Nawrath**Website:** [https://youtu.be/opqtYi\\_RMfo](https://youtu.be/opqtYi_RMfo)**Presenter/Author:** Mike Holton**Description:** Woodturning a grass tree root

I don't follow this guy, this just popped into my feed, but I'm glad it did! I notice some things in this video that you should look out for, good, bad, or otherwise.

Mike H. goes into detail about the compromises between shape and size. We've all dealt with this! Sometimes you get a piece of wood, and you can immediately see something in it, then by the time it's round, it's WAY smaller than expected! Towards the beginning, he checked the size of his tenon with a small template, brilliant! When Mike first put shellac on it, he said, "Oh wow..." and it felt genuine. Love that. He used an abrasive paste after the shellac (that's fine), then alcohol to clean it...seems counterintuitive to me; am I wrong?

At one point, Mike marked his tool rest to show the limits of where he wanted to hollow. Given the live edge, this makes a TON of sense! As he's hollowing, his pinky finger seems to be in an awkward spot; does anyone else notice that? He was genuinely nervous about breaking a piece off. I can relate to that! It was nice to see the others feel the same. I like that he didn't edit out the paper towel being thrown toward the end! And lastly, he appears to be wearing shorts and tall rubber boots. That's like saying, "I know what would be nice, a funnel to direct the chips and dust into my shoes for maximum fun!"

What did you think about the shellac/alcohol and the pinky finger? Otherwise, it was a great turning video with an interesting final result!

## WHAT'CHA DOIN'? JUS' DOODLIN'



MICHAEL R. MITTLEMAN

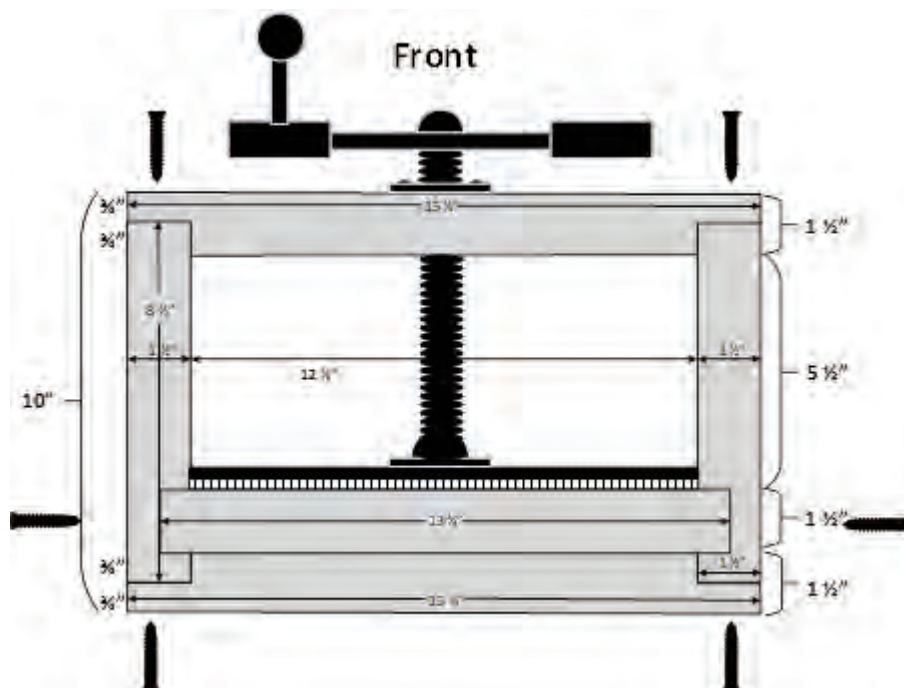
After watching many YouTube videos and visiting countless woodworking websites over several months, my interest in some techniques, plans, and tools, almost unexpectedly, persists. Randomly, they come to the forefront in between more ambitious undertakings. Sometimes, a spark of energy emerges during these lulls, and I might undertake to build a new jig or try creating in a different medium. Here is a selection of four such excursions.

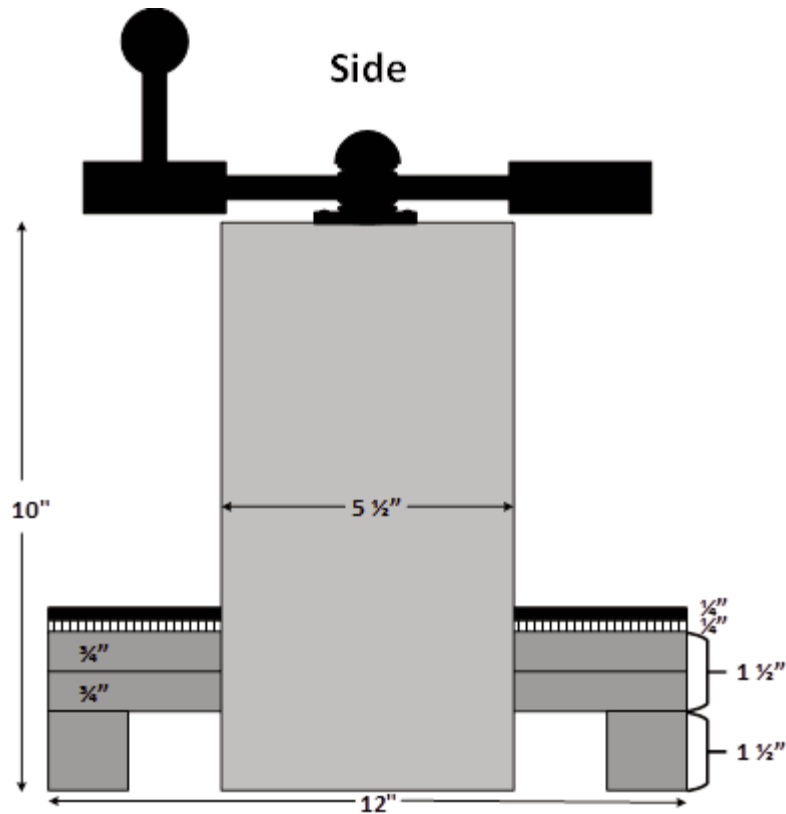
### VENEER / PLYWOOD PRESS

The genesis for building a small veneer press came from an unplanned but frequent visit to the Lee Valley (<http://leevalley.com>). On one such occasion, pony press screws were on sale. The accompanying photos showed a press frame constructed from 2" X 6" lumber and plywood. Hmm... inexpensive materials and a deal to boot? I can do that! I bought a pair of the 12" Acme screws and had the needed wood on hand.

Of course, as these things go, I doodled with the design and added some features that ate up any savings from the Lee Valley sale. My plan called for a 12" X 12" press area. Rather than use wood for the platens, I purchased a 1/4" X 12" X 12" steel plate found on Amazon. The 1/4" thickness for the top face would not flex, yet it was comparatively thin and flat. The bottom platen of the press was constructed of easily removable 1/4" tempered hardboard (Masonite) on top of 3" of plywood.

The press's 12" X 12" working area was sufficiently elevated above the bench top to allow clamps to be attached to each of the corners of the press mechanism, thereby enhancing and distributing uniform pressure across the two faces.



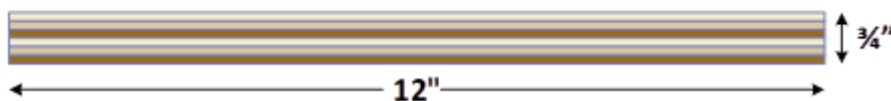


The rigid and flat platen surfaces, Pony Press screws, and additional clamping area offered a small but efficient veneer/plywood press accessory at a modest cost.

### TECHNICOLOR PLYWOOD BOX

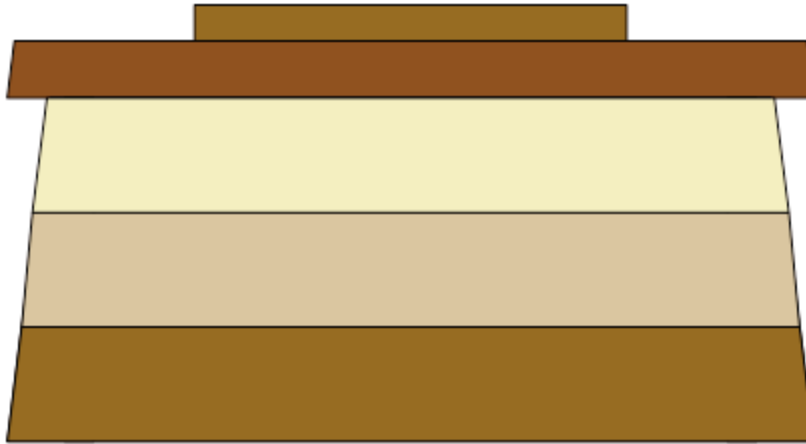
Of course, what good is a veneer/plywood press without a small project to test its capabilities? And that was the birth of the Technicolor Box Project. I designed a small lidded box using colorful plies of three types of wood: maple, cherry, and walnut. Each piece started as a 1/8" X 3" X 12" slat. A "sandwich" was formed by gluing successive sections of maple, cherry, and walnut together until a 3/4" thick slab was formed. Simultaneously, two of the resultant slabs were placed in the veneer press. The press did its thing for about four hours to ensure the adhesive was entirely cured.

### Technicolor Plywood Side Section



After making the DIY plywood, construction of the actual box proceeded. Exciting effects were created using end-grain pieces for the top and face-grain sections for the sides. Cutting the sides to form a slope of approximately 15° resulted in a base of 3/4" that tapered to 3/8" at the top. Horizontal stripes about 1" wide were formed.

### Technicolor Plywood Face Grain Cut



In contrast, the top was formed using end-grain strips. Two wenge pieces were added to enhance the contrasting colors.

### Technicolor Box End Grain Top



Before attempting to make technicolor plywood, buy stock in an adhesives company. The quantity of glue this small box project consumed was staggering.

### COLORFUL TINY BOX

Speaking of small boxes, I was intrigued by a colorful, flip-top design by Barry NM Dima and presented in the June 2023 issue of *Fine Woodworking*, pp. 32-38. Construction was without adventure, though small pieces meant getting fingers near saw blades and router bits. This project may be better suited for hand tools than power equipment. The plans call for 1/32" accuracy and working with 1/4" thick material.

The eye-catching color of the base was accomplished with paint. The challenge was applying color to the targeted area without getting any on other pieces.

## PENCIL BOX WITH DRAWER



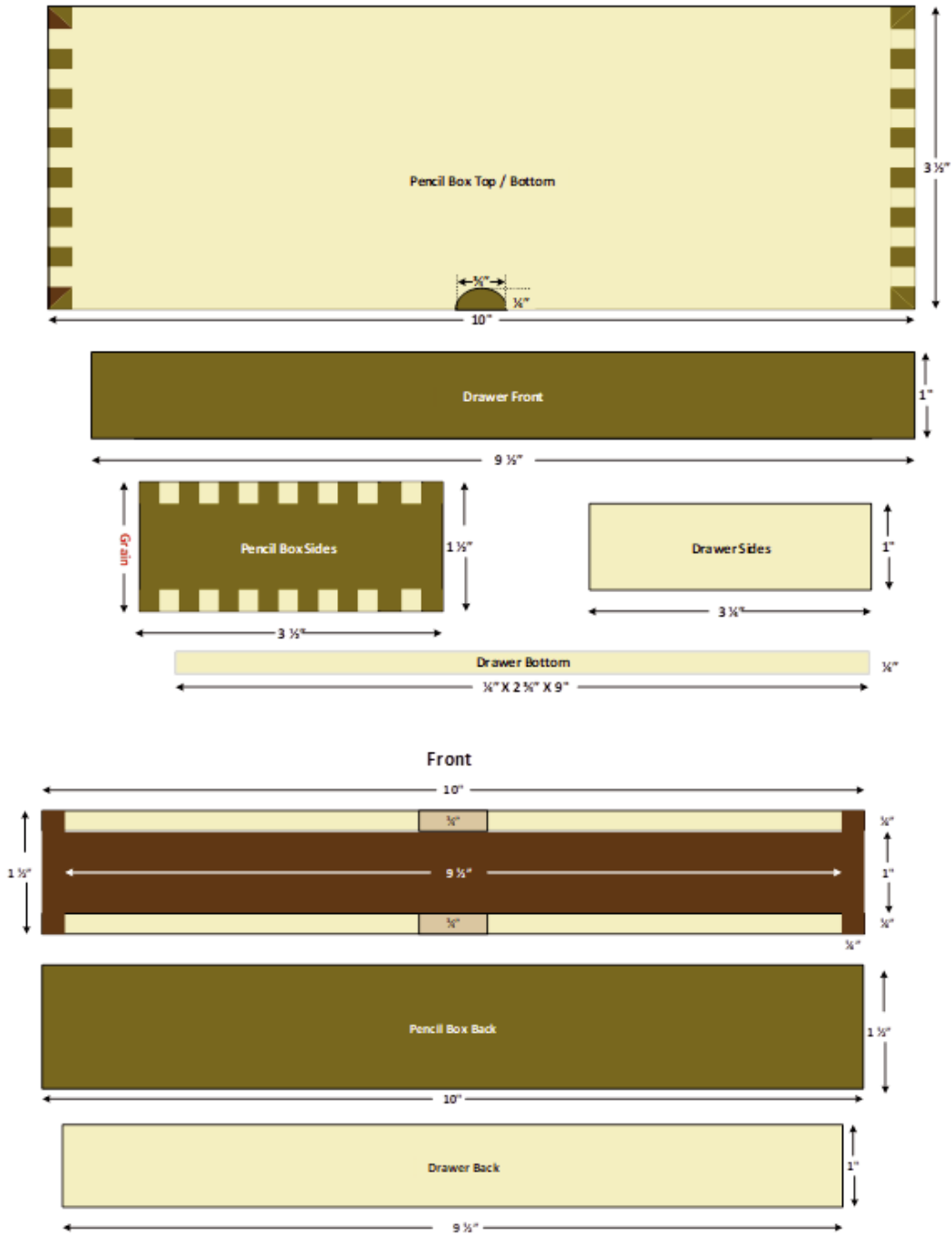
Another lull, another box, another inspiration. While reviewing websites for the newsletter, I came across a YouTube posting from GR Woodworking (see the June 2023 issue of The Woodrack, p. 17, for details).

I found the video especially noteworthy because of the superb skill of the constructor, the exquisite joinery, and the beautiful contrast of materials he used. The project was a pencil box that incorporated a drawer. The wood included maple and 1500 years-old bog oak, which had assumed a color approaching wenge.



Photo from GR Woodworking,  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KMd4x01QQ7o&list=WL&index=2&t=8s&pp=gAQBiAQB>

For this project, I was a contrarian. Instead of hand tool construction, power equipment was used. Instead of 1500 years-old bog oak, wenge was used. Instead of maple, quarter-sawn white oak was used. Instead of dovetail joinery, box joints for the case and miters for the drawer were selected.



## DANISH CORD STOOL

Enough with the boxes for a moment! How about expanding the repertoire with something new... thus, another lull and a modest foray into weaving ensued. On another chance visit to the Lee Valley website found an ad for a Danish Cord Stool Kit. A kit was selected because I was an utter novice to weaving.

The stool's wood framework was ambrosia maple. The weaving material was Danish cord. The project took several hours and lots of hand cramps to complete. The completed stool was a handsome gift for my significant other.



Photo from Lee Valley

<https://www.leevalley.com/en-us/shop/tools/supplies/project-materials/114846-make-it-yourself-danish-cord-stool-kit?item=MK106>

Hmm, are more projects using mixed materials in the offing? Only future lulls and Lamont Cranston know for sure. The takeaway is that project inspiration sometimes comes from unexpected sources at seemingly random, quiet times.

## PUZZLE

MICHAEL R. MITTLEMAN

**How to play:** Complete the numerical grid so that every row, column, and 3 x 3 box contains all digits from 1 to 9.

7	1				2	3		
		6						1
		8			3			
6			3				4	
	9			8			5	
	2				4			6
			7			1		
4						5		
		5	8				3	2

## Solution

S	T	R	A	P	S
P	H	O	B	I	C
R	A	I	S	E	R
A	L	L	U	R	E
T	I	E	R	C	E
S	A	D	D	E	N

Solution to June