

Sawdust & Woodchips Woodworking Association

Summary of Annual Jig Night – April 5, 2012

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The 2012 edition of *Jig Night* had a smaller turnout than usual but it still had a fine array of jigs that members showed the group. Overall it was a good mix of ingenious ways to make the hobby easier, faster, safer or better.

Norm Thomas led the group by discussing his **pen jig**. This was probably one of the smallest jigs of the evening but it works great when you are making slim line pens.

Constructed from aluminum angle stock, this little jig securely holds the pen blank in place and allows you to square off the ends by sanding. This eliminates tear out. Norm commented that this jig is commercially available from Penn State Industries.

Charlie LaPrease followed with two versions of his **band saw circle cutting jig**. The jig base is constructed of plywood and has a rabbit to accept the circle center guide. This guide with a center pin slides in the rabbit and can be secured at any point to provide the circle diameter needed. The larger model that fits a 14" band-saw could produce up to 24" circles and the small model for a 12" band-saw could handle circles of about 18". Charlie noted that the bottom side of the base had a cleat that fit into the table's miter slot as well as end cleats that contacted two sides of the tabletop to allow the jig to be securely held in place while the circle is being cut.

Jerry Sweeney brought in two jigs to discuss. His first one was an **angle hole boring jig** specifically designed to drill the holes needed to take the legs on a three-legged stool he was building. Jerry constructed the jig using plans from an issue of *American Woodworker* August 1995. The jig has a circular base to support the drilling arm that can be rotated around the seat to line up with the needed hole locations. A spade bit extension, housed in a set of guides attached to a pivoting arm connected to a radius crosspiece attached to the upright, holds the proper size bit to bore the hole using a handheld electric drill. While Jerry's stool only had three legs, the jig could be used to drill the holes for a four-legged stool also. Jerry also displayed his **table saw push stick jig**. The construction was simple and straightforward to allow for pushing stock through the blade safely. Jerry commented that when the end nib gets chewed up he just replaces it and keeps the jig going. Jerry had copies of the pattern for the jig available for those desiring to build one.

Mike Shuron brought in a **Summerfield Tools Easy Bore jig** for drilling the mounting holes needed to install 35 mm hinges on cabinets. The jig costs \$179 but Mike noted that the time saved when mounting numerous hinges on cabinet doors was well worth the cost. The jig has three properly spaced drill bits that align with the dimensions for these hinges. Once the jig is set on the door, it is only a simple matter of using a drill with a hex socket to engage the drill bits and drill the holes to the proper pre-set depth. Hinge mounting is fast and easy with this jig.

Mic Jenkins discussed his **circular saw cut-off jig** he built to aid him when making end cuts on the framing lumber he was using to build a pergola. Starting with a squared off piece of 1/2" plywood, he first secured a cleat to one side of the board. He then took a similar cleat and secured it to the opposite side at a right angle to the to the bottom cleat. He then ran his circular saw against the top-side cleat and made a cut through the board to establish the saw base width. This resulted in the completed guide that could now be placed against an edge of the framing stock and the cutoff end could be aligned to the cut line on the stock. Passing the saw against the top cleat would now cut the stock to the desired length at a right angle. Quick, easy and true! Mic also brought in a veterinary irrigation syringe that he uses to apply a fine line of glue when needed. These little syringes can be loaded with your favorite glue and by slowly squeezing the plunger, a fine bead of glue can be easily laid down on your project. Mic uses a small nail/brad to plug the delivery end when he is done and the glue will stay fresh until it is needed again. Mic has acquired a box of these syringes that he will share with everyone for \$1.00 each.

Terry Dote showed the group his **edge rabbit jig** that he uses whenever he needs to cut a shallow rabbit in a project part. Constructed on a long plywood base, there are two carriage bolts installed from the bottom side. These bolts pass through a top piece that holds the work piece in the proper location to allow for easy cutting of the rabbit. Terry feels this is much safer than attempting to make this type of rabbit on a table saw. Terry also showed everyone his **everything jig**. This jig consists of a piece of 5/4" hard wood stock approximately 8"X12". By placing this jig in a bench vice and clamping pieces to it, you can comfortably cut dovetails in drawer sides or other work.

Bernd Kraus shared several of the jigs with the group that he uses when building his dulcimers. He started with his **peg box locator jig**. This special jig is used to establish the locations for the holes that are used for the tuning pegs. The jig is laid on the blank on one side and the two holes are marked. It is then flipped over to the opposite side and the holes for that side are marked. The jig allows proper offset and alignment of the two sets of holes. Bernd followed this with his **fret cutting jig**. This simple but critical tool was made of flat aluminum stock. Bernd has carefully measured and laid out the locations of all the frets on this stock and marked the aluminum permanently to allow easy and accurate transfer of these spacings to the fret board under construction. A **dado guide jig** was next on Bernd's list. He noted that the backside of the fret board has a dado that runs the length of the board. However, at one end, the dado angles away. In order to accurately create this angle dado on every fret board, Bernd uses a simple angled support that is placed under the fret board and aligned with designated markings to the frets allowing proper cutting of the dado.

The fingerboard needs to be glued to the backer and it is important to have a good bond between the two. This requires careful clamping of the surfaces. Bernd found this difficult to do on a standard workbench. Using simple deck hardware and melamine coated shelf stock, Bernd created a **raised gluing table jig** where he could properly clamp the fingerboards. These work well and he can glue up several at a time using multiple jigs. Another bonus of using the melamine shelving is that spilled glue will not stick to the surface.

Charles Trabold closed out the jig presentation by discussing a jig he has used to create circular cribbage boards. The **circular cribbage board jig** is constructed from metal sheet stock. A center point hole in the jig allows it to be rotated around the work piece during the drilling process. The jig is drilled with the required groupings of holes that are used as the template to drill the holes needed to accept the cribbage pegs. Charles offered the loan of the template to anyone desiring to build a cribbage board in the round. ✂

