

Welcome

President John Loftis welcomed a large group to the May meeting.



Guests

Carl Nehrbass of Sherman likes to build furniture. He has been on the NTWA email list for some time and decided to come to a live meeting.

Announcements

Bill Richardson has stuff for sale including a portable A/C unit and a miter saw with a stand. Contact Bill at 972-422-0243 or Bill@awwtx.com.

Membership Co-chairman *Vic Gutekunst* placed the membership list at the front of the room and asked everyone to review their listing, make any necessary corrections and check the box once completed.

Bill Bush announced that there is equipment left from the Saturday sale in Plano and that prices have been cut on remaining items. He will send out the info.

Steve Yauch said he will be sending out information on the annual tool sale in Garland.

John Loftis says he has a 37" Performex drum sander for sale. Contact John at 469-387-8581 or john@lonestarartisans.com.

Gary Bobenhausen brought in a box of SOSS hinges that Dan Chenault of Rockler is giving away.

Shop Questions

Rich is looking for a sanding attachment to get in-between very close segments of a carving. There were no suggestions.

Ron is looking for someone to do laser engraving. Maker Space was one suggestion and both Bill Bush and John Loftis said they have contacts.

Show & Tell



Bill Jacobs made 97 of these cross Christmas ornaments out of quartersawn white oak. They are finished with shellac.



Jim Polanco made this cabinet for the laundry room with low-profile drawers to give easy access to everything inside.



Dale Smith made this box using finger joints and carved the lid. Note the wooden hinges!



Ron Giordano made this maple and walnut dovetailed box using an Incra jig. He hand-carved the ribbon trim.



Gary Bobenhausen displays a sampling of some salt and pepper grinders he turned on his lathe. Those he is holding in his hands are called "thumb" grinders.



Joe Polich shows off the hutch he built for the desk he made back in August. Made of mahogany in a matching Greene & Greene style, it has bi-fold doors and lots of storage inside to hide the computer, monitor and notebooks.



Sidney Futrell brought in a SawStop brake that partially fired on its own while the saw was off. It is being sent back to SawStop for evaluation.

Congratulations to **Dale Smith** for winning the \$10 Show & Tell drawing.

Raffle

Steve Jenkins: Wood River router bit bearing kit

Bill Jacobs: Wood River router bushing set

Sidney Futrell: Freud rabbeting bit with bushing set

Program

Club member Bill Richardson talked router basics, techniques and the versatility of routers.



Bill started out by saying that the router is the most versatile tool in the wood shop – it grooves, dados, rabbets, straightens edges and even planes with the proper jigs. He said that a router table really adds to the efficiency of the router.

Some of the features you should look for when buying a router are:

- Soft start

- Variable speed

- Bigger router – ¼" & ½" collets

Trim routers come with ¼" collets only and are especially good for inlay work in addition to trimming laminate and veneers.

Routers can come with a fixed base or a plunge base, but some manufacturers are selling combo sets. These sets come with both fixed and plunge bases. Fixed based routers are lighter, less bulky, a bit more versatile, but are harder to set the depth. Plunge base routers are really good for stopped cuts such as dados.



Jigs and templates are important additions to make your routers more versatile and productive. Bill likes to use ¼" and ½" MDF for both. He says if you use plywood, be sure to use top quality plywood that doesn't have voids.

Steve Jenkins assisted Bill in his presentation and brought in several of his jigs. Steve says he likes to use Baltic Birch supporting Bill's

comments of using top quality stock without voids.

One of the jigs he brought in was a dado jig that he will size to fit the stock and if necessary includes stops if the dado is to be stopped on one end or the other or even both ends. The jig is spaced so that the router is pressed against one side or the other to create a dado of the desired width.



Steve's second jig was for making drawer pulls. A pattern bit follows the template to give you multiple pulls that are virtually identical.





North Texas Woodworkers Association

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Regarding router bits, Bill's favorites are Amana, Whiteside, Freud and Wood River, but he stressed that these are his personal choices. There are other manufacturers of router bits that are just as good, but he prefers these.

Bearings on the top of bits are good for doing pattern work with templates while bearings on the bottom generally are best when routing a profile on the edge of your stock.

Spiral bits work best on oaks, maples and other "wild" grain woods. When trimming laminate, Bill says you should dip your bit in lacquer thinner periodically to remove the glue residue from the bit, but be sure to re-oil the bearing.

If you're hand routing a profile around the edge of your stock, you can use a climb cut on the transition from edge to end grain to reduce tear out, but if you're doing it on a router table, don't use a climb cut, use a sacrificial board instead.

When installing the bit in the router's collet, don't bottom it out. Bill likes to push the bit all the way to the bottom then pull it back up at least ¼".

You should slow the router speed down as the bit diameter increases, especially if you are doing raised panel doors. You should also use multiple passes to reduce tear out and burning. Speed charts are

available online, in manufacturer's catalogs such as Eagle and Woodline and in some of the woodworking magazines. Porter Cable has a good one too.

As far as maintenance, Bill suggests blowing out your router with compressed air after heavy use. The only other maintenance is to check the brushes and bearings periodically.

Bill encouraged everyone to wear eye and ear protection when routing and to make sure the work area is clear, both floor and bench, to reduce any chances of becoming distracted when routing. He says he has a cardinal rule that no one in his shop is to interrupt him when routing; they are to wait until he completes a cut so he can remain focused on the router.

Thank you Bill for a GREAT program!

**Next club meeting:
June 16th, 2015
7:00 p.m.
The Party Barn**

*Newsletter edited by: Joe Polich
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