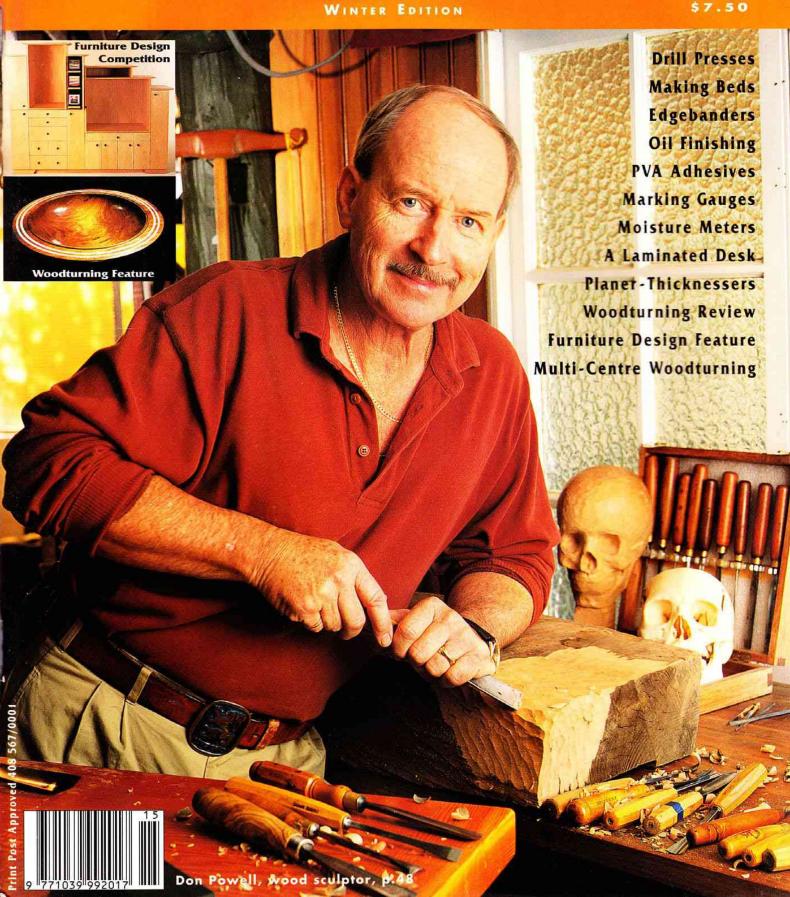
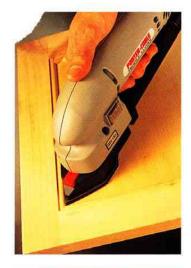
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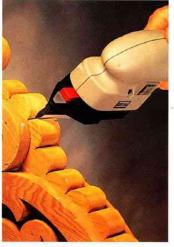
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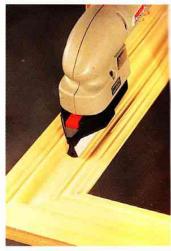
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AUSTRALIAN WOOD REVIEW

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Published by: Interwood Holdings Pty Ltd 435 West Mt Cotton Rd, Mt Cotton Qld 4165

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Staff Writer: Dinah Hall Publisher: Rod Nathan

Film & Print: Fergies P/L, Qld, Australia Australian National Distribution: NDD

New Zealand Distribution: Gordon & Gotch NZ Ltd

Retail Australia: Interwood (07) 3287 7088

Recommended Retail Price: \$7.50

Subscriptions (form p.92)

Wood Review is published quarterly. Australia: 4 issues \$26, 8 issues \$48

Overseas:

NZ: 4 issues \$39 seamail or \$46 airmail USA: 4 issues \$42 seamail or \$62 airmail UK: 4 issues \$42 seamail or \$66 airmail Note: Seamail can take up to 12-14 weeks.

Cover: Don Powell

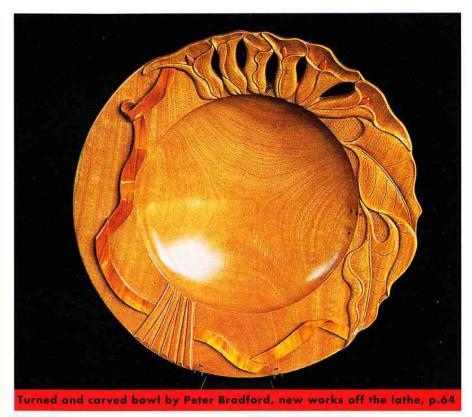
Cover photography: Clive Buxton

Issue 15, June 97 ISSN: 1039-9925

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EDITORIAL

Last December we launched the Crown Cut Furniture Design Competition and this issue, six months later, we present the work of each of the 28 final entrants. The results are a testament to the ingenuity and commitment of the designers and manufacturers who took part. We hope you will be inspired by the results and the diversity of the items made. Of immediate note were the winning entertainment unit by David Collins of Victoria (first prize) and the elegant wine storage and display cabinet by Benjamin Hunt (second prize), also of Victoria. Australian Wood Review along with Gunns Veneers Pty Ltd, and Forests and Forest Industry Council of Tasmania would like to thank and congratulate all who participated in this competition.

We wouldn't be true to our name if we weren't dedicated to timber and trees, as well as to the people who use wood and the means by which this material is fashioned. The creation of the new Natural Feature Grade Australian Standard for timber is to be commended for expanding our appreciation for this medium, as well as opening up even more potential for true value-adding. Alan Morris writes about working with this new grade of timber, which you should give consideration to using.

Side by side with the development of Natural Feature Grade timber has gone a growing appreciation of native species. Collective descriptions such as 'hardwoods', 'Tasmanian oak', 'Victorian ash' and 'mixed species' are starting to sound, in my opinion, outdated. Now at last, we are learning to appreciate the separate and highly individual species which have been lumped together for so long. This issue Dr Barbara Ozarska summarises the results of a study which she led into the processing of seven East Gippsland hardwoods. These timbers, familiar more by nature rather than their own names are now being granted their own identity. Although these particular processed products are not yet commercially available they are surely the way of the future in this country.

For a healthy serve of facts, figures and operational advise we offer reviews of drill presses, planer-thicknessers, edgebanders and moisture meters, not to mention marking gauges and eye safety gear (part II of our safety series). If you are a real technophile you'll certainly enjoy Rodney Hayward's definitive explanation of the workings of PVA glues.

This issue's cover story should inspire any of you contemplating a career change, or those who may just feel a bit weary in the face of a seemingly long road ahead. Don Powell, wood sculptor, has in only eight years worked his way up to an enviable level of skill and artistry. Hopefully his example and those of the many designers, makers and woodturners who appear in this issue will encourage you to experiment and take a higher profile.

Linda Nathan, Editor



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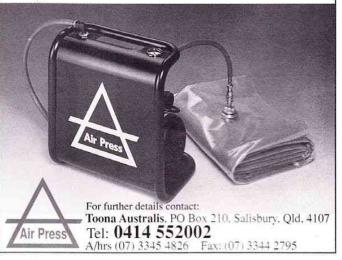
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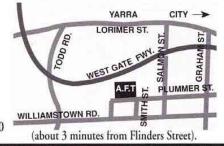
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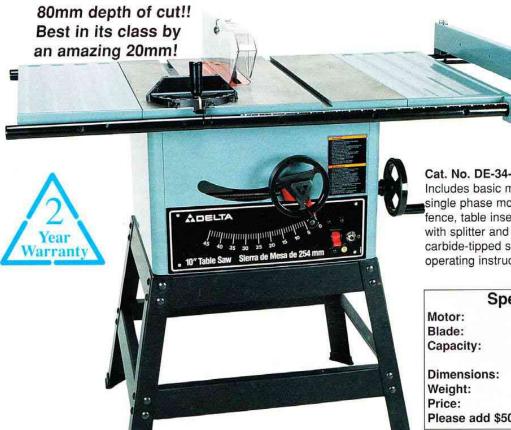
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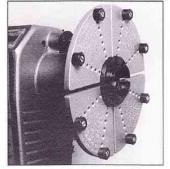
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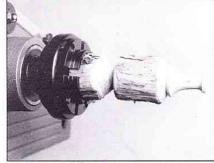
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Correction

Last issue we featured a review of works by students of architecture at the University of Melbourne. While each photo was carefully numbered, the corresponding list of captions didn't make it to the printer's plate. The makers of the images on page 8, issue 14 are: 1 Kimberly Pannan, 2 Mandy Tucker, 3 Peter Ho, 4 Toby Laughlan, 5/6 Kirsten Johnstone, 7 Brenton Weisert. Photos were by Terence Bogue.

EXHIBITIONS

Expressions in Wood: Masterworks from the Wornick Collection

Oakland Museum of California, February-July, 1997

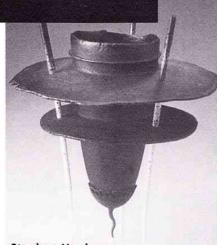
Reviewed by Andrew Potocnik

'The more I learn, the more my respect grows for the professionals who produce work of such impact as to transcend the process. Their pieces are of such originality, technical perfection, inspired design, and sensitivity to the material as somehow to be more than they are.' And so, Ronald Wornick writes, the search for 'art in my own work set the stage for collecting'. Wornick and his wife Anita now have a collection of some four hundred pieces, 62 of which were selected for this touring exhibition.

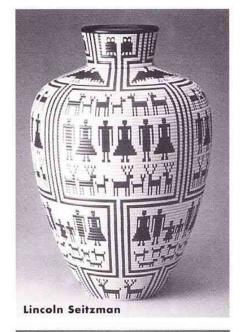
Most of the pieces are turned, some are carved, others are built up from small segments of wood. The focus of the collection (and this exhibition) is to 'celebrate unique examples of the recent artistic shift away from lathe focussed, technique obsessed vessels'. Collectively these works make a statement in balance and bathed in a sense of their own fulfilment.

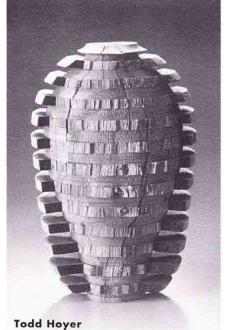
Some of the more striking pieces are by Todd Hoyer, Christian Burchard, Ron Fleming, William Hunter, John Jordan. In particular, Hap Sakwa's metre high vessel fascinated me. Made entirely of small segments of wood glued together, the piece achieves a technical symmetry usually associated with lathe-turned forms. The more I look at the image of this piece, (which has never come into contact with a lathe) the more it reminds me of a New York skyscraper and the office workers within who glimpse out.

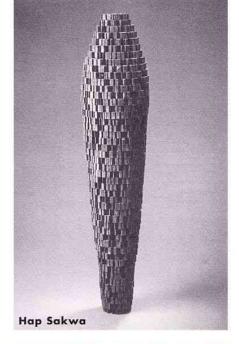
The exhibition, housed in the Decorative Arts section of the Oakland Museum of California, is an example of contemporary wooden vessel making. A



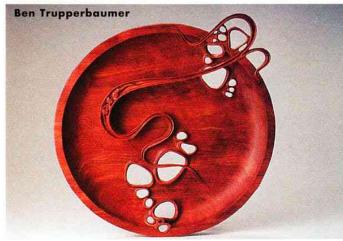


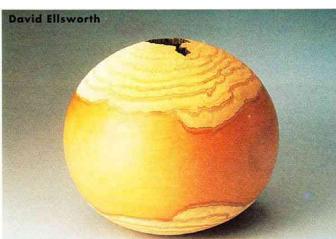














project coordinator, exhibition designer, lighting engineer and photographers are amongst the professionals enlisted to prepare this exhibition. A 168 page book, which contains four critical essays and biographies of all featured artists, was produced in a limited hard cover edition as well as the soft cover version. Four Australian artists were included: Vic Wood, Stephen Hughes, Ben Trupperbaumer and myself.

Many of the more recent works were already familiar, so this exhibition is already somewhat dated. The exhibition will travel to Texas after a five month sojourn in Oakland, then on to New York early in 1998. Negotiations are taking place for 'Expressions in Wood' to make its way to the National Gallery of Victoria in 1999. The test will be whether the work will be a dated representation of the wooden vessel for those of us who are familiar with current developments in the field, or whether it be will still be strong enough to have an impact on the community who will visit it.

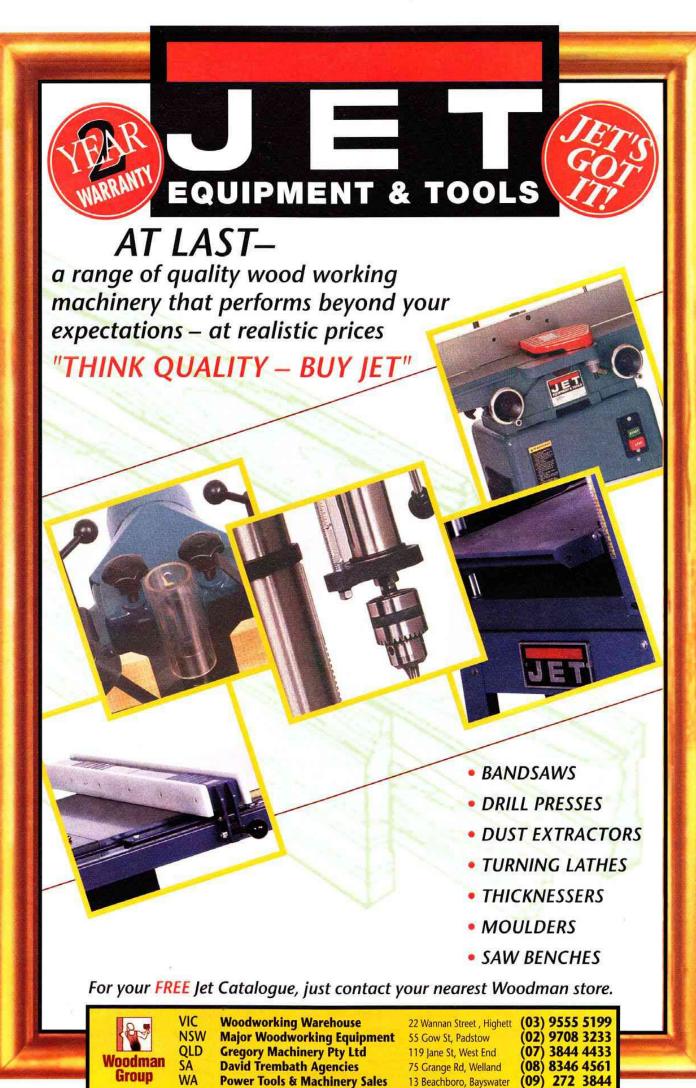
TESTAMENT IN TIMBER

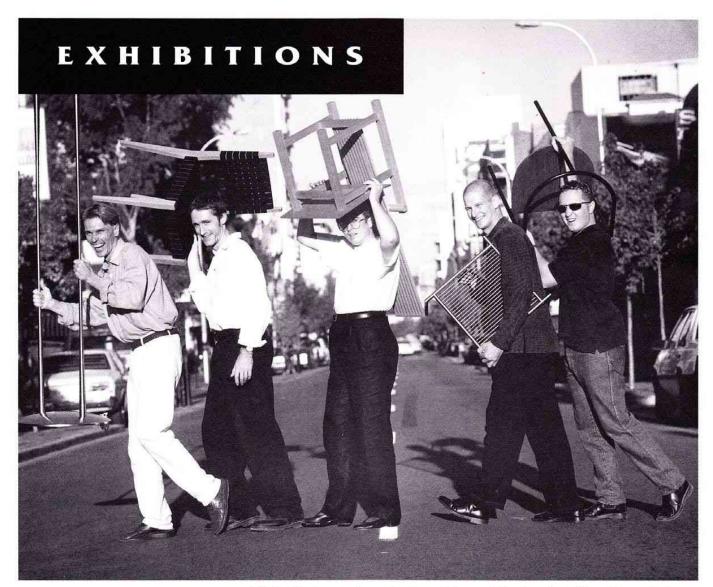
Coal Creek Historical Park, Korumburra, April-May, 1997

When Bass Coast designer/maker Jim Hammerly decided to invite 16 other workers in wood to participate in an exhibition the results were a testament to the support of both the local community and the buying public. Over 5,000 people visited the exhibition and sales during the period of display topped \$6,000.

Jim Hammerly, curator of Testament in Timber, takes a break in a cypress settle made by Martin Savery of Koonwarra. The settle was for sale at \$1,800.







D 1 EXHIBITION

King St, Perth, May, 1997

By Rita Clarke

King Street is *the* address in uptown Perth and that's not to mention its newly paved, cobble-brick guttered road, designer cafés and shops. Lately, the last of the old three storey warehouses are being tarted up. No. 68 gleams with paint, rebuffed woodwork and *Mondo Luce* lights.

On May 1, No. 68 opened its doors with a flourish to D1—a furniture Design Exhibition with a difference, initiated by five designers committed to public and commercial exposure of modern design. Its aim? To make specifiers, architects and designers aware of the design potential in Perth, and the public see that contemporary design is happening in its midst.

As David Smith points out, furniture

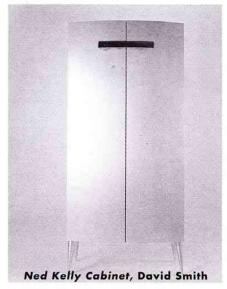
D1 Exhibition designer/makers left to right: Sander Dijkstal, Lee Jackson, Catriona Gregg, Paul Waterson, David Smith.

shows have been prevailingly traditional. 'There was no other vehicle available for contemporary furniture—now there is', he says with the hint of a triumphant smile. Actually the group is all smiles—the exhibiton has caused a stir, with about 450 people attending the opening night.

Each designer's work is different but the same, in its minimalistic, clean lines and its basic manufacturable simplicity. Sander Dijkstal's leather bar stools' rolled steel curves are continuous and easy to manufacture once the machine has been set. His C3 Stereo Cabinet on castors, with hidden cables, is beech veneered board with solid edges. You can sit or stand on it—a child's dream! C3 was made because 'we buy 20th century technical equipment and still put it in 19th century cabinets!'

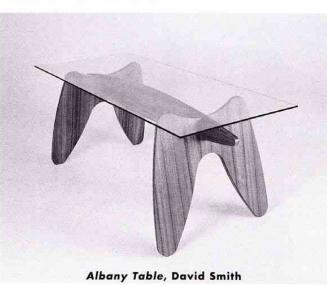
David Smith's Kelly Cabinet is lacquered MDF with curved plywood doors in aluminium laminate and solid aluminium legs. It seems to have a strength and human presence, and was christened because people kept commenting on its likeness to the bushranger. His Albany Table was christened after his newborn daughter. 'I wanted a table that had really strong three dimensional form but was made out of flat material and could be packed flat, was simple to put together and simple to manufacture'. It is glass and veneered MDF in Queensland walnut. 'It's 60's, slightly trashy—a little retro and I love it', grins David.

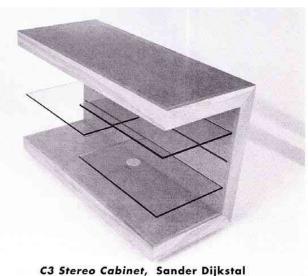
Loving their work is something transparently obvious when you wander around the exhibition. Catriona Gregg's Wheely Table is pure whimsy. A low, small square of glass on two of the











biggest industrial pneumatic wheels, it would look wonderfully ironic beside a Futon bed. On a more serious note, Catriona, trained at the UK's famous John Makepeace School, has designed the silky-fine English oak, Fulcrum Chair. Each slat moves independently so that the back will flex and meet your

tall or heavy requirements. The seat has a kick so the pelvis is perfectly positioned. Her simple, high backed sofa, designed, she says, not to 'bottom out' is made on the 'less is more' principle.

Lee Jackson and Paul Waterson work as a team. Their European Beech Hollo Table is made in hollow form with double skin all the way round. 'It has', says Lee, 'visual weight without



Hollo Table, Mad Cow Design

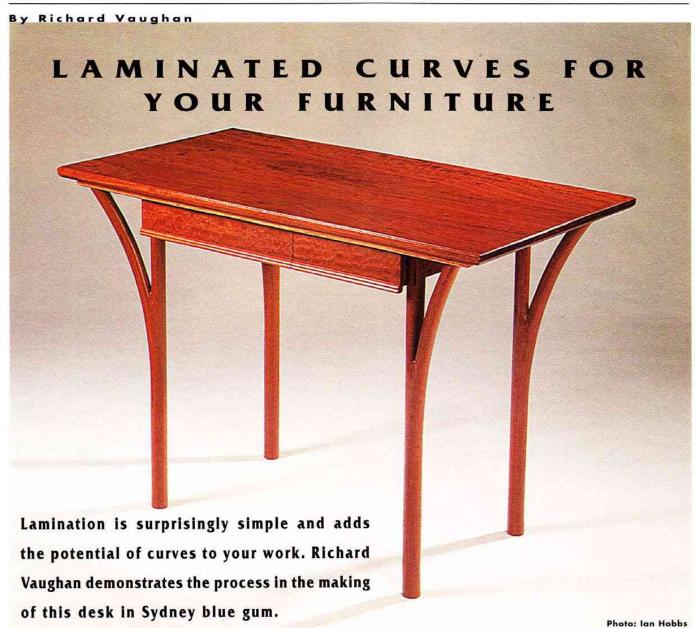


being too heavy. It is completely veneered on all surfaces and the face is veneered in one piece, rather than in sections, so there are no join marks'. Their graceful, yet sturdy, Gazelle occasional table designed for hotels is low cost, very simple with minimal fixing techniques—no

screws, no metal fixings. The top is American white ash, with black lacquered hardwood legs.

No. 68 will continue to feature Perth's best contemporary designs as the home of the re-situated *Mad Cow*, late of Subiaco. But where better to hold next year's contemporary design exhibition—D2 on May 2, perhaps? Watch this place.

Photos: Tony Harrison



The desk pictured was one of two designed as part of a complete office fitout, which featured cantilever type legs. Lamination was the obvious way to make the curves because it is far stronger, as well as being less wasteful, than cutting out of solid. Also, any visible glue lines give the curves continuity which cutting across the grain tends to break.

Planning The Shape

Before addressing the process of laminating I'll offer a few tips on getting the shape right. Once you've moved from initial sketches to scale drawings you need a full size elevation of the piece. A 2400 x 1200mm sheet of 3mm MDF is ideal as it can be leant against a wall to give a more realistic view of a piece of furniture. However

even a full size elevation won't give you a true idea of the way curves will appear in solid rounded form.

The legs of the desk are at an angle which further complicates things, so a full size mock-up was used (photo 1). Only the front left leg in the photo is in the round. It was made from glued up scraps of chipboard bandsawn and shaped with surform and rasp until it looked right. The other legs are just profiles, also in chipboard. A spray can of brown paint is handy to help the imagination reconstitute the chipboard.

Once I'd shaped the first leg it took about twenty minutes to bandsaw and nail gun the mock-up together so I could trial the overhangs and angles. It was barely stable enough to withstand a sneeze, but we're only

interested in looks at this stage.

Making The Former

The simplest method of laminating requires only one former plus several clamps (photo 2 shows two formers). Broader and more complicated shapes require both male and female moulds or formers which match while accommodating the component.

Estimating the amount of springback or memory (ie. the tendency to straighten) of the wood when the clamps are removed is a combination of guesswork and experience, as it depends on the type of wood and the thickness of the individual laminates as well as the amount of curve. Not surprisingly, the thinner the laminates and the shallower the curve, the less the springback.

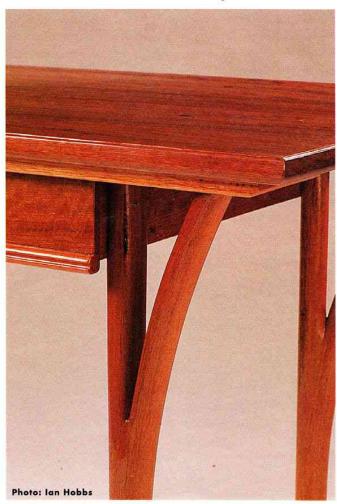
I used both Sydney blue gum (Eucalyptus saligna) and rose gum (E. grandis) in laminates of 50 x 4mm for the legs and the springback was a negligible 2mm. I have used 90 x 4mm laminates of spotted gum (formerly E. maculata now Corymbia maculata) for a 2 metre curve with 300mm deflection which straightened by about 4mm at each end.

The larger former in photo 2 defines the inside of the leg curve and is built up from layers of 18mm chipboard. Once you have one with a smooth sweet curve and an edge square to the face you can use it to trace out other formers which you then bandsaw slightly oversize.

With the original pattern fixed to a base board you can pin and glue the subsequent layers one by one. Fix these slightly proud and use the router with a pattern following bit to duplicate the original. Make the stack slightly higher than the edge of the laminates. About 100mm is wide enough to give the former strength and still accommodate the cramps. Anywhere the glue could possibly reach is covered with tape (ducting or packing) and then rubbed with paraffin wax.

Cutting The Laminates

Make sure you have enough timber to allow for the 3mm or so which will be lost with each saw kerf, then lay out and match the boards for inconspicuous joins. They should be docked to at least 150mm over length. Mark them on a

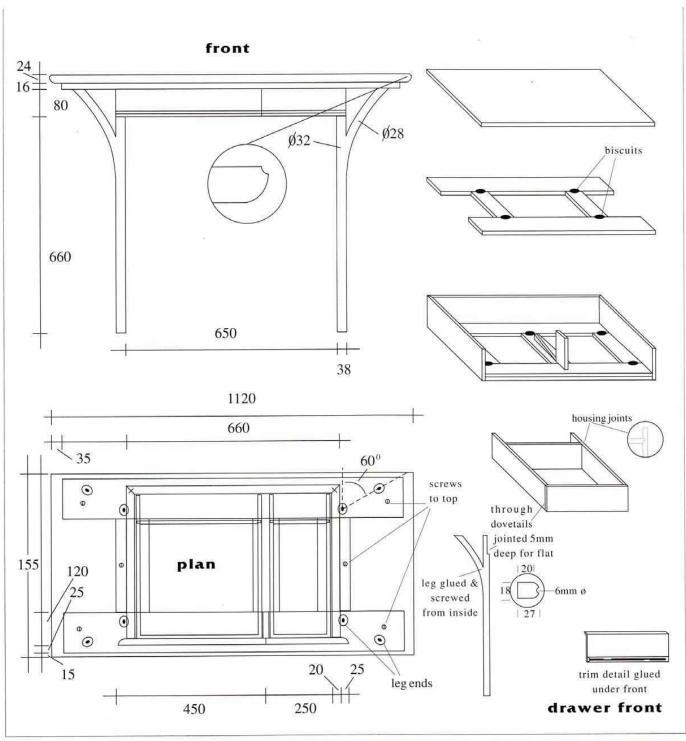


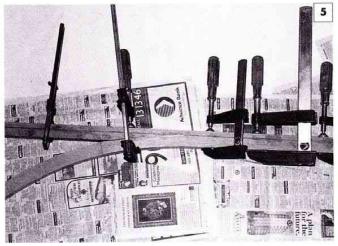


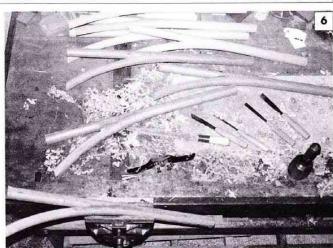












face and an end with crayoned diagonals (chalk gets lost) so you can reassemble them in matching order after cutting.

For cutting the laminates I use a 300mm diameter 72 tooth blade on my tablesaw. You need a clean unjagged cut for the joins to be all but invisible and working straight off the saw gives good keying for the glue.

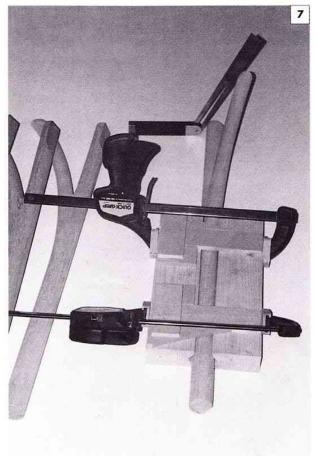
I slide a piece of 6mm MDF onto the table and clamp it there so there is zero clearance around the blade and full support for the laminates. It is essential that you set up the fence to be truly parallel to the blade so neither surface is scored on the way out. The riving knife/splitter should also be checked for accurate alignment. You may need to enlarge the fence to give maximum bearing surface. Well waxed MDF works fine and must be square to the table (photo 3).

The legs have three components (the full length straight piece is 14mm thick) which were sawn in the same order as the laminates to preserve the grain match (photo 4).

Gluing Up

Epoxy glues are ideal. They give a comfortable working time, easily slipping surfaces for adjustment and a bond which won't creep, but isn't brittle. Some epoxies have hardeners which react with the tannins in some species to give an obvious black glue line. I have been satisfied with Techniglue for about 5 years now. A warning though: epoxy glue doesn't like the cold so be sure the temperature won't be under 10° Celsius while the glue is setting. Use no more cramping pressure than is necessary to bring the surfaces into contact as it is possible to overcramp and starve the joint of glue.

Spread the glue thoroughly on both faces of each joint, then cramp the bundle to the former. Usually I work from the middle of the curve outwards but in this case it was convenient to pin the waste at the straight end with



a nail gun and work from there. Plywood blocks with newspaper facing were used to distribute cramp pressure and the hammer and plywood block (wood would split) served to encourage alignment (photo 4).

Each leg was clamped for 24 hours before the next one went in. Glue squeezeout was scraped off and the edges jointed and thicknessed. The tops of the curves were tapered on the bandsaw. Sliding bevel and handplane were used to fit the other components for the glue up (photo 5).

Shaping Up

The router with a bearing guided roundover bit did the initial shaping. I then settled in for the indulgence of hand shaping with carving gouges, rasp, spokeshave and cabinet scraper (photo 6). The skew is my hardest working carving tool and it was essential for the junction here.

The next step was to use a sliding bevel and jig (see photo 7) to make a flat on the tops of the legs with the jointer. This flat was glued to the drawer box and screwed from inside.

Making The Desk

The desk carcase was simply a box to hold the drawers, with a frame on it for attaching the top. The fully concealed dovetailed mitre is a joint of utter elegance and profound appeal. There is a different kind of appeal in mitres off the tablesaw locked with biscuits and epoxy glue, and that's the secret of the two mitres on this desk.

Biscuits were also used for joining the construction rails and drawer runners as well as for the frame which was glued and screwed on top of this box. The legs were attached to the box with the 'branch' component fixed to the top frame by a screw from above.

The drawers are of uneven width for both visual interest and for the practical aspect of being able to get at the contents of the smaller drawer without having

to push the chair back from the desk. The drawer sides continue past the drawer back to reduce the chance of dropping it when fully extended. The back is housed into the sides and this joint is reinforced by gluing the ply bottom into its groove across the corners. The front is through-dovetailed to the sides.

The drawers have a glued on 20mm thick facing which carries a feature grain across the fronts and which overhangs the sides. The bead detail glued along the bottom of these fronts was made on the router table. The top was attached by 12 gauge screws up through slots in the top frame to allow for expansion and contraction across the grain.

Hopefully you'll now feel more inclined to include laminating in your woodworking repertoire. It's an accessible technique for creating curves which are very strong and identical. Applications such as table and chair legs and chair backs are ideal, but of course these are only a few of the possibilities you can now dream up.



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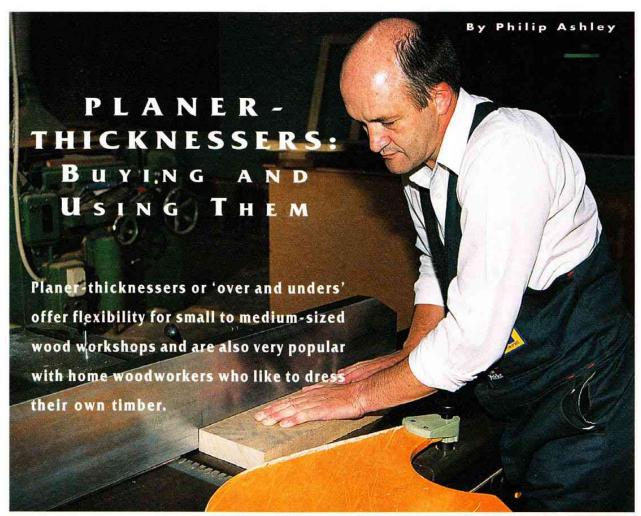
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White a surface planer on top and a thicknessing planer underneath, the work of two separate machines is performed by one. Of course, you can only use one function at a time, but if your planing requirements are moderate, this may well be the machine for you. Quite a few large companies keep a planer-thicknesser machine in the workshop to take care of additional work that comes through from time to time. It can also be a good back up in case one of the production machines breaks down.

The recent European CE regulations have brought about some minor design changes such as the abolition of the small rebating support table on the surfacer. This operation is now considered too dangerous for the surface planer, and should be done on a spindle moulding machine. While there are a few different standards of guarding (the British, Germans and French each have their own) yours must now, in accordance with Australian Standard 1473, come with guards to automati-

Philip Ashley demonstrates the right way to do it: hold hands flat on the board and keep your fingers at least 100mm from the end of the timber. Roll up your sleeves.

cally cover both the cutting and noncutting sides of the cutterhead.

Pro's And Con's

You'll pay a lot less for this dual purpose machine than you would for two 'stand alone' surfacing and thicknessing machines. You'll also save on floor space, ducting and electrical connection costs. What you lose is the time it takes to change over the machine from surfacing to thicknessing, time which adds up, especially if you only do small orders. Planning your work in batches helps to overcome this problem.

Unlike a single purpose planer machine, some planer-thicknessers only offer adjustment of the in-feed table, which does limit usage. Drilling and mortising attachments are available for some models.

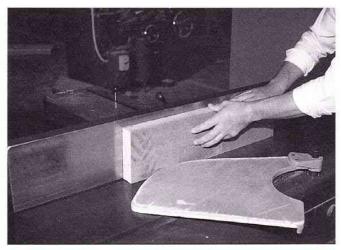
Machine Round Up

Your main consideration in purchas-

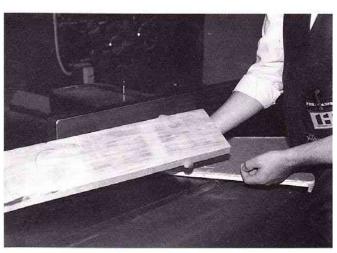
ing a planer-thicknesser comes down to how well the machine is thought out. The one set of cutters are used for planing and thicknessing, so any problem with cutter setting will affect both operations.

Consider the ease of change over—if it takes too long to move from surfacing to thicknessing operations you'll lose out in the efficiency department. A one piece surfacing table will be quicker to remove than a two piece table, but it will be heavier, and you will need to make sure that it is assisted in some way.

In the budget category (width of cut up to 250mm) there is the *Hafco TS250* (Hare and Forbes), the *DeWalt DW1150* (Hare & Forbes, Woodman, Wolfenden Machinery), *Scheppach HMT260* and *HM2 Kombi* (WMS, Vic), *Elektra Beckum HC260K* (Craftmaster), *Kity 1673*, and the *GLS 2500* (Woodman).



When planing an edge, keep all of your fingers in sight, and you won't lose any of them. Hold the wood up against the square fence.



You only need enough flat surface to support the wood in the following thicknessing operation. If you take off too much, you may not be able to clean up the other face.

All of these machines come with a short planer table length of about a metre, which will make your job of straightening the timber a little more difficult. They are all light machines which suit a small workshop, and some of them come with wheels so you can put the machine in the corner when you are not using it. Expect to pay from \$1,500-\$3,000 for these machines. What you get here is a very light duty machine with a small motor. You are going to have to take it easy with a machine of this size, but if you only dress a few boards a day it will be very cost effective.

More up-market are the *Robland* XSDB310, Kity 639, and the *Felder* AD6-31 all with 310mm wide tables. Tables on these machines are generally longer (1.5 metres) they are heavier, and the motors are more powerful. Prices here range from \$3,000-\$5,000.

For the bigger machines with tables up to \$10mm wide, expect to pay up to \$15,000. The Felder AD7-51; Mini max FS350; Griggio FS430 and FSA 530 (Wood Tech), and the SCM (Allwood) 2041 (410mm), 2252 (520mm) and the new FS520 (one piece table) are all industrial standard machines with 2.4 metre tables. These bigger machines give excellent performance and generally the more solid they are the better the finish.

Setting The Machine

As with any woodworking machine, initial set up is critical, particularly

where the blades are concerned. A tool setting device is good value, and may save you thousands of dollars over the life of the machine. With this device you can also easily guarantee a tool projection of not more than 3mm (the smaller the better), to meet safety requirements.

A properly set blade will be parallel with the cutterhead, and the blade edge will be tangential with the outfeed table. If you cannot achieve both of these two important setting criteria, your work will not be square or straight, and you'd be better off with a hand plane.

The cutters have to be set tangential to the surfacer outfeed table to get a straight and square piece of timber, but you also need the cutters parallel to the cutterhead for optimum thicknessing performance. If you have a problem with the machine and you can only achieve one of these settings, you will need to alter the setting of the cutters for each operation.

If the fence is not square to the table, your timber won't be square either, and your problems can only get worse from here. Blunt tools will tear out the wood fibres, make your work harder, and increase power consumption, so keep them sharp. Maintain your machine on a regular basis—it will last longer, give better performance, and be easier to use.

Operating Techniques

Operating procedures are of course the same as for stand alone surfacers and thicknessing machines. If your cutter settings are correct you will be ready to start machining. The surfacing operation must always be done first, and can only ever be properly done on one face and one edge. This operation, called facing and edging is essential for straight, square timber, and is best achieved with light cuts of between one and three millimetres.

Place the material to be planed with the bowed, or hollow face down on the table. If the material rocks back and forth you have got it wrong. With both your hands flat on the timber and at least 100mm in from the ends, push it over the cutterhead, walking forward as you go. This will prevent you from reaching over the machine.

You don't need much pressure on the in-feed table, and you should transfer most of your weight over to the out-feed table as soon as you can, because this is the part of the machine which does the straightening. You may need several cuts to get a good dressed surface, but you don't need to get a completely clean face. If there are a few missed areas the thicknessing operation will clean them up. What you are looking for here is a reasonably flat but straight surface to base future operations on.

The next step is to machine an edge square to the face which you have just

- 1 Felder AD 6-31, 310 wide, table 1350mm long, 2 or 4 cutters, 370kg, made in Austria, Felder Machinery, (03) 9801 7728
- 2 DeWalt DW1161, 250mm wide, table 1000mm long, 2 cutters, 63kg, from Hare & Forbes, Woodman Group (03) 9885 6104, (02) 9708 3233, (07) 3844 4433, (08) 8346 4561, (09) 272 3844
- 3 Hafco TS250, 250mm wide, table 940mm long, 2 cutters, made in Taiwan, from Hare & Forbes, (02) 9933 8916, (07) 3849 1888, (08) 8346 5522
- 4 Elektra Beckum HC 260K, 260mm wide, table 1090mm long, 2 cutters, Germany, Craftmaster (02) 9534 4555, 018 588 522, (07) 3279 4811, (08) 8388 7678, (03) 6273 1355
- 5 Mini Max FS350, 350mm wide, table 1800mm long, 3 cutters, 320kg, made in Italy, Fletcher Machine Tools, (03) 9877 7211
- 6 GLS 2500, 250mm wide, table 1156 long, 3 cutters, made in Italy, Woodman.
- 7 Kity 638, 310mm wide, table 1550mm long, 3 cutters, approx 100kg, made in France, Woodworking Machinery Specialists, (03) 9416 9022, Power Tool Specialists (06) 280 4966



machined, so place that face against the fence, with the bowed edge down, and push it across the cutters. Be careful here, and watch your fingers. On narrower material you can be closer to the cutters than you think.

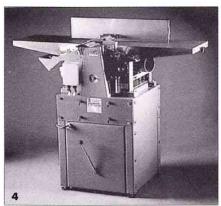
Swing the tables clear, connect your dust extractor, and machine all four sides of the timber in the following order: rough edge, surfaced edge, rough face, surfaced face. The reason you should thickness the surfaced faces again is that the power fed thicknesser will give a much more controlled finish than a hand fed one. Let the machine do the work! One thing to watch when replacing the surfacing table is dust or wood chips on the seating surfaces, which will cause your tables to sit on an angle to the cutters.

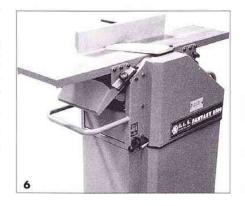


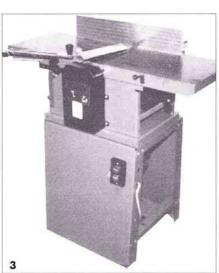
As we've mentioned before, the rebating operation is no longer possible on new machinery made in Europe, which is where most machines come from. If you do have a machine with a rebating table, you may need to remove the automatic cutterhead guard to make a decent rebate, thereby exposing the cutter and increasing the danger. If you choose to do this against the best advice, hold the timber firmly, never hold the wood with your fingers on the ends of the board, and push the work well over the outfeed table before you pick it up. Push sticks make this a safer job.

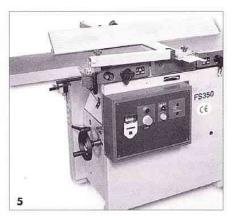
Other operations that can be safely



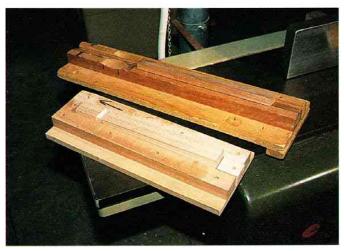














Left: Jig samples, at the front a 'box' type jig for machining a tapered leg. Direction of feed is indicated. At the rear a jig for machining bevels (bevelled beads). Note the stop at the right of the jig to stop it being fed through the machine. Wax prevents friction. Right: Use push blocks where possible—they are safer, keep you cleaner and prevent you getting splinters.

performed on this machine are chamfering (where an angle, usually 45°, is machined between a face and an edge) and bevelling (where an entire edge is machined to an angle other than 90°). With these operations the fence will need to be tilted to the appropriate angle, and the machining done with the cutter guard still on the machine. Set the fence angle with a bevel gauge set off a protractor, and sight the angle as close to the cutter as possible, with the cutter stopped, of course. Operate the machine normally.

'Dropping on' operations are when the wood is lowered onto the cutter some way from the end of the board. Typical components would be tapered table or chair legs, and although this work would be better done in a jig on a spindle moulder or through the thicknesser, when you need only a few pieces, good results are possible on the surface planer.

First, mark the taper on a sample piece, and draw a parallel line 2mm away from the first line on the waste side. You now have a 'finish' line and a 'waste' line. With the cutter stopped, and the machine isolated, lower the in-feed table to the depth of the waste line. Place the timber onto the table so that the start of the waste line rests on the cutter at the initial contact point. Firmly attach a stop to the fence using G-clamps only, the quick-release type often vibrate loose.

You can now proceed to remove the bulk of the taper. Take the timber away and start the cutters. Place the timber onto the outfeed table and up against the stop, and with your hands on the infeed side of the cutter, slowly lower the timber onto the cutter. Push the piece across the machine just as you would with an ordinary planing operation.

You now have a rough taper with a slight depression at the top. This was caused when you lowered the straight piece of wood onto the round cutter, and cannot be avoided. This is why the job is done with two cuts. To remove this, take away the stop, reset the in-feed table to about 1.5mm and plane the taper normally. The 1.5mm is less than the 2mm we allowed, but from experience, 2mm is always too much.

It is also possible to make a cut which stops at both ends of the timber, such as stopped chamfers. After setting the fence angle, both tables will need to be lowered the same amount, and you will need stops at both ends of the fence, one to start the cut and one to finish it. Lower the wood onto the cutter the same way as before, with your hands on the in-feed side of the cutterhead, and you will not have any problems.

Jig It, For Better Results

Jigs can be made for running thin slats down to 2mm thick. What you do here is to add the thickness of the jig to the setting size of the machine, so if you need 5mm and the baseboard is 18mm, you set the table at 23mm.

You can also make fence capping and other components with angled cuts on the thicknesser. These jigs will need to tilt the timber to the required angle, and they will need to have a stop on the back edge of the jig, under the baseboard, to prevent the jig being fed through the machine. You may need to wax the rubbing part of the jig, which may affect the polishing of the job.

If you intend doing more than a dozen tapers of the same design, you should consider making a jig to hold the work. It may take some time, but will be worth it for the safety factor, and you'll get a better result. These jigs are essentially a holder for the piece, with a wedge inserted to tilt it to the correct angle. They should be fed through the machine, thickest part last.

Planer-thicknessing machines are a cost effective way of machining medium sized batches. There are some advantages and disadvantages, and the decision on whether to buy one will be determined by the type of work you do, smaller organisations possibly benefiting more from their use.

Philip Ashley is a lecturer in furniture manufacturing at Holmesglen TAFE.

Photos showing usage: Stephen Nathan.



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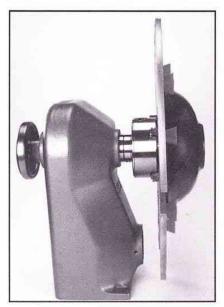
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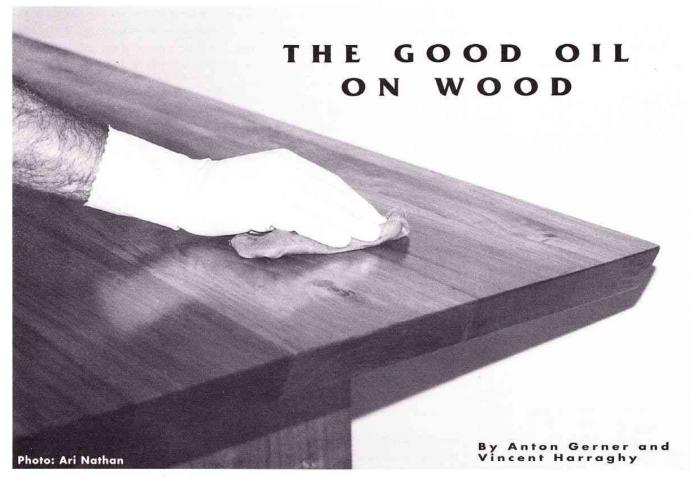
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Por hundreds and hundreds of years the oils pressed from flax, tung, poppy, olive, hazelnut, safflower, soybean, sunflower and other plants have been used to preserve and beautify timber. In Asia and Scandinavia especially, fine wood oils were employed to protect the structural timbers of buildings and boats, as well as furniture. Oils can be applied with little or no equipment, with minimal expense and in most cases, highly satisfactory results.

Nowadays hardware and woodworking specialist suppliers carry numerous brands of oil finishes which contain not only an ever-widening variety of oils (such as orange, clove and red gum) but also additives which offer faster drying times and harder surfaces.

Linseed Oil

Linseed oil from the multi-purpose flax plant is perhaps the most widely recognised type of wood oil, and is used in both raw and boiled form. In fact the latter is not really boiled but rather treated with additives to assist drying. Linseed oil does not, however, match up to tung oil in terms of hardness, build and drying time.

Tung Oil

The most common ingredient in modern finishing oils is tung oil (also called China wood oil or Japanese wood oil), a thick and toxic oil obtained from the nuts of the tung tree. Now mostly imported as a concentrate from the US, tung oil wholesales at over \$80 per litre. Commercial preparations usually contain mineral turpentine as an evaporative agent. Generally, the higher the tung oil content of a preparation, the better the result you will achieve.

Tung oil has traditionally been used as a drying agent in varnishes so it should not be necessary to contaminate it with terebene, polyurethanes or chemicals under the guise of drying agents for the oil. It is more likely that these additives are intended to increase volume, create build or to stabilise the thinning agents.

Scandinavian Oil

These types of oil finishes are based

on tung oil with the addition of polyurethane for body, gloss and quicker drying ability. Turpentine is used to reduce viscosity, however some preparations are so thin their oil content is suspect and information on the contents of the solution are tightly guarded.

What Oil Does to Wood

Oil does not sit on the surface of the wood but instead penetrates deep into its fibres. As the oil dries, the liquids evaporate leaving a base of solidified resins which harden and preserve the delicate timber cells. Subsequent applications will 'build' upon the solid base coats, adding lustre and 'choking' up the open pores of the grain.

Preparation

Preparation is critical for producing good results. In fact, while oil finishes are amongst the easiest to apply, they depend on surfaces which must be sanded much more finely than those prepared for other finishes, such as lacquer or polyurethane. An oil finish will only be as good as the surface to which it is applied. Oil finishes are in effect the test for surface smoothness

and quality as every imperfection is not only exposed by lack of surface build, but appears more noticeable than if the wood were left unfinished.

Surfaces must be sanded to at least 320 grit, but the results will be even better if you go to 400 or 600 grit. Although the ideal surface for finishing is one which has been cleanly cut to expose cell walls with no damage, for general work this is not always possible.

Work carefully through a progression of sanding grits, each of which will produce a scratch pattern at least the depth of the previous one. Always use new sharp sandpaper to cleanly cut the surface. A damaged surface cell structure, though finished smoothly, may later show variable light reflection or an uneven finish. Time spent on surface preparation is well worth the effort if you want to achieve very good results.

Before applying any oil to your work, all surfaces should be wiped or blown

free of dust, particularly just prior to finishing when excess dust packed in the cell structure may later mar the finish. Dusting during the sanding process is also advisable.

Oils Ain't Oils

When selecting an oil you will need to consider cost, odour, viscosity and ease of application. Scandinavian oil can have a powerful aroma which will last for several hours due to the polyurethane content which acts as a setting agent. Two or three coats applied over as many days will provide an appreciable lustre.

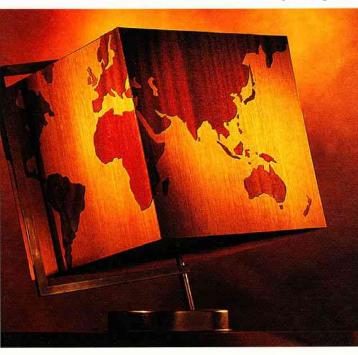
Tung oil is much more pleasant to work with-it may not dry as hard or fast as Scandinavian oil, but will return equally good results from the same treatment. Linseed oil does not have an unpleasant smell but is very slow to dry and it will take many more coats to achieve a reasonable lustre.

Viscous oils will give a stronger build, filling the grain more quickly by depositing more solids into the grain. Thinner grades of oil will mostly evaporate with their solvents, they dry faster but will require more applications to achieve depth and gloss.

Commercial penetrating oil finishes may contain solvents, resins or drying agents (heavy metal salts) to accelerate oxidation (reaction of the oil with the oxygen in the air). Driers cause the oil to form a skin on the wood surface. When the solvent evaporates the resin or oil hardens, polymerises and remains firmly adhered to the wood surface.

The drying time of oils can also be greatly affected by temperature and humidity and the time the oil is allowed to sit wet on the surface. The consistency of the oil will also affect drying time.

Deciding which brand of oil to use is largely a matter of trial and personal preference. Good results can be achieved with most products if you follow the directions and, above all, prepare your surface properly. Some manufactur-



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joinery timber in Australia. So if you're looking for Alder, Arakaria, Avodire, Amoora, Baltic Pine, Beech, Blackwood, Blackbean, Brush Box, Bubinga, Cedar, Celery Top Pine, Cherry, Ebony, Gerrongang, Ghana Hydua, Huon Pine, Iroko, Jarrah, White Pine or even Zebrano, you'll find it at Mathews Timber.

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> In fact if you can't find it at Mathews Timber, it probably doesn't exist.

ers will supply you with 250ml sample tins, which makes experimentation easier.

Repair & Maintenance

Oil finishes provide a beautiful coating which is reasonably durable yet totally renewable. To rejuvenate a surface that is in good condition simply wipe on a light coat of oil, then buff after a few minutes till the shine is restored. When the surface is in a lesser condition, clean the surface with mineral turps first, then cut back firmly with 00 steel wool and apply a coat of oil, leave 1-5 minutes before removing excess. Leave 24 hours before buffing.

A damaged oil finish can usually be repaired by cutting back the surface with fine sandpaper dipped in oil. Avoid rubbing in a circular motion and follow the pattern of the grain if possible. Keep a close watch on the blemishes and try not to overdo it—you may end up with light patches if you go through timber surfaces which have naturally darkened with age and exposure to light.

Lightly smooth out any scratches with 0000 grade steel wool. Apply a liberal coating of oil but do not rub off, simply allow it to dry untouched for two days. If the lustre has not been fully restored, buff with fine, new 0000 steel wool again and repeat the dose.

Staining

Wood can be stained prior to oiling but take care to observe the recommended drying time for the stain before proceeding. For a quicker result the oil can be tinted by adding up to 10 per cent pigment or dye stain and stirring thoroughly.



Staining can be carried out on a dried oil surface directly with pigment or dye stain. Be sure to follow the direction of the grain and do not rub excessively, the stain will adhere to tung or Scandinavian oil but will remove linseed oil very easily.

Clean up and Safety

Always safely dispose of all oil soaked rags immediately after use. Oily rags will be highly flammable and can very easily self combust. Either soak them in water, or hang them out to thoroughly dry prior to disposal.

Always work in a well-ventilated area with air movement and wear apropriate gloves to protect your hands. Oil mixtures with drying agents added can emit very toxic fumes while drying. Remember to tightly close tins after use to prevent oil from deteriorating over time.

Conclusion

The main advantage of oil finishes is that they are easy to apply and easy to renew. At the same time this is their downside, as periodical reapplication is necessary to guarantee continued protection and maintenance of surfaces. To some the ability to easily rejuvenate and add to the patina of a piece of furniture is a boon. In heavy usage or commercial situations this type of finish may simply not be practical. In most cases the accepted finish for furniture produced in medium to large runs is lacquer and it may be difficult to persuade clients to accept a product which they have to commit themselves to preserving on a regular basis. Compared to lacquered surfaces however, surfaces finished with oil are much more tolerant of everyday use and abuse. The type of finish you use on your work is largely a matter of individual preference, but finishing with oil will let you create a renewable finish that protects the surface, while enhancing the depth and richness of colour of the wood. Because oil finishes penetrate the wood rather than rest on the surface, they accentuate grain and figure rather than mask it as other finishes, such as lacquers are prone to do.

The co-authors of this article have different ways of applying oil finishes.

Method 1:

Vincent Harraghy

Wash the wood with a solution of one part turps and one part meths to clean off any contaminants if these are present. All traces of glue or previous coatings must be removed to allow penetration of the oil. On new timber, sand with medium grade sandpaper, dampen the surface with water to raise the grain. When dry, rub smooth with medium grade paper (180-240 grit).

Dust off the timber thoroughly before coating. Recycled timber may require more extensive sanding, dampening timber between grades will help eliminate coarse scratch marks but the 'furry' texture must be thoroughly smoothed out before oiling. For optimum results fine sand with 320-400 sandpaper.

Application

Stir oil well and pour a small amount into a dish. Use a quality brush or soft rag to apply a wet coating all over the surface. For better penetration, rub oil in a circular motion initially, then straighten out with the grain.

Allow oil to soak in for 1-5 minutes before gently wiping off with another





Left to right: Three pieces of oak finished in tung oil, linseed oil and Scandinavian oil.

soft, absorbent rag. Oil that has been left on the surface too long will become sticky and difficult to remove. To rectify this situation, apply another coat of oil and wipe off immediately.

Do not attempt to buff up the oil to make it shine, this will only remove most of the base coating you have just applied. Let dry overnight. When you sand back the dried coatings you should find a very fine dust forms under the abrasive paper—this indicates the hardness of the oil.

Avoid using a sanding block when cutting back unless the coating is thoroughly hard, a soft coating will clog up the sandpaper and tear at the surface. Cut back lightly with 400 grit pre-cut paper to flatten the sheen only. Repeat the applications of oil until desired build and sheen is achieved.

Method 2:

Anton Gerner

The great thing about oil finishes is the ease and speed with which they can be applied. Most woodworkers use the simple wipe-on/wipe-off method, but I find this can be a bit slow on large surfaces. I use different methods of oil finishing depending on the timber and desired result.

Using a large soft brush is good, but I find application with a spray gun to be the most effective. I simply spray on a light coat, then buff off by hand. Depending on the type of oil I'm using, I leave the oil to soak in for about 10-15 minutes. The first coat is particularly important where penetration hardens the surface and provides a base for subsequent coats. Allow the first coat to dry thoroughly to seal the surface before applying the next coat.

For a straight oil finish I sand the surface to 320 grit, dust it down and then spray on the oil. With finely grained timbers I let the oil soak in for a while, then buff off with a soft cloth. More open grained timbers may require burnishing afterwards. With the oil still on the surface I use 600 grit wet and dry paper with a sanding block and sand in the direction of the grain. The fine abrasive of the 600 grit creates a fine dust which mixes with the oil and fills the open pores of the timber and dries hard.

Repeat this process two or three times until a mirror surface with a soft lustre is obtained. Finally I apply wax to further protect and smooth the surface.

Another method I use is to firstly bring out the depth in the timber, then when thoroughly dry (about two days) finish the surface with lacquer. This gives a finish which is rich in colour, but has the durability of lacquer.

I also use oil for burnishing and polishing lacquer and shellac finishes. Oil applied to lacquer or shellac with 0000 grade steel wool cuts back and polishes the surface to create a softer and smoother feel. This method also works well to rejuvenate worn surfaces.

Oil Finishing Tips

- A higher gloss finish may be obtained by first filling the grain.
- Very dry timber will soak up a lot of oil, a sealer coat of thin shellac will provide a useful barrier on tops and end grain.
- Remember to coat undersides of table tops to keep the moisture balance in check and prevent warping or splitting.
- If excess oil becomes sticky and difficult to remove, coat the surface again and wipe off once it has softened.
- When oil has cured for around seven days it can be buffed to a higher gloss using a soft pad and lots of elbow grease.
- A satin finish can be obtained by buffing the fully hardened oil finish with 0000 steel wool smeared with paste wax.
- To produce a super smooth finish and assist penetration of the oil, rub with one thousand grit wet or dry paper while the oil is wet on the surface.
- Thinner oil solutions do not offer the high build properties of thicker oils but in their defence they are easier to work with in warm weather, particularly on larger projects.
- The gradual build up of coats will provide an enduring finish, whereas heavy coats can remain soft and vulnerable to smudges and marks.
- After 3 or 4 coats of oil the timber should have a consistent glow and deep lustre which is resistant to moderate heat, alcohol and water, especially if it has been waxed.
- To achieve the smoothest finish, cut back the surface with a piece of worn 400 grit and dust off.

Howard Products are available Australia-wide phone (067) 669933 for nearest distributor or more information. Products come in 473ml, 1/2 gallon, 1 gallon size containers and include Howard Orange Oil (100% Orange oil, selected mineral oils), Howard Feed-N-Wax (orange oil, carnauba wax, beeswax).

Intergrain products are available from paint and hard-ware stores Australia-wide in 500ml, 1/4/10 It sizes. Included in their range are: Intergrain Tung Oil Wood Sealer (tung oil), Intergrain Scandinavian Teak Oil (50/50 tung oil/ polyurethane), Intergrain Patina Carnauba Wax (carnauba wax and lemon oil) Phone (03) 9558 4944 for further information.

Watco Timber Finishes produce a range of oils for use on furniture, floors and exterior surfaces. Watco Danish Oil Finish, Watco Wood Floor Finish and Watco Exterior Wood Finish contain resin oil formulas and mineral spirits. 1/4/20 litre containers are available. Contact SA (08) 8281 6767, Vic (03) 9889 1461, NSW (044) 74 2995, Tas (03) 62658568, Qld (07) 33004545

DRILL PRESSES: FROM BASICS TO BUYING

relecting the best drill press for your purposes can be like trying to find the proverbial needle in a haystack. The matter is further confounded by the fact China (and Taiwan) are gearing up to replace Japan of 1960s as the biggest industrial manufacturers in the world. Container loads of drill presses, identical in appearance except for different brand name stickers, are now imported into this country. In some cases they are painted green but when placed side by side, the cheaper models tend to be a lot smaller. Some are incredibly cheap but not surprisingly, don't last. Others are marginally more expensive but may last a lifetime.

What to Look for

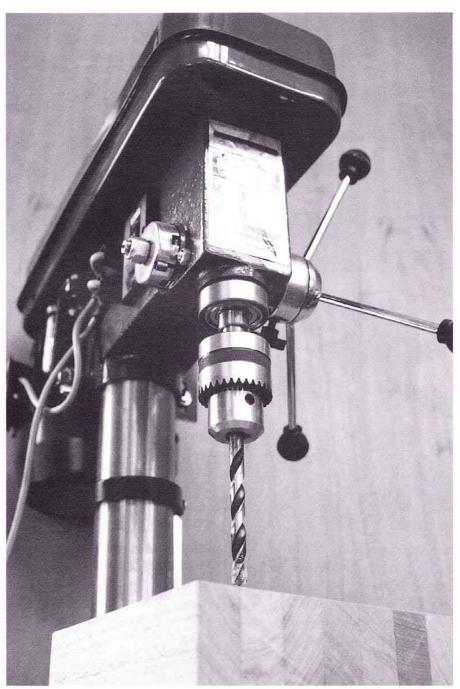
No matter what end of the market you operate at, from the hobbyist through to the high volume industrial workshop, there are a few basic features that should be included in the drill press you are investing in.

Motor

At least 1/2 hp is recommended, although 3/4 to 1 hp is preferable. The body of the motor should be cast to prevent vibration. A safety switch is also a big plus or a plug that can be removed from the body of the motor.

Speed

Speed control should range from 8 to 16 speeds with a good low speed and top range speed with reasonable variance. Changing speeds is a matter of changing belts, this should be a quick and easy process which is largely dependent on the quality of the belts and pulleys. Belts are graded as M-section (10mm) wide, A-section (12mm) and B-section (16mm). The more surface area, the less likely it is that the belt will slip.



Table

A round table is more useful because it can be turned a full 360° with the object to be drilled bolted to it. It should tilt to 45° for angle drills. The ideal method for moving the table up and down is a rack and pinion mechanism which moves smoothly. This cogwheel system ensures accurate, nonslip settings.

Head

The headstock of the pedestal drill (which differs from the bench drill by its longer shaft) should be able to move 90° on the column so that larger pieces can be worked with the extra space to the floor. The covering on top of the head shouldn't rattle when operating—some models do!



Construction

A few drill presses have components that are not cast iron, they aren't as strong and don't absorb vibration. Vibration can lead to inaccuracy and more noise in the workshop. The quality of the cast iron can vary too. Generally speaking, the heavier the drill press, the more solid it is.

Others Issues

Look for slop in the spindle—this will lead to inaccurate drilling. Not all models have depth stops which are essential for high production work. Some have the capacity for mortising attachments, both of which extend the applications of the press in the workshop. Make sure the model you choose

will take most of the popular brand mortising attachments. A good chuck should take a range of drill bits. A keyless chuck is also a big plus. Guarantees vary from 3 months to five years and are worth looking at. Many offer warranty but do not carry parts as part of the deal!

What's on the Market

You can pick up a drill press for as low as \$95 with 1/4 hp motor. While this machine may be ideal for the very small, lightweight applications—such as electronics work or small scale wooden model or toy building, it has a very limited usage. For around \$200-\$400 the home workshop can be graced with a medium duty bench drill press that

Basic Safe Handling

- 1 Only use the drill press with the appropriate attachments—this is no time to improvise.
- 2 Correct speed is important in the use of drill presses and is determined by the kind of material being drilled, size of the hole, type of drill or other cutter, and quality of cut desired. The smaller the drill the greater the required RPM.
- 3 Ensure the work being drilled is securely clamped and blocked to the table. Always use a vice or clamps—never your hands. Any movement will result in an inaccurate hole, a broken drill bit or material being flung from the table.
- 4 Ensure the chuck is tightened to the spindle so that it cannot become loose, and make sure the key is removed from the chuck after adjustment. While most are spring loaded to ensure they don't get left in during operation, others are not.
- **5** Make sure the base is securely fastened to the floor or workbench before using the drill press.

has many applications and will last beyond its warranty period.

The Hafco, Record, Woodman, Jet, Carba-Tec, Delta, and Craftmaster brands include medium duty light and industrial range drill presses in the \$200-\$600 range and upwards to the high volume industrial range. Full industrial drill presses peak with Australian manufacturers such as Brobo Waldown. Other Australian companies, now defunct due to a restructuring in the manufacturing industry include Robinson and Drillmore which are available on the second hand market.

The table on p.31 compares drill presses on the market and is grouped into light and industrial models.





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Variable speed control knob and on/off switch are all located above the table for instant access. Combination blade guard and work hold down adds safety to this great machine. Adjustable dust blower (that really works) keeps cutting line free of chips and saw dust.



Specifications (DE-40-650):

Motor: Speeds: Variable speed 240V, 1/4 hp Variable 300 to 2000 spm

Table:

406mm dia. Tilt: 45° R; 9° L

Capacities:

Throat: 457mm

Thickness of cut: 50mm

Stroke: 22mm

Weight:

41 Ka

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manual.

Specifications: Motor:

Wheels:

1/5 HP, 240V Dia: 127 mm;

203mm

Type:

Aluminium Oxide Wet/Drv

Wheel width: 51; & 25mm Hole: 12.7 & 17.7mm

Speeds:

3600 rpm (127mm)

400 rpm (203mm)

Weight: 19 kg.

Price:

\$299.00 Inc. Tax

Please add \$20 freight per

machine

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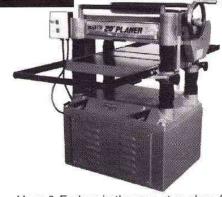
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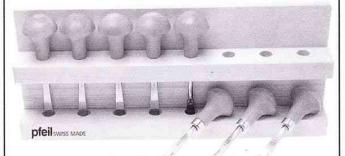
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DRILL PRESSES—BUYERS GUIDE

Medium Duty/Light Industrial Drill Presses

	Bench/ Pedestal	Wt (kg)	Motor (hp)	Speeds	Drill Cap (mm)	RRP
B.Waldown Workmax	В	86/105	3/4	12	13	\$1295/1495
Carba-Tec CH-6	В	18	1/4	5	13	\$159
Carba-Tec CH-10	В	30	1/3	5	13	\$209
Carba-Tec CH-16N	В	48	3/4	16	16	\$299
Carba-Tec CH-16NF	P	59	3/4	16	16	\$310
Craftmstr 41MD12	В	20	1/3	5	13	\$220
Craftmstr 41MD16	В	48	3/4	12	16	\$403
Craftmstr 41MD16F	7 P	58	3/4	12	16	\$443
Delta DE-11-990	В	32	1/3	5	13	\$289
Delta DE-14-070	В	71	1/2	12	16	\$519
Hafco SBD-20A	В	53	3/4	16	20	\$279
Hafco SPD-20A	P	60	3/4	16	20	\$328
Jet JPD14M	В	60	1/2	16	16	\$545
Jet JPD14MF	P	76	3/4	16	16	\$655
Jet JPD17MF	P	86/105	3/4	16	16	\$690
Record DMD24A	В	35	1/4	5	13	\$729
Record DMD28	В	36	1/4	5	13	\$845
Woodman DP104	В	32	1/4	5	13	\$195
Woodman DP109	В	50	3/4	16	16	\$379
Woodman DP119	P	58	3/4	16	16	\$395

Industrial Range

		•					
	Craftmstr 41HD16	В	70	3/4	16	16	\$490
	Craftmstr 41HD16F	P	78	3/4	16	16	\$582
	Craftmstr 41HD20F	P	90	1	16	16	\$727
	Craftmstr 41HD28F	P	143	2	12	16	\$943
	Delta DE-17-900	P	88	3/4	12	16	\$569
	Hafco BD20A	В	70	3/4	12	20	\$377
	Hafco PD20A	P	80	3/4	12	20	\$426
	Hafco PD20	P	88	1	16	22	\$609
	Hafco SPD30	P	100	1	16	32	\$645
	Hafco PD30	P	136	1	9	32	\$970
	Record RPD12	В	74	1/2	5	13	\$1380
Ī	Record RPD58	В	77	3/4	5	16	\$1460
	Record RPD12P	P	78	1/2	5	13	\$1410
	Record RPD58P	P	82	3/4	5	16	\$1540
	Woodman DP222	P	157	1	9	32	\$1235
	B.Waldown 8SN series	B/P	86/105	3/4	12	13	\$1690/1890
	Super 16	B/P	86/105	3/4	12	16	\$2055/2255
	Vari Speed	B/P	96/115	3/4	variable	13	\$3300/3500
	B.Waldown 2M series	B/P	109/134	3/4	4/9	22	\$2295/2495
	3M series	B/P	109/134	3/4	4/9	32	\$2695/2895
	. Utility Radia	1	160/190	3/4	12	13	\$2695/3295

^{*} Thanks to Harold Lauer, Power Tool Specialists, Canberra (06) 280 4966 for input into this article.

Notes

- All drill presses are made in Taiwan except *Record* (UK), *Craftmaster* (China), *Brobo Waldown* (Australia).
- RRP includes 22% sales tax except for **Brobo Waldown**.
- All *Hafco* models are backed up by spare parts & 12 month guarantee. TEFC motors with overload protection; safety chuck guard.
- All **Record** models have a 5 year guarantee; cast grey iron body dampens vibration and noise; British fan cooled induction motors; full length drill guard.
- Craftmaster models are covered by 6 months guarantee and spare parts are available. All models have a front safety switch, HD series includes work light. All models offer a twin capacitor ribbed motor, two rod motor adjustment.
- The Woodman Group supply both Woodman range and the new Jet range. All Jet models feature a built in worklight & safety switch, drill chuck and key, adjustable tension spindle return spring and 13mm external positive depth stop with 3 nut lock. Speeds: (195-3630); (200-3630). Jet offer 2 years warranty; Woodman offer 6 months warranty.
- The *Delta* range have tilting tables, a table raising mechanism, single phase motors and a 2 year warranty. Delta presses are manufactured under strict quality control and are therefore robust.
- Carba-Tec models have fully enclosed motors for their medium duty range and a 6 month warranty.

Suppliers of drill presses:

Carba-Tec: Carba-Tec Brisbane 1800 658 111, Melbourne 1800 653 777, New Zealand 0 800 444 329

Craftmaster: (02) 9534 4555, 018 588 522, (07) 3279 4811, (08) 8388 7678, (03) 62731355.

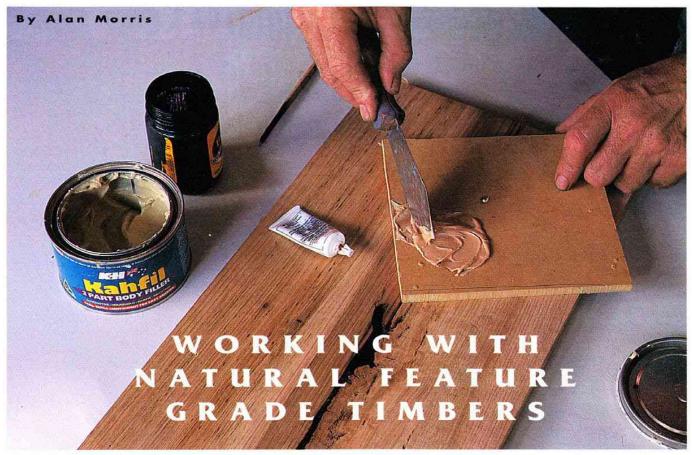
Delta: from Carba-Tec, see above.

Hafco: from Hare & Forbes(02) 9933 8916, (07) 3849 1888, (08) 8346 5522

Record: from Record Hand & Power Tools (02) 9748 6800

Woodman: from Woodman Group (03) 9885 6104, (02) 9708 3233, (07) 3844 4433, (08) 8346 4561, (09) 272 3844

MacDonnell Rd Hardware (07) 3283 1558 Power Tool Specialists (06) 280 4966



The timber industries in Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania are now marketing Natural Feature Grade (NFG) Australian hardwoods. The presence of features such as gum vein, pin hole, hobnail and colour stain in timber is becoming more acceptable, if not desirable.

To date the possibilities of NFG timbers have been overlooked in the quest for clear, select grade timbers, which are becoming more difficult to procure. Some furniture and cabinet manufacturers have realised the marketing potential of NFG timber and are producing, and in some cases exporting, product in this grade (see story on Wentworth Furniture, AWR#13).

It is important to note that the new grading is an 'Australian Standard' and should not be confused with Standard or Merchant grades. The new standard (AS2796.2) is now in its final draft stage and should be instituted by the time you read this. NFG specifies more 'natural feature' than standard grade timber. 'Man-made' defects such as splits and compression fractures are not permissible. In addition, bark,

Application of fibreglass filler. Mix the fibreglass putty and hardener to the maker's instructions and then add the universal colour tinter. Apply the putty liberally, pushing it into the voids with a knife, leaving a small amount of excess on top to allow for shrinkage.

wane, loose knots, surface to surface voids, or degrade from termite or *Lyctus* (borer) must also be excluded. The grading also restricts the amounts of loose gum vein, resin pocket, borer hole, tight knots, checks and sapwood—all of which may cause reductions in strength.

NFG eucalypt veneer is also a new product which has been sliced from carefully selected logs that display consistent amounts of feature such as pin hole borer and narrow gum vein. The amount of feature is controlled to ensure easy handling during processing.

NFG In Structural Usage

When selecting timber for narrow width components where strength is required, such as chair rails or legs, avoid large voids or concentrations of natural features, such as rows of pin holes across the width of the member. Multiple pin hole borer with its associated black stain can greatly weaken timber. The fungi, which causes the stain associated with the hole, will also reduce

the strength of the surrounding timber to some extent.

NFG flooring has great character and warmth, however common sense with regard to the features present and their placement is required. A row of borer holes across the width of a flooring board used to span the distance between bearers for example, may give when placed under the point load of very heavy furniture.

Gum vein in smaller sectional furniture components also needs some consideration. Thin tight veins still retain their strength, however larger and wider veins may split under side loadings. Avoid concentrations of natural feature in jointing areas. Avoid cutting tenons or dovetails in areas which would leave the remaining section dominated by gum vein, open knots or voids. On horizontal surfaces avoid using boards that have wide gum veins or pockets located at the ends, as the resulting movement may loosen any fillers.



Samples of NFG timbers: 1. Messmate (Eucalyptus obliqua) quarter sawn with pin hole borer and associated stain. 2. Red gum (E. tereticornis) backsawn with gum vein. 3. Vic ash (E. delagatensis) quarter sawn with narrow gum vein and fungal colouring. 4. Messmate backsawn with gum vein.

When spindle turning legs or rails for furniture it's probably best to avoid knots, hobnail or heavily gum veined pieces. If you want the dramatic effects of gum vein in your piece, try first cleaning out the loose particles of gum vein and filling the holes with epoxy resin.

Dressing

Dress NFG hardwoods as you would other hardwoods. Knife blades will however wear quicker when dressing large amounts of gum vein. A second bevel of 10° on cutters may help.

Sanding

The procedure for sanding NFG hardwoods is the same, but there may be some lifting of the grain where heavy fungal growth has occurred in colour stained areas. When sanding to 280 grit and beyond, wet the wood lightly with water, let dry and sand again—this will help settle the lifting grain.

Using methylated spirits to wet the surface also works well as it drys quickly and does not 'pool' as sometimes happens with water. In both cases it is important to make the surface dust free as wetting a dusty surface can stain the wood.

Filling

In most cases there is no need to fill the various voids that might be created by nature because that's exactly what gives the wood its unique character. Voids in working surfaces such as table tops and floors, or surfaces that are constantly handled, may require filling.

A wide variety of fillers, which includes fibreglass putties, epoxy resins and shellac sticks, can be used to achieve many effects. Colour fillers with universal tinters can be obtained from your local paint store. These are highly pigmented and less likely to change



Gum vein over 3mm exposed in the ends of boards should be avoided as resulting movement can loosen fillers.

Sustainable Crown Cut Eucalypt Veneer

rown Cut veneer is an environmentally responsible choice when specifying timber veneer products.

The veneer process sees a log sliced into around 1,000 individual leaves with a standard thickness of 0.6mm. The unique characteristics of the veneer will enhance the natural beauty of timber doors, kitchens, panels and furniture and can be moulded to fit any shape, making its uses virtually unlimited.

Gunns Veneers is committed to using sustainable timber and \$1.8 million has been spent on the installation of Australia's first Staylog Lathe and Centre Sawing System.

This is a result of logging of old growth forests being reduced and Gunns Veneers efficiently utilising the smaller logs produced from younger forests as the resource of the future.

Crown Cut veneer can match the task and transform a room from ordinary to breath-taking.

It's a slice of Tasmania's finest eucalypt that's a cut above the rest.

For more information on Sustainable Crown Cut Veneer or quarter sliced Tasmanian Oak or Ash, Pinus Radiata, Blackwood and Sassafras or any of our product range, contact:

Gunns Veneers, PO Box 315, New Norfolk, Tasmania 7140 Telephone: 03 62 613 317 Fax: 03 62 613 207

or any panel laminator in your area.



with exposure to UV, a problem which can occur with dyes and inks.

The many wood putties and fillers on the market are mostly designed for small holes up to a few millimetres wide. These and coloured beeswax will successfully fill small ambrosia holes. Larger voids require the use of fibreglass putty, epoxy resin or shellac sticks. These fillers will harden and won't shrink or cause dips when sanded. Clear polyurethane finishes have also been used to fill voids, however I have not fully tested these for impact and flexibility. For voids over 3mm wide the following fillers were tested: Fibreglass Putty Two-part putty (as used in car repairs) absorbs tinters well and sets reasonably hard in 30

the paper, although this is readily cleaned. Epoxy Resin Clear two-part resin can be applied with or without tinter. Epoxy resin sets very hard but curing times are long and can take over 24 hours in cooler conditions.

minutes. It sands easily but will clog

Shellac Sticks (Button Polish) Applied with a heat source shellac sticks are flexible and set very hard, usually in two minutes. They are easily sanded and come in various colours.

I have tested the above fillers for hardness and for adhesion (both to the timber and to the main finishes used in industry). They have also been tested for impact strength and as long as the voids are not over 10mm wide all performed satisfactorily.

Filler Application

Apply filler amply to avoid later subsidence of the material into the voids. A top up may be required after partial curing. Grain fillers and liming techniques also work well on NFG stock, particularly if a distressed or aged appearance is sought. I have been using Wattyl One Pot Plastic Wood Filler, which can be applied quickly and easily over wide areas.

NFG boards often vary widely in tone and colour—a more uniform appearance can be achieved by staining. I recommend thinning the stain down with the appropriate thinning agent, and then slowly building up the colour and tone to avoid masking too much of the natural feature.

Finishes

Most timber finishes such as nitrocellulose lacquers and polyurethanes are suitable. If the finished piece has many voids and crevices it is probably better to avoid large amounts of finishing waxes, such as beeswax or carnauba, as the excess will fill the voids, catch in the crevices and collect dust. In my opinion the character of the timber demands a soft warm finish. A combination of nitro-cellulose lacquer which has been rubbed



A cupboard door in NFG Vic ash showing a natural distressed appearance.

back and then coated with wax or furniture oil makes for an attractive, durable and easily maintained surface.

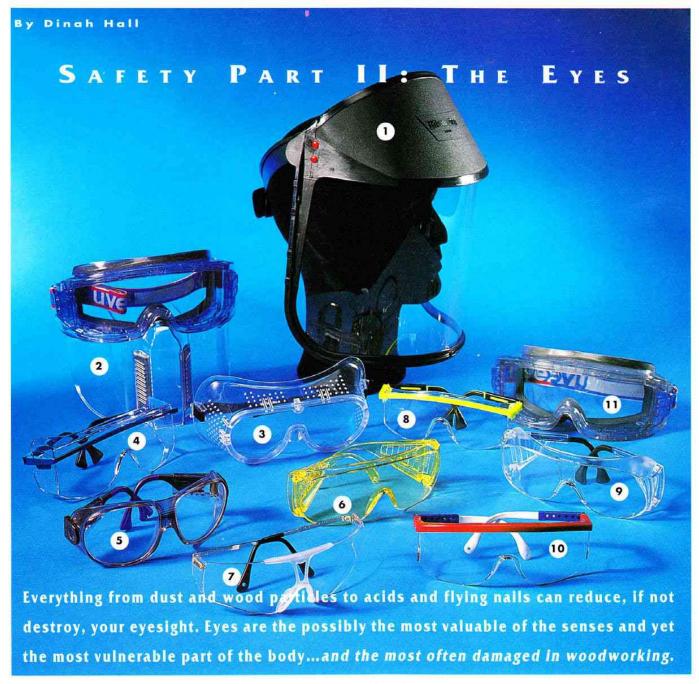
Alan Morris has taught furniture design and runs a consultancy 'Australian Natural Feature Hardwoods'. He has worked with the Victorian Timber Promotion Council on the development of NFG.

Suppliers of NFG timber/veneer: Bunnings Forest Products (09)351 6222 Mathews Timber (03) 9874 1666, (02) 9604 2077 Gunns Veneers Pty Ltd (03) 62613 317

Bowens (03) 9763 7522 Australian Natural Feature Hardwoods (03) 9482 7126

Adams Timber (03) 9761 8688, (06) 280 6467





S tatistical surveys support this claim—with nearly one half of power tool related injuries involving the eyes. Injuries may range from a few days of eye irritation to blindness. Going blind in just one eye often isn't the end of the story. Blindness in one eye often precedes a sympathetic reaction of the other eye, leading to total blindness. Yet many woodworkers still don't wear protective eye gear.

The Evidence

The National Surveillence Injury Unit found in a 1991-92 study that of a total 1090 cases reported, 491 cases involved eye injury, of which 333 cases were associated with a grinder and/or a welder, and 92 cases were associated

with a drill. This national trend is backed up by a Queensland study that found that of 83 head injuries sustained by woodworkers in the study period, 1986-1994, 60 involved damage to the eye: foreign body (41 cases), abrasions (14), inflammation (3), bruising (1) and partial burn (1).

The Queensland report included hand tools in its study while the national report covered power tools alone. Many mistakenly believe there is no need to wear eye protection when using hand tools. An American study has indicated that hand tools are actually involved in more eye injuries than power tools, and involve tools such as hammers and screwdrivers. Too easily a ham-

mer glancing on a nail can be returned as a skewer to an eye.

Goggles, Glasses, Visors— Put Them on Your Face

While the local hardware shop stocks the basic goggles for around \$3, which some reluctantly don as eye protection, to be sure you are affording your sight the best protection available, check for the Australian Standard 1337 followed by a 3 digit licence number printed on the frame or lens. Chances are, the cheap goggles will stay on the hook, rather than your face, because they are too uncomfortable, too hot, and tend to fog up. The reality is that there is a huge range of inexpensive eye protection gear on the market.

- Face (Bilsom) Universal brow guard with ratchet headgear offers full face and browguards, can be attached to safety helmets/earmuffs/respiratory protection. Fully adjustable, replaceable sweatband.
- 2. Ultra Shield (Uvex 9301.383) Lower face shield clips onto Ultra Vision goggle (see 11.), fits over breathing filter with additional ventilation.
- Safety Goggles. Possibly better than nothing, however, they are not marked with a safety standard and probably offer little in the way of impact resistance. The band actually broke on these while being photographed.
- 4. Astro OTG (Uvex 9167) Lightweight design to fit over prescription spectacles, lens inclination, adjustable temple length, one-piece for full view, mouldedin sideshields and browguard, lens replacement, scratch resistant. Various tints and shades.
- Duo-flex range (Uvex 9180)
 Lightweight, close fitting, adjustable inclinations and sidearms, replaceable lens. Especially suited to turning, milling and grinding. 100% UV protection.
- 6. Ultra Spec 2000 (Uvex 9165) General purpose, medium impact polycarbonate plastic. Ventilated side guards. Good for indoor use as yellow tint enhances ambient light.
- 7. Novus (Bilsom 900007) High tech, stylish gold-framed image offers protective sideshields. Lightweight contoured design, soft form fitting nosebridge with adjustable metal temples.
- 8. Astroflex (Uvex 9168) Lightweight (34gms). Frame is made of high impact resistant polymid or metal frames (9169). Adjustable lens inclination to 3 positions, temple length adjustable to 4 positions. High impact resistant polycarbonate, scratch resistant, replaceable lens with integrated sideshields.
- 9. Duo-Flex/Uvex (Uvex 9161) Especially suitable for lathe work, light, fits over glasses, 180° view, covered ventilation on sideguards, integrated inclination, adjustable temple with lock, frosted brow of upper frame to prevent light reflection and some splash.
- 10. TrueBlue (Bilsom) one of the colours offered in the Santa Cruz range of safety spectacles. One-piece wrap around, positive lock temples, interchangeable lenses. Larger for more protected area. Lightweight nylon frames.
- 11. Ultra Vision (Uvex 9301) Close comfortable fit goggles, integrated indirect ventilation with splash guard and anti-glare frosting, anti-fog coating on lens, nose bridge designed to work well with respirator, optically correct panoramic lens does not distort view or cause headaches. Fits comfortably over most prescription glasses.

Visors

Generally, the higher the speed at which a tool operates, the more eye protection needed. High speed rotating machines, such as lathes and tablesaws are capable of throwing large objects moving at high speed at your face, therefore a face shield, at least, should be worn. Considering an object may be moving at 80 metres per second, the need for high impact resistance is necessary.

Visors are generally made of either polycarbonate or acetate. Polycarbonate is high impact resistant but acetate isn't. Acetates however, resist solvents, whereas polycarbonates are destroyed by them. It is worth considering a visor of each material to be used in conjunction with the activity being undertaken in the workshop. All visors meeting the Australian Standard should have their impact rating on the top corner of the faceshield. Visors should be worn with a brow guard (\$10-\$15) preferably fitted to a rachet harness which can be adjusted while on the head. The pin lock harness needs to be removed for adjustment.

You can also wear goggles or glasses under the shield for lifting the visor to check work in progress or to protect eyes from airborne wood dust. Impaired vision from dust in the eye may provide an early warning to a developing allergy to a particular wood.

While a visor offers some protection for the eyes, and is priced up to \$30, sealed goggles provide protection from dust. There is one product on the market which has goggles joined to a face visor. There is however, overwhelming evidence to support the use of the ultimate protection—the powered air purifying respirator which ensures the toxic dusts don't reach either your eyes or lungs. A full protective integral face shield, hearing protection and hard hat are also available for heavy work.

Safety Glasses

Saftey glasses with side shields are probably adequate when using smaller, slower speed tools—including hand

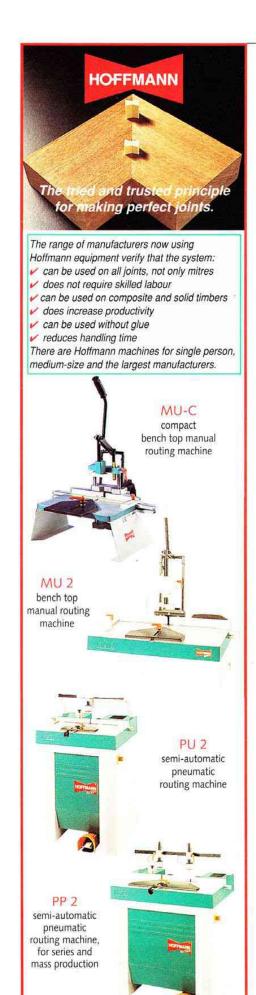
tools. Don't for a moment consider your everyday optical glasses to be protective wear; they simply aren't designed to withstand heavy impact, and may shatter in your eyes on impact. Contact lenses should also be avoided in the workshop as damage will occur if dust or chemical is trapped under the lens. Time taken to remove the lens from a eye clamped shut in pain is time the acid or alkaline is acting on the eyeball!

Safety glasses are increasingly crossing the boundaries between work and recreation. Research has established that image is a major factor in whether or not workers will wear something as basic as safety glasses. Consequently a huge range of big name fashion brands have reached the market ranging in price from \$5 to \$30. Made of tough, impact resistant polycarbonate, as opposed to glass, they can have prescription lenses or tinted lenses fitted, with a non-scratch surface applied. Clip-on or permanent side shields can also be fitted. Side shields offer up to 25% more protection for the eyes. Many of the safety glasses are designed to be close-fitting like goggles, yet light and comfortable enough to wear for extended periods. And because of the Australian Standard applied to tinted safety glasses, they double as some of the best and cheapest sunglasses around.

Goggles

If you are not interested in buying a second pair of sight lenses for your safety glasses then some goggles with adjustable arms can be worn over sight glasses. Goggles generally cover a larger area around the eye, are flexible and absorb impact. They are best worn over normal sight glasses if there are fine flying particles and for any other work that doesn't involve a full face mask.

Goggles do have their drawbacks—they can be notoriously hot to wear and fog up, however, one brand has developed a range of anti-fog and anti-scratch applications for truly successful use of goggles and safety glasses. Check that the goggles you wear have hooded ventilation to prevent splashed



For more information contact:

Tel (02) 9526 8590 Fax (02) 9526 8591

Key Joining Equipment

chemicals from reaching your eyes. They range in price from \$5 to \$15.

Prevention is Better

A professional approach is to have and use the right tools and this includes eye protection. Serious pain and damage can be avoided by wearing adequate eye protection, as can loss in productivity and wages in down time when a worker has to go to the doctor or take sick leave.

First Aid

It is always best to err on the side of caution with vision. First aid should be understood and applied quickly and calmly, then medical attention sought. Apart from obvious injuries, blurred vision, a loss of the visual field or pain are all indicators of eye problems and urgent medical attention is needed.

Foreign Body

Sawdust in the eye of a woodworker is common and promises to be at the very least, irritating. Sawdust should be flushed from the eye with water. A small particle may easily scratch the cornea and if not cared for, could become infected. If you have the sensation of something remaining in your eye, get it checked out.

Bruising

If the eye is hit by a flying object or a piece of wood kicking back, cold compresses applied immediately will help alleviate swelling and bruising as the cold constricts the blood vessels around the eye. Should pain, pressure or a change in vision be experienced, seek medical attention immediately.

Laceration

Emergency medical treatment should be sought if there are signs of blood in the eye between the outer surface (cornea) and the inner definition of the eye (iris). Never apply pressure even if the urge is unbearable—pressure may result in the retina detaching and sight being lost in that eye. Place a clean pad over the eye with further protection, such as a piece of cardboard to avoid any pressure being applied.



Record Turbovisor offers full protection.

Chemicals

If anything is splashed in the eye it will be extremely painful and the natural response is to jam the eye shut. It should be forced open and flooded with water for at least 15 minutes before a medical visit. Eye wash units are available from safety product stockists.

A Final Word

The cost of eye safety is very low when it comes to the cost of the equipment necesary to protect your eyes. There is no monetary value that can be placed on the sense of sight. So before you next pick up your tools, put something on your eyes to protect them—you won't ever regret it.

Thanks to Peter Ogden (Allsafe), Nev Smith (Bilsom) and Michael Riggall (Uvex Safety).



Purelite helmet protects face, eyes and lungs.

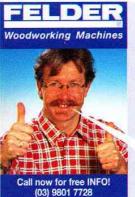
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Blackwood - figured, birds eye, fancy, plain Myrtle - crown cut, plain Celery Top Pine - crown cut, plain Sassafras - blackheart and plain Leatherwood - redheart Huon Pine - birds eye and plain Musk/Eucalypt /Myrtle Burl - when available

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engineers drilling machines

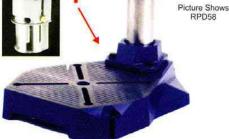
There are many brands of Drilling Machines available today. Most with their predominant selling feature being low price. Having been engineers since 1898 Record know a thing or two about drilling machines and now after 4 years of research and development, Record offer a series of Sheffield manufactured drills capable of giving exacting precision, combined with a guarantee that goes well into the next century. All Record Drilling Machines are individually hand assembled and inspected, in addition to being fitted with a unique "No Volt Release Switch", which prevents the machine from starting up again once a power failure has ceased.



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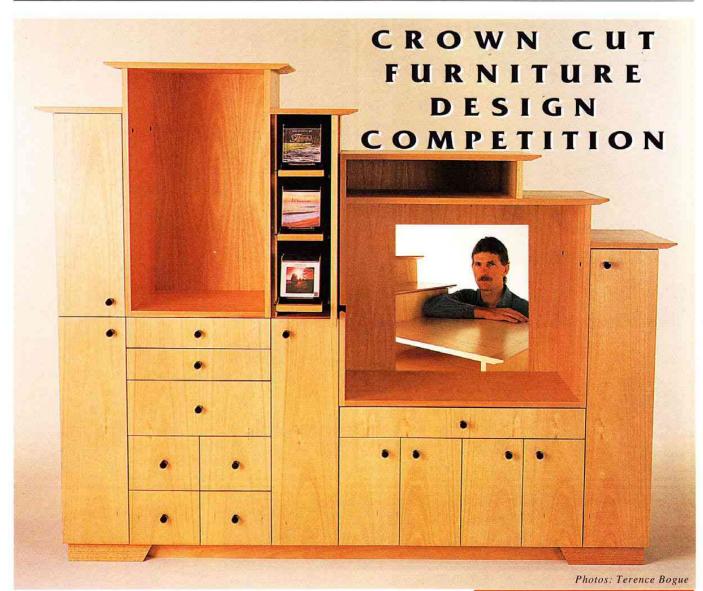
58	RPD58P	
(5/8")	16mm (5/8")	
1080, 2600	450,700,1080, 1680, 2600	
(INT)	3/4" HP (INT)	



Note: RPD12P &RPD58P Pedestal Models

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Part No.	DMD24A	DMD28	RPD12	RPD12P	RPD58	RPD58P
Drill Capacity	13mm (½")	13mm (½")	13mm (½")	13mm (½")	16mm (5/8")	16mm (5/8")
Speeds	540,780,1150, 1160, 2430	540,780,1150, 1160, 2430	450,700,1080, 1680, 2600	450,700,1080, 1680, 2600	450,700,1080, 1680, 2600	450,700,1080, 1680, 2600
Motor Rating	1/4" HP (INT)	1/4" HP (INT)	1/2" HP (INT)	1/2" HP (INT)	¾" HP (INT)	3/4" HP (INT)
Spindle Stroke	50mm (2")	50mm (2")	78mm (31/16")	78mm (3 _{1/16} ")	78mm (31/16")	78mm (31/16")
Height	762mm (30")	863mm (34")	1060mm (41¾")	1684mm (661/4")	1060mm (41¾")	1684mm (661/4")
Weight	3 <mark>5kg (77lb)</mark>	36kg (79lb)	74kg (163lb)	78kg (171lb)	77kg (169lb)	82kg (180lb)
Special Price	\$635.00	\$739.00	\$1,209.00	\$1,235.00	\$1,279.00	\$1,350.00



This magazine promotes contemporary design and the appreciation and use of native timbers. To this end in December last year we launched the Crown Cut Veneer Furniture Competition, jointly sponsored by Australian Wood Review, Gunns Veneers Pty Ltd and the Forests and Forest Industry Council of Tasmania.

The competition brief was to design and make a practical and commercially viable piece of furniture or cabinetry from Crown Cut Veneer. Entrants were permitted to use a combination of veneer and solid timber and smaller amounts of other species for detail. The final submission was in the form of photographic images. Interested designers and furniture manufacturers were asked to submit recent images of their work for selected entry.

Crown Cut eucalypt veneer is produced from regrowth forests and is available in different grain patterns (cathedral, swirl), colours (biscuit, cream), grades (clear, feature, backing) and with selected features (stress marks, branch knots, pin knots, resin streaks, hobnail streaks).

Two winners were chosen from what may truly be regarded as a complete field of 'winners'. David Collins Furniture (Warragul, Vic) won the first prize of \$1,000 and Benjamin Hunt Design (Ivanhoe, Vic) won the second prize of \$250. The results, we hope you will agree, were outstanding and reflect the high level of commitment which each entrant applied to the competition concept. In accordance with the competition guidelines the winning pieces were chosen according to the criteria of commercial viability and practicality, taking

Above, the winner of the Crown Cut Furniture Design Competition: TV & Stereo Display Unit

1700h x 2130w x 575d

David Collins Furniture, Warragul, Vic (03) 5623 1287. Design consultation: Raven Designs.

Cream, swirl pattern Crown Cut bookmatched veneer board, solid Vic ash, Hettich hingeware, runners, Hewi handles. The cabinet features ergonomic height placement of appliances for easy, 'no-bend' usage. Simple CD and video tape storage on sliding shelves for easy visual access. Modular design adapts to appliance variation. Solid timber edging on tops, other edges finished in veneer tape.

into account the multitude of issues which these two criteria implied.

Australian Wood Review, Gunns Veneers and the Forests and Forest Industry Council of Tasmania would like to congratulate all who took part in this competition.

Right, winner of second prize: Moonshine (1500h x 515w x 300d)

Benjamin Hunt, BHD, Ivanhoe, Vic (03) 9497 4054

Crown Cut veneer (\$1CF), polished aluminium nodes, plate aluminium, castors.

The aim in designing this furniture item was to produce a financially viable product suitable for mass production and distribution in a knockdown form.

Moonshine provides storage for 28 bottles of wine and 24 glasses in the floating central cavity. The hobnail streaks of the timber contrast with the polished surfaces. Simplicity of form enhances the quality of the timber and frames the wine held within. The soft yellow tinges of the veneer and the bright reflective bursts of light emanating from the aluminium play on the image of 'moonshine'.

Photo: Terence Bogue

Below: Cubit

1200h x 1360w x 400d

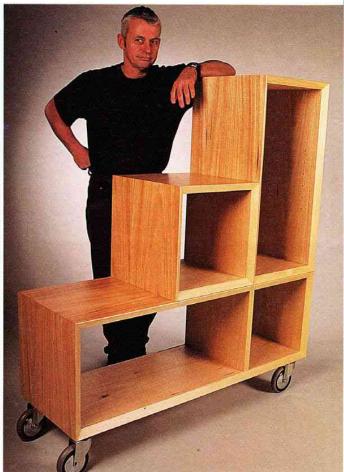
Graeme Hunt, ZED Urban Objects, Bulimba, Qld

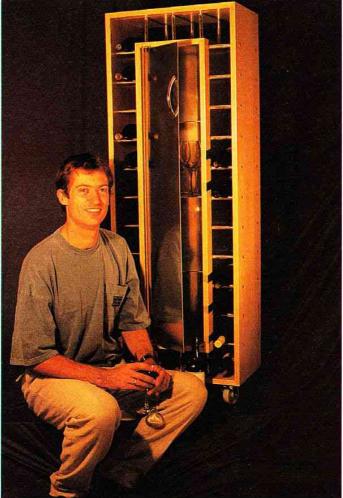
(07) 3395 5443

Crown Cut veneer (cathedral cut, biscuit, resin streak feature) pressed onto 25mm MDF, silver ash, aluminium/ rivets, castors.

Cubit is a moveable, modular storage unit system which offers versatility and adaptability. The use of line and bevelled edges draw the eye into the spaces. Converging surfaces highlight texture, light and shadow on the material. The system will reconfigure as needs change.

Photo: Clive Buxton



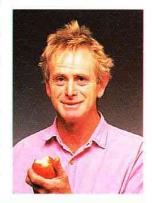


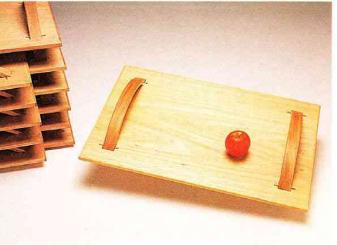
Below: Water Under The Bridge (12 serving trays, each 605 x 406 x 72mm)

Stephen Oram (right), Daylesford, Vic (03) 5348 2592

Crown cut reverse slipmatched cathedral, biscuit colour veneer on 9mm MDF, messmate.

Laminated handles of messmate are fixed by brass locking pins. The trays are knockdown for flat packing. Once assembled, they stay that way! Matt nitro-cellulose finish. Photos: Terence Bogue





Wave Desk

730h (adjustable) x 1800l x 900w, legs 38mm dia Sander Dijkstal, Shape Interiors, East Perth, WA (09) 221 1313

Cathedral Crown Cut veneer, biscuit colour, feature face grade, bookmatched with pin knots and stress marks, rolled steel legs.

Shape Interiors produces furniture prototypes intended for batch or mass production. This piece features knockdown construction and forms part of a collection launched in May this year.

Photo: Tony Harrison



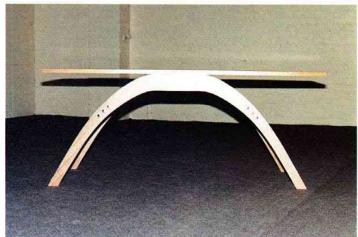
Series ISZU Dining Table 750h x 1800w x 900d

Mette Mäntynen, Design By Mette, Brunswick West, Vic (03) 9380 9164

Crown Cut veneer, solid Vic ash, chrome plated steel.

This table is part of a range of products designed for residential and commercial environments. The *ISZU* Series includes coffee table, dining and arm chairs and has been designed with short run production in mind.

Photo: Sally Newell, Serendipity



Flat Pack Coffee Table 1200l x 420h x 600w

Dave Humphries, Hobart, (03) 6239 1207

Stained table: Reverse slip matched cathedral Crown Cut, biscuit colour, feature/clear mix. Veneer for lighter coloured table: Slip matched cathedral cut, cream colour, pin knot feature, clear face.

The legs of this flat packing coffee table are hinged to the table top and held upright by a corner connector. This reduces assembly to the placement of two screws. Two tables can easily be made from one 2400 x 1200 panel.



Yang Factor Table

1200l x 600w x 450h

Joanne Mclean, Malcolm Borrell, Furniture by Suddesign, Manly, NSW 0411 402583

Crown Cut veneer, stainless steel

Designed for ease of construction using CNC technology. Stainless steel legs add strength and aesthetic accent. The table flat packs and is easy to assemble. Two tables can be used separately or joined together to form a large, generous surface. Castor feet add more versatility as does the storage shelf underneath. This design has been developed with apartment living, mobility, flexibility and full utilisation of space in mind.

Photo: James Murphy, J & M Photographics



Display Shelf (1000h x 1300w x 300d)
Andrew Rogers Industrial Design, Thebarton, SA
(08) 8234 1833

Reverse matched, swirl pattern, cream Crown Cut veneer, MDF, jelutong.

The shelves are dowelled and spaced out from the vertical supports. The front edges of the shelves are eucalypt stained green black. Shelf supports are a box construction of MDF. Front vertical edges are made from a quartered tapered cylinder turned from jelutong. Nonveneered surfaces are finished with black and charcoal grey *Protek* auto acrylic. The features of this design will be adapted to an entire office furniture system.

Photo: Saul Stead



760h x 2000l x 1000w

Thor Pedersen, Scandinavian Cabinets, Westbury, Tas (03) 6393 2064

Crown Cut reverse slip matched cathedral veneer, solid fiddleback Tas oak.

The central veneered panel of the tabletop is framed by a 60mm border of fiddleback Tas oak. The softly curving frame is made from thin strips of laminated Tas oak. This procedure allows the use of small regrowth forest products as well as other small sections of timber. The table comes with eight upholstered chairs.

Photo: Owen Hughes

(03) 9798 7309



900h x 1200w x 450d Martin Zanin, Creative Cabinets, Keysborough, Vic

Cathedral Crown Cut cream veneer, inlay, solid red amoora.

This elegant cabinet is dowelled together and finished in sprayed satin polyurethane. The top features 5mm inlay and solid insert plaques and shaped feet in red amoora provide contrast.

Photo: Terence Bogue



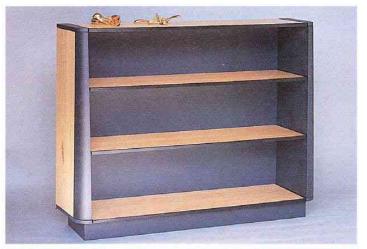
Large table (1030 \times 1030 \times 455), side table (600 \times 600 \times 455), lamp (800mm high)

Steve Blakeney, Gray Owl Timber Products, Deloraine, Tas (03) 6362 2688

Crown Cut Veneer, biscuit colour, pin knots and stress marks. Solid Tas oak, jarrah, brass KD fittings.

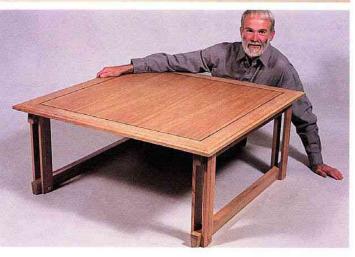
This occasional series of tables and lamps features knockdown construction for flat pack shipment. The veneer leaf has been 'dovetailed' by laying up in a reversing pattern.

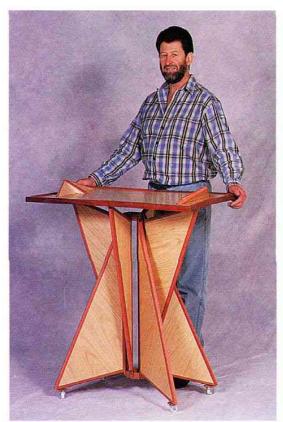
Photo: Steve and Jan Blakeney











Jolly Trolly (servery) tray 850 x 530 Denis Fletcher, Fletch Design, Mount Gambier, SA (08) 8739 4210

Cream, swirl Crown Cut, hobnail feature, book matched, jarrah edging, steel channel backs each support triangle to enable slim attachments to the two steel octagonal centre pieces.

Assembled with 16 bolts, so the nine individual pieces of veneered board can be stacked flat to 900 x 550 x 210mm. Castor size and type can be changed to suit requirements. Multifaceted, double sided display highlights the veneer.

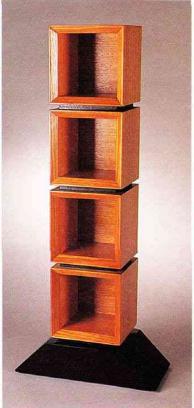
Photo: Frank Monger



Crown Cut cathedral bookmatched cream veneer with minimal features, MDF, hand shaped MDF knobs.

Fine lines, angles and detail work characterise this freestanding chest. Drawer pulls mirror the shape of the carcase while remaining proportional. Veneer leaves were applied after carcase construction. The back of the chest features fine detail inlay in contrasting black.

Photos: Jason Alexander

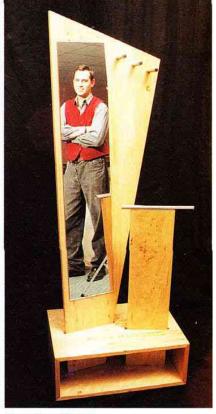


CD Tower 900h x 180w x 170d Rod Nathan, Interwood, Qld (07) 3287 7088.

Crown Cut veneer

Modular construction characterises this variable capacity CD storage system. Each compartment takes 13 CDs. Rod Nathan is the publisher of Australian Wood Review and a furniture designer/maker.

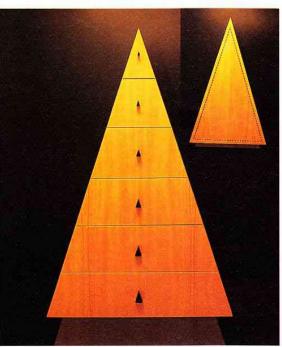
Photo: Clive Buxton



Dressing Valet
Geoff Ryall, Dream Haven Furniture
Co, Epping, Vic (03) 9408 7533
1700h x 595w x 395d

Cathedral Crown Cut veneer, 19mm dia chrome tube, tube closures, bolts, washers, silvered glass, nylon castors.

The dressing valet is of mitre box construction, panels have been housed in slots and screwed in place. The mirror tilts for full height view. The unit can be flat packed for transport.







Above: Gash Cabinet

Lee Jackson, Mad Cow Design, Perth, WA (09) 486 8686 Crown Cut veneer bookmatched with stress marks, legs and handle surround in American red cherry.

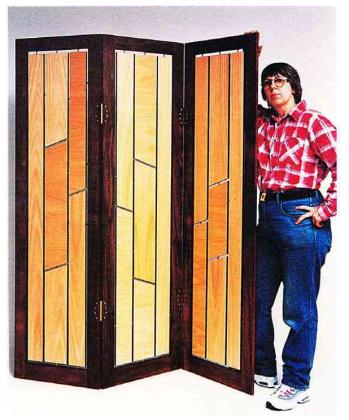
Entirely constructed with mitres so no panel lines are visible.

Below opp. left: Ocasional Table (600h x 450w x 350d)

David Ransome, The Kitchen Works, Billinudgel, NSW (066) 802 246

Crown Cut cathedral cut veneer, Tas oak edge strip.

This is a new way to use veneer board. Exposed edges are minimised by 'folding' pre-veneered board with a specially developed tool. Compound folds are possible and complicated designs can be easily achieved. After tooling up, the actual construction time for this piece was only three hours.



Above: Privacy Screen (1800h x 1500w x 17mm)

Dawn Ferguson, Dwellingup, WA (09) 538 1395

Cathedral, biscuit, Crown Cut, stress mark feature, 12mm

MDF, jarrah, brass hinges and rod, iron-on edging tape.

Free standing in a 'Z' pattern. Lift-off hinges allow panels to be separated. Panels are cut in opposing grain directions and are joined with 6mm brass rod and are framed in jarrah, bridle joined. *Photo: Frank Maietta*

Below: Seatle buffet (810h x 1660w x 515d)
Design: Alain Huin (USA), Rex Carr. Manufacture: Wentworth
Furniture Co, Heidelberg, Vic (03) 9459 2922

Crown Cut carcase, lock mitre construction. Fascia solid ash with blind mortise and tenons. Solid ash drawers, dovetailed with centrally fitted roller runners. Designed to suit the trend in homes with a neo-classical influence.







Thomas J. Degens, Boambee, NSW (066) 584 264

Crown Cut veneers, silky oak

This two door buffet features veneers backed onto a plywood substrate. An upstand and a glass shelf extend its versatility. Both drawers are dovetailed and lined.





I was thinking of the 40s Steven Hall, Steven Hall Design, Burleigh Heads, Qld (07) 5533 8245 1540h x 1290l x 470d

Crown Cut veneer (swirl, cream, hobnail streak feature), solid cooktown ironwood, kavula, Hettich hardware. This two door cabinet features a display shelf, a drawer and an internal adjustable shelf.

Photo: Clive Buxton

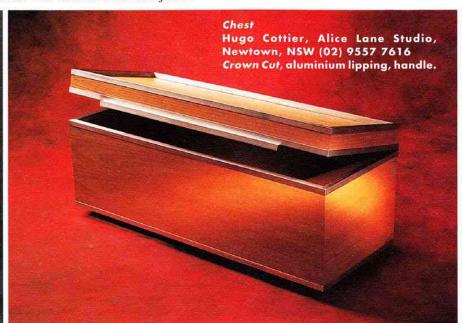
Bookshelf No. 12 (2100 x 800 x 285)
Peter Walker, Head of Furniture Studio,
Jam Factory Craft & Design Centre
(08) 8410 0727

Crown Cut hobnail, swirl, cream, stainless steel, solid oak edging, blackwood inlay detail. Angled shelves eliminate the need for bookends. Designed with production potential in mind. Produced from 2400 x 1200.

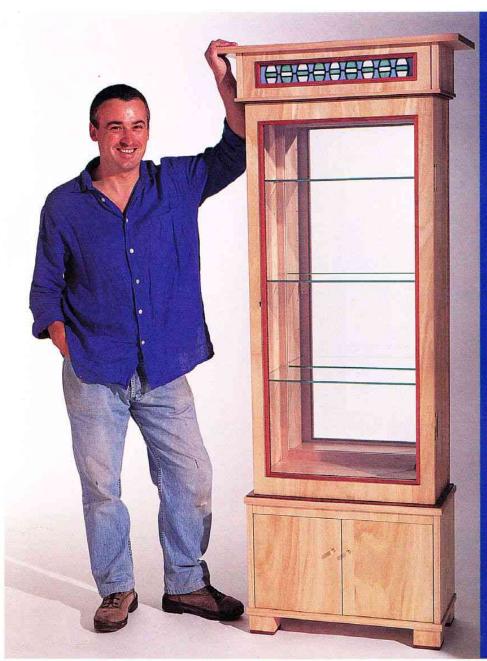
Photo: Dan Armstrong

Below, Slim Bookshelf: Bodo Mordek, Mordek Frames & Mouldings, Braidwood, NSW (048) 464 066. Crown Cut bookmatched veneer, solid Tas. myrtle. A versatile bookshelf. No joints are visible where sides and back meet as a 45° tongue and groove cutter was used to mitre the joins.









Showcase

Jeff Phillips, J.J. Phillips Cabinet Makers, Waterloo, NSW (02) 9319 5710

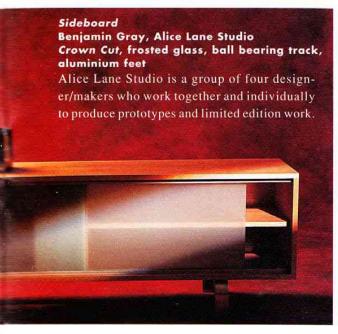
1800h x 630w x 300d

Swirl, biscuit coloured Crown Cut, mirror, solid jarrah, leadlight, Allen key bolts

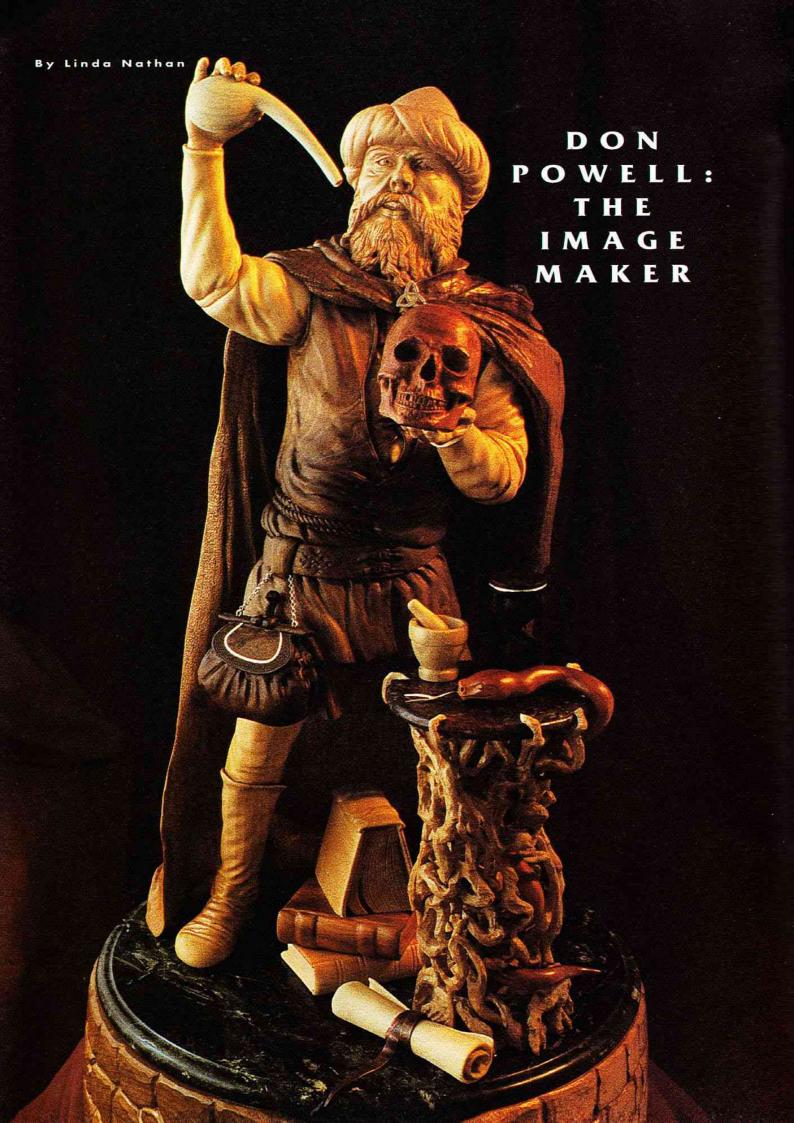
The mirror is framed within solid timber for safety, the rest is constructed totally from the board (with almost no waste!). The decorative trim is jarrah and the leadlights which are lit from behind by the showcase lighting are made specially to the maker's design by *Arabesque* stain glass in Kings Cross, Sydney.

The shelving is adjustable and removable and the whole cabinet, though very solid when assembled, completely disassembles in 5 minutes with Allen key bolts. The aim was to make the whole cabinet transportable by one person in a regular car (following requests from 'jeweller' customers struggling to transport fully assembled showcases to trade shows).

Photo: Adrian Conelly, Cumming Agency & Studios



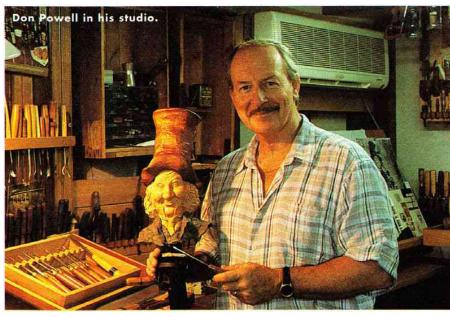




O ne November day in 1989 a police force hostage negotiator, bodyguard and detective inspector closed the door on a lifetime of work and privately vowed to become a wood-carver. Artist/sculptor and past recipient of a Churchill Fellowship, Don Powell, is today at 57, what he set out to be only eight years ago.

Completely self-taught and now a teacher himself, Powell decided to develop a talent which he had in his youth for whittling. An A-grade sporting shooter, Powell has decided that that too must be sacrificed. He deems that at least eight hours a day hands-on time must be spent working at his new career. The same determination which saw him abruptly change his direction in life is now fully applied to each new sculpture.

It is likely that training in the police force has developed his powers of observation, attention to detail, his ability to research and investigate. Years spent setting up Queensland's witness protection program, not to mention being a hostage negotiator after training in Chicago, have surely made him a keen psychologist and judge of



character. As an inspector (who didn't particularly care for him) once commented in a routine 'conduct sheet': "The sergeant has a flair for detail".

Receiving the Churchill Fellowship in 1996 was a watershed in his artistic development. It gave him the opportunity to learn from masters past and present. In Germany he appreciated at first hand the brilliance of the 15th century woodcarver Tilman Reimenshneider, an artist whose stylised

religious sculpture is the palpable expression of humanity as described in the Passion of Christ.

Six weeks spent with British wood sculptor Ian Norbury affirmed his artistic directions and gave him an insight into the business side of his newly chosen career. Powell and his wife Maureen spent part of their time assisting Betty Norbury organise and mount her prestigious yearly exhibition in the Cotswolds.



Although the original commission did not eventuate, the idea for this piece took hold and Powell went back to medieval times and the imagery of the 15th century German Renaissance artist Albrecht Durer.

The work was undertaken during Powell's nine weeks working in Ian Norbury's workshop in England. Carving certain parts of the sculpture (such as the ringlets in the beard), Powell admits, were purely an indulgence.

This romantic and mysterious figure of the Dark Ages is surrounded by objects which are symbols.

The retort that he holds, along with the timer, is symbolic of the short time he has to redeem life from death.

The silver clasp on his cloak is fashioned as the Celtic symbol of eternity. Silver, which the serpent's tongue is also made of, represents redemption.

The bag carries the priceless potions, ointments and elements of his trade. The vulture's head on the toggle of the bag symbolises the inevitability of death.

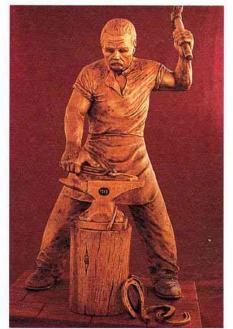
The serpent entwined in the wood represents healing.

His knowledge is stored in his books and scrolls.

As Powell says 'out of the murk and ignorance came his descendents, today's teacher's of medicine and chemistry.'

The figure is sculpted in walnut, limewood, holly, elm, yew, oak burl, briar, ebony, rhododendron and imbuya. The wood is complemented by marble, soapstone, copper and silver. Photos: Don Powell









Ian Norbury encouraged Powell to experiment with and develop the technique of using different species of timber as well as other media within the one work. Norbury also encouraged him to develop the themes of his work even more fully.

If Don Powell were to carve his sculptures from a single block of wood he claims it would take only a third of the time to complete. However, by carving different parts in contrasting timbers and engineering their placement, Powell trades the extra hours of work for a richness of colour, texture and expressivity. His *Apothecary* is sculpted from at least ten species of timber, and also incorporates marble, soapstone, copper and silver.

The falcon of scented northern New South Wales rosewood which currently sits in his carver's vice will in time receive a 'hood' of Huon pine with decorative feathers of purpleheart. The life-like talons will rest on a gloved hand also of Huon pine.

The leprechaun pictured in his vice on the preceding page is also carved from many timbers. A full month's work has produced a face and hands made from pale lime, a jacket from mid-brown Fijian rosewood, a lower body in breeches of Australian white beech, rosewood shoes, a camphor laurel barrel, yellowwood base and the signature leprechaun hat of goldiewood.

The effect of this assemblage will be marred, if not totally lost, if the pieces do not appear to be part of a whole. The extra hours of work which a con-

Top: The Blacksmith in limewood conveys the power of the man...and the heat, sweat and grime.

Centre: The Potato Picker. An Irish immigrant to Australia circa 1900. Carved in walnut, mounted on gidgee and teak.

Left: Long John Silver. The partly exposed skull next to the treasure chest is a reminder that the diggers were often buried alongside the treasure to ensure the location was kept a secret. This piece is in white beech.

Photos: Don Powell

structed piece like this takes are spent on a careful labour of trial and error. Plasticine models facilitate the engineering of pins and joints, but basically it is the patient fitting and refitting of parts which achieves a seamless blend.

Powell spends hours and hours of research and preparation for a major piece. It's hard to convince students. Powell explains, that time spent researching a potential subject, seeking out photos, drawings and other historical evidence will make a piece work. 'They're so eager to pick up the chisel and start. "Why should I waste time looking in the library for photos or making clay models—I came here to learn to carve wood" is what they generally say.'

'It's the face, the hands, the details which give expression to a work' says Powell. Years ago, stationed in Cairns. Powell was a police photographer, producing numbered mug shots of suspects and offenders. Now the superb photos he takes are of his own work either final images (as shown here) or working shots of models in costume from various angles for the figures he primarily likes to sculpt. These, combined with extensive sketches, as well as clay and plasticine models, resolve the image he is trying to capture.

Travelling through Germany, Switzerland and England made Powell aware of the levels of opportunity which exist for woodcarvers there. Returning to Australia he came to observe that there is simply not the market for carving in Australia that exists in those countries. This market extends from folk art to handcarved tourist items and souvenirs, through to artisan and outright art works. 'It's hard to get established on the local scene, there just isn't the appreciation for 3-D work in this country that there is for painting, for example.' There is a broader cultural appreciation in Melbourne and Sydney, however the geographical vastness of Australia works to the disadvantage of an artist, who can in Britain, for example, attract many more visitors who have only a few hours' car journey to travel.

MAKING BEDS



Beds offer a range of challenges for both designer and maker. The bed is usually the most dominant piece of furniture in the bedroom and will set the scene for the entire room. It can be elegant or chunky, feminine or masculine, quirky or even humorous—not to mention opulent, extravagant or just plain Spartan. But some design elements remain constant for all beds—the main ones being that they should be demountable, yet stable when assembled.

The size of the bed is usually dictated by the dimensions of standard sized mattresses, but non-standard mattresses are sometimes requested and the bed is then made to suit. Standard single beds should accommodate a mattress 950mm wide, double beds 1375mm, queen size 1525mm and king size beds 1830mm. The standard length of mattresses is 2035mm. I prefer to allow around 20mm extra all around the mattress to make it easier to tuck in the sheets and blankets.

Mattresses are generally 230mm deep, with the double mattress type (the lower

base mattress with the inbuilt frame) 460mm deep. These measurements determine the height of the supporting rails. Some people prefer higher beds, others lower, but the average seems to be around the 550mm mark.

BASES

The type of mattress will dictate the kind of support required. Some mattresses have a built-in frame and only require support around the edges, others will require overall support via slats or springing. A futon style mattress will require closer spacing of the slats than for a sprung mattress. All

mattresses require air circulation to breathe so sheets of chipboard or even frame and panel base supports should be avoided.

My preferred base support for mattresses that do not have an inbuilt frame is laminated slats. These can be made in the workshop, but perfectly adequate slats can be purchased commercially. These are slightly curved to provide extra springing and, being laminated, are stronger than simple solid timber slats (see photo above).

BEDHEADS

Mattresses with an inbuilt frame are

provided with their own legs and really do not require a bed base at all. Heads and feet can be attached to the built-in frame with angle brackets but in my experience this is an unsatisfactory and unstable method. It is far better to join the head and foot with side rails and either sit the mattress on or within these side rails. Quite often I am asked to merely provide the bedhead for these types of mattresses. These can be fixed to the wall or free-standing. The freestanding bedhead can be joined to side cabinets for stability and the bed merely positioned between the cabinets.

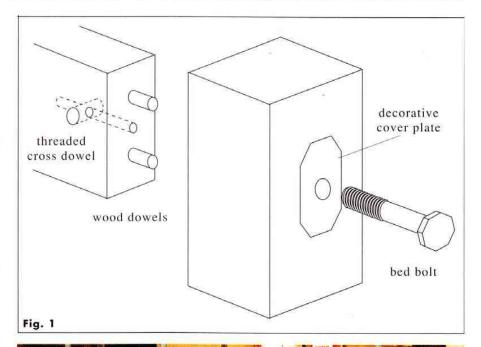
The function of a head board needs to be considered at the design stage. As the name implies you rest your head here when sitting up reading or for that early morning cuppa. Sharp edges or gaps between slats or rails that threaten to trap one's sconce are to be avoided. Spaces should not be so big as to allow a pillow to fall through. Head boards may be upholstered for comfort but most of my clients, and, I suspect, most readers of this magazine, love the feel and magic of polished timber.

The bedhead, and to a lesser extent, the foot, determine the style of the bed. Traditionally they both consist of posts linked by horizontal rails. These rails may be solid, carved or pierced; two rails may be joined by vertical slats or panels which can also be turned, shaped or carved depending on the desired look.

Turned posts and/or rails, especially when also carved, will usually produce a traditional style; square posts and simple rails maybe with a bevel or plain moulding will produce what has become known as a Federation style. Flowing curves may be reminiscent of the Art Nouveau style.

Right above: Mortise and tenon joints are typically used in good quality frames.

Right: One of a wide variety of knock down fittings available for beds. These must be strong enough to withstand the substantial leverage encountered.













JOINTS

One of the biggest hurdles for novice bed makers is to choose an appropriate jointing system for the frame. There are many different 'knock-down' systems on the market that are promoted as being suitable for beds. In my experience none have been satisfactory. If I could find a supplier of the old fashioned cast iron fittings that were used a couple of decades ago I'd give them a try.

Having tried most of the systems around I have reverted to using bed bolts and a captured nut in the rail. Threaded cross dowels are used for the nut in the rail and 6mm or 10mm threaded rod used for the bolts. Either a decorative head can be used or a standard machine bolt counterbored into the leg and concealed by a cover plate (fig.1). I'm trying to be delicate here, but the designer has to imagine the most strenuous activity a bed might encounter and choose a jointing system that will stand up!

Four poster beds basically resemble ordinary beds except the posts are higher and there may be provision for an overhead canopy. A half tester bed has the high posts only at the head with a smaller cantilevered canopy. Although most four posters and half testers are made to reproduce 18th or 19th century styles, there is a huge range of opportunities to explore and develop contemporary designs for these variants.

Of the beds I've made over the last few years the 'Sleigh' bed would have

Top: Wall hung bedhead in oak and ginko. An understated sculptural element has been introduced into the design.

Centre: A Federation style bed in blackwood with a contemporary feel introduced by the curved and carved panels. Note the cover plates over the bed bolts.

Left: A Huon pine free standing bedhead. This was designed to placed in front of a large picture window overlooking both the garden and a mountain range. The design brief called for it to reflect the panorama outside without blocking the view.





to be my favourite, although such a dominant design requires a large room or it could be overwhelming. The bed pictured below left was styled loosely on a provincial French design but given a more contemporary feel. The head and foot were made up of 100mm x 25mm boards laminated together and then shaped to a pleasing curve and mortised to the posts. Counter top connectors were used instead of bed bolts to join the ends to the rails.

Beds are a somewhat overlooked item for the furniture maker but are a key purchase item for homemakers, particularly those wanting non-standard looks or sizes. Having met a fairly straightforward criteria for function the potential for decorative statements is limitless.

Knockdown bed fitting suppliers:

Knapp Fastening Systems (03) 9844 1377 or fax (03) 9844 1773

Left above: A free standing bedhead and side cabinets made of ash with walnut inlay. The shape of the bedhead reflects the octagonal theme of the room

Left: 'Sleigh' bed in blackwood. This style of bed can be traced to ancient Egyptian times and was revived during the 18th century.





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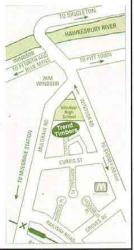
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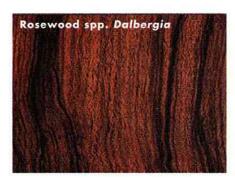
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ROSEWOOD: BY MANY OTHER NAMES



uropean awareness of exotic rose woods grew within the Renaissance as they were appropriated from Brazil and neighbouring areas of colonial conquest and visitation. The favoured timbers were those with the darker reddish purplish colourings and became known as 'palisander'. Brazilian rosewood is valued for the deep rich colours and figuration which develop during two hundred years of growth. The distinctive figuring and fragrance are actually a result of deterioration from the inside, characteristics missing in the younger trees. Timbers displaying similar characteristics to Brazilian rosewood have inherited the name and the rosewoods have grown into a large unruly family.

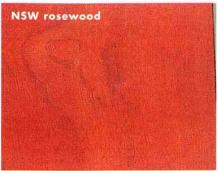
In Name And Nature

There are at least a dozen different species of tree commonly referred to as rosewood. There are, however, about a hundred different names assigned to these species that grow typically in the tropical regions of the world. While the beautiful dark red and purple colours of the rosewood, combined with the rose scent, are the most obvious sensual aspects of these timbers, it is their density, workability and durability that make them so sought after. For instance, Brazilian rosewood is said to resist decay for 25-50 years in conditions that actually promote decay, such as the floor of a rainforest.

Some claim that a 'true' rosewood-is of the specific genus Dalbergia and





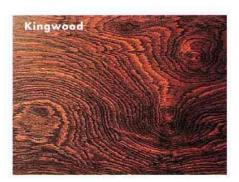


that other rosewoods are merely substitutes for the increasingly rarer rosewoods. 'Rosewood' is often added to the name of the source country of a timber displaying properties similar to the Brazilian rosewoods, leading to the confusion over what is a rosewood.

Other Brazilian Rosewoods

Those sourcing the extremely rare and expensive Brazilian rosewood (Dalbergia nigra) for its tonal properties and fine polishing quality for the back and sides of acoustic guitars, may be supplied with **tulipwood** (Dalbergia frutescens) which is slightly lighter in colour.

Kingwood (Dalbergia cearensis) not to be confused with Goncalo alves.



draws its regal name from its popularity with Louis XIV and Louis XV of France and is also often substituted for Brazilian rosewood. Sourced in Brazil, and displaying dark violet hues and black stripes set against a yellowish background it is also known as violetwood and violetta.

Another Brazilian rosewood more commonly known as **jacaranda do para**, is **Amazon rosewood** or **spruceana** (*Dalbergia spruceana*). This version of Brazilian rosewood is identifiable by the yellow sulfur deposits in the pores.

Rosewood Forests

The huge rosewood family grows in two forest types: the tropical rainforests which receive up to 400 cm of rainfall throughout the year, and the dry or deciduous rainforests that depend on the monsoonal season for their rainfall.

Tropical Rainforest Rosewoods

The rainforest trees are extremely efficient in absorbing nutrients from the soil. So efficient in fact, that large mineral deposits resembling rocks have been found within the pore structure of the some rosewood trees such as the **East Indian rosewood** (Dalbergia latifolia). In smaller concentrations the mineral deposits will show up as small white dots on the surface pores.

Timbers commonly referred to as rosewoods which grow in the tropical humid forests include **Aniba rosewood**(*Aniba* duckei) also known as coto or female rosewood and is considered an endangered species according to the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (1992). Borneo rosewood (Gluta sp.) is sometimes referred to as Straights mahogany or black varnish tree.

Brazilian rosewood (Dalbergia nigra) also known as Bahia rosewood, caviuna, jacaranda de Brazil and Rio rosewood also heralds from these fast disappearing humid forests, as does Madagascar rosewood (Dalbergia baronii) or palissandre voamboana and New Guinea rosewood (Pterocarpus indicus). PNG rosewood is classified as 'vulnerable' in the Philippines, 'extinct' in parts of Malaysia and 'uncertain' in Vietnam. Logged in the Philippines since the 1700s, it is also the national tree of the Philippines.

Monsoonal Rosewoods

Tropical dry or deciduous forests rely on the seasonal monsoons yet outside the monsoon they are dry enough to host forest fires. Rosewoods of these forests include: East Indian rosewood (Dalbergia latifolia), Bombay blackwood, or sonokeling is the 'second' rosewood after Brazilian rosewood. It displays golden brown to dark purple brown with almost black streaks and is especially valued for the most precise cabinet work. The tree grows to a large size and therefore the veneer can be cut on the true quarter producing a striped effect. It is currently being grown successfully in plantations throughout Indonesia.

Honduras rosewood (Dalbergia stevensonii) or nogaed was classified as being very scarce, however, with political stability returning in the region it is becoming available again. It is pinkish brown to salmon red with dark irregular grain lines. It is highly regarded by instrument makers especially for marimba bars. A similar species is Guatemala rosewood or Dalbergia tucurensis and Dalbergia cubilquitzensis. Nicaraguan rosewood (Dalbergia retusa) is better known as cocobolo or Bahia rosewood, granadillo, cav-

iuna, jacarandaholz, palissanda, or prieto. This secure monsoonal forest rosewood flags the variety of hues displayed by rosewoods. Nicaraguan rosewood displays a wild grain of brilliant orange, rust, purple and yellow with distinctive superimposed lines of purple and black. Its oily content has lead to its common use as knife handles which are waterproof and polish well.

African rosewood (Guibourtia coleosperma) or Rhodesian copalwood, Indian rosewood (Dalbergia sissoo) and African blackwood (Dalbergia melanoxylon) or zebrawood or Mozambique 'ebony', are also monsoonal forest rosewoods.

Unlike the other rosewoods, African blackwood is found in grasslands or savanna where rainfall may only occur every 20 years or so. This timber is regarded as both a 'rosewood' and an 'ebony' and its classification here as a rosewood is because of its membership of the genus *Dalbergia*. The dark purple to black timber resembles

NEW GUINEA ROSEWOOD

The characteristics, uses and qualities of *Pterocarpus indicus* also known as amboyna (Moluccas), narra (Philippines), ligi (Solomons):

The tree varies considerably in height from 25 to 40 metres. The timber is described as having a somewhat variable grain pattern, which can be straight, interlocked or wavy with a texture that can be sometimes rather coarse and uneven.

Despite this description and a tendency to present a somewhat 'pitted' face after planing, some manufacturers actively seek out the timber for its flexibility, strength and relatively easy working qualities for furniture and cabinetmaking, where it also lends itself to turning and carving. It is not considered to be too hard on cutting tools although it is harder than African and Honduras mahogany. New Guinea rosewood is noted for its exceptional stability in use.

The colour varies from deep red to straw to mostly gold colours. In fact the redder samples, from which it has earned its 'rosewood' classification in the timber trade, make up only a small proportion of a parcel—unless your supplier has specially selected these for you. The latter will be significantly heavier than the general run of New Guinea rosewood and will also, if specially selected, cost you more. Generally the timber is easily stained, with the exception of the blood red heartwood which is very difficult to impregnate.

The timber is a Class 1 durable timber and resists both decay and termite attack for at least 25 years and up to 50 years. A density of 610 kg/m³ and hardness of 565-680kg/m³ make it appropriate for in-ground contact to cladding and exposed structural joinery.

In essence, this is a timber

with remarkable physical beauty, an amazing range of uses and durability matched only by timbers which are either much more expensive or which do not possess the same physical attraction or working qualities. It is moderately priced, works well with hand or machine tools and polishes to a lustrous finish.

Compiled by Lester Oldham and Russell Lawson, Australian Furniture Timbers, Port Melbourne.



ebony in its working properties and was traditionally used for the finest wind instruments, bagpipes and violin bows, ornamental turnings and precious treen, but it has also been applied to everything from construction to piano keys. It is now very rare and very expensive.

Alternative Rosewoods

There are many alternatives to the scarcer rosewoods, some of which are also becoming endangered, for instance bubinga (Guibourtia demeusei) bocote (Cordia elaegnoides), granadillo (Platymiscium yucatanum), jacaranda pardo (Machaerium villosum), or purpleheart and padauk (Pterocarpus spp).

Australian Rosewood

There are four species grown in Australia that are commonly referred to as rosewood: Rose mahogany (Dysoxylum fraseranum), two species referred to as scentless rosewoods (Synoum glandulosum and Synoum muelleri) and red bean may also be known as miva mahogany (Dysoxylum muelleri).

Adams Timbers (03) 9761 8688 Honduras rosewood. Albart Trading Wood Veneers (02) 9319 7831: Brazilian, scentless, Nicaraguan (cocobolo) and Madagascan rosewoods

Australian Furniture Timbers (03) 9646 1081, (070) 351 301 PNG rosewood.

Canalpie Crafted Furniture (045) 71 1570 Rose mahogany

Lazarides Timber Agencies (07) 385 11400 Rose mahogany, scentless rosewood, PNG rosewood, red bean/miva mahogany, bubinga. Brazilian rosewood, Indian rosewood, cocobolo, kingwood, tulipwood.

Marquetry Craft Co (044) 234 717 S.American and Indian rosewood veneers

Mathews Timber (03) 9874 1666: Indian and PNG rosewood, rose mahogany.

Mullumbimby Timber Salvage (066) 84 0166: salvaged rose mahogany, scented rosewoods. Otto & Co (08) 8362 3525: Honduras rosewood Peter Scott-Young (03) 9870 8733 Veneers in Rio rosewood, Santos rosewood, Bombay rosewood, kingwood, tulipwood.

Processed Forest Products (02) 9645 1000: Brazilian, Nicaraguan and PNG rosewoods veneers.

Southern Timber Supplies (048) 691322: Rose mahogany, PNG rosewood, bubinga.

Toona Australis 0414 552 002, A/h (07) 3345 4826 East Indian rosewood, Brazilian rosewood, cocobolo.

The Woodage (048) 721 618: Rose mahogany, PNG rosewood.

Trend Timbers (045) 775 277: East Indian, PNG and Amazon rosewoods, bubinga, bocote, cocobolo, African blackwood, NSW rosewood and miya mahogany

Veneer and Timber products (07) 38812068 PNG rosewood References:

Bootle, Keith R. Wood in Australia: Types, Properties and Uses McGraw-Hill , Sydney 1983

Boland, DJ. Forest Trees of Australia, CSIRO Publications, Melhourne 1992

McClure, Paul Wither Rosewood? in Fine Woodworking, Wood and How to Dry It, Taunton Press, Conneticut 1986

Time-Life Book, The Art of Woodworking, Encyclopedia of Wood, St Remy Press, Montreal 1993

Boak, Dick <u>The Rosewood Jungle</u> in Fine Woodworking <u>Issue 77 July August 1989</u>, <u>Taunton</u> <u>Press Conneticut USA</u>.

Richard D. Miller Woods of The World, compact CD, produced by Tree Talk Inc, Burlington, VT, USA, 1995



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IS IT DRY? — MOISTURE METERS

Knowing the exact moisture content of the wood you are working is a very important and often overlooked step to fine woodworking. The wrong moisture content can cause warping, swelling, splitting, and loose joints in your finished work, which can in turn cost you hours of time in repairs, and possibly customers in the process.

I t is essential to ascertain whether your timber is dry and at the correct moisture content. Oven drying samples of board is the most accurate method of determining moisture content. The latter is expressed as a percentage of this oven-dry weight. To determine the moisture content of a piece of wood you must first weigh it, and then oven dry it at 103°C, until it no longer loses weight. The oven dry weight is subtracted from the initial wet weight and the difference divided by the oven-dry weight and multiplied by 100 to give a percentage.

For quick and easy readings of moisture content that don't require cutting samples of boards (or stoking the oven) the hand held moisture meter is, not surprisingly, highly recommended.

Optimum Moisture Content

The correct moisture content for furniture timber in Australia varies greatly according to location, but the Australian standard for milled hardwood products (AS2796 1985) specifies a moisture content for kiln dried timber of 10-15%. In many indoor environments the equilibrium moisture content (EMC) is, however, as low as 8%, so for furniture applications a dried average moisture content of 8% would be optimal.

Deltron meter from Deltron Moisture Meters (02) 9818 5155



Remember though, wood is always susceptible to fluctuations in humidity and will try to reach a state of equilibrium with the surrounding atmosphere. When this balance of moisture exchange is established, the amount of moisture eventually contained in a piece of wood is called the 'equilibrium moisture content'.

Meter Types

Resistance meters measure the electrical resistance between two probes pressed into the wood surface. The most common type of probe is known as the hammer probe, which consists of a sliding hammer which is used to drive the pins into the wood at different depths. The hammer has a cable attached which is plugged into the meter.

Most smaller meters have 6-10 mm pins (or small probes) attached to the actual meter which don't take very deep readings on thick stock, but for general workshop use are very good. Good quality pins have an insulated coating except at the tips, which ensures that an accurate measurement is taken at the end of the probe.

If moisture is present the electrical resistance between the probes changes and a reading is taken. The greater the resistance measured, the higher the moisture content. This resistance is translated electronically into a percentage of dry weight moisture content and displayed on either an analogue or digital display. Note that surface moisture on the wood will influence

the reading, so the probes must be driven in quite deeply. Testing on fresh cut endgrain is recommended.

Non-invasive types of meters do not use probes, but send electro-magnetic waves through the timber. Surface moisture is not generally a worry here as the waves pass deeply into the timber.

Most moisture meters have been calibrated for Douglas fir, so it is necessary to refer to a correction table for the species you are using. Correction tables are reasonably accurate, but it is important to remember the correction figures represent averages and a variation of 1 or 2% each way is possible. Some meters come with test calibration buttons or simple test resistance strips may be available from your meter supplier.

Corrections for temperature also have to be made as most meters are calibrated at a temperature of about 21°. A correction of minus or plus 1.5% should be made for every 11° respectively above or below 21°. Some meters also come with temperature correction tables. Species correction figures should be applied after corrections have been made for temperature.

Using Your Meter

When taking readings from your moisture meter always take readings after the display has stabilised, usually after about 2-3 seconds. Prolonged measurement, however, can induce electrolysis, causing the reading to drop slowly. Try not to move cables

during measurement as this can cause readings to fluctuate and vary. Working near electrical equipment or static electricity can also cause false readings, so it pays to take readings in different locations. Moisture itself can also affect your readings—keep your meter dry and clean.



I was sent seven hand held moisture meters which are currently available on the market to review. As you will see in the table overleaf the cost of the meters surveyed varies greatly, as do the accuracy and ranges of the readings taken.

After testing several boards with several meters and gaining many different results, I suspected many of the meters sent to me were inaccurate, so I decided it was time to do the oven test. For this I prepared samples, from opposite ends of 25mm thick boards of ash, blackwood and American cherry.

I carefully recorded readings from all the meters at the recommended 20° air temperature. Next, I weighed my samples and began oven drying them. I kept checking the weight of the samples until constant 'oven dry' weights were found which were recorded. After using the formula to determine the true moisture content, I concluded that all of the meters were out by between .25% and 4% and most gave inconsistent readings when checking the same board within a 24 hour time frame.

Conclusion

I found the Wagner L606 meter gave instant readings, scanning large amounts of a board in only a few seconds, although I did notice its readings could be greatly affected by surface moisture. The Tramex Professional, Wagner L606 and the Mini Ligno DX/C performed with consistent results every time, with readings accurate to within plus or minus 1-3%. The Deltron came highly recommended, but arrived too late for comparative review, although its features have been included in the table.

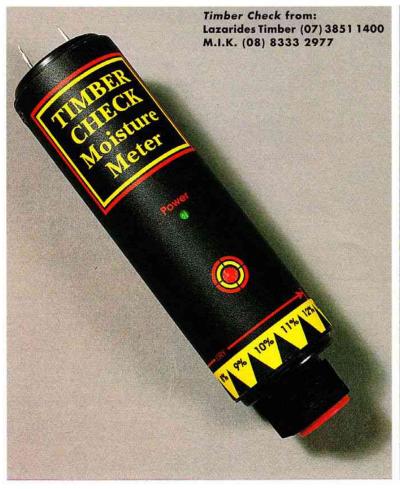
For woodworkers who want very quick and reasonably accurate results I would recommend the Wagner L606 as the meter to go for. But for those who require slightly more accurate readings the Tramex Pro or the Mini Ligno DX/C should be chosen for very accurate digital display and scope for attachment of different probe types.

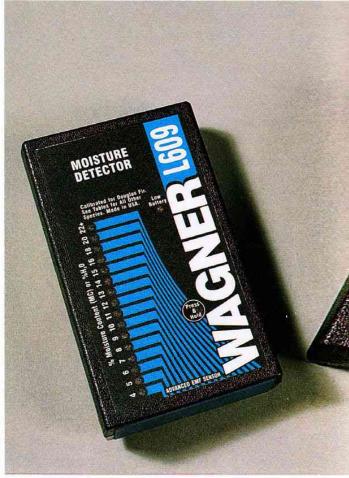
Prices quoted in the table include tax and were correct at time of writing.



Model	Origin	Size	Feel/Look	Display	Туре	Cost
Deltron DCR-12	Australia	190 x 125 x 75mm	Straightforward design of unit, probe is very heavy duty, easy hold.	Analogue	Resistance	\$467 (probe extra)
Mini Ligno	Germany	135 x 70 x 28 mm	Easy to hold, looks square with rounded pin cover.	Digital	Resistance	\$191
Mini Ligno DX/C	Germany	135 x 70 x 28 mm	Easy to hold in one hand, comes with pin cover, quality plastic	Digital	Resistance	\$729
Timber Check	Canada	155mm long x 45mm diameter	Round cylinder with switch at end, easy to hold	Digital	Resistance	\$165
Tramex Compact	Ireland	160 x 75 x 28 mm	Easy to hold, square looking, quality feel	Analogue	Resistance	\$290
Tramex Professional	Ireland	160 x 75 x 28 mm	Easy to hold, square looking, quality feel, well made	Digital	Resistance	\$430 (probe extra)
Wagner L606	USA	115 x 70 x 40mm	Quite small and square, fits easily into hand and very light	Analogue	Resistance	\$470
Wagner L609	USA	115 x 70 x 25 mm	Quite small and square, fits easily into hand	Digital	Resistance	\$294

Thanks to Andrew Rozsa from CSIRO for additional information used for preparation of this article.

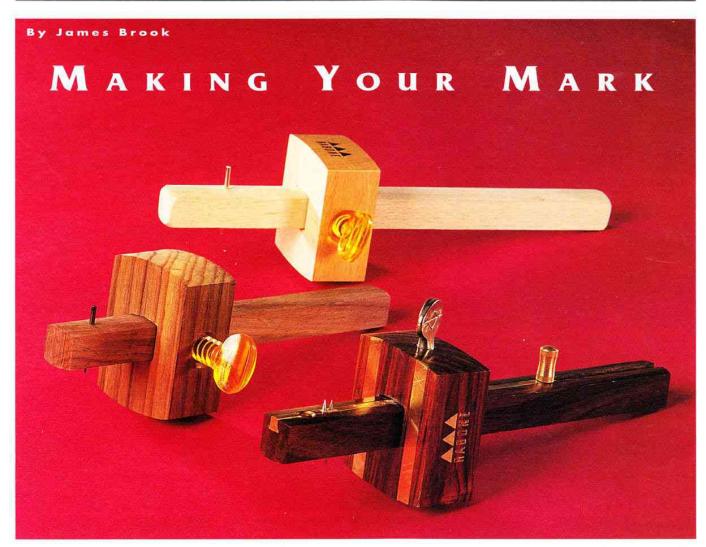




Readings Range	Includes	Battery Check	Comments
5-40%	Instructions, correction ta- ble, optional carrying case	Level indication	Designed for timber producers but will suit all wood users.
Two ranges, 6-20%, 22-36%	Case, instructions and correction table	No	Very easy and simple to use, good value for money.
5%-65%	Case, instructions and correction tables for species and temperature	No	Suit the professional woodworker who requires very accurate readings.
6% and under to 25% and over	Spare pins, pin cover, instructions and species conversion table	Battery indica- tor light	Very simple to use with reasonably consistent results. Good for occasional users.
7-42%	Case, pin cover, good clear instructions & species conversion table	Yes	Easy to use, but scale hard to read below 10% and not fine enough to take accurate readings for furniture use.
8-40%	Case, pin cover, good clear instructions and species conversion table	Yes	Easy to use, consistently accurate and very easy to read display. Suit the professional woodworker.
0-30%	Case, pin cover, good clear instructions and species conversion table	Low battery indicator light	Able to take many readings very quickly over a board with ease.
4-22%	Case, good clear instructions and species conversion table	Low battery indicator light	Awkward to use as you have to continuously hold the 'on' button, which takes some pressure. Affected by surface moisture.







The marking gauge is a simple but essential tool which is used for marking parallel lines to the edge of a board. The gauge normally has a wooden beam around 200mm long with a fixed sharp marking pin at one end. The beam slides through a wooden stock which has a screw for fixing the stock at desired locations. The required distance between the marking pin and stock is set, the stock is pressed against the board and with the edge of the pin trailing lightly and the gauge is pushed or pulled along the board.

Scoring long- and end-grain should pose no problem. For cutting across the grain however, a series of light cuts will be needed to prevent tearing and the subsequent inaccuracies that will follow. A cutting gauge is recommended for cross grain work, the difference here is that the pin is replaced with a flat cutting blade.

A mortise gauge has two pins, one fixed and one adjustable which alTop, Rabone: no frills tool offering a reasonably sharp stainless steel pin, parts of the tool are polished while other parts are raw beech. All edges are sanded, plastic screw, the fit of beam and stock was loose, not square.

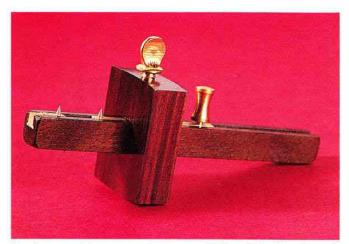
Centre, Marples MR2049, \$22, made of unfinished medium hardwood. The steel pin needed sharpening and the ends of beam were rough cut and unsanded, plastic screw, fit of beam and stock was loose, not square.

Lower, Rabone mortise gauge, polished hardwood, stainless steel pins sharp, all edges sanded, brass screw, brass wear plates neatly fitted, fit of beam and stock was loose, not square, sliding mortise pin travel tight.

lows both sides of a mortise to be marked simultaneously. Gauges of this kind generally have another pin on the underside so they can also be used as marking gauges.

Marking gauges, like other hand tools, have developed a certain mystique about them. In fact, a simple, no frills tool will suffice. The cutting pin needs to be sharp (which can be achieved with a file or sandpaper), the stock should be square to the beam and able to be firmly locked in place with the screw. Beyond this the tools on the market vary according to finish, fitting of metal parts, the timber used and the refinement of the mechanisms.

The tools we reviewed for this article had pins of either stainless steel or hardened steel. Some arrived sharp and others needed sharpening-no big deal really. When it came to the stock being square to the beam however, there was quite a difference. Price was certainly no indication of squareness as none of the gauges were square all round (sometimes out up to 2mm). The fact that the beams on some tools were not quite straight only added to the problem. On further checking with a retailer it seems that, strangely, no gauges available will come to you square and will need tuning or bedding in.



Sanderson miniature mortise gauge, \$30, polished hardwood.

Tuning The Gauge

It is common to place a rule on the stock and measure off to the pin. If the pin and stock are not square this measurement will vary according to where the stock rubs against the board on which you are marking. To get the beam and stock of your gauge square you may need to glue a little piece of packing to the stock either fore or aft of the screw, depending which way it needs to be moved.

The screw mechanism also varied greatly in the gauges reviewed. All used a brass screw except two which were plastic. It's not hard to imagine a plastic screw breaking if the tool were dropped. The screw must be able to be locked in place quickly and tightly.

A decorative hardwood is the norm for hand tools like this although I have seen some tools with a less exotic timber stained up to look like rosewood or similar. The more expensive tools will have brass wear plates let into the face of the stock. These are attractive, but check that the brass is sanded flush to the wood—some of the gauges we checked had brass jutting out proud, or the fit of the brass in the wood was sloppy and/or the brass pins protruded.

The adjustable pin on mortise gauges we saw used a brass slide to carry the pin. The slide can be a simple push slide or may have a threaded rod to control movement via a screw, either system works well. The finish and detailing did vary greatly on the gauges reviewed, some were superbly sanded and polished while others were begging to have sharp edges removed.

Any one of these gauges will do you for years of service. The *Clenton* marking gauge cannot be ignored, it is so well made and detailed and probably worth the \$98 just to look at and feel, I found the stock too wide though with the screw located at the side. The *Marples* M2050, at \$33, is a good gauge but watch the fit of the brass wear plates on the stock. I thought the *Marples* M2153, at \$38, good value and very pleasant to the eye, except for the beam which is too short, which makes it a little out of balance in use.

Tools in this story from Record Hand & Power Tools (Marples), Woodworks Book & Tool Co (Rabone and Marples), Colen Clenton (Clenton), Carba-Tec (Sanderson).



Left above: Colen Clenton marking gauge, \$98, polished hardwood, hand made and detailed, HSS pin sharp, all edges fine sanded, brass screw would be better knurled, brass wear plates neatly fitted, fit of beam and stock good, not square. Right: Colen Clenton cutting gauge, \$132, polished hardwood, hand made and detailed, HSS steel cutter sharp, all edges fine sanded, brass screw would be better knurled, brass wear plates neatly fitted, fit of beam and stock OK, not square.



Marples M2050, \$33, polished hardwood, steel pin sharp, end of beam a bit rough, brass screw, brass wear plates on stock neatly fitted but pins slightly proud, beam and stock fit OK, can be squared.

Marples M2153 mortise gauge, \$38, polished hardwood, steel pins sharp, all edges sanded, brass screw, brass wear plates neatly fitted, fit of beam and stock good, square one side, sliding mortise pin travel OK.

Marples M2154 mortise gauge, \$46, polished hardwood, steel pins sharp, all edges sanded, brass screw, brass wear plates loosely fitted, fit of beam and stock good, square one side, sliding mortise pin travel good via screw adjustment.

Suppliers

Colen Clenton tools from Colen Clenton (049) 90 7956, Woodstock, Timber, Tools & Hardware (08) 9345 4522 Marples tools from Record Hand & Power Tools (02) 9748 6800, MacDonnell Road Hardware (07) 3283 1558 Rabone tools Power Tool Specialists (06) 280 4966 Carba-Tec 1800 653 777, 1800 658 111, NZ 0800 444329 Sanderson tools from Carba-Tec

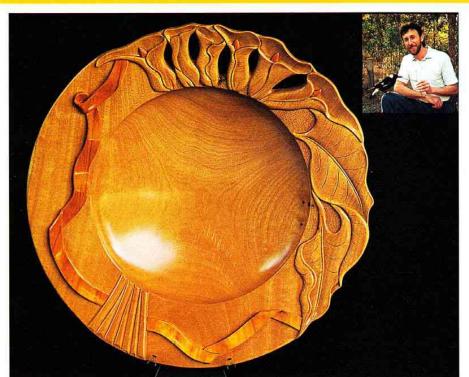
NEW TALENT OFF THE LATHE

Woodturning in Australia is a trade, an art, a craft and a hobby. In the mass production stakes we have companies who produce predominantly spindle work for the furniture and building industries. On the art and craft side numerous small and often home-based businesses produce limited runs of turnery for the gift and gallery scene. On the world stage Australia boasts high profile 'name' woodturners who are lauded as authors, demonstrators and exponents.

Each year in Australia there are now many exhibitions where woodturning is featured, if not billed at the top. Woodturners are winning awards and grants from local and federal governments and at the same time lobbying for higher profile on the Australian craft scene, demanding the respect which other craft disciplines seem to enjoy. At the base of this pyramid are the part-time turners, numbered in the thousands. For them woodturning is a fulfilling, creative, achievable and,

sometimes, profitable pastime.

Last year we asked readers to send in recent work and this issue we present a selection of the images received. Some of the turners represented here are full-time professionals while others are serious part-timers. Many have become woodturners only recently, yet have achieved high standards and now derive income from what may have started out as a hobby. We hope you will enjoy viewing their work as much as they have enjoyed making it.



Peter Bradford, Pomona, Queensland

'I am a cabinetmaker of 25 years experience and work for a local company during the working week. My apprenticeship was served working mainly on church furnishings, antique restoration and reproduction. It was there that I was introduced to woodcarving and turning. However, it wasn't until I moved to Pomona that a chance meeting rekindled my interest in this part of my trade. Currently, all my spare time is spent turning, carving and collecting timber and burls.'

White beech bowl 400 mm diameter by Peter Bradford. The ribbon and lily stamen are in Leichhardt tree contrasting with the paler beech timber. The base is also carved.



David May, Clontarf, Queensland

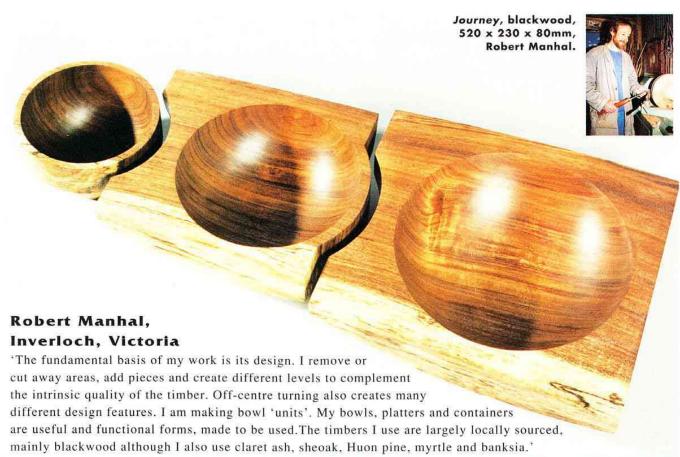
'I have been woodturning for 14 years and sell my work through local galleries and markets. All of my timber is harvested locally and the majority of it is 'recycled', in the sense that it would otherwise have been burned or dumped.' Above: Inland rosewood bowl, 230mm diameter, David May

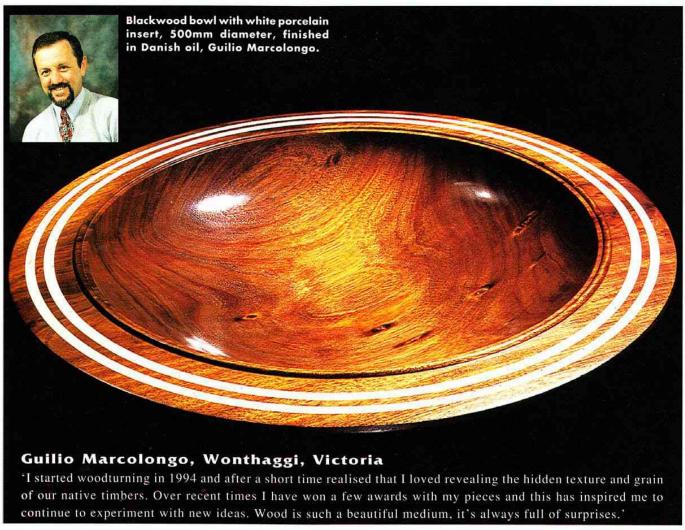
Harold Irving, Blackburn, Victoria

'From my earliest memories I have loved working with wood, although I chose to become an electrical engineer and a teacher of Mathematics and Science. Now I look upon myself as an Artist/Sculptor who has the ability to adapt tools and fixtures to obtain the desired shape and finish.'

Below: Shallow form conical bowl made from jarrah burl, 370mm diameter x 180mm high, Harold Irving.







Anthony Boerboom, Big Springs, NSW

'Having trained as a horticulturist, I have a natural affinity with trees. I try to reflect the natural strength of wood in my work, and I am also influenced by ceramic forms. I strive for simple, uncluttered lines and frequently use other materials to strengthen the statement.'

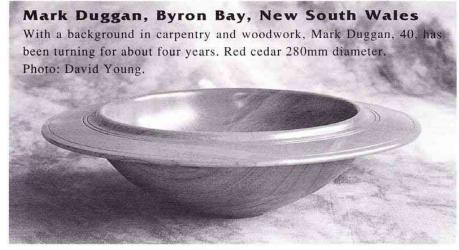


Ostrich Egg Jewellery Box, jarrah trays and fittings, pewter, Anthony Boerboom

Simon Carter, Maylands, Western Australia

'I have been woodturning since 1980 and am totally self-taught. The majority of my creations have been made from recycled timber while I specialise in segmented work of which the patterns, styles, designs and colours allow for great creativity.'

Below: Barrel, jarrah and brass, 280mm high x 260mm dia, Simon Carter





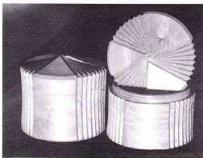
Dave Brown, Tea Tree Gully, SA

'I have been turning for approximately 18 years. I produce for the gallery, gift and the corporate market. I mainly use red gum which I buy from the



Red gum and apricot boxes.

mill by the cubic metre, wet and straight off the saw. Bowls are usually roughed out, waxed and dried in my friend's kiln for around six weeks, then stacked until required. Shape and finish are of paramount importance, without either the turnings just do not sell.'



Myrtle burl lidded containers.

Neville Heinrich, Thornlands, Qld

'As a serious hobby woodturner, I am extremely fascinated by ornamental turning. I have developed a jig to mount my angle grinder into a cross slide

vice which clamps to the lathe bed. All my containers have threaded lids cut with a home-made thread cutter. I enjoy the challenge of hollowing out the heart of these fragile pieces of wood, seeing how thin I can go without destroying them. I have also used banksia, tallow wood and scribbly gum termite-eaten hollow limbs.' *Photo: Geoff Harwood*.



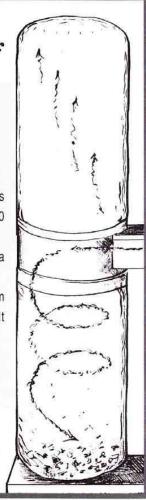
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THE VENEER OF NATIVE HARDWOODS

Dr Barbara Ozarska, a senior research scientist with CSIRO Forestry and Forest Products, Wood Processing and Products Program, recently undertook an evaluation of East Gippsland hardwoods in collaboration with the Victorian timber and furniture industries and the Department of Industry, Science and Tourism.

he use of Australian hardwoods for structural products such as domestic framing, decking and fencing, has long been accepted. In response to growing interest in the use of these timbers for high value products, seven East Gippsland hardwoods were recently evaluated for use as decorative sliced veneers, veneered panels and profile wrappings. The species tested were regrowth mountain ash (Eucalyptus regnans), messmate (E. obliqua), manna gum (E. viminalis), shining gum (E. nitens), yellow stringybark (E. muellerana), red ironbark (E. sideroxylon) and silver wattle (Acacia dealbata).

After slicing, the resultant veneers were found to contain a high level of 'features' (see below and table opp.). Face grade veneers of mountain ash and manna gum were generally ivory

in colour, straight-grained and tended to be featureless in appearance, resembling the Tasmanian product (Tasmanian oak).

With their light to medium brown colour and generally straight grain messmate and shining gum would be equated with Tasmanian oak. The shining gum was distinguished by fairly conspicuous growth rings and, unlike messmate, provided a fine line stripe in quartercut veneer and well-defined crown figure in crown-cut. Veneer with fiddleback figure was obtained from the butt portion of a messmate tree.

In contrast, red ironbark and yellow stringybark tended to be figured woods. Both have interlocked spiral grain and as a result showed well-defined ribbon grain on quarter-cut surfaces. In addition, grain waviness in the tangential plane often added 'crossfire' to the ribbon grain. The colour of the yellow stringybark was an even yellow-brown, at times tending to gold, while the ironbark was generally dark red with some variegation.

The entire yellow stringybark consignment tested was marred by extensive ambrosia borer attack. Reportedly, borer-free yellow stringybark is obtainable from certain areas in East Gippsland.

The silver wattle veneer was straightgrained and generally had a slightly streaked pale brown colour similar to that of the palest of blackwood (Acacia melanoxylon), along with that timber's characteristic lustre.

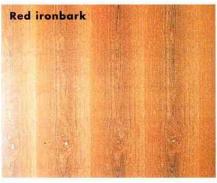
There is a growing demand within the furniture industry for 'featured' veneers. To satisfy industry interest, a few flitches of messmate showing localised burl formations were crown-cut













Species	Veneer Characteristics
Mountain ash	Gum
Messmate	Borer holes (from the pinhole borer ambrosia beetle), Gum, hobnail, fiddleback grain
Manna gum	Hobnail (tracings in the wood grain left by a grub (Bucculatricidae family), gum borers
Shining gum	Gum, epicormic shoots
Yellow stringybark	Borer holes, gum, hobnail, interlocked spiral grain
Red ironbark	Interlocked spiral grain
Silver wattle	Insect/grub damage, epicormic shoots

Typical characteristics encountered in the veneers

sliced. The veneer showed a coarse birds-eye figure.

C O N C L U S I O N S Veneers

Slicing and drying procedures were trouble-free for all species except red ironbark and yellow stringybark. Poor veneer handling properties associated with the high density of red ironbark and yellow stringybark were largely overcome by raising flitch preheating temperature and extending heating time.

Gum vein was the main feature for mountain ash as was ambrosia attack for messmate. Silver wattle suffered suspected grub attack and an excess of epicormic shoots that left pin knotlike markings on the veneer.

Veneered Panels

No problems occurred during the production of veneered panels. Apart from red ironbark veneer which required a slightly longer pressing time, the laminating process for other veneers did not differ. Bond strength and durability met Australian standard requirements. No sign of veneer delamination or splitting was observed in changing conditions of environment.

Profile Wrappings

There is a growing demand for veneer wrapped mouldings, particularly for architectural applications. Solid wood or reconstituted wood product such as MDF is used as a substrate for making products such as architraves. Test profile wrapping of the East Gippsland species veneers was carried out without need for any procedural variation.

Decorative veneered products manufactured from East Gippsland veneers have created great interest within the furniture industry in Victoria. Feasibility studies have been undertaken by the furniture and timber industries on the establishment of veneer slicing facilities in East Gippsland.

*The veneers tested in this study are as yet commercially unavailable. For further information on East Gippsland hardwoods contact Timber Promotion Council in Victoria (03) 9662 3222.

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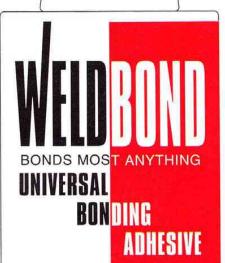
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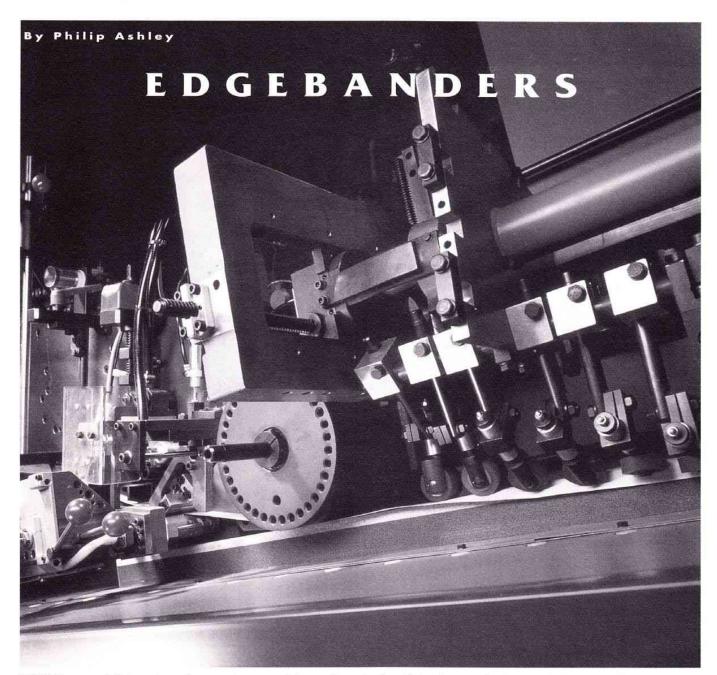


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hen particleboard was invented in Europe in the late 1940s, it changed the way furniture was made, creating a whole new technology in the process.

Developments in tooling and machinery (much of it computer numerically controlled) for routing, boring, sanding and edgebanding quickly followed. The advent of medium density fibreboard (MDF) in America in the late 1960s has further accelerated the acceptance of manufactured boards as a substitute for solid wood.

Of course, new materials and technology have brought with them a whole new manufacturing ballgame. What was true and correct for solid wood was no longer applicable for the new materials, and methods of furniture and cabinetmaking were redefined.

Manufactured boards come to us as sheets, usually coated with veneer or hard wearing melamine. Traditional woodworking machinery can perform most operations on man-made boards, although specialised equipment such as CNC beam saws and machining centres are generally superior, having been designed specifically to work the new materials.

One process that cannot be performed by traditional machinery is edging board components, that is, applying veneer, tape or plastic edging. On a very small scale pre-glued edging can be applied with a hot iron, but this is a messy operation which can sometimes result in burnt edging material. For small and large production situations there is now a wide range of sophisticated edgebanding machinery available.

The edgebander is basically a long beam, which has a power feed and various processing units mounted onto it. Panels are fed into the machine and move through the units on a feed track. Some machines have an optional cutter which first trims the panel straight. Glue is applied to the panel edge and the tape is pressed on. A guillotine snips the tape and the overhang is then removed by knives or saws.

The top and bottom of the panel is rough and fine-trimmed with tiltable trimming units to give a chamfered edge. For 3mm PVC edges, a scraping

unit is employed, followed up by top and bottom buffing units. The edgebander is like a self-contained production line, with each unit performing a separate part of the process.

TYPES

A hand-held edgebander is available. It is very basic but, at around \$500, is certainly an option for the one-person shop doing low volume work. The most basic kind of free-standing edgebander is a small table machine which uses a hot air blower to heat a pre-glued melamine or veneer tape. The panel is hand fed past the tape feed and the end and surface trimming is done manually. A machine of this type can cost as little as \$2,000 and because it is hand fed even curved panels can be edged.

A step up is a machine with a small power feed, which will come equipped with end trim knives, and top and bottom flush trimming units. These are usually powered by high speed Bosch trimmers, which will work pretty hard. A machine of this type, built in Australia, can cost \$8,000 or more.

For serious edgebanding, you will need to have at least \$40,000 in your wallet, even for an Australian-made product. As a starting point, you will get a hot melt glue pot, glue applicator, pressure rollers, end trim, flush (surface) trim and buffing units. From here on you can look at investing up to \$200,000 on a quality German machine, which should give ten years or more of continuous use.

Additional units offer pre-trimming of the panel edge, quick melt glue pots, rough and fine surface trimming, corner rounding, surface scraping, profile trimming and edge sanding. Cheaper machinery may not be able to apply solid timber edges, or the 3mm PVC edges now popular on most office furniture. If you are buying a cheaper machine for these purposes, ask for a demonstration before you hand over your cheque. Secondhand machinery is, of course, well worth considering.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Dry conditions are a must when working

with any panel product. Most problems with edgebanders, however, centre on the glue pot. Too low a temperature and the glue will not flow properly, too high and it will burn. Glue manufacturers specify different temperatures, but usually the glue should be over 200°C at the application point, and slightly less in the pot. The glue should flow like honey.

Watch the 'open' and 'closed' times on your machine. Open time starts when the glue leaves the roller and ends when contact is made with the tape. The closed time is when the tape is being pressed. A high feed speed will give a short open time, (which is good) and a short closed time (not so good). A low feed speed will give a long open time (bad) and long closed time (good). What you want is the shortest possible exposure to the cool air (open time) and the longest possible pressing (closed) time—take the time to experiment for best results.

Make sure though, that the glue doesn't burn. This can easily happen when the machine is left on for long periods of time between periods of usage. On the other hand try to avoid short runs, as the glue will take up to 20 minutes to heat up, and well over an hour to cool down. The glue will deteriorate over time, and will give less than satisfactory results if left in the pot too long.

Machining problems can also be caused by poor dust extraction, where clippings are not removed and end up sticking to the moving parts, in particular to the trimming unit tracers. For successful edgebander operation the main point to keep in mind is regular and thorough maintenance. Clean all units (especially the glue pot) regularly and your problems should be minimised.

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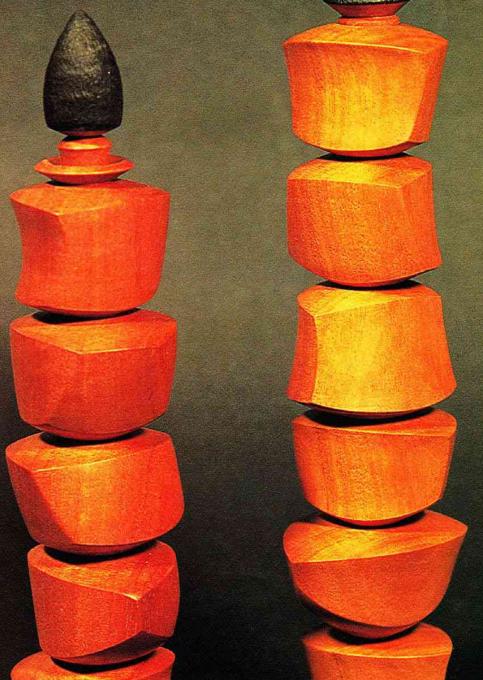
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MUTI-AXIS TURNING OR CREATING OFF CENTRE FORMS



To most people, turning is a technique that produces perfectly symmetrical objects. Turners can free themselves from the tyranny of the circular form by cutting, carving and constructing—or by moving the blank off-centre and cutting it on two or more axes.

In conventional spindle turning, both the driving spur and tailstock centre are positioned at the middle of each end of the turning blank. When turning off-centre, either one or both ends of the blank are repositioned.

Cabriole legs, for example, can be either carved or turned to shape by plotting converging or parallel axes. Shifting axes on faceplate turned items can produce a variety of geometrical and ornamental possibilities. The forms shown opposite illustrate the effects of random changes of axes; with planning however, the possibilities are limitless.

Great effects can be created by using timbers that have distinct grain lines or even stack-laminated plywood. Always be extremely careful when turning blanks that have been glued together—make sure everything is soundly bonded before beginning.

Once the lathe is switched on, the wood will travel in an eccentric motion around the new central axis of its support. This creates a new set of issues to be dealt with by the turner. Firstly, it is difficult to see the outer boundaries of the arc through which the blank travels, especially as it is necessary to run the lathe at a high speed. It is therefore important to be very careful when positioning your tool rest, to ensure that the wood will not hit it. As with any other turning operation, revolve the blank by hand through 360° to check there is no point of contact before you switch the lathe

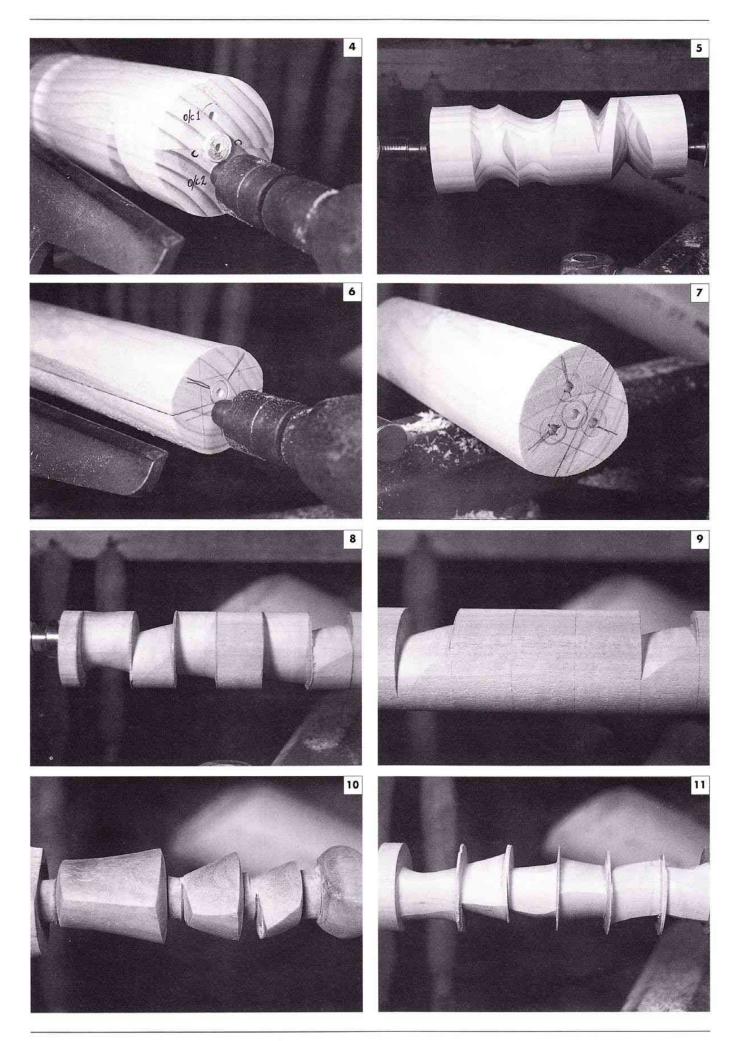
Safety is paramount. Keep fingers well away from the workpiece, preferably behind the toolrest at all times. Introduce the tool to the wood slowly and gently until you are sure of where the blank's perimeters travel.

Another problem that may arise is that because the weight of the blank is not spinning in a balanced motion, the lathe may rock. If your timber is thin and has little mass, it won't cause the lathe to rock much, if at all. However if you are turnning a larger piece of wood, you may well need to stabilise









AUSTRALIAN WOOD REVIEW 74

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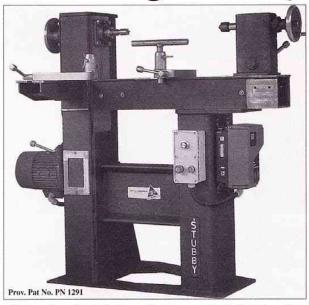
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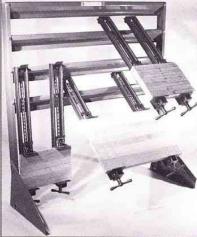
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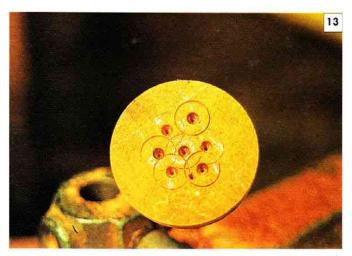
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your lathe before beginning. This may be done by fastening it to the floor, adding extended feet or even extra weight to its base.

I usually begin by roughing the blank down to a cylinder. The further the timber is off-set, the broader the arc produced once you recommence cutting—start by off-setting the blank about a centimetre (photos 1 and 2).

By off-setting at the tailstock end only and making two cuts (one with the gouge, the other with a skew) you can create the effects seen in photo 3. By off-setting the blank an equal distance in the opposite direction (photo 4) and taking similar cuts a short distance along the blank, you can produce a similar effect in mirror-like opposition, as seen in photo 5.

If you off-set at both ends and trim the full length of your blank, you will create a separate facet (photo 6). This can be repeated as many times as you wish. Photo 7 shows the effect of off-setting to three axes equidistant from the original centre axis.

You may wish to part down sections of your blank and turn each into an individual multi-faceted 'block' (photo 8) or continue as I did, making them into containers.

Drawing divisions on my blank, I offset in one direction and cut into a couple of the sections making sure that I kept straight edges on each section (photo 9). Planning to off-set in three directions, I moved the blank (at both ends) to a second centre, marking it C2 for later reference. The resulting effect is seen in photo 10.

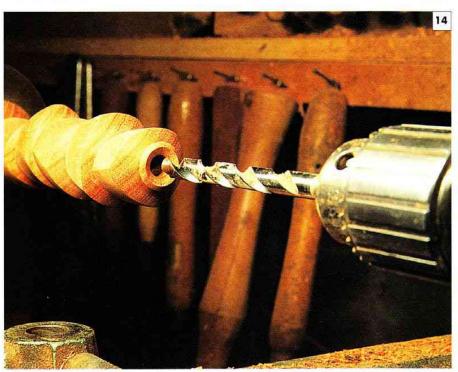
I continued to work on a third centre, C3, then bisected these centres equally to create centre 4, 5, and 6, allowing the slight off-setting of some 'blocks' from others. This produced a series of three faced blocks, which had clean sharp edges where each of the faces meet (photo 11).

The last stage in the shaping of these blocks was to divide them up, using a skew chisel. I cut the ends in sweeping curves that began at the outermost point of each block, to give definition and individual character (photo 12). Photo 13 shows the six centres used to produce the final form.

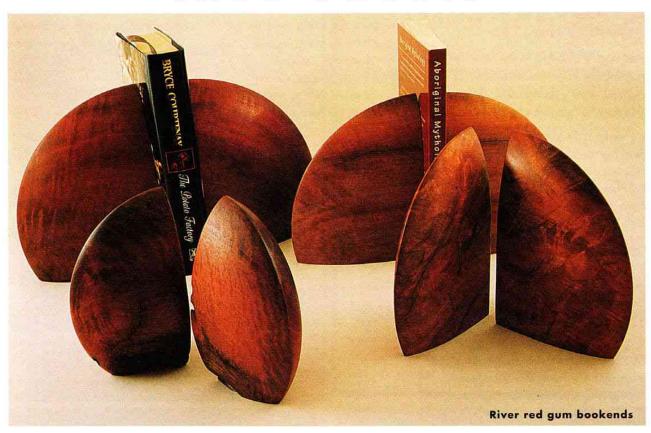
All that remained to be done was to part off the tailstock end of my blank, transfer the headstock end into a scroll chuck and drill out the centre of the container-to-be using a Jacobs chuck. This was held in the tailstock of the lathe (see photo 14).

A small stopper was turned, burnt and wire-brushed for texture, and a base was created. This was attached by means of a hole that accommodates a tenon which was turned at the end of the off-centre turned spindle.

To see some of the more advanced results that can be achieved look at the work of Mark Sfirri (AWR#14) or Jean-François Escoulen (AWR#12). If you wish to see how John Wooller applies it to faceplate work, you can see examples in AWR#7.



TURNING WASTE INTO PROFIT



any woodturners dream of turning their hobby into a business, however the pitfalls are many and the rewards are usually of the non-monetary type. The Australian market for craftwork is small and competitive, however just because you love working with wood and may be technically proficient, it doesn't necessarily follow that customers are going to hand over their hard-earned cash to finance your business. It may be stating the obvious, but to establish some sort of foothold within a crowded marketplace you need to produce something that sells.

The marketing of craft items often occurs by trial and error, which is okay if you can afford the trial and absorb the errors. The hardwood bookends shown here have been successfully marketed around much of Australia and were originally developed in conjunction with Michael Griggs from 'Australian Craftworks' in Sydney. As a gallery owner Michael has the choice of any number of platters,

bowls and lidded containers from all over Australia. Michael felt he could sell well designed and made bookends which highlighted featured and figured wood—as long as they were the right price.

With this brief in mind I made some prototypes and was able to negotiate with him the ongoing purchase of bookends. The moral here, is that close co-operation with a gallery or retailer can be mutually profitable, based on the premise that both parties want a product that will sell.

MAKING THE BOOKENDS Selecting Your Stock

While I was developing a design for the bookends I was surrounded by numerous bowl blanks which had been cut on the bandsaw but were found to be unsuitable for bowls because of cracks, gum veins or other 'flaws'. Utilising these blanks and making a design feature out of their flaws seemed to be good sense. Be very careful though that the wood you select is solid enough to be turned safely at high speed.*

The wood I use in my production work is slabbed by a portable bandsaw mill from 'firewood' quality hardwood cut into slabs between 40, 50, 75, 100 and 150mm thick. Much of the waste from standard bowls and platters can be turned into bookends, making this an excellent way to maximise profits.

Hardwood is best for bookends because it has the required mass to hold large books or CD's upright. I use river red gum, red box, red ironbark, grey box and sometimes jarrah. The wood needs to be at least 55mm thick and up to 110mm. I make a range of different sized bookends which when finished stand between 150mm and 350mm high. Photo 1 shows a sample of blanks which are suitable for bookends.

Mounting The Blanks

I use a Golding lathe with two Golding chucks. I have various faceplates

made from 50mm MDF screwed to the metal backing plate. The blank needs to be held firmly with three screws attached close to the outer edge of the disc you are making. The screw holes are turned off when the other side of the disc is turned.

Turning

I turn cracked and flawed timber at high speed with great care. Always use a face shield and head protection.

First I make a spigot on the base of the disc for the chuck to hold when I turn the reverse side. This should be slightly concave so it sits well on the bandsaw table when you are cutting the disc in half.

Turn the rest of the disc to the round. Mark the middle clearly on the edge, then turn the desired shape from this line to the spigot. I finish the shape with a scraping cut, then sand (photo 2).

Turn the disc over, mount it in the chuck and replicate the shape from the other side. Finish in the usual way. Use a pencil to mark the centre of the disc, while it is still on the lathe.

Marking Out

Some discs have obvious waste sections which need to be removed, others allow you a little room to move. I prefer to have the grain running parallel to the base of the bookends. Use a ruler to divide the disc in half by drawing a straight line through the centre pencil mark. With a plastic protractor mark out the base at right angles to the vertical line.

Cutting

Hold the disc firmly and flat on the spigot and cut the base off by passing it through a sharp bandsaw blade. Next cut the disc into halves. Make sure you feed the thick edge into the blade first, or support the outer edge (photo 3).

The bare shapes you are left with (photo 4) need to be cleaned up and prepared for the finish. I remove the spigot with a sanding disc on the angle grinder and then finish with a flexible sanding pad. The centre faces of the bookends are sanded on a disc sander. Don't

sand the bases as they will be covered with felt.

Finish

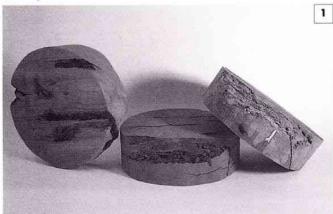
The quality of the finish you use is critical in helping to sell your product. I prefer tung oil or Danish oil which has plenty of lustre but still allows you to feel the wood. For the bases I cut felt out to shape and glue them on with a standard polymer adhesive.

This is a simple project which makes effective use of 'degraded' wood, is suitable for small production runs and has been successfully developed and marketed by closely co-operating with a gallery owner.

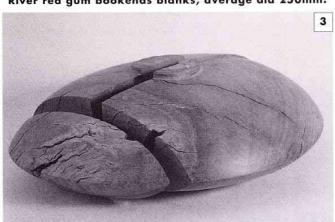
John Stewart is a professional woodturner who lives in rural Victoria.

Photos: Peter Abbey

*Technical Editor's note: Woodturning can be dangerous. With regard to the use of flawed timber, our motto is: when in doubt, don't. Whilst this story recommends the use of figured timber, timber with structural defects should not be turned. Full face and head protection should always be worn.



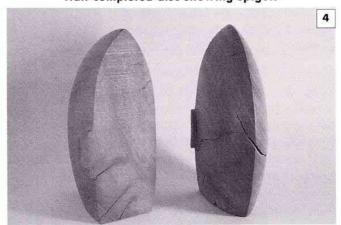
River red gum bookends blanks, average dia 250mm.



The discs are bandsawn into segments.

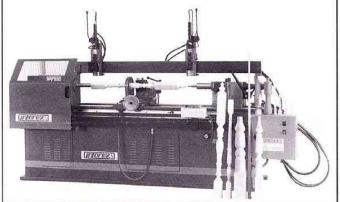


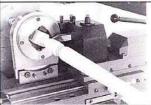
Half completed disc showing spigot.



Bookend profiles prior to removal of spigot and sanding of sawn surfaces.

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PVA ADHESIVES: A TECHNICAL EXPLANATION

W oodwork is a conservative craft. However, three innovations have radically altered the way woodwork is done: woodscrews, reliable sharpening stones, and the water-borne poly(vinyl acetate) adhesives or PVA's.

PVA adhesives are the result of one of those sweetly serendipitous experiments that can happen in science. A strategic shortage of rubber in the early 1940s prompted the search for synthetic alternatives: the methodology was based on a naive hypothesis of how natural rubber polymers might have been synthesised. In a reaction flask, liquid monomer building units were emulsified in an aqueous soap solution, polymerised, and hey presto!, there was synthetic rubber. Just about any polymer whose monomer could be emulsified could now be produced in a finely divided, solid form dispersed in water.

Why A Dispersion?

A polymer dispersion is wholly different from a simple solution of the same polymer. In solution there is interaction between the solvent and the dissolved polymer. Thus, the higher the molecular weight of the macromolecule (the larger it is) and the higher its concentration (the more of it there is), the more 'structured' and viscously treacle-like the solution becomes. With any degree of concentration, the whole can become effectively unworkable.

Since in a dispersion there is effectively no interaction between the solid dispersed polymer particles and the aqueous continuous phase, a high molecular weight poly(vinyl acetate) 'solids' content of at least 50% can be produced with a viscosity that is still workable. However, dispersions are only partly stable, hence a stabilising agent or protective colloid is

added to prevent the particles clumping and massing.

The Glue-Line

The glue-line is simply a film of the polymer. Its formation from the disoccurs in three persion stages-concentration, compaction, and post-compaction. In the first stage the continuous aqueous phase both evaporates and is absorbed into the wood until the individual polymer particles are closely packed together. When the water drains away as if through a screen, the PVA particles become tightly enmeshed. The higher the 'solids' content of the formulation, the more rapidly concentration and compaction occur.

The time for the onset of the glue puddle to skin over is the 'open-time' window of the adhesive and is influenced by the moisture content of the timber and the environment of the workshop. Lightly dampening the joint surfaces can keep that window open a bit longer on hot dry days. The PVA film is permeable to water. This allows the trapped moisture to pass through it without compromising its adhesion or cohesion. The alternative strategy of diluting the dispersion with water, increases the open time but thins the solids content and thus the glue-line.

Temperature is critical during compaction, and the minimum film formation temperature (MFFT) defines a critical working condition for the adhesive. Above the MFFT, compaction and film formation occur; below, the result is a brittle, chalk-like powder. For an unmodified PVA this temperature is relatively high (circa 28°C). It is lowered to the minimum specified on the bottle by the addition of plasticisers to the formulation. The ambient temperature also governs the effectiveness of the post-compaction phase of

adhesion, when the polymer chains diffuse beyond the boundaries of the former particles to entangle, meld and give an integral film.

Tasteless, colourless, odourless and non-toxic; unaffected by light or oxygen, the PVA glue-line film manifests the bulk properties of the polymer. Insoluble in something as polar as water (or as non-polar as aliphatic hydrocarbons, oils and fats), PVA will dissolve or at least swell in solvents like acetone, ethyl acetate, the aromatic hydrocarbons, and the lower alcohols containing 5-10% of water. The upshot of this is that ethyl alcohol and the vigorous use of a toothbrush will remove those set-up, skulking traces of squeeze-out left after even a virtuosic damp cloth clean-up.

The Tailored Adhesive

Unmodified PVA adhesives ('white glues') do not give a glue-line resistant to either water or stress. Although insoluble in water, the polar PVA polymer behaves toward moisture a little like the cellulose structures it adheres to. Water hydrates the polymer causing it to swell, and ultimately to unzip from both the substrate and itself.

Even in a joint unaffected by water, PVA's polymer chains are able to move stiffly past each other under load. PVA is thermoplastic, that is, it will soften when heated. Covalently linking the polymer chains together would lock the whole into a cohesive mass more durable to moisture and stress. This is the object of the cross-linking PVA adhesive formulations.

Poly(vinyl acetate) is built up solely from the monomer building unit, vinyl acetate. Cross-linking PVA's are typically co-polymers of vinyl acetate and a derivative of acrylamide—N-methylolacrylamide.

This co-construction unit introduces reactive, pendant -CH₂OH units into the PVA polymer chain. In one-pack systems ('yellow glues'), cross-linking occurs in the glue-line with time. Thus, the bond gains in water resistance and hardness over time as coupling reactions proceed in the adhesive film.

The two-pack systems use a like polymer system, but are now catalysed or have other hydroxyl specific reactants added: organic acids or metal salts such as chromium or aluminium as catalysts; thermosetting formaldehyde compounds; or di-isocyanate cross-linking entities. This diverse range of materials all cause the -OH groupings of adjacent polymer chains to become linked. These products still retain something of the tack and other working qualities we associate with 'normal' PVA-type adhesives. Cleanup is still with water, but must be done whilst the adhesive is wet.

Mineral fillers and vegetable flours

are added to PVA formulations to build the total solids content and to reduce the penetration of the adhesive into porous substrates, for example to control bleed-through in thin veneers. As usually formulated, PVAs are not gap filling because of their mobility and considerable reduction in volume upon setting. The addition of kaolin not only bulks out the glue-line, but causes the glue mass to become thixotropic. Thus, the formulation is gel-like *in situ* but readily mobile when stirred, shaken or squeezed, only to return to a rheological trance in the quiet of the crack or gap.

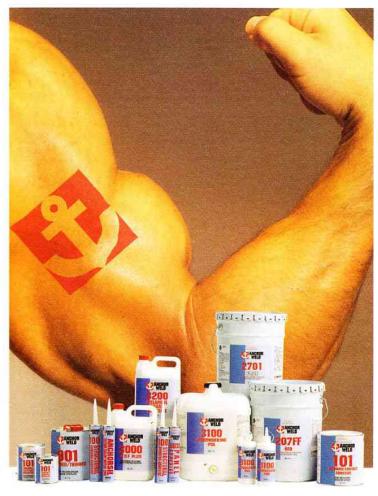
Along with hot-melts and 100% reactive polymers, PVA-like polymer dispersions are part of the replacement technologies being designed to meet upcoming volatile organic compounds (VOC's) legislation. However, solvents may be added to PVA adhesives in specific formulations; for example, to promote adhesion to the wax contaminated fibres of MDF. A small percentage of wax solids are

added to MDF to slow its dimensional response to variable environmental moisture levels. Bonding this material with a standard PVA formulation may be setting up for later sadness.

Deconstructing The Glue-Line

Two chemically clean, fresh, truly mating surfaces both wet with *just* the right amount of adhesive and held in modestly firm contact for the recommended time will give a fine bond. Simple PVA adhesives are no mess, user-friendly things; that is, until there is a need to reverse the process.

As white PVA's are susceptible to moisture and heat, hot water, rags, steam, heat lamps and so on will degrade the polymer's adhesive qualities. The glue remains undissolved, but it is softened or hydrated sufficiently to enable one to get the joint apart and remove the residue. Persistence is required and lots of it. This is especially true with the 'yellow', one-pack glues



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ADMAR AW 001

because, after all, they were designed to have a degree of moisture resistance. And there is a catch-22 in all this; the higher the quality of the join, the more heartache to get the thing apart.

An alternative that could be kinder to nearby finishes, is acetic acid. This causes both white and yellow PVA's to unzip at even room temperature without damage to the wood structure. White vinegar is about 3% acetic acid and works wonderfully well to remove glue from clothing, but is probably only marginally better than water on gluelines.

Remember that acetic acid will react with iron and will give wood a black/ blue stain that is both light fast and very difficult to remove. Use a stainless steel knife if you are doing any prying, but test it out on a piece of scrap to ensure it really is 'stainless'. Wash up with water and let the joint dry. Acetic acid is volatile and there should be no real need to neutralise the surface if sufficient time can elapse before further work. If time presses, use a dilute solution of sodium bicarbonate in water followed by thorough sponging.

Thanks to Brian Lourey and Fiona Byrne for invaluable access and guidance in the Technical Library of A.C. Hatrick Chemicals Pty Ltd. Thanks also to Leon Cohen for his guidance through the maze of PVA chemistry and formulation.

GLOSSARY

Colloid: A dispersion of a non-crystalline, macro-molecular substance. The particles are of a size intermediate between the microscopic limit of visibility and the molecular state. The state is ill-defined: fine suspensions show some colloidal effects, whilst macro-molecules are essentially colloidal in behaviour.

Dispersion: A system containing insoluble particles dispersed in, say, water. The particles are larger than those of a colloid. An emulsion is a dispersed system in which both of the phases are liquids-usually water and an oil or some other water immiscible

Phase: Any part of a system which is uniform in chemical composition and physical properties and separated from other parts of the system by boundary surfaces. For example, in a closed system containing ice, water and water vapour, there are three phases.

Polymer: A large molecule made up of the repeated combination of many constitutionally identical units (monomers). If the monomers used are not the same, the polymer is more complex and is referred to as a co-polymer.

Adhesion/Cohesion: Across the glue-line, adhesion is the measure of bonding of the adhesive film to the surfaces being joined and the like term cohesion, is the fidelity of the bonding within the glue-line itself. A good bond is when there is only failure of cohesion within the glue film.

Plasticisers: These are a critical addition to PVA formulations. They are low polarity, high boiling, stable liquids which coat the particles of the disperse phase. In the glue-line, the plasticiser molecules intrude between the polymer chains giving them some mobility and lowering the MFFT. Trapped in the matrix of the polymer, they dilute the intermolecular cohesion and thus make the glue-line more flexible. The presence of these non-polar entities also contributes to the water resistance of the polymer film.

Polar (of a molecule or solvent): Being or having molecules in which there is an uneven distribution of electrons and thus a permanent dipole moment (eg the water molecule). Generally the greater the dipole magnitude of the solvent molecules, the better it is as a solvent for ionic substances such as salts.

Covalent/Non-covalent Bonding: A covalent bond is a defined region in space between two atoms. The bond is often directional and of considerable strength. Covalent bonding might be looked upon as the struts in a molecular structure; non-covalent bonding is by processes other than electron sharing and it adds subtleties: details of shape, association and binding.

Thermoplastic: A term used to describe a polymeric or other material that can be repeatedly softened on heating. The converse is a thermosetting material which is infusible when fully polymerised, and won't soften when heated.

Thixotropic: Describes a substance which when allowed to sit, reversibly changes from a mobile liquid to being gel-like.

Rheology: The study of the flow and change of shape of materials, especially the viscosity of liquids.

PVA PRODUCTS

Anchor-Weld 3000 Cross-linked PVA B3 water 500ml, 5/20/200 lt resistant, heat reactive, use R.F. cure, hot pressing, postforming.

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General Purpose white wood glue Suitable for bonding wide range of timbers and boards.

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High strength yellow, sandable, MDF and general grade.

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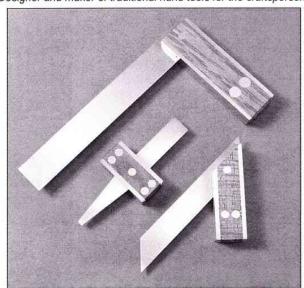
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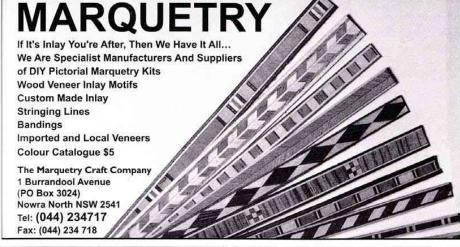
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SPECIALITY OF THE ISLAND

In a picturesque corner of Tasma nia's Huon Valley, some miraculous transformations are occurring. To get an idea of the changes happening in the craft industry, you could well start by looking at the wood burning in your fireplace. These days there are people who may surprise you with their alternative suggestions for the stuff that's heating your home.

Island Specialty Timbers was set up by Forestry Tasmania to supply the local craft and furniture industry with a range of special species timber. There are yards at Geeveston in the Huon Valley and at Killafaddy, near Launceston. Both are stocked with special species such as sassafras, myrtle, celery top pine, blackwood and other woods of interest such as burls and fiddleback grains, when they are found.

Only a few years ago, much of the resource provided by the yards would have stayed behind on the forest floor after harvesting operations, or ended up on the firewood pile. The cost of retrieving small sections and log butts outweighed any benefit. The advantage of the specialty wood outlets is the access they give designers and craftspeople to a range of material not readily available elsewhere.

In the past, craftwood licenses have been issued to allow people to collect and scavenge material directly from the bush. While still available, this is simply not an option for most people. The difficulties of vehicular access, handling and loading the wood are more than most are equipped to handle.

Today the efforts of Forestry Tasmania are paying off as an increasing number of craftspeople, like Ross Patston-Gill, are proving just how valuable this sort of salvage operation can be. Operating from his Franklin-based gallery Mikkris House, Ross lives a simple life, and makes his family's living from the works he produces.



While craftspeople can obtain a wood gatherer's licence to retrieve wood from the forest floor, many do not have the equipment necessary. An outlet like Island Specialty Timbers takes the hard work out of accessing the resource and without it, Ross Patston-Gill says he wouldn't be in business.

'More than 85% of the wood I use comes from Island Specialty Timbers at Geeveston. I don't have the means to gather my raw material from the forest floor, so they make my job easier by doing the hard manual work for me. Without them, I'd be foraging in the forest for my own wood—it's time and energy I could be spending on doing what I love best—and what earns me my income—creating'.

For Ross, the crafting of wood is not about mass production of functional or kitsch items. 'It's got to be something that when a person goes home, their next door neighbour doesn't say "I've been to Tasmania, I've got one too". I want it to be something the kids will fight over when the parents are gone!'

Although many of his pieces are specially commissioned and are large and striking, Ross is not just creating works on a grand scale. 'A lot people can't afford expensive woodcraft, but they still want something that's beautiful and want to know that just as much time and effort has gone into it. Each piece of wood—no matter how small—can have immense value added to it.'

Ross says most people are surprised to hear that the piece of craft they're buying has come from wood destined for the open fire, rather than from a tree harvested for the purpose. 'There are two reactions-that it's a fabulous way of maximising the value of the wood resource or, that it came from firewood therefore it must be worth nothing-therefore he's making a fortune. They don't know that you've put in 30-100 hours making it. Some people don't care where it's come from-some are outraged there was a possibility the wood could have ended up as firewood. But the bottom line is that a lot of timber at Island Specialty Timbers wasn't coming in five years ago. Now it comes in so it is utilised-it's got a better fate.'

Photo: Katherine Meyer

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THE COMPANY

The Furniture Wizard Pty Ltd is an established organisation specialising in the mobile repair, renovation and maintenance of new and existing furniture and associated services.

The service, established in 1988, caters to a variety of consumers and was developed in response to a need in the market place for fast, efficient turnaround times for furniture and surface repairs.

Our products and services are the result of several years of research and development and are guaranteed to perform under the most rigorous of conditions.

WHAT WE DO

A high profile mobile service carrying out on site repairs to industry and the public.

Your clients will include Retailers, Manufactures, freight & insurance companies, hotels, motels and the general public.

The on site services you offer include

Touch up repairs, Colour matching and shading, Graining, Restoration Remodelling, Re-sprays, general repairs and timber and fabric protection.

You will service many of our existing national account clients and after training will have a ready and waiting client base in your own area.

THE OPPORTUNITY

The Furniture Wizard are looking for suitable motivated people to join us in our nationwide expansion campaign.

The demand for our service is incredible! We currently have more work than we can handle with current operator levels and invite the right people to join us in our nationwide expansion campaign.

However, we are not looking for just anyone, we are looking for franchisees to join us as "Partners in Profit". Only people who have a genuine desire to build a professional business, have a dedication to outstanding customer service, want to become part of our team and be the best they can be need apply.



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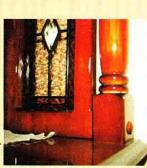
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WOOD NEWS

Furniture On Show

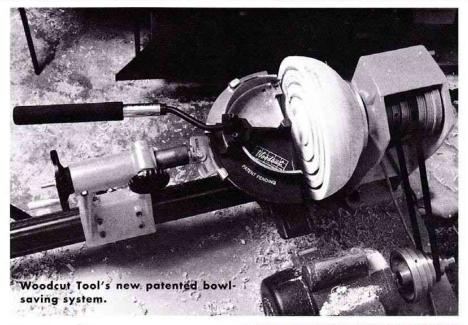
Furnitex '97, The Australian Furnishing Industry New Products Parade (July 19-22) at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre features the latest innovations in furniture design. With 13,500 square metres, 250 Australian and New Zealand manufacturers will display their newest designs for four days. While entry is free for trade, pre-registration (by July 6th) enters you in a draw for a week in Hawaii. Fax the Association on (03) 699 4603.

Rollin', Rollin', Rollin'

'Woodworkers on Wheels' is the catchery for July with three big NSW expos. From the Coffs Harbour Wood Show on the 5th and 6th, woodworkers, their families, friends and other interested parties can truck on down to the second Cabot's 3D Woodworking and Craft in Newcastle. With swags unpacked for the three day event (11th-13th), the fundraiser for the John Hunter Children's Hospital promises something for everyone. Phone (049) 467 509 for more information. Travelling south further again finds Sydney's Working with Wood Show in full swing the following weekend July 18-20, call Riddells (02) 9712 5623 for info.

Winterfest'97

Even further south around the same time the big names of woodworking are rolling up for Winterfest '97 (July 4-7). The Woodfest of Warburton features everyone from Dennis Moore to Sue Wraight, Soren Berger to Stephen Hughes, Ainslie Pyne, Vic Wood, Frank Wimmer and Laszlo Biro and many other leading woodworkers. Apart from three days of advanced woodcraft workshops (8-10 July), slabbing, timber sales, chainsaw carving, and live demos (4-7 July) (including routing, bush furniture and french polishing), a woodwork exhibition will run from the 4 to 13 July. With over \$8500 in prizes being offered in 7 different categories it's worth rushing to get entries in before closing date Wednesday 18th June. Phone Rob Zubin (03) 59675207.



Turn a Set

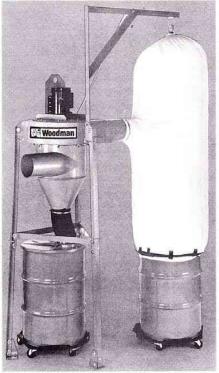
A creative new tool on the market enables several bowls to be cut from the one block of wood. Bowl Saver will fit any lathe, is safe and easy to use for all skill levels and accurately removes a perfect bowl every time, ensuring timber, time and money are saved. Invented by Errol Udy and developed by New Zealand company Woodcut Tools International, the new patented system is now available in Australia, tel Sydney (02) 9971 1181, fax (02)9971 4873 or direct to the factory in New Zealand 64-7-889-7757

New Name, Place, Lines

Excalibur woodworking accessories, scroll saws and Retrofit T-slot fence systems are part of the new range being offered by Malvern Machinery, a member of the Woodman Group. American manufactured Cyclone Systems, being sold under the Woodman label, are also now available from the newly relocated and renamed Malvern Machinery known as the Woodworking Warehouse and found at 22 Wannan Street, Highett, Vic 3190. Phone (03) 95555199

Slip No More

What has a product called Shower Guard got to do with woodwork? This water based formula is applied to concrete or tile floors and provides a non-slip finish, perfect around work-benches



Woodman's new two-stage central system dust collector.

and particularly machinery where safety is critical. From Timbermate Products (03) 9873 4811

Furniture Imports Increase

Total furniture imports, including office furniture and parts reached \$442million (before duty) in the calendar year 1996 which is up 7% on the 1995 figures, according to the FIAA. The increase represents a return to the trend of the early 90s and an about face on the improvements of 1990/91

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Many other native and exotic species so please enquire. Please contact Richard Parsons

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WOOD NEWS

-1993/94. The FIAA suggests reduced tariffs and a stronger Australian dollar are not helping.

Nor too would the actions of the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Frank Sartor, in deciding to import street furniture in time to beautify the Sydney streets for the Olympics. Displaying classical symptoms of

cultural cringe, Mr Sartor is seeking to source street furniture from Germany and other European manufacturers despite award winning, export dollar earning manufacturers on his doorstep. The FIAA is pursuing the matter.

Sell Yourself

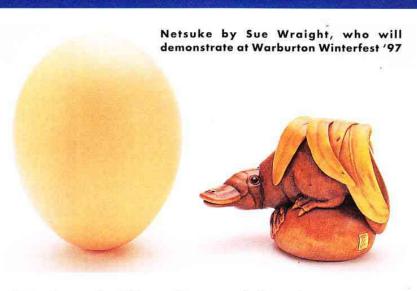
The Sunshine Coast based Contemporary Furniture Exhibition is hosting a series of speakers July 26-27 to help participants promote their work. Chris Jones from *Designer Makers in Tasmania*, *Mad Ethos* a group of Brisbane designers and John Abraham who has recently completed a furniture commission of 30 pieces, will give insight into their experiences of 'making it'. Contact Judith Glover (07) 5449 2040

Knock Down, But Not Out

Sometimes a job requires a particular treatment other than traditional wood joins, like this knock down fitting used for joining two parts of a very heavy sideboard. *Knapp* make a range of fittings for detachable or permanent fixing, with many fittings based around biscuit joiners. Call (03) 9844 1377

On the Heritage Trail

Former wheelwright, blacksmith and coachbuilder MC Hendrikson, has turned writer and publisher with the release of his new, original and detailed work *The Secrets of Wheelwrighting: Tyres*. The 90 pages include over 50 illustrations, drawings and photographs and provide everything a horse drawn vehicle/owner user/restorer/model maker



should know. An autographed copy is available on request by mail for \$24.95 plus \$3 p&p: 8 Fox Close, Kariong, NSW 2250.

Superhighway to Timber

The Timber Research Unit, a research initiative of the Department of Architecture and Urban Design at the University of Tasmania with funding from the Tasmanian Timber Promotion Board has launched two new Internet sites devoted to timber and timber design. Key design and technical information about Tasmanian timber species with information on suppliers, fabricators and other specialists is offered on the Tasmanian Timber address: http://www.tastimber.tas.gov.au

Queensland Department of Primary Industries—Forestry and Dept. of Natural Resources has a opened a site on the Internet. Featuring the latest information on forest types and management, research, timber and treecare advice. The site features information such as the *Queensland Tree Selector*, a data base of 415 Queensland species which offers advice on everything from growing windbreaks to trees for commercial cropping. Articles from the department's publications are also accessible at the same address: http://dpiweb.isd.dpi.qld.gov.au/fiqweb/welcome.htm

For those who build with timber the Timber Building in Australia site offers documentation of dozen's of Australia's best timber buildings with backup information on timber construction, specification and species: http://oak. arch. utas.edu.au

WA Fine Wood Awards

Though the registration deadline has passed for the Wesfarmers Fine Wood Awards, it is anticipated that the November exhibition

(3-14, Central Park, St Georges Terrace Perth) is to become a biennial event. Essentially about showcasing the new and exciting work of Western Australia's fine wood industry, the exhibition will reflect recent changes in the industry. A break with tradition has lead to the creation of four categories based on sensibilities rather than place: Contemporary Urban Concepts; Country Essence; WA abroad; and Collaborations and Partnerships. The exhibition is to be professionally curated by Paola Anselmi, formerly of Art Gallery of WA. All works will be for sale.

Who's Who in NSW

The Woodworkers' Association of NSW has recently released the first edition of its *Directory of Services and Goods*. The first section alphabetically lists services and goods by category with the names associated, while the second section gives contact details and further information. The directory is available from the editor, Con Downey on (02) 9525 7593.

Furniture Franchise

So you always wanted to do woodwork, with some help? Well a new franchise operation just may interest you, particularly as the marketplace is short on skilled operatives. Furniture repairs, polishing or removalist damage are just some of the tasks you would undertake by joining Furniture Wizard. This highly professional out-

fit supports you with back-up, training and promotional support. Furniture Wizard 016 762 034 (local call rate)

Standards of Furniture

Australian Standards are being established everyday to ensure consumers are making informed choices. However, the standards can only be established with input from those who use the products regularly. Two draft standards open for comment specify the product and grade requirement for furniture components sawn and milled from hardwood and softwood; the moisture content and drying quality requirements for furniture timber and guidance for suitable moisture content specification. The Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand are:

Timber- Hardwood-Sawn and Milled Products, Part 3:Timber for Furniture Components (to be AS 2796.3); and Timber-Softwood-Sawn and Milled Products. Part 3: Timber for Furniture components (to be AS 1492.3). For further information contact Dr Barbara Osarka, CSIRO, Forestry and Forest Products on (03) 954 22137.

Gone to Town

The Turnery, Adelaide's only supplier of woodworking supplies specifically for the woodturner has moved from its Heritage Park location in Woodside to the more central location of Marlon. David and Sue Tulloch anticpate the central location will ensure the new day courses and scheduled workshops will be as well attended as the night courses with mail and courier services complementing the extension of timber supplies. Ph (08) 8358 1400.

Hoop Pine High

Australian company, Bulk Lumber Sales,



Power and Price: Another plate joiner has hit the market. The Makita 3901 weighs just 2.8kg and features rack and pinion vertical adjustment, dust bag and strong construction.

is at the forefront of securing valuable Japanese furniture and joinery markets. A recently signed contract with ACI Japan has opened doors for Queensland's indigenous plantation pine to be sold at a premium price—predicted to be in the order of \$1500/m3. Sold as edge-glued panel, hoop pine allows for considerable value-adding. Queensland is currently meeting 95% of the world demand for hoop pine from the 45,000 hectares under plantation. Charlie Henry Timbers are one of the top suppliers of hoop pine (07) 3274 4111

Australian Species in the Kitchen

Australian species such as manna gum, black wattle and fiddleback manna gum are making their way into the kitchen. Fernview Timber are furniture manufacturers who have found a niche market in kitchen trolley blocks, knife blocks and chopping boards with Adams Timber and WH Bennetts supplying the timbers.

Fit that Tenon

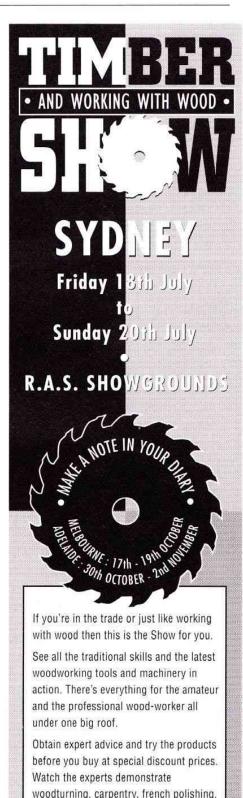
The Keil range of chain mortisers and accessories are now being sold by Academy Saw Works, these are possibly the best of their type in the world, (02) 9638 4099

Malaysian Success

The Malaysian Furniture Fair (MIFF) recorded a success in March with total sales reaching a record RM 818.5 million. 3692 international visitors from 79 countries and 17,200 locals visited over the five days. The Malaysians will now be looking to the middle and upper end of the value-added market through increasing technology to stay abreast of their immediate competitors. Already 90% of this years participants have booked for next years' show.



A Knapp knockdown fitting



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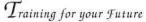
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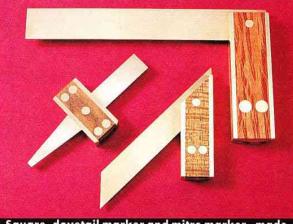
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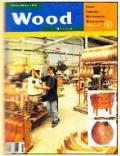


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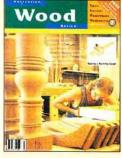
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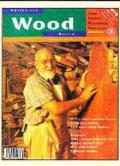
No. 6

Musical instrument making in Australia, timber veneer design. Chinese Furniture, laying a sunburst veneer match, computer design software reviewed, sanding and abrasives, bandsaws, winning at exhibitions, turning natural edged hollow forms, Maton Guitars.



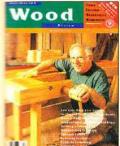
No. 7

Designing chairs, torsion boxes, spray finishing, making a marking gauge, plywood, second-hand machinery, circular saws, education survey, blackwood, Parker furniture, making lathes, gift trade woodturning, computer software, veneering. Free Special Timbers Poster



No. 8

Designing cabinets, panel saw review, desert & inland timbers, plantation forestry, Robert Dunlop, mini-lathe review, turning a lidded bowl, Wendell Castle, hingeware, the chisel, history of machinery, mahogany, making a Vienna regulator clock



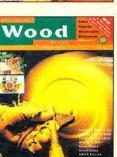
No. 9

Low cost machinery, planer blades, traditional workbench plans, restoring furniture, building timber decks, Stephen Hughes' turned and carved bowls, Salvaged timber, Woodworking in Europe, cordless technology, pricing your work, oak.



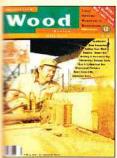
No. 10

Anniversary Australian Woodwork feature, designing tables, buying timber, joining systems, turning jewellery, pedestal table project, mortise & tenons, restoring furniture ct'd, mulga turnings, Raffan interview, machine sanding, solid wood joins.



No. 11

Dovetails, router cutters, veneer reference chart, dowel joints, carving claw & balls, making a colonial table, block planes, turned and carved 'winged' forms, AWISA 96, Cook's Endeavour, collecting timber, walnut, tiger myrtle, vacuum pressing, Jah-Roc, MAP.



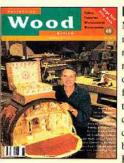
No. 12

Sawblades, dust extractors, routers, document box plans, sharpening turning tools, more from CNC. Japanese saws, distressed finishes, selling your work, sawmilling, Griffith Furniture, teak alternatives, French woodturners, a veneered table top.



No. 13

Panel saw review, making drawers, safety, making a hall table, router usage, jigmaking, Huon pine, Leo Sadlek's clocks, working smarter, sawmilling, laminated and segmented turnings, teak alternatives, woodturning collaborations, Wentworth Furniture, Jeannette Rein



No. 14

Making doors, spindle moulders, clamps, laminate trimmers, squares, making shoji, random orbit sanders, WA Goldfields timbers, drawer systems, portable sawmilling, carve a backboard, scroll chucks, turning handled bowls, inlay, David Boucher.

Bookshelf

Book reviews by James Brook.

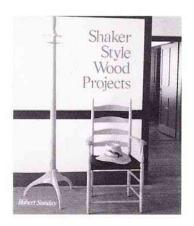
Working Wood

By Jim Tolpin

No single book can cover all woodworking topics, but many like this one attempt to give solid overviews. The eleven chapters give around one to two pages on specific topic,eg edge joints, circular saws, individual machines and power tools, etc. There is also a very useful resource and data section. This book is like a concise

woodwork encyclopedia and frankly, if you can absorb everything in this book you'll be very knowledgeable. Good for students and part timers to have on the bench.

Ring bound, 202 pages, all b&w, \$29.95, Davis

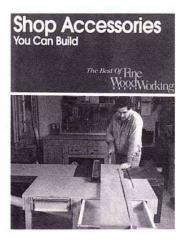


Shaker Style **Wood Projects**

By Robert Sonday

The shaker style is fairly well known both for its look and degree of refinement. Here the author with three other writers takes the reader through tables, cabinets, accessories and chairs, the latter being particularly well covered. There are twenty nine projects in this book which consist of a colour picture of the finished piece, specifications,

scale drawings and relevant text. A reasonable level of skill is assumed-chairs, for example, are very well covered, but to make them well is quite complex. One of the beauties of Shaker furniture is that it is a complete style and hence with this book you can make whole room settings, tables, chairs, coat hooks, hat stands and even candle holders. This is a good book for the professional seeking new lines or the part-timer wanting more sophisticated projects. 144 pages, black & white, some colour, \$29.95, Sterling



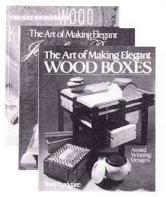
Shop Accessories You Can Build

Best of Fine Woodworking This is publishing for the wood scene at its best. Superb graphics, photography and crisp text make for enjoyable browsing and reading. There are 38 articles assembled here as aids to manufacturing, equipment, decorative tools, machines and fun things to make that also add to the workshop. If you're like me in spite of the number of projects you'll only find about two things that you would actually make

if it comes down to it, but if you are into self made equipment then you'll have a feast.

Soft back, 128 pages, all colour, \$35, Taunton

Wood Review's Mail Order Bookshop— There's nothing like a good book!



The Art of Making Elegant Jewelry Boxes

By Tony Lydgate

This is a collection of 30 projects with reasonable text and plans and good colour throughout. Many different makers expose the construction details of their small wood boxes, some I found quite ugly, some were interesting and some are brilliant. There is also a gallery section up

the back with some very cool stuff. If you are a small box maker then you will have to get this eventually.

Softback, 144 pages, all colour, \$29.95, Sterling/Chapelle

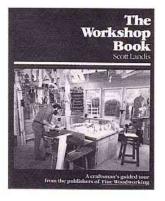
The Art of Making Elegant Wood Boxes

More of the same, although the drawings are better even though the text is not quite as good. The sea of imagination still flows strongly through this book which is really pitched at all those who bought the first one. It is still good value for your reference library.

Softback, 144 pages, all colour, \$29.95

The Art of Elegant Wood Kitchenware

You'll never guess who wrote this. It is not a project book but a gallery of some 34 American makers with a short statement from each. Apart from the photography (which I found a bit annoying) there are, once again, stacks of ideas either for similar pieces or derivatives thereof. People making work for the gift market will find this a very useful resource. Softback, 144 pages, all colour, \$29.95



The Workshop Book

By Scott Landis

Some say that just being in the workshop is half the joy of woodworking. Another title for this book would have been the 'Art of the Workshop' because it takes the shed almost to the realm of a temple. Everything is covered, from location, machinery, systems and storage through to fixtures-there is even a chapter on dream workshops. This book is the perfect gift for a woodworking friend or for yourself. Hard back, 215 pages, colour and



The Complete **Guide To** Sharpening

By Leonard Lee

Originally available in hardback at \$80, this major work is now on the market in softback at \$55, even better value! Sharp tools are the secret to fine woodwork and Lee is certainly here to help you with quality detailed pictures, diagrams and indepth text. If you still can't sharpen after studying this book you'll at least be good value at a woodworker's dinner party. Softback \$55, Taunton

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1997

Wood	Dream	ing Ex	hibit	ion
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29 Aug-26 Sep: Mackay City Library

2-15 Oct: Emerald Art Gallery

7-8 June

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11 June-12 July

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July

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8-10 July

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in conjunction with Winterfest

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Meat Market Craft Centre

Entries close July 4

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Claremont Showgrounds

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9-10 August

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Tanunda (SA) Show Hall

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9-10 August

Woodturners Society of Qld

Exhibition, Mt Cootha

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26-30 August

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31 October

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29-30 November

Woodturners Society of Qld

Mt Cootha

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Dec 12-Feb 1, 1998

9th National Dame Mary Durack

Outback Craft Awards

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Listings in Wood Diary are free. Forward details to 'Wood Diary' Australian Wood Review 435 West Mt Cotton Rd Mt Cotton 4165

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M 12V ROUTER

- O Parter 2,300 Watts-3 H.P.
 - Soft start.
- Variable speed.
- Constant speed control
- Spindle leidt.
- Vernier dann contro

Capacity collet chuck	12.7mm (1/2")		
No-load speed	8,000-20,000/min.		
Overall Height	300mm (11-13/16")		
Weight	5.3 kg (11.7 lb)		

Sandard accessories:

straight bit, 1 chuck sleeve, 1 template guide,

staight guide, 1 wrench

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