THE Woodrack

July 2026



Picnic 2026*

*Cake courtesy of Maureen Tauby

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This Month:

Secretary's Notes

LICFM

LISA

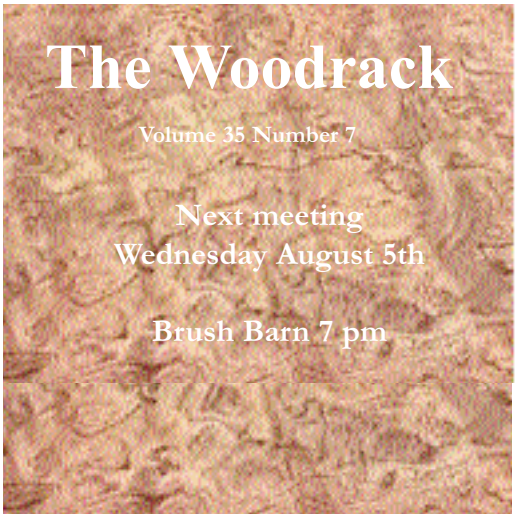
Turners' Guild Photos

Travels with Charlie

Lock, Stock & Daryl

Patterns with Plywood

Puzzle



Secretary's Notes



Michael Mittleman

Special edition abbreviated minutes – our Annual Picnic, held June 3rd. Prep work began at 5 PM, and the festivities started at 6 PM. The weather was perfect, clear and comfortably cool. Several members donated their time and energy to making the picnic a laid-back, convivial gathering of woodworkers and family members.

Rob Crespolini, Gary Mayhew, and Bob Neyman shared cooking duties. Thanks very much to the three chefs for their singular contributions. Once again, Jean Piotrowski ran the "kitchen" prep and ensured all the supplies were available. Ed P. made sure the ice cream truck was present at the right time. Patti and Bob Lerner brought beverages. Maureen Tauby made an impressive cake that was replete with the LI Woodworkers logo. Several other members set up and later stowed tables and chairs.

The turnout was great. More than 70 people shared the setting, enjoyed the food, and socialized. It was a pleasure to meet members' families.

Other Business

LICFM Meeting, Ben Nawrath, SIG Pres., 6/9/2026. The meeting will take place at the barn and begin at 7:00 PM.

LIWG Meeting, Jim Moloney, SIG Pres., 6/11/2026. The meeting will be held at the Kings Park K of C and start at 7 PM.

Wood Tech Meeting, Brian Monks, SIG Pres., - The meeting is at Joe Daley's shop, 35 Doyle Court, Unit 2, East Northport, and will begin at 7 PM.

LISA Meeting, Patti Lerner, SIG Pres., 6/18/2026. The meeting is at the Kings Park K of C and will run from 10 AM – 12 PM.

SSOW Meeting, Frank Napoli, SIG Pres., 6/25/2026. Open individual carving. Meeting location: The Woodturning Store Warehouse: 81A E Jefryn Blvd, Deer Park, NY 11729. Time 11A – 1P.

Toys Meeting, Larry Wagner, Chair, 6/13/2026. The meetings are at 12 Hamilton Lane, Huntington, NY, at 9:00 AM and on 6/17/2026, starting at 6:30 PM.

Upcoming Events_

The next General Meeting will be a round-robin event, held at the Brush Barn in Smithtown, starting at 6:00 PM on July 1, 2026.

An LIW Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for 7 PM on July 20, 2026, at the Hauppauge Palace Diner, 525 Smithtown Bypass, Hauppauge, NY 11788.

















LICFM



Bob Wood

Ben started the June 9th meeting by mentioning that the "Round Robin" is a good venue for showcasing toolboxes and different construction methods. Also, the next Cabinetmakers meeting will be at K of C in Kings Park. The following notes are rather random, with the discussion being free-flowing.

Brian Monks was first to speak. Brian mentioned pin routers have the advantage of viewing the routing from the top, which is useful for fluting.

For the Round Robin, sign-making jigs can also be displayed and possibly demonstrated.

Bob Wood showed a utilitarian box used to carry plumber's wrenches and tools. It was done with pocket holes which were covered with plugs and closely matched to the grain of the carcass.

Pam Urso had some questions about using quarter-inch material and how best to join the piece. Using a router with a half-inch shank chamfer bit was suggested.

Buddy Savoie showed how to center splines by getting close to center and then flipping the corner over from the other side. Buddy uses feeler gauges when incorporating finger joints in construction. Buddy also sets the collar on pocket hole drill bits to go a little deeper for better joinery.

I am not sure who brought up the YouTube series "Make Something " as a good source of hints and information.

A rather detailed discussion was about technology and its use in woodworking such as 3D printers, lasers, and CNC machines. Downloading files from various sources, some free and some purchased, can be used to produce and shape parts in plastic or wood. The bottom line is that lasers and CNC machines are replacing the scroll saw. The



Ben's Moxon Vise

Shaper Origin was also mentioned by Brian Monks, who said the next generation will be automated so users do not have to hold the router.

Ben showed a Benchcrafted Moxon Vise and demonstrated it. Ben said that when clamping a piece at one end of the vise, another piece of the same thickness should be clamped at the other end to prevent racking. To do so, loosen the one screw to secure the part to be worked.

Last, a box was shown, made of half-inch oak plywood, with miters that were glued and pinned. It was made to hold a nail gun. To keep pressure and stress off the parts, it was suggested squirting Dow Great Stuff into a plastic bag. The outcome is that the nail gun will have a resting place in the box, relieving stress on the joints. Next month's topic will be inlays.



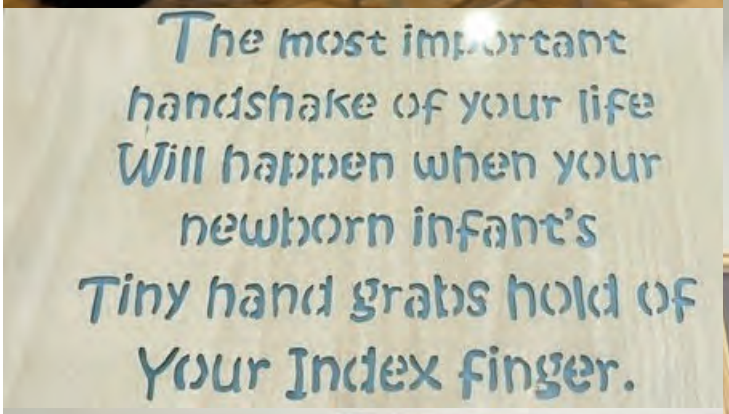
LISA - Photos Only



Bob Lerner

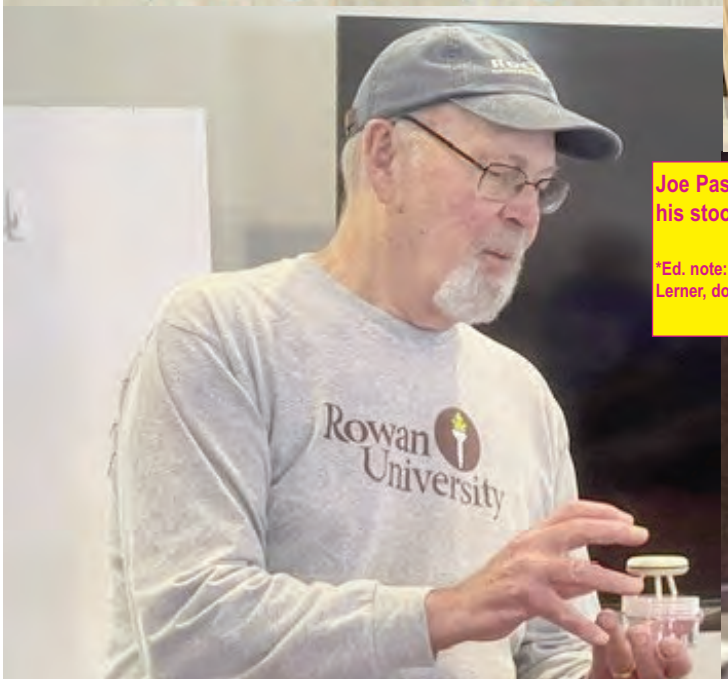


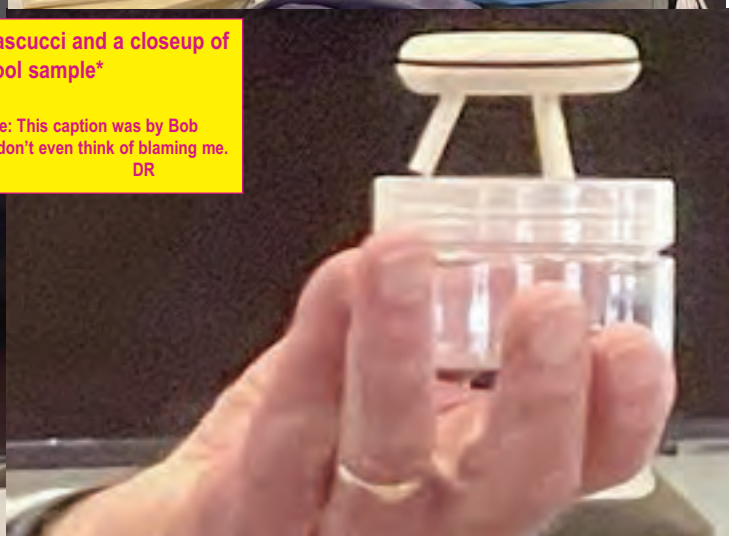
June meeting





Ed Piotrowski and a closeup of his plaque.



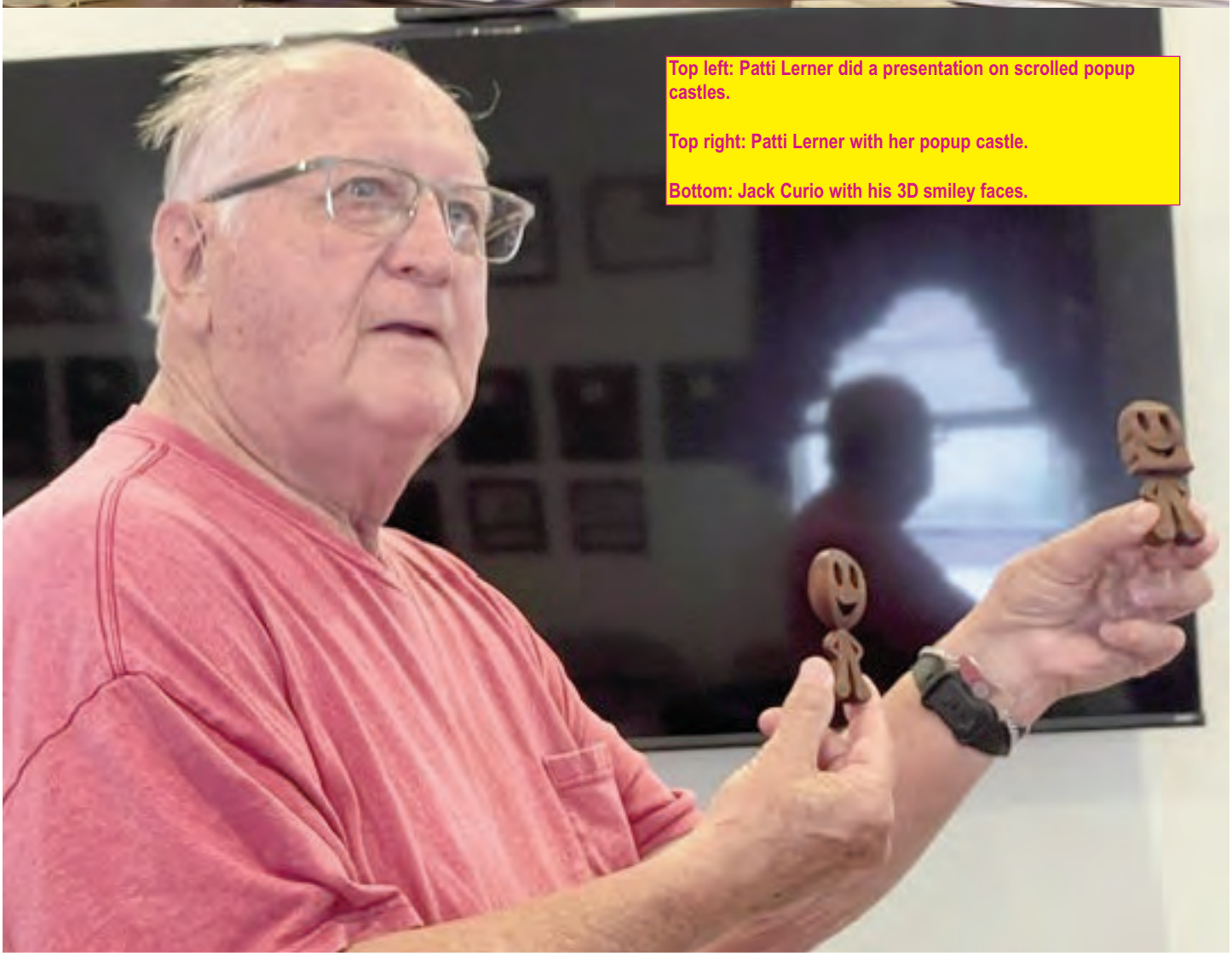


Joe Pascucci and a closeup of his stool sample*

*Ed. note: This caption was by Bob Lerner, don't even think of blaming me. DR







Top left: Patti Lerner did a presentation on scrolled popup castles.

Top right: Patti Lerner with her popup castle.

Bottom: Jack Curio with his 3D smiley faces.

Turners' Guild - Photos Only



Bob Lerner





Top left: Jim Moloney and the vase he turned at the May meeting.

Top right: Some items turned and finished by Steve Maiele.

Bottom left: Inter-SIG project. Onward to scrolling and pyrography.

Bottom right: Platter turned by Barry Saltsberg for the inter-SIG project.





Toymakers



Larry Wagner

We met Saturday, 6/13, and we had 4 people in attendance. At the May meeting, Steve Eckers brought in a car carrier template, and this week we cut and drilled the axle holes for 40 car carriers. Bob MacCormack was on the other bandsaw cutting out a few dozen cars.

Rich and Bobbi Fiano came with 70 cars that were cut, routed (rounded over), and drilled for axles. They took half of them back home, and Bobbi will paint them. The others will be sent to my painting team in Plainview. They are a group of 8 seniors who meet every week for 2 hours. Rich said he wants us to set a goal of 1,000 toys this year, and he is not working on Oak tractor-trailer trucks. Before the next toy session, I will have taken inventory to know where we stand.

Previously, Bob MacCormac and I spent a couple of Saturday sessions designing a tabletop foosball game. Steve Eckers and I also worked for a few sessions designing what I call, "pinball meets knock hockey" game. It is similar to knock hockey, but it uses pinball-style flippers to hit a marble rather than a puck.

Toy sessions are on the second Saturday of each month from 9:30 to 12, and on the third Wednesday from 6:30 until we choose to end. Everyone is welcome, and there are always toys to make. Don't feel it is necessary to come at the beginning or stay till the end of any meeting. Any contribution of time is helpful. Also, we welcome all toy ideas. My shop is in my backyard at 12 Hamilton Lane, Huntington. It would be helpful if anyone planning to attend could text me at 631-335-8637. This way, if something comes up, I can reach out to those who plan to come.

I look forward to seeing some new elves attend a toy session or two.

Lock, Stock & Daryl



Ben Nawrath, Michael Mittleman & Daryl Rosenblatt

Contributor: Mike Mittleman
Website: https://tinyurl.com/3f8u55te
Presenter/Author: Jaime Gilgen Furniture
Title: Bending wood until it sings / 37:44

Description: Over the years, I have watched Tamar Hanna of 3 X 3 Custom grow as a woodworker. Her repertoire of woodworking skills has dramatically increased. By way of comparison, Jaime Gilgen has exhibited mastery of woodworking from the outset. This video showcases many of those attributes. While longer than most videos I watch, it is well worth the time investment to view a master at work. Precision work on a very challenging project and an obsession with details are apparent.

The ambitious project is focused on the construction of a cello. She takes Port Orford Cedar boards and, through resawing and thickness planing, reduces the lumber to thin sheets that are readily bendable. Watch her techniques for bending the multiplies of wood without breakage. The video contains treat after treat. A well-appointed workshop is an added visual pleasure. As a side note, check out another of her videos at https://tinyurl.com/yrywfudk to see the lengths Jaime Gilgen went to in restoring the beautiful equipment seen in her shop. Go ahead, marvel at a spectacular display of woodworking expertise.

Contributor: Daryl Rosenblatt
Website: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMGDJI_oAO8
Presenter/Author: Inspire Woodcraft/Jodee and Michael Moreno
Title: You Complain Too Much / 5:12

Description: I've said before I think Norm Abrams is the most important woodworking figure in the 20th century. Without him, the Gamble House and the Maloof chair would still be museum pieces, but few would dare to think they could make them. If not Norm, then Roy Underhill. From them begat Garrett Wade, which begat Lie-Nielsen and Woodcraft, which begat Lee Valley. You can see the trend, even if my timeline is off. I like this channel; it's informative and entertaining, and this particular video is a great summation of modern life. We are an entitled group who doesn't really understand that, while we do complex things, they don't have to be if we can just realize we can do cool things and would have had a millennium ago. Even then, we would have told our spouses, "Methinks this can be done, yet first i might not but wander to yon blacksmith for that oneth tool i never yet hast. Then thy table shall be completed as thou would!"

Contributor: Ben Nawrath
Website: https://youtu.be/YYMmmBeYmsc?is=z2NzKaNXGBHLTbQz
Presenter: JMA Wood Studio
Title: I've Never Seen a Bandsaw Box Like This / 8:59

Description: And I haven't either! What always bothered me about bandsaw boxes is the saw kerf. This actually addresses that with overlaid drawer fronts! It also looks really nice, if you ask me. There are also links to some handy templates, but I bet you could make your own layout. Apparently, you'll need a mile or two of double-sided tape as well. What do you guys think? Do you like the full drawer faces? Or does the old school bandsaw box aesthetic appeal to you more? I'm going to have to give this a try.

Patterns With Plywood



Michael R. Mittleman

Several decorative patterns can be readily created using plywood. Further, the materials are relatively inexpensive and readily available. The tools needed include clamps, a table saw, a sander, and lots of adhesive. Frequently used finishes include lacquer, shellac, varnish, and wax.

As you may have guessed, the fundamental component of plywood pattern-making is plywood. While obtainable from almost every lumber firm, it is important to remember that not all plywood is created equal. The least expensive varieties usually are replete with many voids, both large and small. These voids are problematic when pattern building because they create unsightly spaces that are difficult to correct.

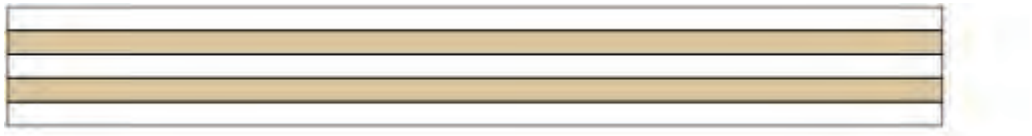
Generally, either of two plywood thicknesses is used to make patterns: half-inch or three-quarter-inch panels. The metric equivalents are 12 MM and 18 MM. More important is the number of plies used to achieve the nominal thickness. More plies mean fewer voids and stronger material.

The other essential component of plywood patterns is the adhesive. The pattern-making process requires a good deal of precision sawing, followed by reassembly with adhesive and clamping. Have an adequate supply of adhesive and glue spreaders on hand. Wood glue is recommended over CA glue because it is water-resistant (e.g., Titebond-3) and forms a stronger bond.

Many YouTube videos on plywood patterns show makers gluing only one side of the plywood strips. I recommend applying the adhesive to both joined strips for greater strength before clamping.

Plywood Pattern Basics

The ply structure in plywood forms parallel lines. However, the plies are visible only when the plywood is viewed along its edge. The goal of pattern-building is to make the plies visible from all surfaces; thus, the need to cut the panel, turn the resulting strips 90 degrees, and then glue the rotated strips back together to create a new panel. The parallelism of the plies also means the designs will have straight lines and most will include angles.



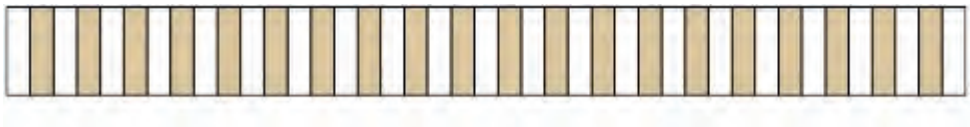
Initial strip after a 90° rotation.

Now, visualize some number of these rotated strips glued and clamped together:

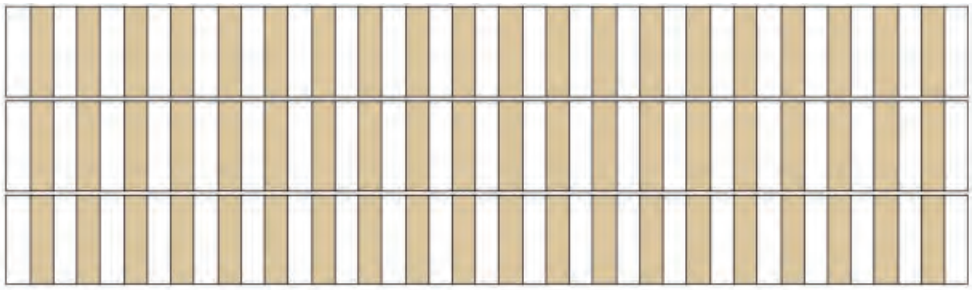


Rotated strips glued together forming a new panel.

If the goal is simply a set of horizontal lines, the pattern is finished. Cut the panel to size, sand it, and apply finish. What if vertical strips with horizontal plies are needed? The panel above needs to be cut vertically, then glued, and reassembled:

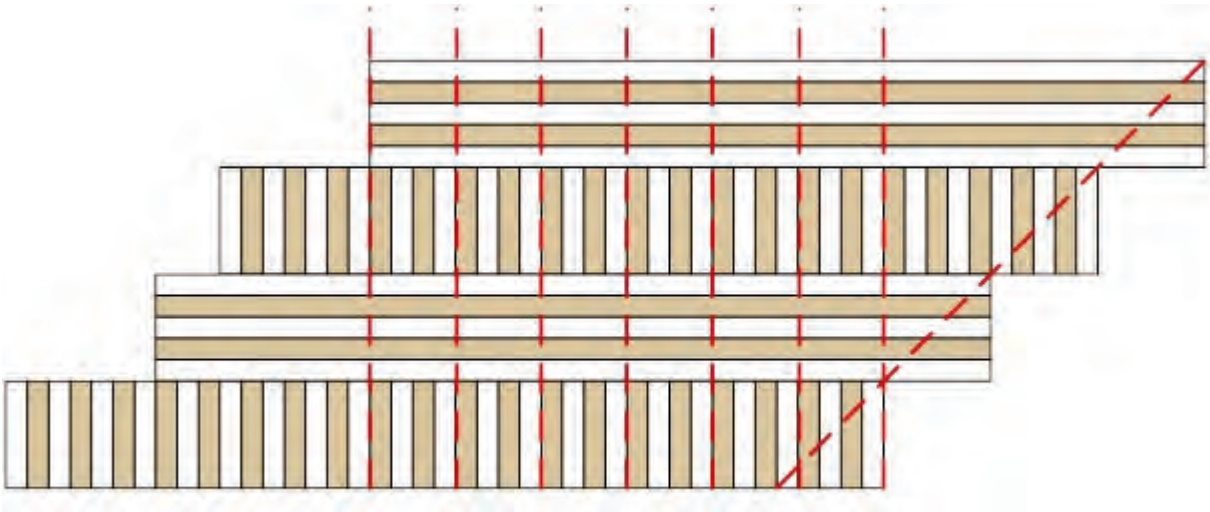


… and then gluing a number of these new strips to create another panel:

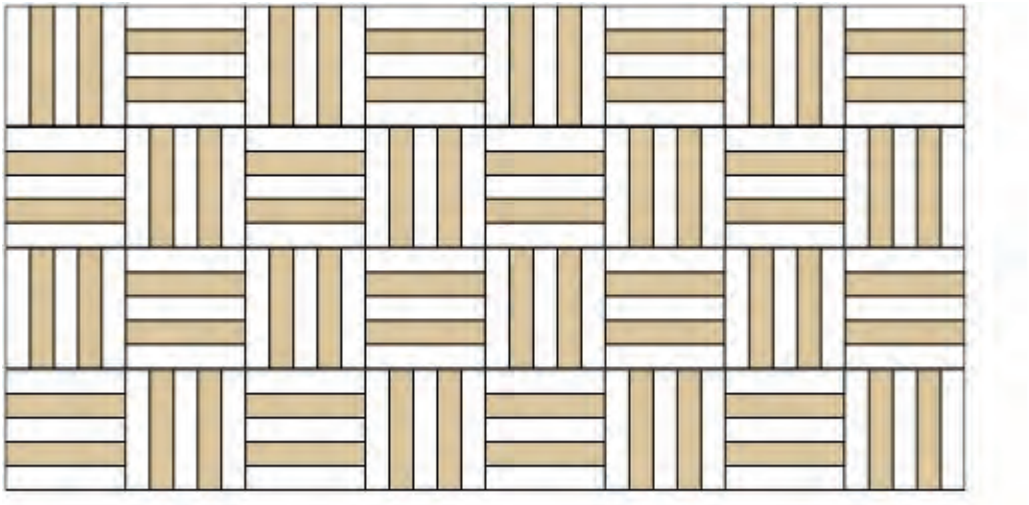


A new panel of vertical plies.

A basketweave pattern emerges if a new panel of alternating vertical and horizontal strips is created:

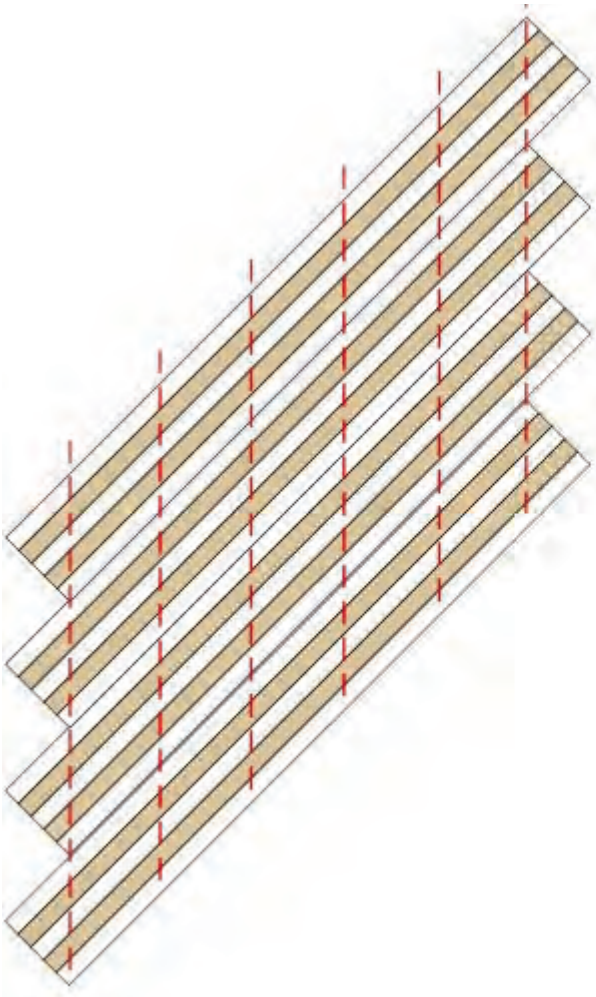


Strip layout for basketweave design.

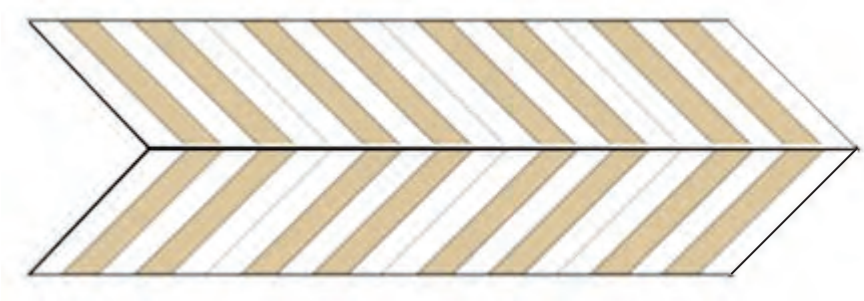


Here is the final basketweave panel.

Other designs are possible when strips of 45° plies are created:



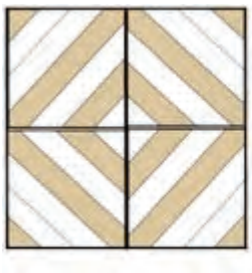
The 45° strips immediately lead to new possibilities, such as chevrons:



Or join chevrons and make waves:



Or squares or diamonds:



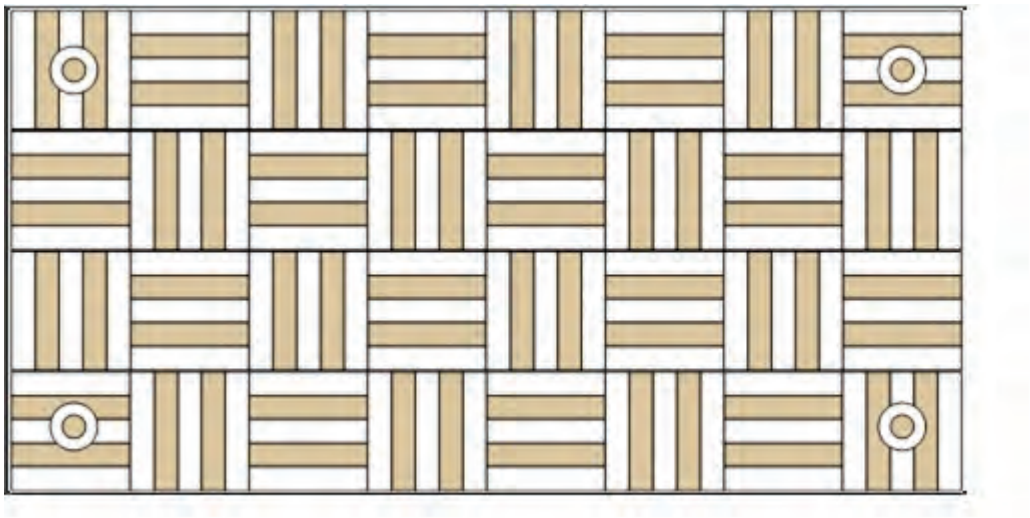
Similarly, dowels can be used to make round plywood. Start with dowels of three different diameters, for example, 1/8", ¼", and 3/8". Drill a 1/8" hole in the end of the ¼" dowel, and a ¼" hole in the end of the 3/8" diameter dowel. Then insert each smaller dowel into the next larger size.



Presto, a round plywood dowel:



Then combine the "round" plywood and basketweave for a singular design.



Some Considerations When Making Strips

The process of cutting strips and reassembling them into various patterns consumes a considerable amount of plywood beyond that used in the final pattern. Each strip loses at least a blade kerf from each cut, typically 1/8th inch.

The wood loss from cutting adds up quickly. For example, assume ¾" thick plywood is used. For simplicity's sake, further assume that a panel that is 12" X 12" X ¾" is needed and strips of ¾" X ¾" X 12" will be used. Thus, 16 strips will be required. At least 15 cuts will be necessary, so 15 cuts X 1/8" kerfs = 1 7/8" of wood lost. That is equivalent to 2 1/2 strips lost because of the cutting process. Thus, creation of the 12" X 12" X ¾" panel will require minimally 14 3/8" W X 12 L X ¾" T of plywood. And that is for the first glue-up.

Accurate cutting is essential for success. When cutting strips, use a sled, miter gauge, and fence for accuracy.

More wood loss occurs during cleaning up adhesive seepage, flattening the new panel, and preparing the project for applying the finish. Each of these steps will reduce the panel's thickness.

Potentially, the most loss will occur from flattening the freshly glued-up panel. For that reason, care must be taken with strip alignment during the glue-up and clamping stages.

Another safeguard the prudent woodworker can employ is to cut the strips "over-wide." Allow an additional 1/8" or ¼" to the target strip width. Thus, for ¾" strips, cut them 7/8" or 1" wide, and realize that the target thickness of ¾" will be achieved after flattening and sanding.

In closing, the various designs possible with plywood patterns and dowel plywood offer many options. Let your imagination run wild. The materials are reasonably inexpensive and readily available. The tools needed are found in most woodworking shops. Go for it!

Some Helpful Videos

Georgie's Workshop Series

Patterned Plywood Box Series Ep. 1 | Easy DIY Woodworking Project That Looks Amazing!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1u7gStGXlc

Patterned Plywood Box Series Ep. 2 | Two Designs You'll Want to Try
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z45sJEPWTyg&t=261s

Patterned Plywood Box Series Ep. 3 | Imperfect Builds, Stunning Patterned Plywood Results
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OeBK7h3dHLk

Patterned Plywood Box Series Ep. 5 | This DIY Box Turned Out Better Than I Expected!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmdwijZd-nU

There are at least eleven videos in this series.

Puzzle

Michael R. Mittleman

Happy 250th Birthday, US of A

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

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

S	P	A	S	M	S
T	A	R	M	A	C
R	E	G	I	N	A
E	L	A	T	E	R
A	L	L	E	G	E
K	A	I	S	E	R

Solution to June