

Sawdust & Woodchips Woodworking Association Summary of Annual Jig Night – April 6, 2011

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Photos by John Meloling



Bob Casey kicked off the night's discussion by showing a box joint jig set he purchased from Woodline USA. The set provides a simple and safe means to make box joints ranging from 1/8" to 1/2" using a router table and spiral bits. Bob noted that the standard kit includes a 1/4", 3/8" and 1/2" jigs. Because Bob needs 1/8" box joints for his Shaker seed boxes, Woodline agreed to make him 1/8" version to round out his set. You can find the set at www.woodline.com.

Barbara Raymond picked up after Bob by showing a new "Route-R-Joint Jr." system, also from Woodline USA. She noted these are a scaled down version of the original "Route-R-Joint" system for smaller work. These can also be found at www.woodline.com and Barb reminded the group that Woodline provides members of SWWA with a 10% discount on purchases.

Rod Castle recently added a table saw to his shop and was looking for a safer way to trim his 3" pepper mill stock at an angle on the table saw. He built a sled with hold-downs that gave him the means to secure the blank and make the cut. However, Rod noted that if he tightens the cauls too much it distorts the base and causes the sled to rock on the table. This issue led to an active discussion and a number of suggestions from the members.

Jerry Sweeney was looking for something to expedite the cutting of the pieces he uses to make cutting boards. He came up with a cutting sled made from MDF that rides in the table saw slots. It has a perpendicular fence to hold the wood. He has found this to work well. He also showed a push stick that he uses for cutting small pieces. Because of the design, when the pusher becomes too beat up, he can simply run it over his jointer to clean up the surface. The last series of jigs that Jerry showed were used for attaching wheels to toys while assuring proper location and spacing.

Jon Haney was turning some spoons and wanted a means to easily hollow out the inside of the spoon. He came up with a home brew jig that allows him to clamp a turned blank in place and use his plunge router to hollow out the inner part of the spoon. The jig was made from plywood and other scraps in the shop along with a "De-Sta-Co" style clamp to lock in the blank.

Mic Jenkins discussed a simple jig that allows him to make large flat and true glue-ups of boards. Mic used some oak stock to make the two clamping heads. They are slotted to take sections of all-thread that was topped off with a locking knob. By placing the boards between the clamping head on a flat surface he is able to apply pressure to keep the boards flat. By viewing the tops of the clamping heads from the ends as one would with winding sticks, he can shim up and adjust the clamps to eliminate any twist. The boards are clamped perpendicular to the grain with regular furniture clamps once they are trued.

Jim Patsos wanted to keep his fingers when he is routing small pieces. He devised a small square board of



plywood with a wood handle on top. Capturing the piece with the board, he can move it as needed and keep his fingers safe.

Dick Gorman needed to drill holes in the tops of his turned toothbrush holders and keep them true. He came up with a simple drill bit guide that is designed to fit his tool holder and can be adjusted easily to allow perfect alignment for the holders when they are on the lathe.

Jim Butler builds a lot of scale models and needs to produce uniformly accurate rippings for these projects. To do this, he devised a zero clearance base and fence system that can give him a high degree of accuracy. He used two tapered fence sections, one of which is secured to the base and the other movable. By sliding the movable fence back and forth and then securing it, he can “dial” in the dimension as needed.

Dave Peckham was intrigued from the moment he first saw the small candle holders in an issue of *Wood* magazine. Dave noted that while they look simple to construct, they became the project from *H---* so he created some jigs to help with their construction. He walked through the steps to construct the holders from cutting the center sections right up the four sidepieces, noting several problem areas. He pointed out the special care needed to set the brass candle inserts into the tops section and what can go wrong.

His first jig was a device needed to hold the sidepieces for sanding. This small holder captured the wood and allowed him to sand the surfaces without sanding his fingers. He rabbits the center pieces to fit the sides and cuts the sides to shape with the scroll saw.

Once these six pieces are sanded and ready for assembly he uses his second jig to assemble the holders. The jig is simple in design with two rabbit cuts intersecting at 90° and the same width as the sidepieces of the holder. Using the jig, he can insert the base and legs and then using a precut spacer add the top. Careful gluing and elastic bands result in a successful candleholder.

Noel McCarthy presented three large jigs. While creating a mantle for a project, he needed to create a mitered tenon for the side return pieces. Noel built a jig using some extra mantle stock, flat aluminum and two speed squares. By inserting the front mantle board into the jig and following the edge guide provided by the aluminum stock and speed squares with a collared router he was able to create mitered tenons for the joint.

Noel's second jig is designed to create a flat and true surface in boards that are warped when you don't have a 12" jointer. The board carrier is constructed from two pieces of ¾" plywood stock and has small support strips from 1" sock held in place by a length of bungee cord. These are spaced out at approximately 10" intervals and have sandpaper glued to the top. The warped board is set on the carrier and small wedges are inserted under the support strips as needed to adjust the strips and provide rigid support of the board to be planed. Noel noted that this works great especially if you have long in-feed and out-feed tables; if not, it will take a second person to help.

Noel's last jig was built to help expedite the construction of a wine rack for a 1200 bottle wine cellar. He constructed the jig to match the height of the rack and a series of spacer pieces were attached. This allowed for a simple method to align and space the bottle support in the numerous wine racks for the project.

