

Welcome

President Jay Stearns welcomed everyone and due to a late-night emergency with one of his dogs and a lack of sleep, he asked Vice President Steve Yauch to take over the meeting.



Member Brian O'Donnell was assigned to the USS Columbus, a nuclear sub, when it was launched.

Announcements

Bodie Pyndus said he's received the Beads of Courage beads and asked for clarification on how to distribute them. Joe reminded Bodie that in the November meeting he asked him to put a note in the newsletter saying to drill a 7/8" hole, 5/16" deep and he, Bodie, would glue in the bead.

Members can contact Bodie at 972-741-5333 or bpyndus@me.com. Jay said the club would reimburse Bodie not only for the beads, but for any postage to send beads to members.

Although Bodie lives in Allen, he works in North Dallas at LBJ and Coit Rd. and the church woodshop is in Richardson. Members can arrange to meet him wherever it's convenient to drop off boxes.

Shop Questions

Jim Cadorette asked if anyone has sandblasted wood for "effect." Chris Kersey said Harbor Freight has inexpensive sand blasters and Steve Yauch said he has an old one that he's never used, but Jim is welcome to borrow it. JW Hoover suggested Jim look up American Restoration to watch some of their videos on sandblasting with a lot of different media. Gary Turman said he's done it with glass bead and said that the type of blast media used has a big determination on the final look as does the hardness of the wood. He cautioned that sand is very aggressive.

Gary Turman asked if anyone now has or has used a IVac switch. You plug the switch into a 110V outlet, your vacuum into one receptacle and your tool into another receptacle. When you turn on your tool, it automatically starts the vacuum.

Jim Polanco says he has used a power strip that has a master receptacle and several slave receptacles, but it trips the built-in 20amp circuit breaker a lot.

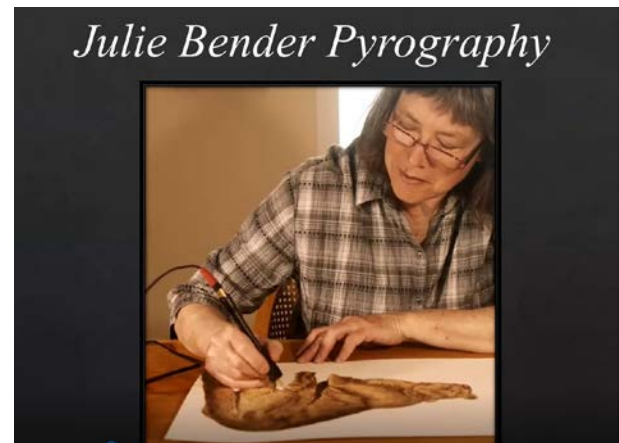
Chris Kersey said along the same line he has a breaker that seems to be tripping a lot lately. He read that it's a sign to replace that breaker and was wondering how difficult it is to replace. Jim Polanco suggested replacing it with a tandem breaker that will give him a second circuit. Gary Turman suggested he might look at using a 20amp if it currently is 15. Most home wiring will handle the 20amp. Everyone agreed it's an easy fix and you should shut off the mail power if it's your first time.

Program

Neal Pappion introduced tonight's speaker, Julie Bender, a renowned artist in Pyrography. She relocated her studio from Atlanta to Estes Park, CO, just outside Rocky Mountain National Park about 8 years ago due to her specialty of wildlife.

She is now teaching classes online due to COVID, but is anxious to

getting back to live classes. One advantage of the on-line classes is that students get access to a recording of the class plus they can see other students' work to help them understand techniques and gain inspiration.

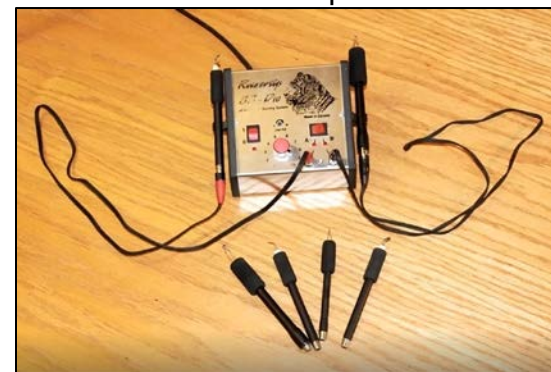


<https://www.juliebender.com/>

She started out going over basic tools. You can start out with a basic burner from a



crafts store or online. As you gain experience, you can upgrade your burning system to one with more control options and



that uses tools with a more natural

feel, more like a stylus. This particular burner is made by Razortip. Julie uses mostly shading tools with flat surfaces and a slight bend of about 30° that gives you a more “natural” feel.

Jumping to finishes because she figured that as woodworkers, we’d be real interested in the products she uses.



Julie found that these products are the best at reducing “burn fade” that occurs naturally. She does caution customers to avoid placing their pieces in direct light, artificial or sunlight which accelerates burn fade.

Julie mostly uses a maple ply for her images but says that solid wood does work. She recommends hard wood rather than soft woods because soft woods don’t hold good line definition.

She prefers maple for the creamy background.



When starting a class, Julie uses the following method to get the class started. A photo is transferred to the wood using graphite paper, not carbon paper, so the photo needs to be the size of the finished piece.

Julie always starts with the eye because it is the most difficult element. You don’t want to invest a lot of time in the rest of your piece before doing the eye so if you screw it up and throw it away, you haven’t invested too much time.





Julie then works outward from the eye filling in the details. She pays special attention to the hair to give it direction and a

natural look. She always has the original photo next to her to constantly refer to for the details.



Once the foundation is built out, Julie goes back to blend the various elements to make the piece more life-like.

Smoke is generated while you burn so it's a good idea to have a fan blowing the smoke away from your face. It is an aromatic smell much like a fireplace.

Tones are deepened by moving the burner slower or turning the heat up. You do need to use caution when turning up the heat. There is no fix for burning an element too dark.

This photo shows how the darkening process makes the elk jump off the wood.



The final piece looks like the photo was printed directly onto the wood!

Julie's classes are very much hands on whether they are live or online. Julie can watch the student work and can critique their technique as it happens. Classes can be group or private.



This link gives you the details of Julie's classes and a list of the materials and tools needed.

<https://www.juliebender.com/workshop/24778/introduction-to-pyrography-8-week-course>

Julie wrapped up the program doing a live demo of her technique with a horse.



This view shows how Julie works from the photo to help get the details right.

Thank you Julie for an incredible program!

Show & Tell



Jay Stearns got this reindeer at a garage sale and decided to make a whole herd of them. He says that the grain should be oriented vertically,

otherwise you create weak spots where the reindeer breaks apart. He decided that reindeer needed to have a sleigh, so he made one out of flaming box elder, one-piece of course, much like his band saw box drawers.



Jay uses a 1/8" blade and made his patterns using photo copies of the side and front, but Steve Yauch provided a link for patterns online: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/391391023836314932/>.

Bodie Pyndus' 6 year old grandson wanted a dinosaur night stand and this is what Bodie came up with:



The eyes are spalted pecan, the eyeballs are walnut and the iris' are basswood. The feet are walnut; the tongue is Brazilian rosewood; the nostrils are walnut; and the teeth are various pieces of scrap wood.

Bodie also made this cutting board with..... wait for it..... John Loftis cutoffs! The board is made of cherry, walnut, maple and sapele.



Jim Polanco made another cover for a cooktop. He used rustic walnut with racing stripes from home-made banding he made years ago. He finished it with polyurethane.

Ron Giordano made this 3" bud vase from a limb rescued by his wife lying in the median. She jumped out of her truck to take home to Ron.



Joe Polich did a tool review for a retrofit kit Rikon is producing for their 14" bandsaws called a tool-less bearing adjustment kit. This bearing assembly is on all newer Rikon bandsaws. Joe got his on sale at Highland Woodworking for \$99; normally \$150.

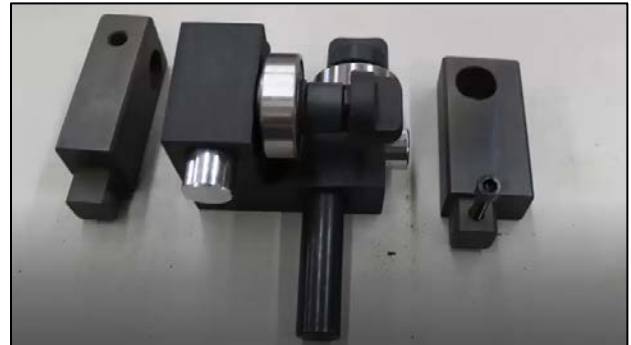


The kit comes with a new blade guard, an upper bearing assembly, a lower bearing assembly, a scale for height adjustment and an installation manual.

There are two mounting blocks for the height adjustment rack. One uses a set screw to hold it in place while the other uses a tapped through hole.



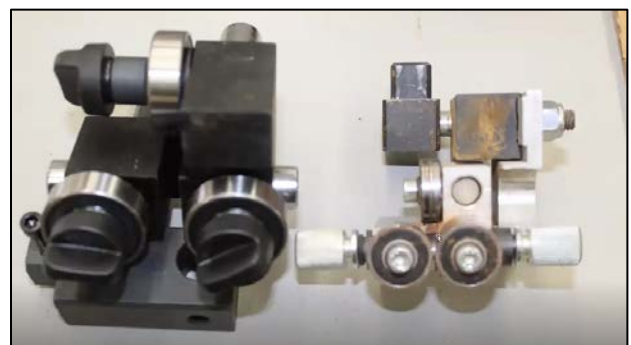
This is the lower bearing assembly.



This is the upper bearing assembly with the two mounting blocks.

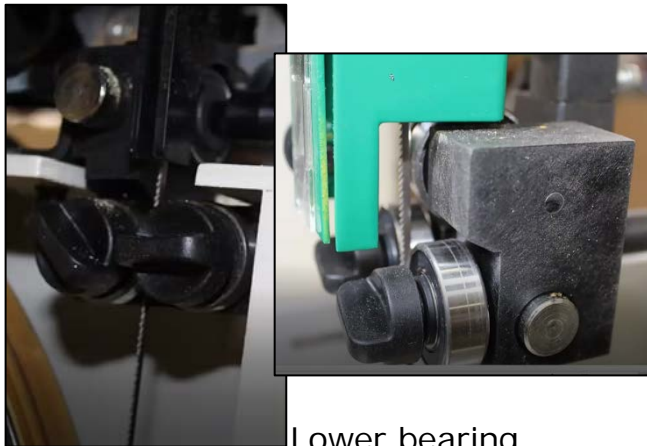


The new blade guard is painted a really funky yellow, probably some government regulation. It is required to provide clearance for the larger upper bearing assembly. I painted mine with a green that is closer to the green of my Rikon.



This is a comparison between the new upper assembly on the left and the old assembly on the right. The new bearings are twice the size of the old ones. Allen wrenches are no longer needed to make adjustments to the bearings. You just loosen the

black knobs and the spring-loaded shafts the bearings are mounted on pull the bearing away from the blade. To adjust the bearing, you push on the end of the mounting shaft until the bearing is positioned correctly then tighten the thumb screw. With the old setup you would loosen the bearing with an allen wrench then turn the adjusters to move the bearings, but there was a 1/2 turn of slop in the adjuster, so it was difficult to get the bearing right where you wanted it.



Lower bearing assembly on left; upper on right.



Upper bearing assembly adjusted for 1/2" blade.

Blade changes now only take a couple of minutes and the bearings are easily adjusted.

Joe also mentioned that Jay helped him get smooth cuts with his 1/8" blade. Joe's cuts required a lot of sanding, but Jay said his needed little. After a discussion with Jay, it was determined that Joe was over-tensioning the blade which is counter-intuitive to what you would think. Joe said it made a world of difference for his.

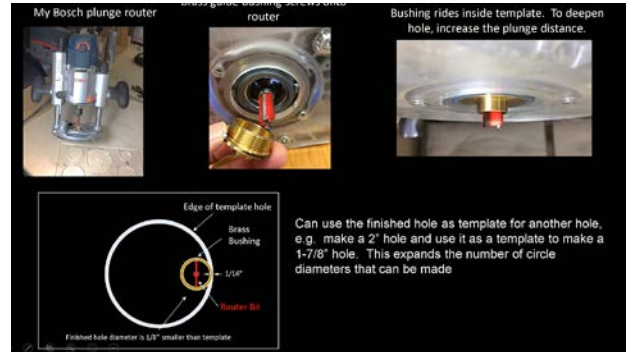
Jay also commented that over-tensioning can also lead to blade drift.

Brian O'Donnell made several tissue-box covers using finger joints and various woods like tiger maple, walnut, black maple, birds-eye maple, rosewood and oak.



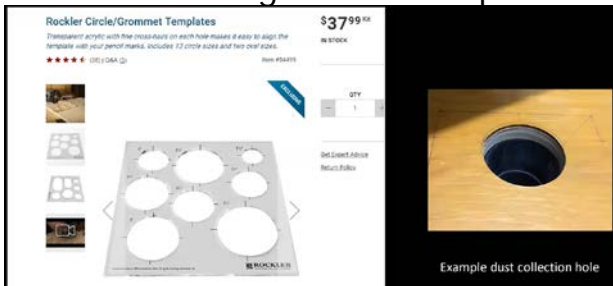


bushing and by using the circle you just cut as a template for a new size.



This slide shows the setup and process to create circles/ovals using these templates.

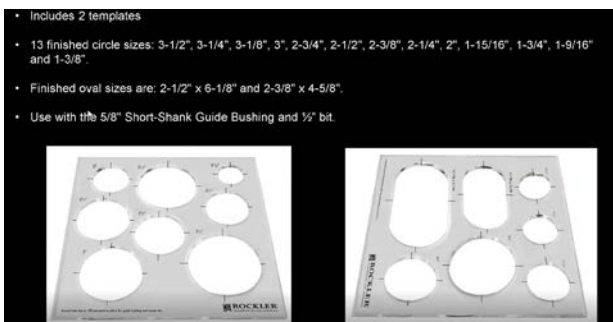
Ron Giordano did a tool review for Rockler's circle/grommet templates.



Ron did have a caution for everyone.



He says he's found a lot of uses like the dust collection sample above right.



You can even make different sizes holes by varying the size of your

If you plunge all the way down, your arbor nut unscrews the bushing nut which then causes the bushing to contact the router bit with disastrous results.

Guests

Victor Michels

Wendell Brough invited his son-in-law Mark in Lubbock to sit in on the meeting because of Mark's interest in Pyrography.



North Texas Woodworkers Association

See us at: www.ntwa.org

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Newsletter

December 2020

Raffle/Drawing

There was no raffle at this meeting.

Beads of Courage Box Build



Providing Arts-in-Medicine for
Children with Serious Illness

We will again be providing support for the Arts-in-Medicine for children with serious illnesses by making more boxes for Beads of Courage.

When: January 19, 2021

Bring your Beads of Courage box(es) to the January Zoom meeting to see how you stack up against the other members. You can show off your box(es) by sharing your computer or phone camera OR by using a document (pdf, PowerPoint, Word, or any other program you can share).

Rules:

1. Present as many boxes as you want.
2. Rectangular lidded box inside measurements should be about 4" Long X 6" wide X 4" Deep.
3. Turned lidded box measurements should be about 6 inches in diameter (5 inches minimum)
4. The box can be made of any type of wood.
5. **If possible, but not required**, the top of the box should contain the words "Beads of Courage" engraved, carved, inlaid or burned in the lid. A ceramic Bead of Courage can be used anywhere on the box as well. **Beads are available from the club on a first-come first-serve basis if someone wants to use it in their design. Please contact Bodie Pyndus at 972-741-5333 or bpyndus@me.com.** Make sure the lids are easily removable.

6. Your box(es) may also include other fastener, glue, epoxy and finish for decorative purposes or for a usage (hinges etc.).
7. Also, finials should be easy for a small child to grasp and not too elaborate.

Prizes: To encourage participation we will do a random drawing for \$25 gift cards: one for Woodcraft and one for Rockler. This will be in lieu of formal judging.

NOTE: There will be an additional drawing for all Zoom meeting participants for two other \$25 gift cards: one for Woodcraft and one for Rockler. All Zoom participants are eligible for this drawing even if they receive one from the Beads of Courage drawing.

Jay Stearns

NTWA President

Next Meeting

We will continue Zoom meetings for the foreseeable future.

**Tuesday, January
19th via Zoom
See email for
joining info**

Newsletter edited by: *Joe Polich*
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