



MICHIGAN WOODWORKER

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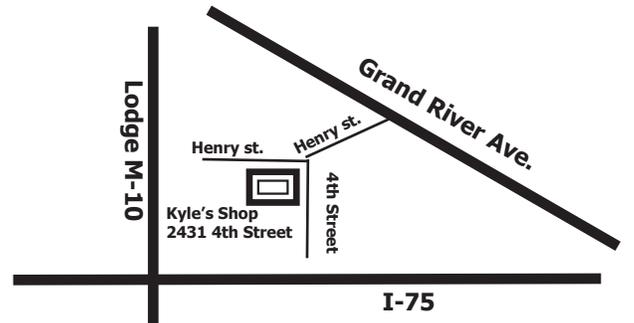


Michigan Woodworkers' Guild (est. 1981) JUNE 2017 Vol. 38 No. 6

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

At Kyle Huntoon's shop from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.
See page 6 for details.

There will be no luncheon this month.



MAP TO Kyle Huntoon's Shop-Detroit



Clay Bolduc demonstrating hand cut dovetails



Ken Wolf demonstrating dovetail cutting with a Katie Jig

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

There will be no meeting nor luncheon in July.

The annual picnic and swap meet will be on **Sunday, August 6** at the **Royal Oak VFW Park** from noon until....

The **September** meeting will be at **Kent Lake Park** where Jim Kudej will lead us on a **TREE IDENTIFICATION** field trip. Details in a future newsletter and on line at michiganwoodworkersguild.com.

There will be an all day workshop on **Saturday, October 10** from **10am to 4:30 pm**. It will be at the TechShop in Allen Park. Nationally known **Bob Settish** will demonstrate **CHOOSING AND USING HARDWARE**

NO LUNCHEON IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY

NO LUNCHEON IS SCHEDULED FOR AUG.

The **September** luncheon will be at Jimi's on the **28th** at 1:16 pm

The **October** luncheon will be at Jimi's on the **26th** at 1:16 pm



President's Corner



Bill Gayde



Pete Goddard

Bill Gayde, our current President, Membership Director, Audio/Video technician, Newsletter Editor, and probably a couple of other things, has been trying to shed some of his responsibilities of late. As a result, I have agreed to take over the Presidents position starting in October. In the interim, we will share the position as co-presidents. In addition, Ed Thomas has agreed to take over as Membership Director after a couple of month transition period. [Bill, who has held the membership job for so many years, will need to provide some transition training on his Access files.] Both of these changes were confirmed at the executive board meeting prior to the membership meeting, with the President transition approved by the membership during the meeting. I am looking forward to taking over the President's position if confirmed for 2018 at the annual elections.

Our June meeting is tour of Kyle Huntoon's Workshop on the 11th. I will be unable to attend that tour as I will be taking a class at Marc Adams school during that time period. If at all possible, plan to attend. It is rare to have an opportunity to visit the workshop of a professional woodworker, so it should be interesting. Anyone working in a field professionally approaches their work much differently than their amateur counterpart. That difference can have a considerable impact on equipment and facility layout. When you are trying to make a living at a trade, time is money, and waste avoidance is critical.

The annual Guild Picnic is in August at our traditional spot at VFW Park in Royal Oak. Given the parking difficulty at the 2016 picnic, I am glad to have it return to VFW park. As in years past, there will be a swap meet prior to the picnic itself.

Our September meeting is a tree identification walk out at Kent Lake Park, led by Jim Kudej. Additional details will be in the newsletter as the date approaches.

The executive committee is looking at the 2018 schedule of speakers which is currently open throughout the year. The executive committee is seeking ideas from any member. Our membership is engaged in a variety of woodworking activities so not all of our members have the same interest. Please let any member of the committee know if there are areas of woodworking that you are interested in that would make good subjects for one of our meetings. Speaker suggestions are always appreciated. I would like to see us tap the large reservoir of talent within the Guild for sharing information. We have quite a few outstanding woodworkers within the Guild. If you have an area of expertise that you can and are willing to present, please let one of us know. 2018 is just around the corner and all ideas are welcome.

Pete just about said it all. I am very relieved that Pete and Ed have agreed to take over the Presidency and the membership duties. I am sure they will do a great job.

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MEETING REVIEW



By Dale Ausherman

Hand and Machine Cut Dovetails TechShop Allen Park, May 2017

In my opinion one can never get enough instruction on cutting of dovetails. There are a myriad of evolving approaches and even though some of us have cut many dovetails, we can always use fresh instruction and knowledge of options. The May 2017 meeting at the Allen Park MI TechShop provided instruction on cutting of dovetails, both hand cutting of through dovetails and the use of dovetailing router jigs. The jigs were discussed as applied to half-blind dovetails, which are used when one does not want the joinery to show on one of the joined surfaces, such as drawer fronts. (There are also fully-blind mitered dovetails, but that is a horse of a substantially different color.)

Clay Bolduc started the instruction with demonstration of a simple and straight-forward means of cutting through dovetails. Basic tools included a marking gauge, dovetail gauge, sharp pencil, sharp bench chisel, "dovetail" saw, coping saw, two sets of dividers, and a suitable bench vice for holding the workpieces vertically to the bench. For the latter Clay demonstrated use of his shop-built "Moxon" vice, which is excellent for dovetail work as it raises the work piece to a more comfortable working height.

A google search will find many plans for making a variety of Moxon vices, but a favored standard is the one built from plans and hardware supplied by Benchcrafted:

<https://benchcrafted.com/PDF%20Files/Benchcrafted%20Moxon%20Vise.pdf>.

The screws and handwheels sold by Benchcrafted are of very high quality and design, and preferred by many woodworkers, but may be too expensive for some. Clay made his own screws and handwheels, and other alternatives can be found online, such as various "press screw" assemblies sold by most wood-working tool supply companies.

Clay's dovetail instruction was simple yet thorough, explaining many detailed steps too numerous to fully report here. Lee Valley has available an excellent set of detailed instructions, with photos, which essentially follow Clay's method for cutting through dovetails:

<http://www.leevalley.com/en/newsletters/Woodworking/1421//article1.pdf>

Omitting the details contained in this reference, Clay's steps in making the dovetails are:

- Cut your stock to be perfectly square on the ends.
- On blue tape or with light pencil identify the outside surfaces and label the "joining ends" of the stock to avoid mistakes in the process.
- Scribe the thickness of stock on the ends of both pieces to be joined.
- With a sharp pencil and the pair of dividers layout lines defining the "tails" part of the joint on the end of the board. There are differences of opinion as to tails first versus pins first, but here we follow the tails first approach. (A *Fine Woodworking* #190 March/April 2007 article by Chris Gochnour shows the tricks Clay used to evenly space the dovetails with a desired pin size. This article is available online at FWW for those with an online membership, otherwise ask one of those friends with a basement full of past issues.)
- Mark the sloped sides of the tails with a dovetail gauge (1:6 slope), available commercially or made in shop as demonstrated by Clay.
- MARK THE WASTE AREAS with X's!
- Use a dovetail saw to cut the tails to the baseline (Clay prefers to use a Japanese saw with the David Barron Magnetic dovetail saw guide. <http://www.highlandwoodworking.com/david-barron-magnetic-dovetail-saw-guide.aspx>)
- Remove the waste between tails by first cutting with a coping saw to near the baseline, then finish to baseline with a sharp bench chisel. (Clay used a really cool Knew Concepts saw, but any coping saw will do.) <http://knewconcepts.com/copingSaws.php>

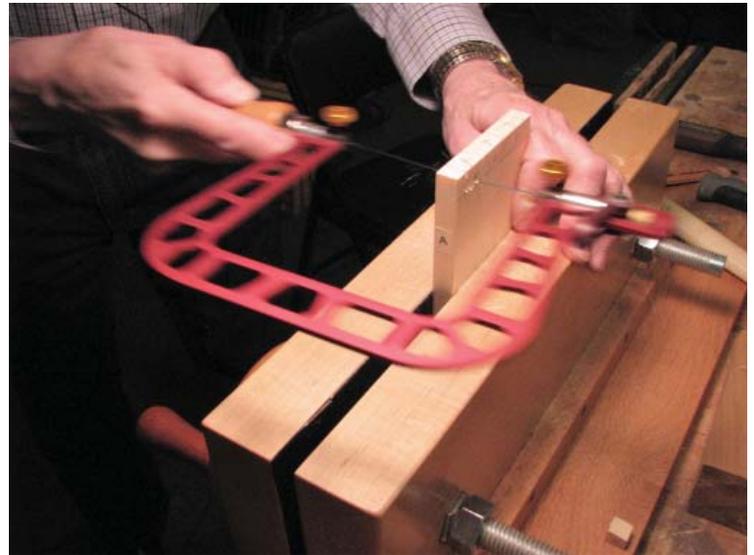
(Continued on page 4)

- Cut off the half pins with a dovetail or Japanese saw. (Clay uses a shop-built version of the David Barron Magnetic saw guide to ensure a precise right-angle cut.

<http://www.highlandwoodworking.com/david-barron-magnetic-guide.aspx>)



- Clean up the dovetails with bench chisel, checking for square with a small adjustable square.
- With the two joining boards well aligned, mark the pins on the pin board. The Lee Valley article shows a trick for doing this using an alignment block, and Clay demonstrated the use of a very handy shop made dovetail alignment jig. The jig includes a dovetailed joint itself so making this jig would be great practice. A David Barron YouTube video shows how it is made. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5l45mEWAJv4>
- Extend the pin lines down to the baseline, using a small square, or the dovetail gauge.
- **MARK YOUR WASTE!**
- Use a dovetail saw to cut the pins to the baseline using the alternative edge of the David Barron Magnetic dovetail saw guide.
- Remove the waste between pins by first cutting with a coping saw to near the baseline, then finish to baseline with a sharp bench chisel.
- Clean up the pins with a bench chisel.
- Trial fit the joint and adjust as needed with the bench chisel. The reference article provides tricks for paring to a good fit.



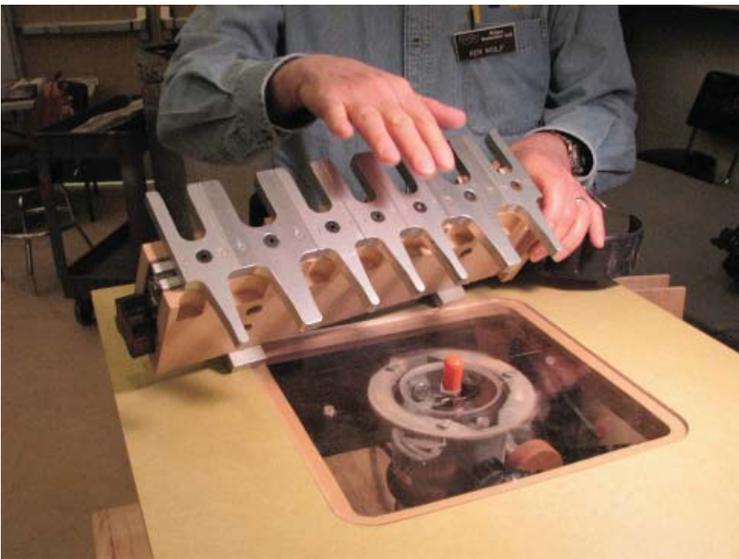
Clay's demonstrated dovetail joint fit nicely on the first try!

The meeting next proceeded to demonstrate two different means of using a router *dovetail jig* to make clean fitting dovetail joints. Such jigs can make near perfect dovetails, but require very substantive set up and then careful testing. The general judgement was that if one has only a couple of drawers requiring dovetails (4-8 joints), then it might be faster to do by hand (with some practice). But if one is making an entire chest of drawers, or a whole kitchen's worth of counter drawers, then a dovetail jig may be a good investment to save time. Of course some believe that hand-cutting dovetails is a lot of fun and so would prefer that approach. While the two dovetail jigs were described, and their set up was demonstrated, the demonstrators did not actually cut dovetails to avoid making sawdust in the meeting auditorium.

The dovetail jug demonstrated by Ken Wolf was a small jig intended for use with a hand-held router or on a router table. Ken recommends it be used on a router table for safety and stability. Ken's jig is called a *Katie Jig*, but apparently this particular jig is no longer available. There does appear to be a new version offered by Sommerfeld Tools called *Sommerfeld's New Dovetail Jig* which is very similar in appearance to Ken's and may be an offspring of sorts. <http://sommerfeldtools.com/sommerfeld-s-dovetail-jig>. (Leigh also makes a

dovetail jig intended for use on a router table, 16 in Leigh RTJ400.)

The Katie Jig is a type of dovetail jig that clamps onto the board being cut, rather than clamping the jig to a bench top and inserting the board into the jig. The jig is then moved around the router table top to engage the router bit with the wood. The Katie Jig has variable spaced pins, handy edge stops, but does require the woodworker to install sacrificial backer boards. Apparently the jig can clamp both pin and tail board at same time. The jig will cut only through dovetails. Ken recommends using it with two routers, each with its own table insert plate, to enable rapid switching between the required pattern and dovetail bits. Ken showed a portable router table he made for use in prior demonstrations of this dovetail jig. He showed examples of the excellent joints made by this jig.

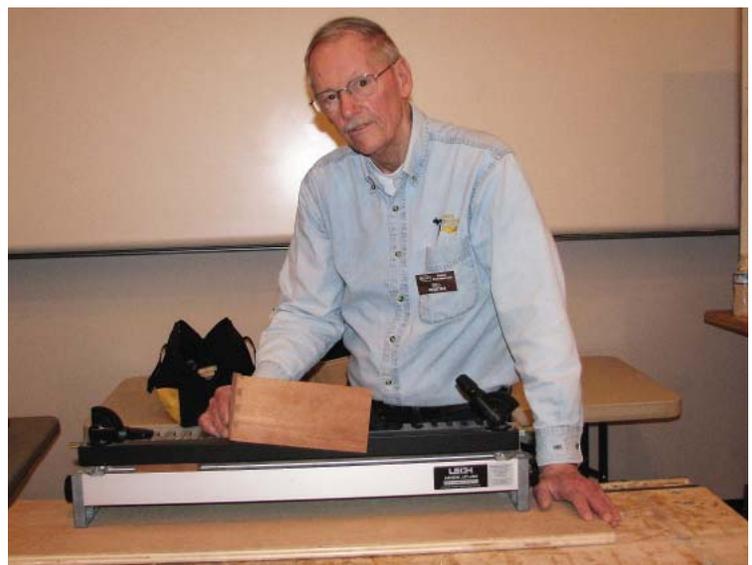


Bill Rigstad demonstrated the setup of a 24 in Leigh dovetail jig. Bill says if he had it to over, he would likely buy a 12 in Leigh jig, as the cost is considerably cheaper and all of the work he envisions could be accomplished with the 12 in jig. Bill had a 24 in Leigh D4 model, which seems to be discontinued (see discussion below). The advantage of the Leigh jigs over many others are variable spacing, ability to do both through and half-blind dovetails, as well as box joints and sliding dovetail joints (often used to join drawer dividers to side stiles on fine cabinetry). Bill says the 1/2 in thick manual is intimidating, but should be read thoroughly before use. Set up required good

understanding of the instructions and a bit of practice. He says ALWAYS to make test joints in scrap pieces of your wood.

Bill said his D4 required two passes to make half blind dovetails, but that an accessory was available to enable single-pass half-blind dovetails, and that the Pro model includes the capability. But it seems this limitation has changed with Leigh's current line of jigs. They now have the *D4 Pro* (24 in only) or the 12 in, 18 in, or 24 in *Super Jigs*. The 24 in D4 Pro sells for \$594 at Rockler, while the 24 in Super sells for \$489, and the 12 in Super for \$275.

Variably spaced through and half-blind dovetails are standard on all Super Jigs. The infinitely adjustable one piece fingers are positioned for any joint pattern and you are always guaranteed a half pin at each edge of the joint, regardless of board width. However, for Super jigs the pin width is a set size. (For the D4 Pro's *split* template fingers, the pin thickness is also variable, making for more variation in appearance.) The finger assembly is positioned for any joint type or board thickness using the caliper scales at each end. Other differences between the Pro and Super jigs is that the Pro can handle thicker stock, and the Pro has higher quality machining and materials. All the Leigh jigs require use of special Leigh router bits.



(Continued on page 6)



There are other popular dovetail jigs in the market, including those of Porter Cable and Rockler. I have no personal knowledge as to how those alternatives might compare.

Apparently most all dovetail jigs require careful study of lengthy instructions and some practice before using on final project wood. Perhaps for this reason many dovetail jigs “remain in the box” for woodworkers. So be sure you want to invest some significant time before investing your money. Or pick projects with fewer dovetail joints so that you can reasonably do them by hand! The latter is much quieter and generates less chips and dust.

We thank the Board for the setup of this very interesting and educational subject. We thank Clay, Ken and Bill for their hard work in preparing and presenting the demonstrations, and for sharing their admirable expertise.

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OPEN FORUM

By Ken Wolf

June 11 Field Trip to Kyle Huntoon’s Shop

Based on Guild member interest, Kyle Huntoon has graciously offered a tour of his shop **starting at 2:00 PM on June 11**. Following the tour there will be time to allow questions by attendees with all activities completed on or before 4:00 PM. No demonstrations are planned. This is an opportunity to see the shop facilities of this talented designer and furniture maker from our Guild. All attendees enjoyed Kyle’s excellent presentation to the Guild at our February meeting as well as his amazing TV performance designing and building furniture under extreme time constraints. His shop is located at **2431 4th Street in Detroit**; near the intersection of I-75 and the Lodge Freeway (M10) where street parking is allowed and a vacant lot across the street is available for parking, if needed. Don’t miss this great opportunity.



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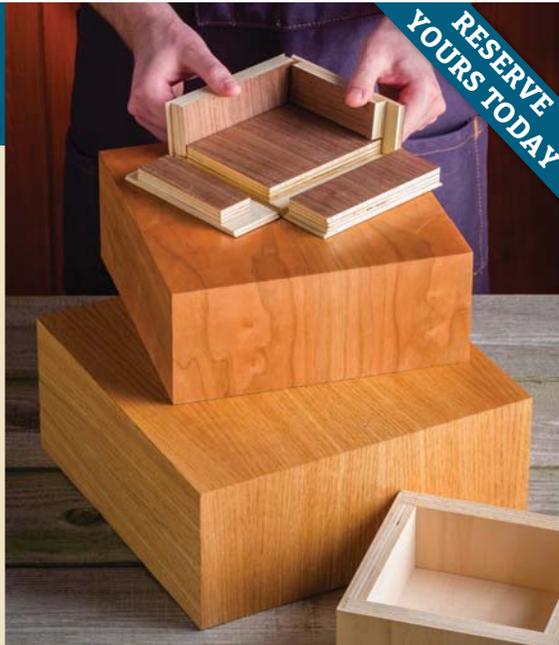


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For name tags, sign up with Ed Stuckey

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The Picture Gallery



A view of the many student projects at the MITES (Michigan Industrial and Technology Education Society) held this year at Saginaw State University.



Ken Wolf and Jim Kudej judging student projects at the MITES state competition.