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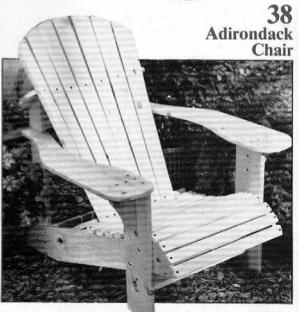
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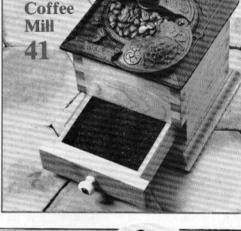
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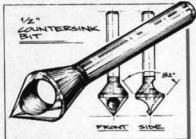
# Shoptalk

#### Little Things Mean a Lot

Careful attention to small details imparts to our work that distinctive crispness of execution that is the hallmark of an outstanding craftsman. It also helps to have the right tools and to know how to use them effectively.

Recently Phil Bacon, our designer/craftsman, brought to my attention a rather different and sleek-looking countersink

bit he's been using and which he feels is quite superior to the common hardware store countersinks that most of us have been using. These bits often produce rough and irregular recesses, particularly in softwoods and open-grain hardwoods.



Now, I've got to confess that I never gave much thought to the operation of countersinking, but Phil is a far better craftsman than I and his work reflects his meticulous approach.

As you can see from the drawing, the business end of the bit is a cone with an 82-degree angle. A single hole cut at an angle through the cone creates the cutting surface.

These bits are made by Swiss Precision Instruments, Inc. and the Weldon Company, and are sold through machine shop supply distributors (check the Yellow Pages under Industrial Equipment and Supplies). Although designed for

metalworking, they are great for woodworking. They don't chatter and they work equally well with the hand drill, electric drill or drill press. Phil uses the size which countersinks diameters from  $\frac{3}{16}$  in. to  $\frac{17}{32}$  in. and this lists in the S.P.I. catalog for \$6.30. Admittedly, this is a little steep for a tool most of us hardly think about, but I thought I'd pass this information along for those of you who believe that little things can indeed mean a lot.

#### A Bit of a Bind

S RY

"What gives? Just when I order binders for my back issues, you go and change the size of your magazine. Now, the binders I've got are fine for all my issues up to and including Jan/Feb '86, but a little too roomy for the new issues. If you're sticking with the new size, aren't you going to change the binders and slip cases, too?"

The above is fairly typical of the letters we're receiving and the answer is — Yes! Beginning in January 1987 a standard binder and case size will reflect our new format (of course, the larger size will still be available by request for your back issue collections). Most of our readers organize issues by calendar year so we are keeping the binders and cases large enough to accommodate this January's issue, as well as all back issues, guessing that you'd rather place a smaller issue in a large binder than try it the other way around!

If you haven't yet ordered any, and your back issues are starting to get shop-worn, three binders or cases will handle all issues from Sep/Oct '80 through Nov/Dec '86. Then, in 1987 you can start ordering the smaller size.

Jim McQuillan

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### Letters

In a recent Shoptalk column (March/April 1986), Jim McOuillan talked about the need for caution when using potentially hazardous finishing products. A friend of mine knows the hazards full well. He was using a cleaning solvent and, in the course of his work, managed to get some on his hands and clothes. Before cleaning up he needed to use his electric drill, but when he pulled the trigger the solvent vapors ignited, apparently caused by a spark in the electric motor of the drill. He ended up in the burn unit of our hospital. He's okay and very lucky to be alive.

Any spark or open flame can cause an explosion of flammable vapors. Stoves, heaters, cigarettes, pilot lights, and electric motors (your furnace has one) are a few of the potential culprits. To be safe, do all your finishing outside where vapors can't build up.

Gene Wager, Valley Falls, N.Y.

In your clock project articles, you

rarely mention any company except Mason and Sullivan. There are other companies with good reputations that furnish fine clock movements. Two of them are S. LaRose, Inc., 234 Commerce Place, Greensboro, NC 27420 (catalog \$2.50) and Merritt's Antiques. Inc., R.D. 2, Douglassville, PA 19518 (catalog \$1.50).

John Mullen, Berne, N.Y.

I want to compliment you on the fine story and plans you provided for the Early American Tall Clock featured in your November/December 1985 issue. I built it as a Christmas gift for my daughter and it turned out beautifully. Rather than purchase the dial face, I had a friend paint a dial in the color my daughter likes.

> Joseph G. McIntyre, Jr. New Canaan, Conn.

We have just purchased a 1917 Stuze fire engine that we are starting to restore. It has wooden wheels which seem to be solid oak. The wheels are in great shape, but they have dried out over the years and have not been treated with any preservative, sealant

or paint. We would like to get them back into top condition for the longest possible life. Can you help?

> Butler Park Fire Co. Washington, N.J.

Editor's Note: John Olson, who writes our Restoring Antiques column, will handle this one.

I would suggest that the first order of business would be to disassemble the wheels and give all parts a good cleaning. Remove the old finish, if any, from both wood and metal parts.

If the wood spokes are loose, they will need to be tightened. I once had a 1923 Model T Ford with wooden spoked wheels and the air in west Texas was exceedingly dry. The spokes would get so loose that they squeaked when turning corners. The cure was to remove the wheels and soak them overnight in a washtub full of water. Since this isn't always a permanent cure, something else might work such as Chair-loc brand compound. This liquid synthetic is applied in very small holes in the ends of the spokes. It polymerizes, so strength is not affected and it also causes the wood to swell.

### FREE SANDING BELTS

#### DIRECT FROM THE MANUFACTURER

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	ize and how many		9	" x	11" Par	er Sheets	S		
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	<ul> <li>12.75/doz.</li> </ul>	50-D □				220-A 🗆			
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	<ul> <li>13.75/doz.</li> </ul>				24/pk	320-A 🗆			19/pk
□ 3" x 21"	<ul> <li>14.25/doz.</li> </ul>	100-C □				400-A □			
□ 3" x 23¾"	<ul> <li>14.70/doz.</li> </ul>	120-C 🗆					Dry S/C		- J C-C YEU-TON
□ 3" x 24"	<ul> <li>14.75/doz.</li> </ul>	150-C 🗆				weto	50/pk.		100/pk
	<ul> <li>15.25/doz.</li> </ul>			6		220-A 🗆			
□ 4" x 21¾"	<ul> <li>16.75/doz.</li> </ul>		EW I	TF	MI	320-A □			
	<ul> <li>17.25/doz.</li> </ul>	D BELT CL				400-A □			
□ 4" x 36"	<ul> <li>20.95/doz.</li> </ul>		- u	011	CI . 0.55				
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Another approach would be to set the spokes in clear epoxy when the wheels are reassembled. This would make a strong permanent job.

As for finishing, I would suggest a good marine finish such as Deks Olje or a good two-part marine epoxy finish. These finishes are available in most any good marine supply store. Above all, follow the manufacturer's instructions. Deks Olje recommends five coats of No. 1 and three coats of No. 2. This makes a fine durable finish. The mahogany panels on my boat attest to this. Three years outdoors and they still look good.

I built the Early American Tall Clock that was in your November/December 1985 issue and, like Mr. Rosenbloom (Letters, March/April 1986 issue), I thought that a battery-operated quartz movement, as was called for in the article, was kind of cheap for such an impressive piece. Instead, I substituted a triple chime, weight driven movement from the Mason and Sullivan Company.

I built the clock of cherry wood and everything worked fine until I started

to install the movement. I found that for the movement to work, the face must be set back at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. It would be even better to set it back a full inch as the weights barely clear the front of the case with the  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. setback.

Also, if you use ½ in. plywood for the dial board you'll have to rout out space for the movement. The movement handshaft is only long enough to go through ¼ in. plus the thickness of the dial face. Then, after I got everything together, it didn't look right because the dial was about 1 in. back from the glass. I framed the dial with ¾ in. stock and found that it looked much better.

If anyone is planning to substitute a weight driven movement, I would suggest first building a temporary mock-up. This would allow you to locate the movement, take measurements, and then build the clock to fit. I didn't, and would have had less trouble if I did.

John Diekhans, Billings, Mont.

After reading the article "An Interview with Clare Maginley" (Workshop Income, May/June 1986), I sent an order to E.P. Dutton, Inc. at the ad-

dress you listed, for a copy of Mr. Maginley's book of toy plans, *Trains and Boats and Planes and*... Dutton informed me that the book is out of print and returned my check. I'd like to obtain a copy of the book and would appreciate it if you could help.

Edward A. Kacicek, Asheville, N.C.

A call to Dutton confirmed that the book is still in print. However, rather than sending orders to Dutton's New York City address, they should be mailed to: New American Library, 120 Woodbine St., Bergenfield, NJ 07621. To avoid confusion, they recommend including the code number ISBN 0-8015-8814-6.

We incorrectly listed the price of the book as \$7.95 for softcover, \$12.95 for hardcover. It is only available in softcover, and the price is \$12.95 plus \$1.50 postage and handling charge. The book can also be ordered by any bookstore.

At Christmas my son-in-law gave me a 3/8 in. variable speed reversible (VSR) drill from Sears. In February I put it to

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use installing telephone jacks throughout the house. Things went swell for a while and I found the drill to my liking. However, nearing completion of the job it occasionally began to make a harsh sound. It got progressively worse until it sounded bad all the time.

I took the drill to the tool department at Sears and was told that nothing could be done without a sales slip. The customer service department said the same thing.

As luck would have it, a check with my son-in-law confirmed my worst fears — the sales slip had been tossed out. At Sears' suggestion I took the drill to their repair center but got the same story — no sales slip, no action. I could, however, get it fixed for \$21.80 paid in advance.

In your March/April 1986 issue you had a comparative tool review article covering  $\frac{3}{6}$  in. variable speed reversible drills. In it you discuss the Sears guarantee and state "... Sears is widely recognized as having one of the best guarantees in the business. Considering this fact, and the ease with which repairs and returns can be accomplished, it is not surprising that Sears is so

highly regarded". Based on my recent experience at Sears, though, I'm not so sure you're right.

Alvin Hammer, Chicago, Ill.

Editor's Note: We sent Mr. Hammer's letter along to Sears and asked for their comments. They reply:

While it is not absolutely necessary to retain a sales slip unless the item is commonly sold by other companies, it is a good practice to do so. A sales slip readily establishes the warranty period and thus facilitates an adjustment. We have a sign over the door on every Sears store across the country that reads "Satisfaction Guaranteed or Your Money Back". A customer advising Sears of dissatisfaction with the purchase of any product or service for any reason within a reasonable time after purchase will obtain prompt and courteous action from the Sears unit contacted. We stand by our services, our products and our people, but most importantly we stand by our customers.

Sears has assured us that they will contact Mr. Hammer and the Sears store involved, and will either replace the drill or issue a full refund. (Ed.)

#### Odds and Ends

The Mississippi Woodworker's Association holds meetings on the first Thursday of each month at the Sykes Park Recreation Center off Daniel Lake Drive in Jackson, Mississippi. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. and interested woodworkers are invited to attend. For more information, contact: Howard G. Boone, 105 Redbud Trail, Brandon, MS 39042.

The Kansas City Woodworker's Guild was started in November 1984. At this time we have 100 members, 33 percent professional and 66 percent amateur. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in woodworking. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 510 North Sterling in Sugar Creek, Missouri.

Our first annual public show was held this past November. Ninety-seven pieces of very fine work were displayed, with 750 people in attendance. For more information, call (816) 358-1227.





## Readers' Information Exchange

Looking for an owner's manual for an old band saw? Need a bearing for a hand-me-down table saw? Can't find a source of supply for an odd piece of hardware? Maybe our readers can help. Send along your request and we'll try to list it here—and hopefully one of our readers will have an answer for you. Due to space limitations, we will be unable to list all requests, but we will include as many as we can.

I need a source of supply for retractable casters (new or used) with threaded shafts. Sears sold them in the mid-1970's for use on power tools.

Bill Kirkpatrick 4103 Woodland Drive Fairfax, VA 22030-5105

I would appreciate help in locating an owner's manual and parts list or a supplier for a Craftsman jigsaw, model no. 103.20720.

> Daniel Jarosz 4810 Russell Avenue Parma, OH 44134-1863

I have an old Shopsmith jigsaw and need a fiber blade-backing guide for the blade. The machine is made by a different company now.

> Robert P. Gibson 428 Elmer St. Pittsburgh, PA 15218

I need an owner's manual and parts list for a 16 in. wood and metal band saw (model no. not available), manufactured by Walker Turner, a division of Kearney & Trecker Corp., Plainfield, New Jersey.

James W. Brynda P.O. Box 9901 Pittsburgh, PA 15233

I'm interested in building wooden mechanical toy banks. If anyone has plans or information, I'd be happy to pay costs for copies and postage.

> Earl Brassette, Sr. 2236 Iowa Avenue Kenner, LA 70062

Recently I had to trim some limbs off an old apricot tree. Since several of the limbs were sizable (8 in. diameter), I saved them for some woodcarving projects. Does anyone have any ideas or suggestions for the use of apricot wood? It seems to work well, but tends to split.

William Beiney Box 88 Whipple Station Prescott, AZ 86313

I was given a Craftsman jigsaw, model no. 110.27760 and need instruc-

tions and parts list, or if someone knows the length and type of the blade it uses, I'd appreciate some help. I'll gladly pay costs.

> Albert H. Wellbrock 6601 La Roche Avenue Savannah, GA 31406

I need an owner's manual and parts list for a Sears table saw, model no. 113.29940. I'll be glad to pay expenses.

J.W. Goecke, Jr.

Box 242

Mt. Clemens, MI 48043

I'd be grateful for any help in locating a mortising attachment for a Sears upright drill press (floor model) with a  $1\frac{3}{16}$  in. diameter. The drill press is about 40 years old.

Edward S. Ratigan 4352 2nd Avenue South Birmingham, AL 35222

I would be grateful for any help in locating an owner's manual and parts list for a Ward's Powr-Kraft 10 in. 2HP radial arm saw, model TPC 26108. Be glad to pay costs.

Ray W. Spannring P.O. Box 526 Corvallis, MT 59828

I'm looking for an owner's manual and parts list for a Boice Crane 8 in. jointer, model no. 3400. I'll pay costs for copies and mailing.

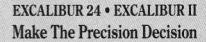
John R. Davis 2601 Wilson Cambria Road Wilson, NY 14172

Need copies of instructions and parts list for Craftsman belt sander, model no. 315-11720. Will pay costs.

J.H. Gehman 7001 White Eagle Drive Fort Wayne, IN 46815-7950

I'd like to locate an owner's manual or any related information for a Sears 24 in. lathe, no. 103.21600, and a Ward's Powr Kraft 6 in. jointer, no. 05ED2508A.

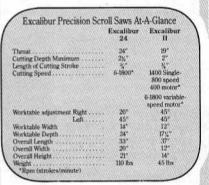
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## **Events**

We will be glad to list as many events of interest to woodworkers as space permits. Listings are free and may include shows, fairs, competitions, workshops and demonstrations. The issue closing date is the 1st of the 2nd month preceding the cover date (7/1 for September/October; 9/1 for November/December, etc.). Please address announcements to the Events Department.

The Penland School is offering one, two and three week sessions in woodworking through September 19th. The various workshops cover wood and furniture techniques, joinery, design, turning, and more. Call or write for their catalog: The Penland School, Penland, NC 28765-0037. Phone: (704) 765-2359.

The Long's Park Arts and Crafts Festival will be held August 30 through September 1 at Long's Park, U.S. Route 30, Lancaster, PA. Select woodworkers and craftsmen from over twenty states will be exhibiting. For more information, write: Dick Faulkner, Box 5153W, Lancaster, PA 17601.

The Peters Valley Craft Center will be conducting workshops through the summer covering numerous aspects of woodworking. For catalog and information, contact: Peters Valley Craft Center, Route 615, Layton, NJ 07851. Phone: (201) 948-5200.

The Augusta Heritage Workshop will be hosting a number of concentrated classes for beginner and advanced craftspeople in Elkins, West Virginia from July 13th to August 15th. Programs for woodworkers include folk carving and whittling, log cabin restoration and making treenware. For more information, contact The Augusta Heritage Center, Davis & Elkins College, Elkins, WV 26241.

The annual Summer Woodcarving Workshops at the Villa Maria Retreat Center will be offered from August 3 - 9. Courses will include whittling, relief carving, bird carving, letter cutting, figure and caricature carving, and marquetry. For further information, write: Villa Maria Workshop, P.O. Box 37051, Minneapolis, MN 55431.

The California State Fair, to be held August 15th through September 1 in Sacramento, will feature an exhibition of realist and functional artwork in all media. The woodworking category will include furniture, carving, household objects and wares.

The 13th Annual Wood Carvers Exhibit will be presented at the American Legion Hall in Morrisville, Vermont on August 16th, 1986 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, contact: C.A. Brown, Box 268, Waterville, VT 05492. Phone: (802) 644-5039.

Workshops will be conducted in the repair, maintenance, and building of violins at the 13th Annual Violin and Bow Maker's Summer Institute from June 9th through August 22nd. For information, contact: Summer Violin Institute, University of New Hampshire, Office of Continuing Education, 24 Rosemary Lane, Durham, NH 03824. Phone: (603) 862-1088.

The Maritime Do-It-Yourself Show featuring "Woodworking World" will be held at the Atlantic Winter Fairgrounds in Halifax, Nova Scotia from July 18th to 20th. The show will include exhibits, demonstrations and sales of woodworking tools and supplies in addition to new products, techniques and ideas developed for the do-it-yourself enthusiast. For further information, contact: Woodworking Association of North America, P.O. Box 706, Plymouth, NH 03264. Phone: (603) 536-3876.

Nineteen classes will be offered this summer at the Cedar Lakes Crafts Center near Ripley, West Virginia in a variety of craft media. Instruction in woodworking will include: Traditional Furniture, July 21-25; Wood Turning, August 4-8; Basic Joinery, August 8-10. For further information on these and other workshops, contact the Crafts Center, Cedar Lakes, Ripley, WV 25271. Phone: (304) 372-6263.

Cook Forest Sawmill Center for the Arts will be presenting their 1986 Wood Carving Show in Cooksburg, Pennsylvania on July 19 and 20 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Sawmill Art Center is also holding classes which include Wood Sculpture (July 14-18) and Beginning Bird Carving (August 4 - 8). For more information, call (814) 927-6655.

#### Cabinetmakers' Supplies

#### **Furniture Kits**

As a service to our readers, *The Woodworker's Journal* periodically lists sources for various woodworking products. In this issue we've included a listing of some of the mail-order companies that sell furniture kits. In most cases these kits come pre-cut, presanded, ready to assemble, and require only a minimum of tools. In addition to assembly instructions, some also supply the necessary hardware, sandpaper, and glue.

Bedford Lumber Company, Inc. P.O. Box 65
Shelbyville, TN 37160
Cedar chest, tables, beds, etc. of cedar — walnut — cherry — oak. Catalog \$2.00, refundable on first order.

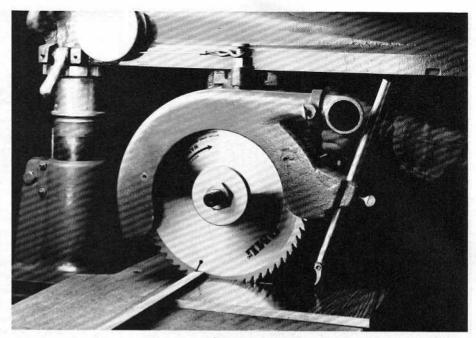
Cohasset Colonials 376EX Ship Street Cohasset, MA 02025 Reproduction furniture kits: Queen Anne, Windsor, Shaker, Chippendale, and Federal. Kits include necessary glue, hardware, and stain. Catalog \$2.00

Craftsman's Corner
P.O. Box AP (WJW)
Des Moines, IA 50302
Broad range of solid oak furniture
and accessory kits ranging from
clocks and magazine racks to roll
top desks, file cabinets, and tables
and chairs.
Catalog free

Shaker Workshops
P.O. Box 1028WJ
Concord, MA 01742
Dining chairs, rocking chairs, candlestands, tables, beds, and other woodenware, all reproduced from specific pieces of original Shaker furniture.
Catalog \$1.00, includes samples of 12 Shaker chair tapes.

The Shop
Box 3711, RD 3
Dept. WJ2
Reading, PA 19606
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first order.

Yield House Route 16, Dept W65 North Conway, NH 03860 Pine kits, oak unfinished. Catalog free



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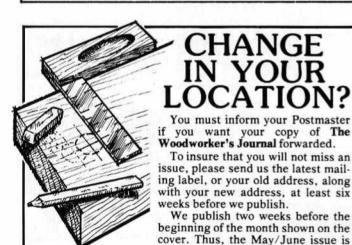


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# Workshop Income

# Selecting the Right Project for Production

So you've decided that it's time to realize a little profit from your woodworking hobby. Sure, you've probably sold things from time to time, but how about getting into a real production situation, making 10, 20, or more of a single item for retail sale? Great idea! But now comes the big question: What to make?

All the information we've gathered points to the fact that a small-scale woodworking business simply cannot compete on a production basis with large factories. For this reason you should direct your efforts toward a limited production mode, making something that is different and unique. The most successful small woodworking businesses are those that fill a particular need, have a product with strong individual or regional appeal, and offer this "right" product at the right price.

The temptation to make big profits from the sale of bigticket items may be great, but unless you are in an unusual situation with a ready-made market willing to pay for these items, your best bet is to concentrate your efforts on small, low-cost items with a broad potential market.

There are three important elements to consider in determining what an ideal production-for-profit project will be: Cost, time, and marketability.

Very basically, your product must be reasonably easy to make in a fixed period of time and for a limited amount of money. It must be well-suited to construction and assembly with repetitive production operations, and as a rule, should not require extensive handwork, sanding, or finishing. After figuring in material, production, overhead, and related costs, the product should be marketable at a reasonable price. This final selling price must include a fair profit for yourself. Our research indicates that an ideal price range is from \$6 to \$15. You must sell on the retail level since, as noted earlier, a small woodworking shop cannot hope to compete on a cost-per-unit basis with a factory production operation.

Finding the right product, one with that special appeal, is no easy task. Yet, from reader response to projects that have appeared in The Woodworker's Journal over the years, we have a fairly good idea of which projects will be most successful. The Clamdigger's Basket featured on page 44 should be a winner. It meets all the established criteria, including low material cost, adaptability to limited-run production, ease of construction and assembly, and minimal sanding, finishing, and handwork. We think that this project will have strong appeal since a similar clam basket, published in our old newsprint days (and therefore no longer available in back issue), is near the top of the list of all-time favorite production projects that have appeared in The Woodworker's Journal. Our only reservation is that perhaps this project may be more popular here in New England than in the Midwest or South, for instance.

However, in order to provide you with a variety of potentially successful ideas, we went over our back issue listings and pulled out a sampling of those projects which reader response had indicated were especially well liked. Most of these projects were selected specifically because readers had written in and said they made and sold many of each.

The nine projects in the following list are available in back issues. Ordering information can be found on page 24. Be sure to specify both the project and the back issue.

Nov-Dec '80 (Vol. 4 No. 6) Grain Scoop Jul-Aug '82 (Vol. 6 No. 4) Toy Jeep Jan-Feb '84 (Vol. 8 No. 1) Veneer Bracelets Mar-Apr '85 (Vol. 9 No. 2) Windspinner, Chinese Puzzle May-Jun '85 (Vol. 9 No. 3) Colonial Wall Sconce, Card Box Jul-Aug '85 (Vol. 9 No. 4) Stamp Dispenser Jan-Feb '86 (Vol. 10 No. 1) Valentine Box

The projects listed above cover a wide range and all are relatively easy to make. Although some require more handwork, sanding, finishing and attention to detail than others, keep in mind that it is often the attention to the small details, and the addition of a "personal touch" that makes one item preferable to another in a potential buyer's eyes.

Before starting any project, plan everything. Since every additional woodworking operation adds time (and time is money), keep steps to a bare minimum. If the project can be built from standard thickness material and commonly available board widths, then you can often eliminate thickness planing, ripping, jointing and edge-gluing. With this thought in mind, we often design easy-to-build pine projects around common  $1 \times 4$ ,  $1 \times 6$ ,  $1 \times 8$ ,  $1 \times 10$ , and  $1 \times 12$  pine stock. Of course, the plan must be developed with respect to the actual dimensions which, for a  $1 \times 6$ , are  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. thick by  $\frac{5}{2}$  in. wide; for a  $1 \times 8$ , they're  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. thick by  $\frac{7}{4}$  in. wide, etc.

When multiple parts must be band sawed from a single board, lay out carefully to make maximum use of the stock with minimum waste. Everytime you must stop to relocate

There are three important elements to consider in determining what an ideal production-for-profit project will be: Cost, time, and marketability.

the table saw fence, reset the dado head, or change from the dado back to a regular blade, more time is involved. Coordinate all operations for the most economical use of both material and time.

Whenever possible, utilize jigs, templates, forms, power tools and accessories to speed repetitive tasks and eliminate unnecessary handwork. Instead of rounding over edges by hand, for instance, use a bearing-guided round over bit. Where a band sawed form might require extensive hand sanding to remove band saw marks, use a template and the router instead to clean up the edges. It might take a little longer at first to make the template, but by the time you have completed the twentieth piece, chances are you will have saved hours overall. Be creative, innovative, and don't be afraid to try something different. Good luck, and happy (and profitable) woodworking!

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# Restoring Antiques

# More About Warped Boards

by John W. Olson

as discussed in my two previous columns, wood is made up of hollow cells which expand as they absorb moisture and shrink as they dry out. A board with more moisture on one side than the other will probably warp because the cells on the side with the greater moisture expand more than those on the opposite side. This type of uneven moisture content is the cause of most warp, and it can usually be solved by techniques that involve wetting or drying one side or the other to balance the moisture. Last issue in this column, I talked about several of those techniques.

However, uneven moisture content by itself is not always what causes a board to warp. A tree normally grows reasonably straight up and down, but for various reasons some will grow with a distinct tilt or lean to one side. As a leaning tree grows, stresses develop in the wood fibers of the trunk, and boards cut from that trunk will include those stresses. When combined with uneven moisture content, such stresses often create a warping problem that can't be solved by the usual methods. Generally, the answer is to use some sort of mechanical means to physically straighten the board, or to relieve the internal stress by removing some of the stock.

#### Cleats

One or more wooden cleats screwed to the stock can be an effective way to deal with a stubborn warp problem. They are commonly used to flatten wide tabletops and carcase sides.

There are several things to consider before cutting the cleat stock. Since the warped stock is pulled to the cleat, you will need a flat cleat to make sure that you end up with a flat surface. Also, the cleat must be strong enough to straighten the board without itself bending. Try and locate the cleats where they are least likely to be seen. If one large cleat looks unsightly, try substituting two or more smaller ones as their combined strength can be just as effective. Before assembly, I like to chamfer the exposed corners and sand all surfaces thoroughly, then apply a final finish that matches the piece.

Don't use glue if the cleats are installed across the grain (as is usually the case) and be sure to slot the screw holes. The stock must be free to expand and contract with changes in humidity.

#### Rods

I once encountered an old bench with a seat that refused to remain flat. The seat measured 1½ in. thick by 14 in. wide by about 32 in. long. Cleats would look unsightly so I felt another technique was in order.

The seat was clamped flat then, using a long  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. diameter drill bit, I bored three holes along the 32 in. seat,

one 8 in. from each end and one at the centerpoint. Each hole was centered on the 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> in. thickness. Starting at the back edge, I bored across the 14 in. width, stopping at a point 1/2 in. from the front edge. Then, in each of the three holes, I inserted a ½ in. diameter by 13 in. long steel rod. The rods flattened the seat quite nicely. A 1/2 in. diameter by 1/2 in. long plug was then glued into each hole to conceal the rods.

I also used the same trick successfully on a 15/16 in. thick drop-leaf on a cherry table. Apparently, the leaf had some internal stresses set up by the presence of two large knots and some crooked grain. I could straighten it by adding moisture to one side, but it would return to a cupped condition when completely dry. Three 3/8 in. diameter steel rods solved the problem.

Kerfing

Another method that sometimes works is to cut kerfs on the back side of a board after it has been straightened. The kerfs may be cut with a table or radial arm saw or a router. They should be no more than 1/8 in. wide and extend into the board not more than two-thirds to three-quarters of the total thickness. The kerfs can be \( \frac{1}{8} \) in. to \( \frac{1}{4} \) in. apart.

Care should be taken not to overly weaken the board by cutting too deep or cutting too near the sides and ends. To be successful, the board will have to be clamped in the flat condition for at least several days, perhaps up to a couple of weeks. This will allow the wood exposed in the kerfs to stabilize. Be sure to leave most of the kerfed area uncovered so as to let air fully circulate.

#### Ripping

Where feasible, badly cupped, twisted, or curved stock can sometimes be straightened by ripping the board into several narrow strips. The sawn edges of these strips are jointed square, then all the strips are edge-glued back together in their original orientation.

To edge-glue, apply a thin coat of glue to the mating surfaces and clamp firmly with bar or pipe clamps. Use clamp pads to protect the stock. A pair of waxed cleats clamped across the grain on each end will keep the surfaces from slipping out of alignment when clamping pressure is applied. Set aside and allow to dry overnight.

Keep in mind that each ripping cut will remove about \( \frac{1}{4} \) in. of stock ( $\frac{1}{8}$  in. for the saw kerf plus two  $\frac{1}{16}$  in. jointer cuts) so the reassembled board will be narrower than the original. How much narrower depends on how many ripping cuts you need to make. It may be necessary to add an additional strip to get back to the original width.

Extensive planing of the top and bottom surfaces can often be counterproductive because a good grain match becomes increasingly difficult as additional stock is removed. This problem is likely to occur if the glued board is flattened on one side using the jointer, then run through the thickness planer to flatten the other. You'll probably be better off using a hand plane and taking light cuts. It may take a bit longer but you'll have a better grain match when finished. Before planing, use a sharp chisel to clean off any excess glue that may have squeezed out and dried.

Warped boards regularly show up on old (and sometimes new) furniture, but as we've learned, there are a number of relatively simple and inexpensive ways to deal with the problem. Hopefully you'll keep them in mind next time you have a board with a bend that shouldn't be there. Will

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П		ROUND OVER	1 - 1			1
	#04	1/4" R	1/4"	1"	1/2"	15.00
\ P.	#05	3/8" R	3/8"	11/4"	5/8"	16.00
<b>"</b>	#06	1/2" R	1/2"	11/2"	3/4"	19.00
П		ROMAN OGEE				
	#07	5/32" R	5/32"	11/4"	15/22"	10.00
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П	#11	3/8"	Deep	1¼"	1/2"	14.00
		RABBETING	3/8"	1		
	#09	1/8" (KERF) SL	OT CUTTER	11/4"	1/8"	14.00
0	#10	1/4" (KERF) SL	OT CUTTER	1%"	1/4"	14.00
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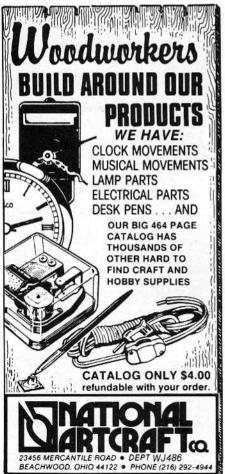
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#### Starter Set

 $\frac{1}{8}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ , and  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. Straight

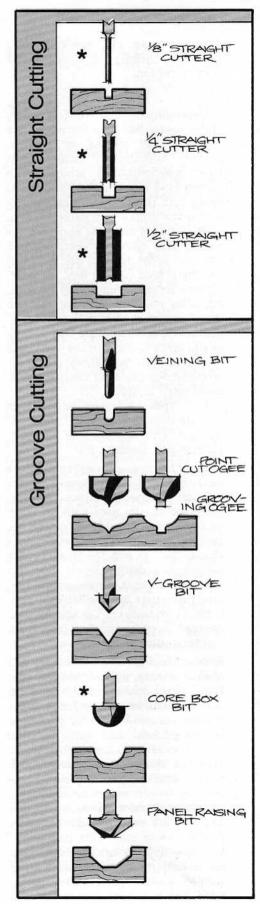
Cutters, one each ½, ½ in. radius Round Over, one each ¾ in. Core Box, one ½ in. radius Cove, one ½ in. radius Roman Ogee, one ¼ in. radius Roman Ogee, one 45 degree Chamfering, one ¾ in. Rabbeting, one ½ in. Dovetail, one Slotting or Wing Cutter, one (available only in carbide) Flush Trimmer, one (available only in carbide)

#### General Care & Sharpening

Care of router bits is extremely important if you expect them to perform as intended for as long as possible. Bits should always be stored so they are prevented from bumping against each other or into anything else. We have constructed a practical closed plywood box for all our bits. Never simply store loose bits in a drawer, can, or jar, and never drop a router bit. Carbide, because of its hardness, will chip or shatter if dropped on a hard surface such as the saw table or a cement floor.

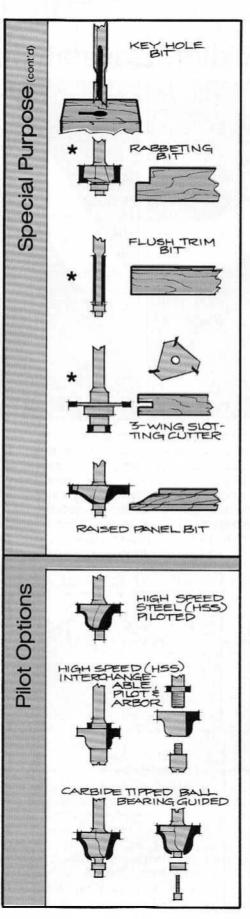
Clean router bits will cut smoothly, while a pitch or resin buildup may cause bits to burn. Spray-on oven cleaner can be used to remove any pitch or resin.

Although much has been written about sharpening router bits, we don't recommend do-it-yourself sharpening. When our router bits become dull (a rare occurrence with carbide), we send them out to a professional sharpening service at about \$5.00 per bit. The professionals have the right equipment, and the bits come back as sharp as when new. As for sharpening HSS bits, given the cost it's probably cheaper in the long run to simply buy a new bit. This is no doubt the reason so many woodworkers have a collection of old and worn out HSS bits. Seems it's hard to throw those old bits out, even if they don't work anymore.



The Woodworker's Journal

\*Starred bits recommended for comprehensive starter set. Cutting POINT OUT QUARTER ROUND Groove (cont'd) Edging COVE BIT BEADING BIT ROMAN OGEE BIT 45°CHAMFER BIT urpose DOVETAIL pecial







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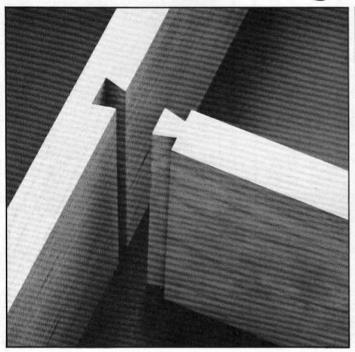
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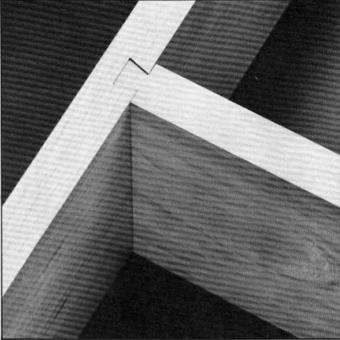
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# Special Techniques

## The Sliding Dovetail Joint





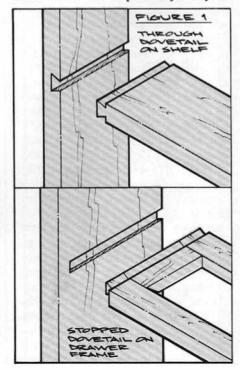
The physical qualities and characteristics of solid wood can present a variety of problems, particularly in the construction of carcases, cabinets, and shelves. When members must be joined at right angles, or perpendicular to each other, no matter what type of joint is used, the problem of end grain is significant, thereby severly limiting the effectiveness of any glue joint.

With limited glue strength, mechanical and other means must be used to provide the required stability within the joint. Dowels, screws and plugs, and mechanical devices, such as threaded inserts, are some of the available options.

For fine furniture, contemporary work, or in any project where the integrity of the joint is important, but plugs or mechanical means are not desirable, an ideal alternative is the sliding dovetail joint.

The sliding dovetail is essentially a single long dovetail which is slid into a corresponding dovetail mortise. Depending on the particular application, the dovetail may either be "through" or "stopped" (see Fig. 1). The through dovetail is visible at the front, and makes an attractive detail

on certain types of work. It is also easier to cut than the stopped dovetail, since no hand chisel work is required. The stopped dovetail would be the obvious choice in contemporary projects or anywhere a clean look with no exposed joinery is



preferred. The handsome contemporary wall unit featured on page 31 of this issue makes use of the stopped dovetail.

Although the sliding dovetail pin and groove can be cut in several different ways, including on the table saw, with the radial arm saw, or by hand, the most accurate way to accomplish the cuts is with a router, the router table, and a dovetail bit. The dovetail bit provides an exceptionally clean cut, and will result in a tighter fitting joint than hand or other machine cutting methods.

For this feature we'll concentrate on ¼ in, and ½ in, dovetail bits, with ¼ in. shanks. Larger ¾ in. and 1 in. dovetail bits are available, but because of their size they have ½ in. shanks, and require larger, more powerful (and expensive) routers to accommodate the ½ in. shank size. Note: Our designer/craftsman, Phil Bacon, emphasizes the importance of selecting carbide-tipped instead of high-speed steel dovetail bits. Phil points our that "carbide will last, on average, about 40 times as long as high-speed steel." Although most carbide-tipped router bits are priced at three to four times the cost of similar high-speed steel bits, their increased cost is primarily because of the high cost of tungsten carbide, and the fact that many carbide bits feature ball-bearing pilots. Dovetail bits have no bearing or pilot and, being fairly small, they require only a small amount of carbide. Carbidetipped dovetail bits are only about 25 percent more expensive than highspeed steel dovetail bits. Given the numerous advantages of carbide over high-speed steel (see The Beginning Woodworker feature on page 16), and this relatively modest price differential, we strongly recommend the purchase of tungsten carbide-tipped dovetail bits for this technique.

The sliding dovetail is primarily a mechanical joint. The long dovetail cut into the end of one board (usually the horizontal member or shelf) locks into the corresponding dovetail groove cut into the piece which it is perpendicular to (usually the vertical member or side). Because the strength of the joint is directly related to the accuracy with which both mating pieces are cut, all work should be precise.

As with many aspects of woodworking the sliding dovetail joint is not in itself complicated. However, like cutting and fitting dovetails and box joints, or making frame and panel doors, there are finer points that must be understood if the joint is to fit up and assemble properly. For most of us, discovering these finer points is usually a process of trial and error requiring time and many practice pieces before all the kinks are worked out.

The following step by step instructions guide you through cutting the sliding dovetail joint. Remember that maintaining control of the router, proper feed pressure, and speed are important, both when cutting the groove, and when feeding the stock through the bit on the router table. Selecting clear, even-grained stock will help avoid problems.

#### Step 1: Bit and Stock Size

The dovetail is measured from the widest part of the tail, as shown in Fig. 2A. The  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. dovetail bit is used with stock from  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. to  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. thick, while the  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. bit is used for stock from  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. to  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick. In practice, however, Phil points out that the stock should always be a little thicker than the widest part of the tail. This is because, if the stock is exactly the

DEEP ON ONE SINE BOTH SIDES RESULTS XTRA THICKNE ALLOWS FOR APJUSTMENT TO ACHIEVE CORRECT INCONSISTENT STOCK THICKNESS RESULTS IN CORRE PONDING DOVETAIL WIDTH VARIATION.

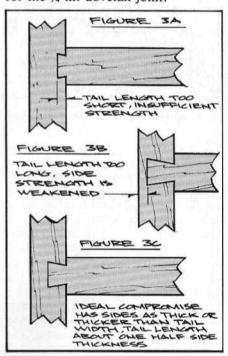
OVETAIL WILL NOT

FIT 1/2" DOVETAIL

GROOVE VARIATION

desired tail width, and your router table fence settings are not perfect, you could end up with a little flat on one side of the tail and the tail slightly undersize. As shown in Fig. 2B, an initial fence setting that results in a cut a hair too deep will mean the fence must then be repositioned to compensate on the opposite side, resulting in the flat area. If the fence were not repositioned, the tail would be even narrower, resulting in a very sloppy fit within the corresponding dovetail groove. Dimensioning the stock a hair thicker than the intended tail width will provide a margin for error.

Phil also stresses the need for the stock to be planed to a consistent thickness. This is because the router table cuts that form the tail will gauge off the router table fence. As illustrated in Fig. 2C, a thickness variation will result in a corresponding inconsistent dovetail width dimension. Then, of course, the tail would not fit into the dovetail groove, which will be exact and consistent. Figures 2B and 2C show the ½ in. dovetail for purposes of illustration, however the principles involved will be the same for the ¼ in. dovetail joint.

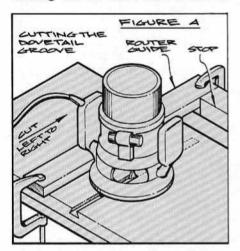


Step 2: Cutting the Dovetail Groove

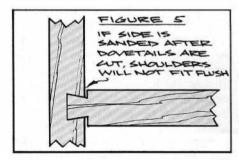
The dovetail groove in the side member is cut first, because the tail is made to fit within the groove and test fittings will be needed. Although the length of the dovetail, and therefore the depth of the dovetail groove, can be adjusted to accommodate the thickness of the material used for the sides, keep in mind that the longer the tail, the stronger it will be. As shown in Fig. 3A, too short a tail will not provide sufficient strength; on the other hand, if the tail is too long, the sides will be weakened (Fig. 3B). The ideal compromise has the side (continued on next page)

material as thick or somewhat thicker than the tail width (Fig. 3C).

Locate the shelf position on the sides, check for squareness, mark for the dovetail groove, and clamp a temporary fence in place to guide the router. Set the bit depth and make the dovetail groove cut by moving the router from left to right as shown in Fig. 4. This will result in the dovetail cutter pulling itself into the fence, making for an easier and smoother



cut. Note: For stopped dovetail grooves, a stop must be positioned so the groove is stopped the desired distance from the edge. With the stopped groove, the dovetail cutter should be backed out with the router on. Remember that guiding the router tight against the fence is every bit as important when backing out as it was while going in. The end of the stopped dovetail groove is finished by hand with the chisel. Tips: With the fence in place, you may wish to use a straight cutter to remove the center section of the groove before switching to the dovetail bit. Of course, the

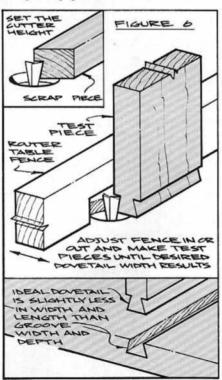


straight cutter can be no wider than the neck of the dovetail groove at its narrowest point. Final sanding on the inside surface of the sides must be completed *before* the grooves and tails are cut. If the side is sanded after the grooves and tails are cut, the shoulders will not fit flush (Fig. 5). Also, without readjusting the depth setting, use the router and dovetail bit to cut a dovetail groove into the end of a scrap piece for use as a guide in setting the router table bit height in the next step.

#### Step 3: Cutting the Dovetail

The dovetail is cut on the router table. As noted earlier, the stock thickness must be consistent. Make certain that the end is perfectly square. Set the dovetail cutter depth so that it will be equal to the dovetail groove depth. Rather than measuring, the best way to do this is to use the scrap piece made in Step 2 (see Fig. 6, "Set the Cutter Height").

After the bit height has been set, the fence must be positioned to achieve the proper dovetail width. The only way to accomplish this is by using scrap pieces milled to the same



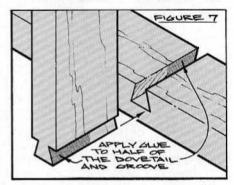
thickness as the stock into which you will be cutting the tails. After cutting dovetails into a few test pieces you should have arrived at the correct fence setting. With the right setting, the dovetail will slide easily into the corresponding dovetail groove without either binding or being sloppy. Remember: Too loose and the joint will not be strong enough; too tight and with the addition of glue (which usually causes the wood to swell slightly), you will never com-

plete the assembly. The ideal dovetail will be just a hair less in width and height than the corresponding groove width and depth (see Fig. 6).

For stopped sliding dovetails, such as on our wall unit, the dovetail must be cut back as needed to match the stopped dovetail groove.

#### Step 4: Glue Up and Assembly

Phil notes that the final step, the assembly process, is the most critical. He points out that even if the dovetail fits easily within the groove when dry, there is a possibility that it might bind within the groove after glue is ap-



plied, especially if too much glue is applied and if you wait too long before assembly, allowing the glue the opportunity to swell the wood.

As illustrated in Fig. 7, apply the glue only to the front half of the groove and the back half of the dovetail. This procedure will make the assembly easier and reduce the chance of binding. Note also that the glue is applied only to the beveled sides of the dovetail and groove, since all other parts of the joint present a true end grain situation, and will therefore gain little from the addition of glue. Work quickly and use very little glue. Remember, since the sliding dovetail joint is mainly a mechanical connection, the glue is secondary. Tips: When sliding a dovetailed shelf or frame into a preassembled carcase, be sure to work both sides in evenly. With stopped sliding dovetails, apply glue to the stopped half of the groove and the opposite half of the tail.

The sliding dovetail is an exceptionally strong mechanical connection and has many uses in woodworking. Once you have gained some experience with it, the little nuances of proper sizing, cutting, fitting, glue-up and assembly will become second nature, and you will use this joint with confidence.

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# Vol. 4 No. 5 Sept-Oct '80: Cabinetmaker's Workbench, Cobbler's Bench Coffee Table, 19th Century Cherry Table, Kitchen Utensils, Book Rack, Nuts & Bolts, Nutcracker, Walnut & Glass Bank, Schoolhouse Desk, Booster Seat, *Articles:* All

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About Wood Chisels; Being Your Own Salesman; Restoring a 19th Century Carved Table.

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Toy Top Sept/Oct '84

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Vol. 9 No. 3 May-June '85: Jacobean Joint Stool, Wall Cabinet with Recessed Finger Pulls, Shaker Desk, Kitchen Cart, Contemporary Wall Clock, Colonial Wall Sconce, Card Box, Towel Bar with Glass Shelf, Marble Race Toy, Cradle, Vanity Mirror, Miter Clamping Jig, Articles: Product Liability, Part I; Restoring an Antique Mirror Frame; Coping with Wood "Movement"; Making Recessed Finger Pulls; The Jacobean Period.

Vol. 9 No. 4 July-Aug '85: Gate-leg Table, Computer Desk, Shaving Horse, Stamp Dispenser, Crumb Collecting Breadboard, Toy Trucks, Early American Wall Shelf, Pivot-top Game/Coffee Table, Settle Bench, Shaker Single-Drawer Cupboard, Fold-up Workbench, Articles: Product Liability, Part II; Caning and Wood Finishing Supplies; Spray Finishing; Table Saw Basics; Making the Rule Joint; The William and Mary Period.

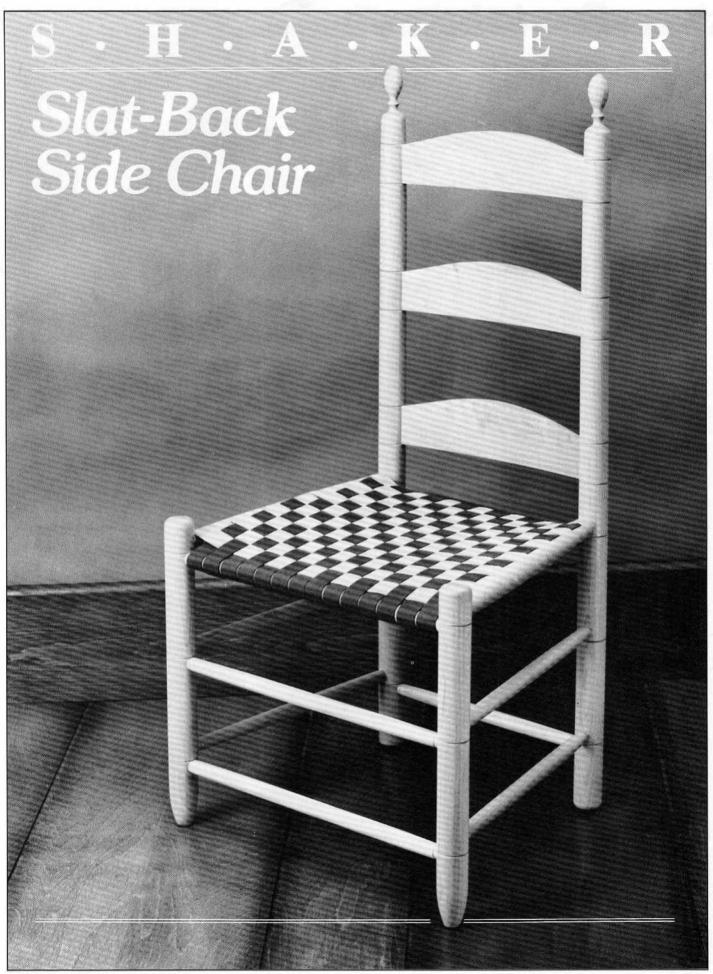
Vol. 9 No. 5 Sept-Oct '85: Colonial Schoolmaster's Desk, Contemporary Sideboard, Mahogany End Table, Victorian Hall Tree, Cutlery Wall Cabinet, Swing-out Plant Hanger, Prancing Horse Silhouette, Block Puzzle, Iron Caddy, Toy Ironing Board, Early American Water Bench, Wooden Smooth Plane, Shaker Sewing Box, Articles: A Craft Fair Visit; How to Use Stick Shellac; A Guide to Circular Saw Blades; Making Bent Laminations; Country Colonial Furniture.

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Vol. 10 No. 1 Jan-Feb '86: Freestanding Shelf System, Chippendale Bachelor's Chest, Oriental Serving Tray, Country Bench, Antique Knife Tray, Tape Dispenser, Valentine Box, Toy Tow Truck & Car, Shaker Drop-leaf Table, Shop-made Bow Saw, Child's Settle Bench, Plate Shelves, Articles: On Getting Paid for Your Work; Weaving a Fiber Rush Seat, Part II; Table Saw Crosscutting: Techniques & Tips; Router-Lathe Fluting: A Shop-made Approach; Chippendale Furniture.

Vol. 10 No. 2 Mar-Apr '86: Zebrawood Veneered End Table, Shaker Oval Box, Microwave Cart, Pin-Hole Puzzle, Tumbling Monkey Toy, Early American Wall Box, Kicking Donkey Whirligig, Shaker Side Table, Wooden Mallets, Federal Period Washstand, Connecticut Shelf Clock, Articles: A General Guide to Craft Fairs; Why Wood Warps; Cutting Tapers, Wedges and Other Irregular Shapes with the Table Saw; Unsupported or Hand Steam Bending; ½ in. Variable Speed Reversible Drills; Federal Period; Hardware Suppliers.

Vol. 10 No. 3 May-June '86: Victorian Whatnot Shelf, Contemporary Lamp, Early American Bench, Steam-bent Clock, Pine Hutch/Cupboard, Canada Goose Basket, Toy Crane, Condiment Holder, Shop Workstation, Parsons Table, Shaker Lap Desk, Articles: An Interview with Toymaker Clare Maginley; How to Flatten a Warped Board; A Guide for Choosing Your First Router; Supported Steam Bending; Victorian Period.



If there is one preeminent article of furniture for which the Shakers are known, it is their chairs. More chairs were produced for sale than any other furnishing, with the chairmaking enterprise at the New Lebanon, New York community stretching from a beginning in 1789 well into the 20th century.

The best known of all Shaker chairs were the so-called "slat-back", which were made in a variety of sizes starting in about 1830. The tall slat-back chairs, usually featuring three or more slats, were commonly called "ladder-back", while a low-back version with one or two slats served as a "dining chair".

The slat-back chairs featured steambent slats, finely tapered narrow rungs, and gradually tapered back legs often terminating in delicately pointed finials. Like much of the best Shaker work, the slat-back chair made maximum use, both structurally and aesthetically, of a minimum amount of wood. As we know, the Shakers deplored waste.

Although early Shaker chairs made use of a narrow hickory splint for the woven seat, most slat-backs featured the colorful worsted tapes that became popular after 1830.

The slat-back chair we show here is a reproduction of a New Lebanon chair made around 1830. Like the original,



our chair is crafted in maple and has a worsted tape woven seat. Maple (sometimes tiger striped or curly) was the most common choice for primary wood, though ash and hickory were sometimes used for the rungs.

The only variations in our chair from the original are in the back slats and in the back leg height. We chose to form the curved slats from bent laminations rather than steam bending, since bent laminations provide a more consistent slat curve. Should you prefer to steam bend the slats, you may wish to refer to the March/April 1986 Special Techniques article on steam bending. The only other variation, the back height, was predicated on the need to fit the back leg turnings in a standard 36 in. lathe. The original back height (37\\[ \frac{3}{4} \] in.) could be achieved, if you prefer, by turning separate tenoned finials, and then attaching them to the previously turned back legs.

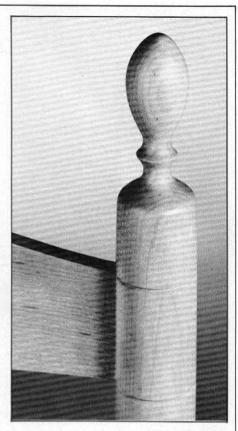
Overall, the chair is not difficult or complicated to build. Follow the in-

Pari	Description	Size	No. Req'd
Α	Front Leg	see Fig. 2	2
В	Back Leg	see Fig. 2	2
C	Top Front Rung	see Fig. 3	1
D	Top Side/Back Rung	see Fig. 3	3
E	Lower/Middle Front Rung	see Fig. 3	2
F	Lower Side/Back Rung	see Fig. 3	5
G	Slat	see Fig. 5	3

structions carefully, making certain that all measurements are precise, and that all joinery is as neat and clean as possible. No doubt the chair could be slam-banged together without careful attention to detail, but that would hardly be in the Shaker tradition, and the result would in all likelihood be nothing but a crude rendition of a chair that is recognized today as one of the true "American classics".

Note: This chair, having been built around 1830, is quite naturally sized to fit 1830 sized people, who on average were about four inches shorter than men and women today. Adding 10 percent to all dimensions will result in a chair more properly dimensioned for contemporary man.

Start by cutting 1¾ in. turning squares of maple for the front and back legs (A and B). Referring to the chair side view, lay out for the three mortises in each back leg that will ac-

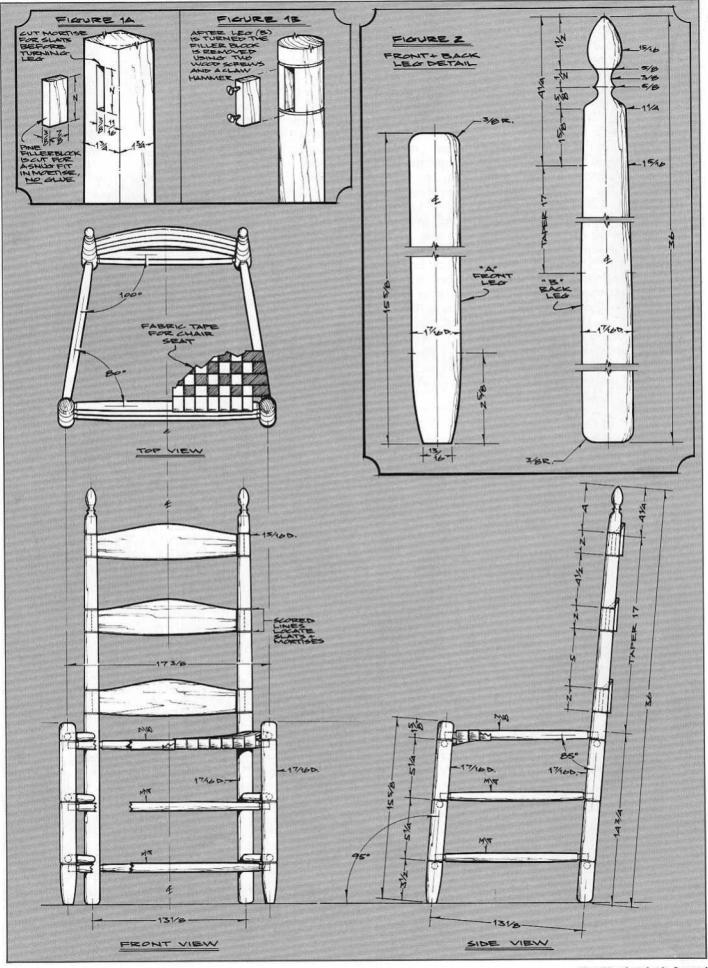


cept the slat ends. These  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. by 2 in. by  $\frac{7}{8}$  in. deep mortises can either be made with the router, with the ends trimmed square by hand, or they can be chopped out entirely by hand using a chisel. After all these slat mortises are cut, fashion six pine filler blocks, one to friction fit within each mortise, as shown in Fig. 1A. As explained in Fig. 1B, these pine filler blocks are removed after the back legs have been turned.

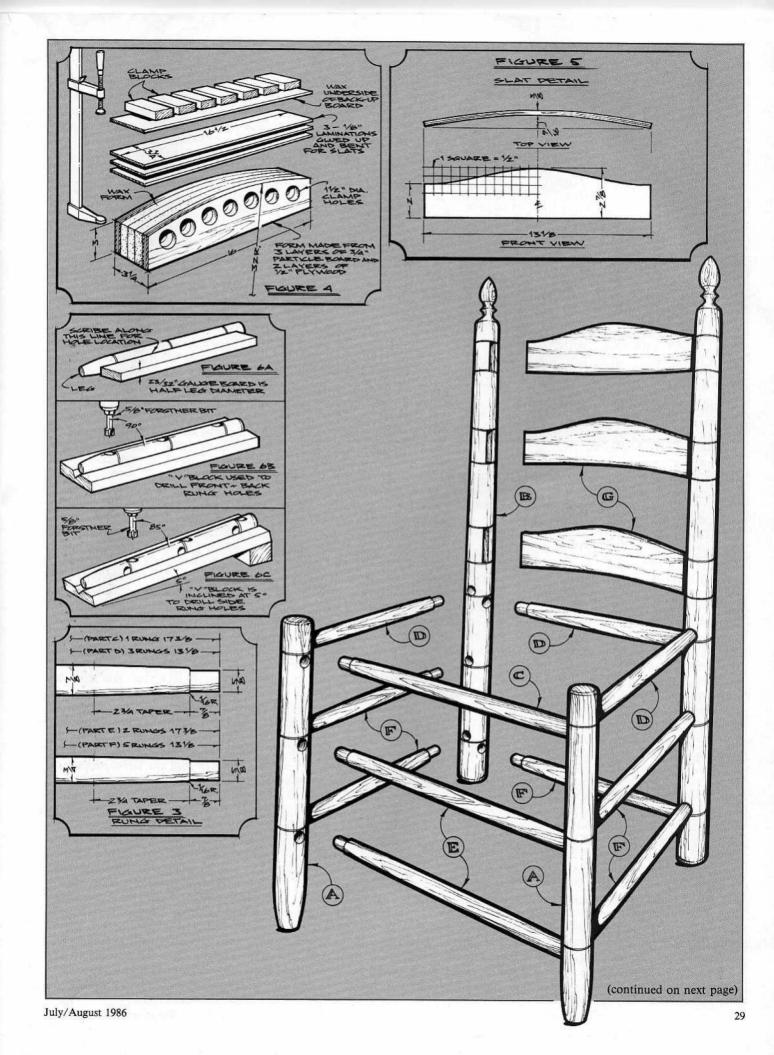
Now turn the front and back legs to the profiles shown in Fig. 2. Rough turn with a gouge, then use the roundnose to round the legs and make the finial. Note that the back leg taper begins 14¾ in. from the bottom end. Use the skew to radius the ends, and last of all, use a spear point to cut the score lines shown in the side view. Such score lines are a common element on Shaker chairs, and in addition to their function as locator points, they provide an attractive detail. It is important that these score lines be precise and consistent because they help determine the various rung locations later on.

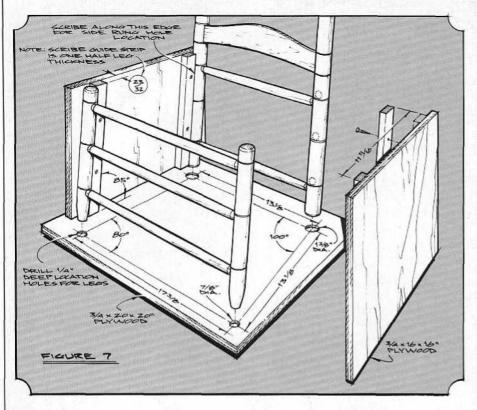
The rungs (parts C, D, E and F) are also turned now. Refer to Fig. 3 for overall rung length. Note that the top rungs (C and D) are  $\frac{7}{8}$  in. at the center, tapering to  $\frac{5}{8}$  in. at the ends, while the lower rungs (E and F) taper from  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. to  $\frac{5}{8}$  in. The  $\frac{7}{8}$  in. tenon length of all the rungs is intended to allow for a

(continued on next page)



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small length of the tenons to remain showing after assembly, a typical Shaker characteristic. *Tip:* Use a \(^{1}\)8 in. Forstner bit to drill through a piece of \(^{1}\)2 in. thick scrap, then cut in half to obtain a perfect size "gauge" that you can use to check the tenon diameter while turning. All final sanding of both the legs and rungs is done while in the lathe.

To make each of the three slats (G), resaw a 1 in. by  $3\frac{1}{4}$  in. by  $16\frac{1}{2}$  in. board, and surface to obtain three 1/8 in, thick laminations. Note that these laminations should be kept in consecutive order. Now, referring to Fig. 4, construct a particleboard and plywood form that is  $3\frac{1}{4}$  in. by 16 in. with a 32 in. radius arc. A 32 in. length of string tied to a pencil, with a nail as a centerpoint can be used to scribe the radius. Glue up the laminations with plastic resin glue, and use a backup board and clamp blocks to clamp the bent lamination securely around the form. Note the holes in the form to accept the clamps (the more clamps the better) and that both the form and backing board are waxed. When dry, lay out the slat profile shown in the Fig. 5 grid pattern, and bandsaw to shape. For more on bent laminations, refer to the September/October 1985 Special Techniques article.

Now cut a 1½ in. wide board to exactly one half the maximum front and

back leg thickness to use as a guide for scribing the rung mortise centerpoints. The same board is used for both the front and back legs, since the back leg diameter is consistent with the front legs over the lower 14\(^4\) in. length. After scribing the centerline on the front legs (Fig. 6A), use a simple V-block on the drill press to drill the \% in. diameter by <sup>2</sup>/<sub>32</sub> in. deep 90-degree holes in the front legs that accept parts C and E (Fig. 6B). Use the score lines for location, but locate the rung holes about  $\frac{1}{16}$  in. below, so that later, when the angled rung holes are drilled, the front and side rungs do not intersect. To scribe the centerline on the back legs, first dry-assemble the back legs and slats. Lay the assembly flat and then use the  $^{23}/_{32}$  in. thick scribe board to mark the back rung centerlines. Use the same V-block on the drill press to drill the \% in. diameter by 2\frac{3}{32} in. deep, 90-degree rung mortises to accept the top back and lower back rungs (one each of D and F). Drilling Tip: To accurately locate the V-block, first chuck a small bit in the drill press and then lower it into the center of the V-block groove.

Next make the plywood fixture shown in Fig. 7, which is needed to obtain the centerline locations of the angled side rung holes. Drill four ¼ in. deep holes as illustrated in the bottom piece of plywood to locate the legs.

Screw one of the four 23/32 in. thick guide pieces to a side ply section at an 85 degree angle, then measure over exactly 11<sup>1</sup>/<sub>16</sub> in. (outside edge to outside edge) and screw the other guide piece in place at a parallel 85 degree angle. Repeat on the opposite side ply, then dry assemble the front and back assemblies, and temporarily clamp across the fixture with these assemblies in position as shown. Scribe the centerlines for the side rungs. The plywood fixture will accurately establish both the 5-degree slope of the side rungs relative to the legs and their 10-degree off-square front/back toe/splay (see top and side views).

Now construct a simple 5-degree incline using the previously made V-block. With the front legs' bottom ends toward the *lower* end of the angled V-block, drill the front leg side rung holes (Fig. 6C), and with the back legs' lower ends toward the *upper* part of the V-block, drill the back leg side rung holes (the *top* part of the back legs will extend some distance down and over the drill press table). Keep all the side rung holes consistent just above the V-groove score lines.

Dry assemble the entire chair and check for proper fit. While dry assembled, wax carefully around all the rung tenon shoulders and on the slats where glue might squeeze out. The wax will simplify clean-up later. Also label the rungs and slats, and pencil index all mortises and tenons while dry clamped to facilitate and speed the final assembly and glue-up, and to prevent confusion of parts.

Pre-assemble the front and back assemblies individually on a flat surface to insure that the legs remain parallel and on the same plane, and to prevent twisting during clamp-up. Glue, clamp, and let these assemblies dry

Again on the flat surface, add the side rungs to join the front and back assemblies. Make certain that the four leg bottoms *all* contact the flat surface, so the chair will sit flat on the floor. For the finish, we wiped on three coats of tung oil.

Traditional worsted Shaker chair tape for the seat is available from: Shaker Workshops, P.O. 1028, Concord, MA 01742. The basic over/under weave is an easy process to master. Simply follow the manufacturer's instructions included with the worsted tape. Taping Tip: Since maple is so hard, pre-drill for the upholstery tacks.

WW

Wall-Hung Display Cabinet

Fine collectibles require an attractive display area. This contemporary cabinet, in solid cherry, provides a dust-free environment with adjustable glass shelves.

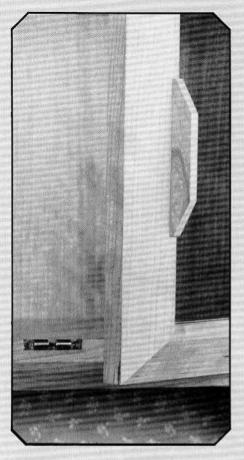
Begin by cutting the 3/4 in. thick sides (A) and end shelves (B). Next, select your largest straight cutter and use the router and edge-guide to cut the ½ in. by 1 in. rabbet in the shelves and sides that will accept the back. The shelf rabbets are full length, but the ends of the side rabbets must be squared by hand with a chisel. Now, referring to the Special Techniques article beginning on page 20, cut the ½ in. sliding dovetail joint that is used to join the sides and shelves (see sliding dovetail joint detail). Note that both the sliding dovetail and the groove are stopped ½ in. from the front edge of the cabinet carcase.

Make the \(^{5}\) in. thick filler pieces (C), locate and drill the \(^{1}\)4 in. diameter by \(^{1}\)2 in. deep shelf support pin holes, and cut off the top and bottom corners of the sides at a 30 degree angle

as shown in the side view. Shelf support pins are available at most hardware stores. Cut the plywood back to size from  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. thick cherry plywood, then dry assemble the carcase to check for proper fit. Keep the good side of the cherry ply facing front. If all is well, glue and assemble the carcase. Work quickly when sliding the dovetail shelves into the sides, lest the glue starts to swell the wood and the shelves bind part way in. Also, make the hanger (parts J), and glue the upper hanger piece to the plywood back, as shown in the hanger detail.

To construct the cherry doors, first miter the ends of parts D and E to establish their length. Next, with a  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. straight bit in the router table raised to a  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. height, and with a stop and the fence in place to assure a  $\frac{7}{8}$  in.

(continued on next page)



spline groove depth located  $\frac{3}{16}$  in. from the inside edge, cut the spline grooves. As you will note from the spline groove cutting detail, the groove end will be round. You may either square the groove using a  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. chisel, or leave it round and size the spline smaller. In any event, the splines (also cherry) should always be a hair smaller

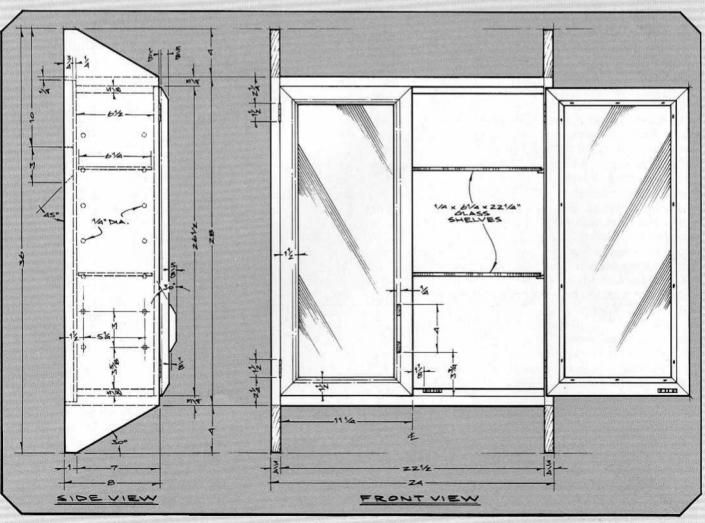
Part	Description	Size Re	No.
Α	Side	¾ × 8 × 36	2
В	End Shelf	% × 8 × 23%	2
C	End Shelf Filler	% × 6½ × 22½	2
D	Door Stile	11/4 × 11/2 × 261/2	4
E	Door Rail	11/4 × 11/2 × 111/4	4
F	Door Pull	1/4 × 1/8 × 4	2
G	Door Glass	$\frac{1}{4} \times 9 \times 24\frac{1}{4}$	2
н	Door Glass Retainer	¾ × ¾	8
1	Back	1/4 × 231/4 × 271/4	1
J	Hanger	% × 3 × 23%	2
K	Hinges	1½ × 1 2	pair
L	Double Ball Catch	5/16 × 111/16	2
М	Shelf Support P	in	8
N	Glass Shelf	1/4 × 61/4 × 221/4	2

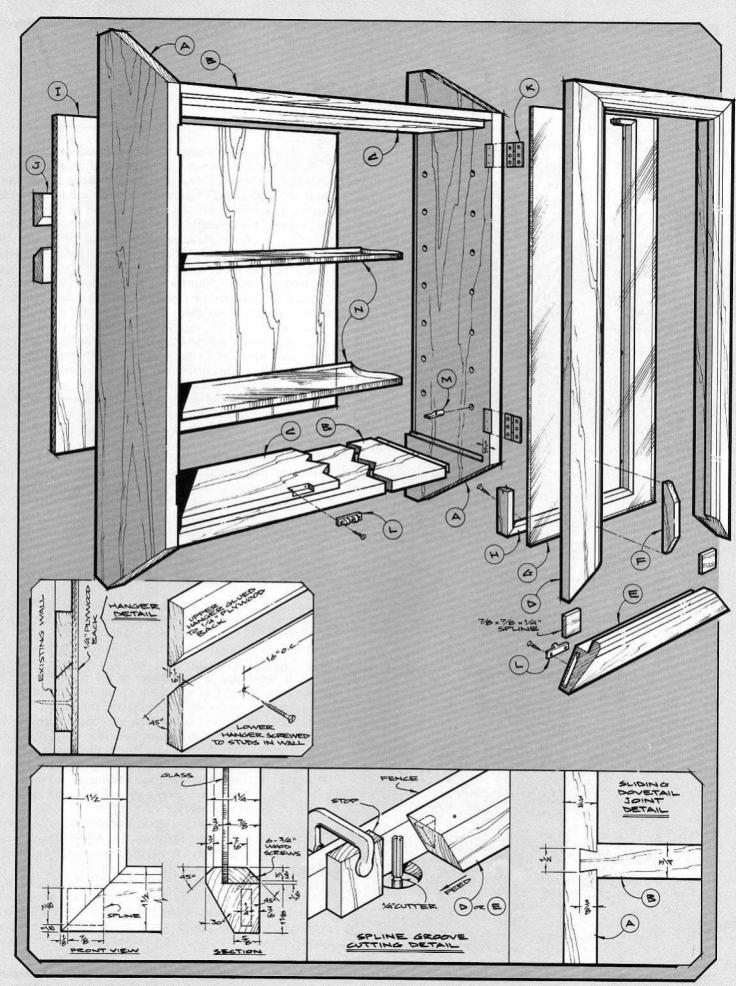
than the groove dimensions so the miters are not accidentally held apart.

After all the spline grooves have been cut, parts D and E are rabbeted  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. by  $\frac{7}{8}$  in. to accept the door glass, and a 30 degree bevel is cut along the front edge as shown in the door "section". After cutting the door glass retainer (H), assemble the doors. Both the door glass (G) and the glass shelves (N) can be cut to fit at your local glass shop. Note that the retainer (H) is screwed, but not glued, in place to facilitate glass replacement if necessary. Make the door pulls (F) as shown, and glue in place.

Mortise for the hinges (K) and, after hanging the doors, mortise for and install the double ball catches (L). The solid brass hinges (part number 2455B) and double ball catches (part number 2554B) are available from: Mason & Sullivan Co., 586 Higgins Crowell Road, West Yarmouth, Cape Cod, MA 02673.

To finish, we sprayed on two coats of Deft Semi-Gloss Clear Wood Finish. Note that the doors and cabinet must, of course, be finished before the door glass and shelves are installed.





July/August 1986

# Latticework Planter



s a well chosen picture frame compliments a painting, an attractive planter can effectively display a favorite houseplant. Ours is a low-cost, easy-to-make design that looks as good in the living room as it does outside in the garden. The planter measures 12 in. square by 12 in. high. dimensions we found suitable for a fairly wide range of plant pots, but it can be made somewhat larger or smaller, if necessary. Check the dimensions of your pot before starting.

Since our pot is rather tall (about 9 in.), it simply rests on the bottom lattice. Shorter pots, however, will need a plywood shelf (see Detail: Optional Shelf) in order to be rais-

ed to an acceptable height.

The lattice is made up of  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. thick by  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. wide crisscrossed strips spaced 2\(^3\)/4 in. apart. Although you can make your own, we found it much easier to purchase the commercially made lattice sold at many lumberyards and building supply centers. It's sold in 4 ft. by 8 ft. and 2 ft. by 8 ft. sheets, with the lattice strips stapled and glued together. It's generally available in pine or cedar, either planed smooth or roughsawn. If you plan to keep it outside, cedar would be your best choice.

Five-quarter stock (which measures 1\% in. thick) can be ripped to 1\% in. widths to get the square stock needed for the four upper frames (A), four legs (B), and four lower frames (C). The  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. wide by  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. deep groove can be cut with a dado head or by making repeated passes with the regular saw blade. Note that the upper frames have a single groove while the legs and lower frames have a pair of grooves. Before cutting the grooves, it's a good idea to measure the actual lattice thickness and, if necessary, adjust the groove width as needed.

Once the grooves are cut, the 12 in. long upper and lower frames can be mitered on each end. The legs, which have square cut ends, can then be cut to a length of  $9\frac{3}{4}$  in.

Next, using the table saw, cut the lattice (D) to  $10\frac{1}{4}$  in. square. Keep in mind, however, that most of the commercial lattice is assembled with a staple at the point the lattice crisscrosses. This means you'll have to make sure you don't hit one with the saw blade when making the cut.

Assemble the parts as shown using glue and clamps. If you intend to use the planter outdoors, be sure to use plastic resin glue. Available at most hardware stores, this brown powder is mixed with water to create a glue with excellent moisture resistance. White or yellow glue will not stand up to water for any length of time. Once dry, a pair of finishing nails are driven at each mitered corner.

If a shelf is needed (see Detail: Optional Shelf) a notch must be cut at each corner as shown. The plywood shelf is cut to fit in the notches, then a few  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. diameter holes are drilled to allow water to drain off.

If your planter will be used indoors, a couple of coats of a good penetrating oil are all that's needed for a good final finish. For outdoor use, where rain or exposure to water is a problem, Cuprinol brand wood preservative is a good choice.

CROSS-SECTION: 94 18 PRILL 12" DRAIN HOLES) PETAIL: OPTIONAL SHELF **Bill of Materials** (all dimensions actual) No. Req'd. Size Part Description  $1\frac{1}{8} \times 1\frac{1}{8} \times 12$ Upper Frame 4 1\% \times 1\% \times 9\% 1\% \times 1\% \times 12 В Leg 4 4 5 Lower Frame C CROSS-SECTION: D Lattice  $10\frac{1}{4} \times 10\frac{1}{4}$ 

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arly Americans didn't have the aluxury of simply turning a tap when water was needed. To get it, one had to hike to the well or, if a well did not exist, to a nearby stream or lake. As might be expected, it was a chore often assigned to one of the youngsters in the family, and it meant hauling the water back to the house in several buckets. The bucket bench, or water bench as it was sometimes called, was found in many of those early houses and provided a convenient means of storing those buckets of precious water. Ours is based on a design that dates back to the 18th century and, like many early bucket benches, it is made of pine.

Begin by edge-gluing enough 1 by 8 pine stock (which will actually measure  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. thick by  $7\frac{1}{4}$  in. wide) to make the two sides (A) and the two shelves (B). It's a good idea to allow a little extra on the length so that later, after the glue has dried, the stock can be trimmed to the exact length dimensions. At the same time the stock can be ripped to 14 in wide

Next, lay out and mark the location of the two  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. wide by  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. deep dadoes cut in each side to accept the shelves. Equip the table saw with a  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. wide dado cutter set to make a  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. deep cut, then using the miter gauge, pass the stock over the cutter to make the dadoes as shown. Take care to hold the stock down firmly and be sure to keep hands away from the cutter.

Since the ¾ in. dado cutter is set to make a ¾ in. deep cut, this is a good time to cut the ¾ in. wide by ¾ in. deep rabbet on the back edge of each shelf. You'll need to attach an auxiliary wood fence to the regular rip fence for this operation, because the dado cutter must just touch the rip fence in order to make a ¾ in. wide cut.

To accept the two backs (D), a ¾ in. wide by ½ in. deep by 8¾ in. long rabbet is cut in the back edge of each side. We used a router equipped with an edge-guide and a ½ in. diameter router bit to make these cuts. You'll need to make several passes to complete the rabbet. Square the rounded corners with a sharp chisel.

To complete work on the sides, transfer the grid pattern (shown in the side view) to the stock, then use a band or saber saw to cut just outside the marked line. Use a file and sandpaper to smooth exactly to the line.

The top (C) can now be cut to length and width as shown. Use the edge-guided router to cut the ¾ in. wide by ¾ in. deep grooves to accept the top ends of the sides. Once again, use the

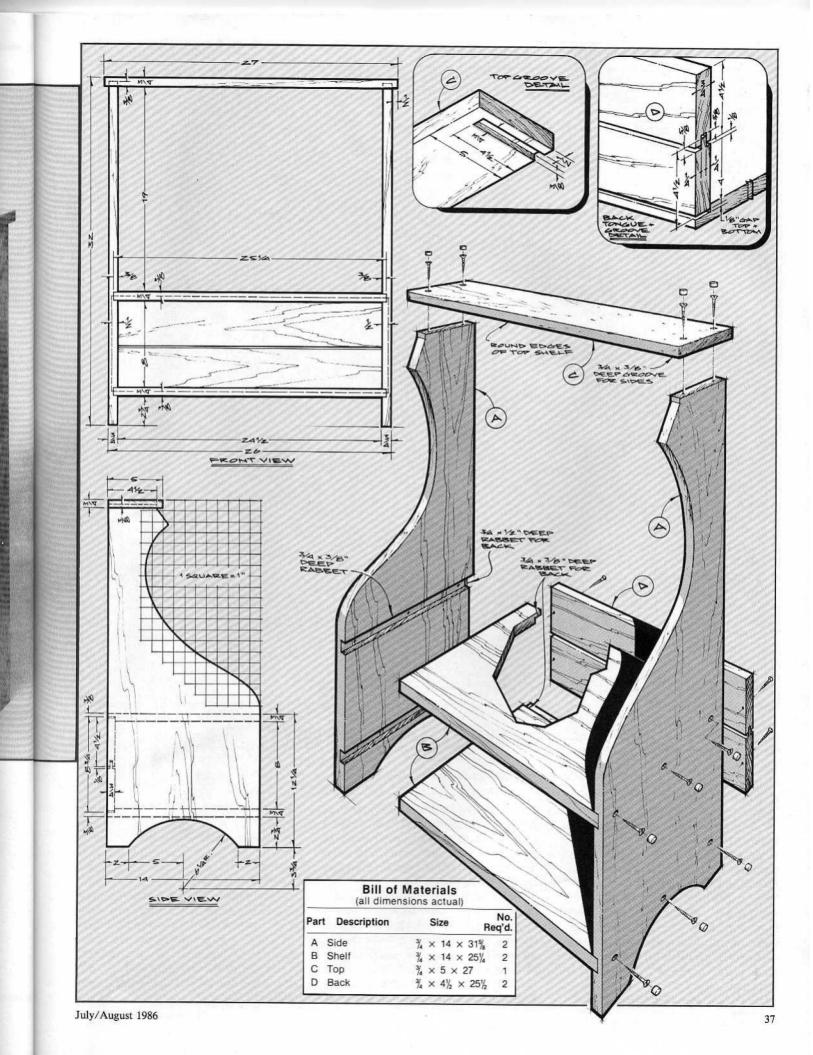
Country Bucket Bench

chisel to square the rounded corners.

At this point the sides, shelves, and top can be assembled. Final sand all parts, starting with 80 grit, then follow with 120, 150, and 220. However, if the surface is reasonably smooth before you start, you'll probably be able to skip the 80 grit step. Once sanded, apply glue to the mating surfaces, then assemble with flathead wood screws, counterbored and plugged as shown. Counterbore the holes so that the plugs sit just above the surface, then sand each one flush.

The two backs can now be made. Cut to length and width before using a ¼ in. dado cutter
to create the tongue
and groove edges. Final sand each
board before assembly. Note that the
back boards are secured to the rabbeted back edge of the sides with a
single flathead wood screw driven
through the centerpoint of each end.
The single screw on each end allows the
board to expand and contract with
seasonal changes in humidity.

For a final finish we used two coats of Minwax's Early American Wood Finish. When thoroughly dry, two coats of Deft Clear Wood Finish were added to complete the project. Wid





## Adirondack Chair

Built by Brent and Gunnar Kallstrom

hen we first saw this rustic Adirondack pine chair we were intrigued with the idea, but we also had some doubts. With the steeply angled back and long curved seat both slatted, how comfortable could the chair be? Well, much to our surprise, it is very comfortable. As a lawn or patio chair, it is something like a chaise lounge, allowing you to stretch out and relax. The wide arms are ideal for that paper plate picnic lunch and a tall glass of lemonade.

Best of all, the chair is easy to make.

Except for the back slats (I), which are cut from wider stock on the table saw using a tapering jig, all the remaining parts are made from ¾ in. thick common pine boards, and should therefore require no ripping.

Start with the two seat frame members (A). After applying the 18 degree taper to the back bottom, transfer the grid pattern illustrated in the auxiliary side view, and band or saber saw the seat curve. Notch for the lower back frame (G) and radius the back corner as shown. Cut the front

legs (B) to length, and then the back legs (C), using the table saw to establish the 57 degree miter on the top end of the back legs. Cut the two stretchers (D and E) to length, and make the eleven seat slats (F).

Now make the back frames (G and H), as shown in the auxiliary top view. Use a pencil tied to a string anchored by a nail to mark the respective radii. For part G, the length of the string between the pencil and nail will be 15½ in., while for part H the string length will be 23 in.

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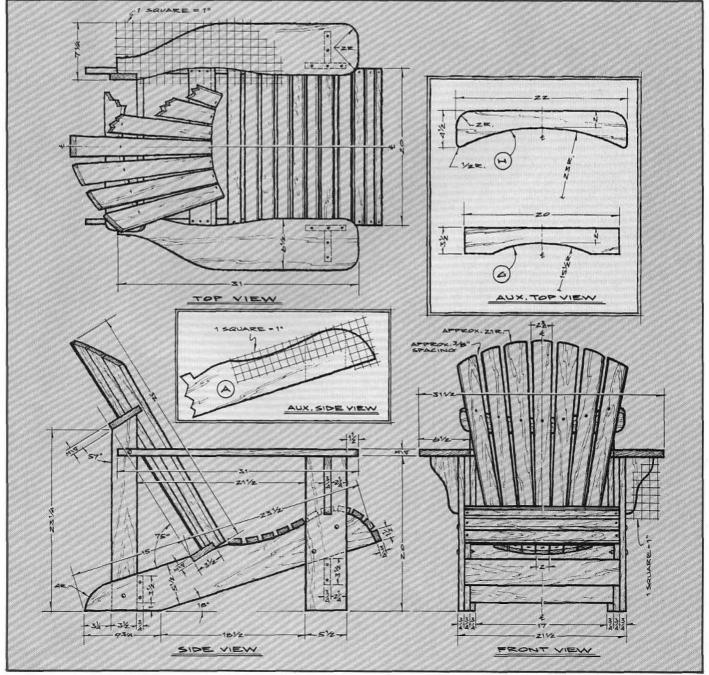
The seven back slats (I) are all cut on the table saw, using a simple tapering jig (described in The Beginning Woodworker column in March/April 1986). All should be cut to the same initial dimensions (2¾ in. wide tapering to 2 in. and 32 in. long). Then butt the back slats together and scribe a 21 in. radius across the top. Secure the slats with clamps and a cleat (to prevent chattering) and cut the 21 in. radius with a saber saw.

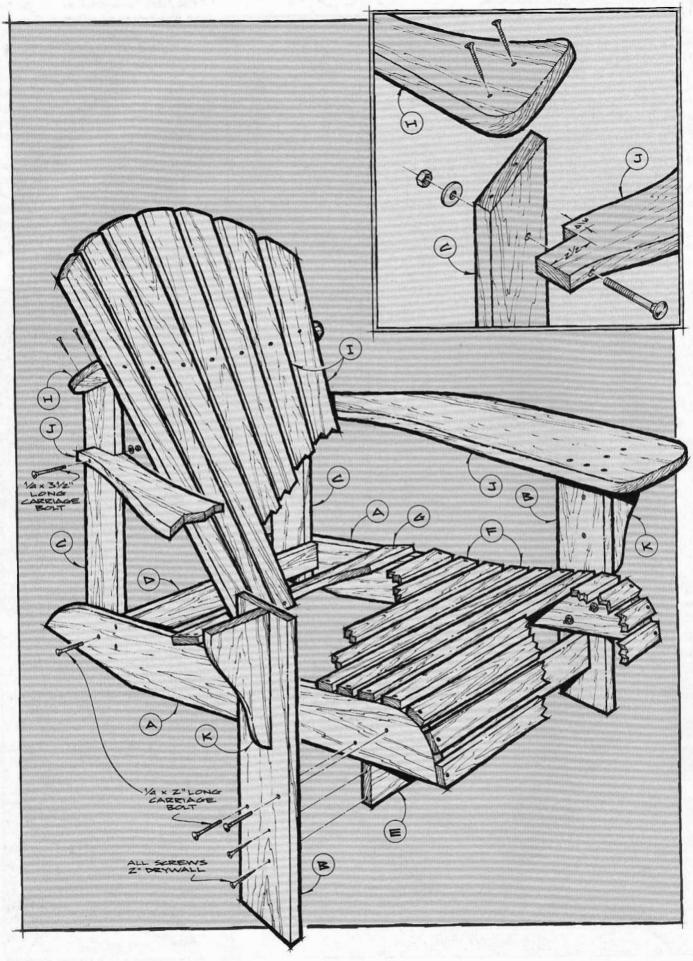
Make the arms (J), laying out their shape from the top view grid pattern, and cut to shape with the band or saber saw. Notch the arms to accept the back legs, and lay out and shape the two arm braces (K) as illustrated in the front view grid pattern.

Pari	Description	Size				No Req'd	
Α	Seat Frame	3/4	×	51/2	×	381/2	2
В	Front Leg	3/4	×	51/2	×	20	2
C	Back Leg	3/4	×	31/2	×	251/2	2
D	Back Stretcher	3/4	×	31/2	×	181/2	1
E	Front Stretcher	3/4	×	31/2	×	20	1
F	Seat Slat	3/4	×	11/2	×	20	11
G	Back Frame (lower)	3/4	×	31/2	×	20	1
Н	Back Frame (upper)	3/4	×	41/2	×	22	1
1	Back Slat	as shown 7					
J	Arm	3/4	×	71/4	×	31	2
K	Brace	3/4	×	31/2	×	71/2	2

The chair is assembled with plastic resin glue (white or yellow glue won't stand up to regular exposure to water), 2 in. drywall screws, and plated carriage bolts as shown in the exploded view. When laying out the back slats, note that their spacing is about \(^1/8\) in. at the top, tapering to less than \(^1/8\) in. at the bottom. Chamfer any sharp edges, and sand corners and ends as needed to prevent splintering.

We finished our chair with Cuprinol brand wood preservative. Cuprinol will help the wood retain its natural rustic look, while preventing rot and decay. A reapplication of the Cuprinol once a year will insure years of trouble-free outdoor use from this chair. Will







onnoisseurs tell us that a really great cup of coffee starts with freshly ground beans. Our project, made from maple, is a reproduction of an antique hand-cranked coffee mill, one that doesn't just look good, but also works quite effectively.

The mill mechanism (I) is available from Woodcraft Supply Corporation, 41 Atlantic Avenue, Woburn, MA 01888 (part number 07V41-KR, current price \$14.95 postpaid). An adjustment knob at the top allows the size of the grounds to be varied from very fine to coarse. When the coffee is ground to the right size, we found it works very nicely in all coffee makers, including the drip type that most everybody seems to have these days.

You'll need ½ in. thick stock to make the four sides (A). If you don't

have a thickness planer and can't get ½ in. thick stock locally, check with a lumberyard or millwork shop as they will often plane thicker stock for a nominal charge.

After thickness planing, cut the stock to a width of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in. and a length of  $5\frac{1}{4}$  in. Make sure all cuts are square. The box joints (also called finger joints) can be cut individually, either by using the dado head cutter or by making repeated passes with the regular saw blade. These joints can also be cut using a box joint jig on the table saw. This easy-to-make jig was described in The Beginning Woodworker column in our November/December 1982 issue.

Dry assemble the four sides and check for proper fit-up of the joints. If satisfied, apply a thin coat of glue to all

the mating surfaces, then assemble and clamp firmly.

When dry, remove the clamps, then use the table saw to cut the  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. by  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. notch on the front to accept the

	(all dimension	ons actual)	
Part	Description	Size Re	No. q'd.
Α	Side	1/2 × 41/2 × 51/4	4
В	Base	% × 61/2 × 61/2	1
C	Cover Strip	1/2 × 1/8 × 41/4	4
D	Drawer Front	1/2 × 11/2 × 51/4	1
E	Drawer End	1/4 × 11/2 × 4	2
F	Drawer Side	1/4 × 11/2 × 41/4	2
G	Drawer Bottom	1/8 × 4 × 4	1
Н	Drawer Knob	3/4 diameter	1
Pice	Mill	6 × 6	1

drawer front (D). To make the notch you'll need to make two passes, the first one with the blade set to a height of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in., the second — at right angles to the first — with the blade set to a height of  $\frac{1}{2}$  in.

The base (B) can now be made. Cut  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. thick stock to  $6\frac{1}{2}$  in. square, then use the router table with a  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. Roman ogee bit to shape the molding all around (see Side View: Base). Center the four-sided box on the base then join the two members by driving four  $1\frac{1}{4}$  in. long by no. 6 flathead woodscrews up through the base and into the bottom edges of the box.

You'll need to resaw thicker stock to get the ¼ in, material needed for the drawer ends (E) and sides (F). The 1/8 in, deep by \( \frac{1}{4} \) in, wide rabbet on each end can be cut by setting the table saw blade to a depth of \( \frac{1}{8} \) in. and using the miter gauge to pass the stock over the blade. Two or three passes will be needed to get the ¼ in. width. To cut the 1/8 in. wide by 1/8 in. deep groove for the drawer bottom (G), locate the rip fence 1/8 in. from the sawtooth and, with the blade still set to a height of 1/8 in., pass the stock over the blade. To keep hands a safe distance from the blade, be sure to use a push stick.

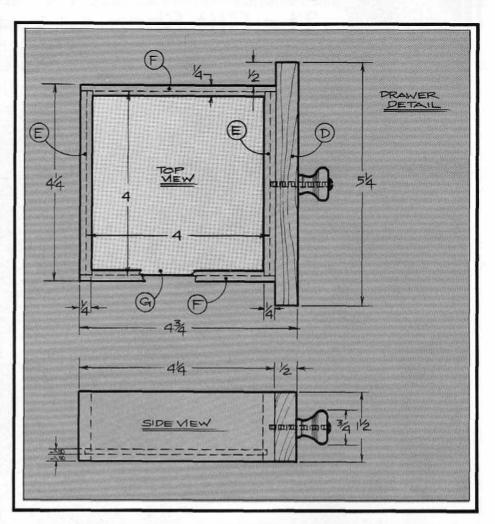
After cutting the drawer bottom to size from  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. thick hardboard (Masonite), the drawer ends, sides and the drawer bottom can be assembled. Use glue and clamp firmly. When dry, remove the clamps and drill pilot holes at each rabbet joint for  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. long brads.

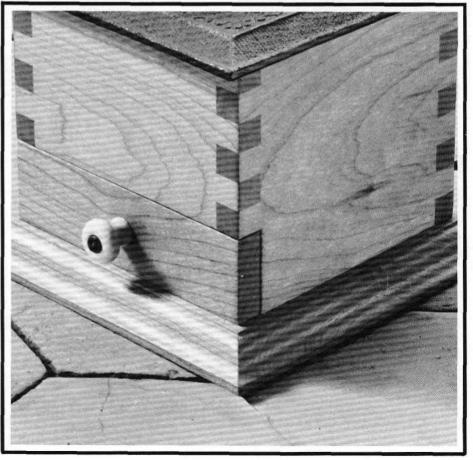
Cut the drawer front to fit the opening created by the notch that was previously cut in the front of the box, then glue and clamp it to the front drawer end.

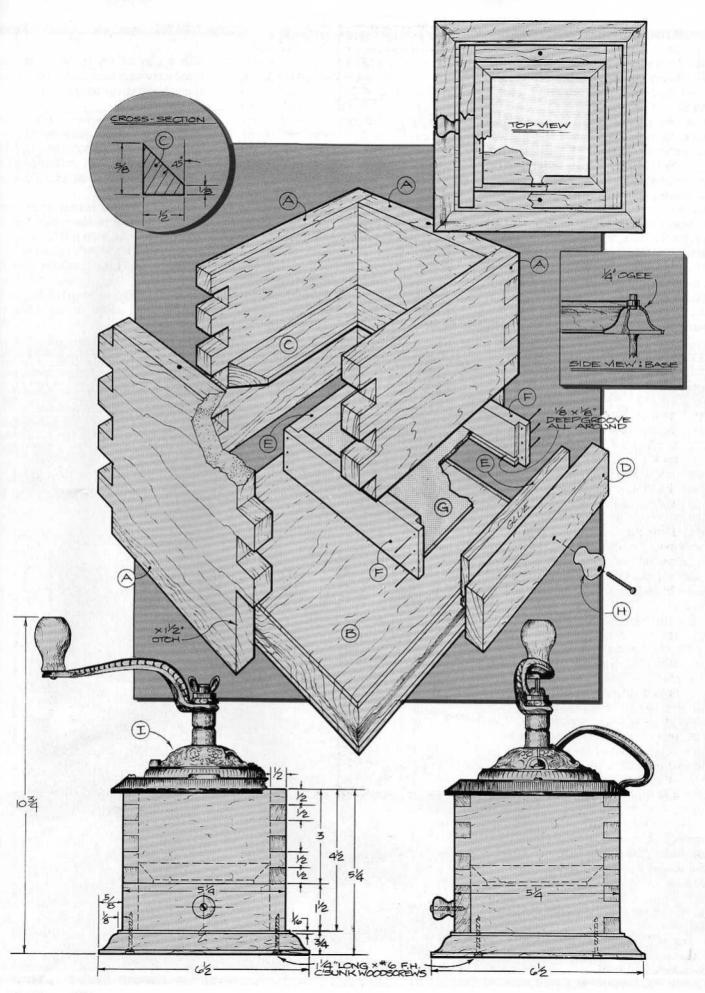
The cover strips (C) serve to keep the coffee grounds from settling on the top edges of the box ends and sides. We've used mills that don't have them and found that when the drawer is opened, the coffee on the top edges spills all over. Cut the strips to the profile shown in the cross-section, then miter the corners and glue in place.

After final sanding, we applied two coats of Behlen's Salad Bowl Finish, a low-luster finish that contains ingredients approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use in contact with food. Woodcraft Supply sells it (part number 08N65-EZ) for \$6.50 per pint.

The mill (I) is joined to the box with a pair of screws, one on each side. A porcelain knob (H) added to the drawer front completes the project. Wil







# The Gift Shop

ere's a somewhat scaled-down version of a basket commonly used by early New England clamdiggers. This one is rather unusual in that the handle is not centered. Instead, it runs diagonally, presumably to improve balance. If there are no clam beds in your area, it will still serve nicely as a magazine rack or as a means to display your favorite floral arrangement.

Make the two sides (A) first. Cut  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. thick pine to a width of 10 in. and a length of 12 in., then use the table saw to cut the 45 degree corners as shown. Note that each corner measures  $4\frac{1}{8}$  in. Next, use a compass to scribe the  $4\frac{1}{8}$  in. radius before cutting it out with the band or saber saw.

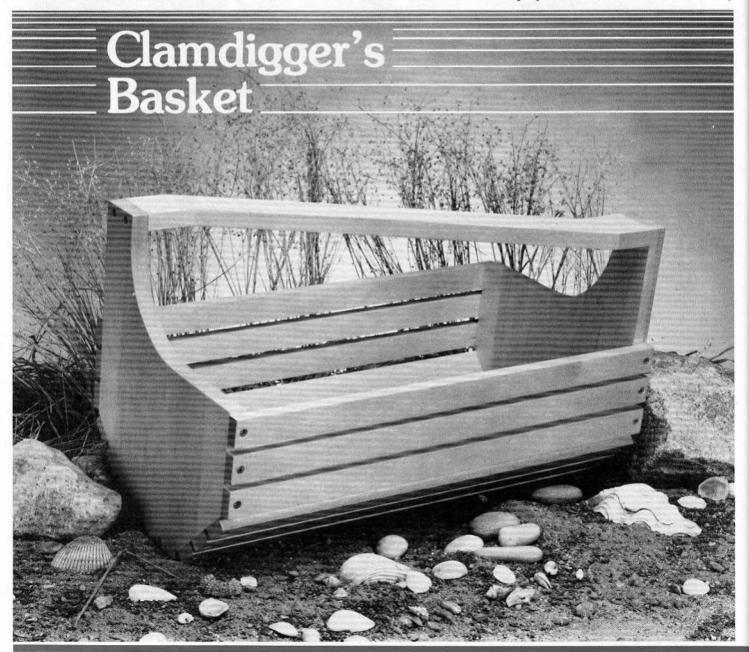
The 15 slats (B) are made from five-quarter pine stock (which measures  $1\frac{1}{8}$  in. thick) ripped to  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. widths. It's best to cut them slightly longer than necessary so that after assembly they can be trimmed and sanded flush to the sides. Use glue and  $1\frac{1}{4}$  by no. 8 flathead wood screws to join the slats to the sides. The end view shows the proper slat spacing. Note that each screwhead is countersunk slightly below the surface.

To make the handle (C) you'll need a piece of  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. thick stock measuring  $\frac{4}{2}$  in. wide and 22 in. long. Lay out the handle shape as shown in the top view before cutting it out with a band or saber saw. Trim the ends for a snug fit between the sides, then assemble

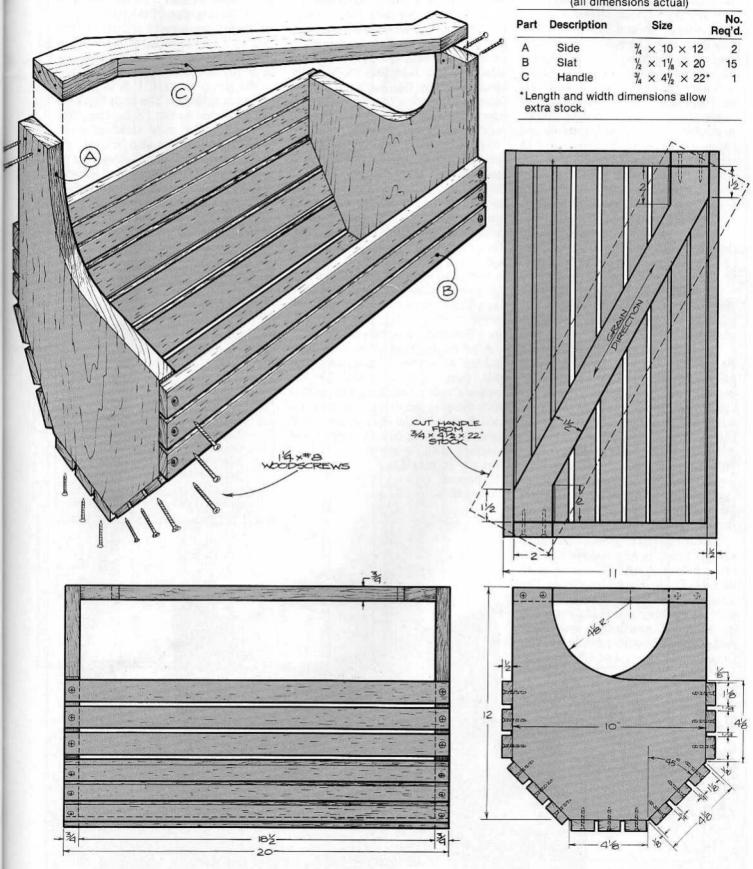
with a pair of 1½ by no. 8 flathead woodscrews on each end. Once again, apply a slight countersink to each of the screwheads.

Final sand all surfaces, taking particular care to smooth the upper curve on each side. Start with 80 grit, then follow with 120, 150, and finally 220. Slightly round over all sharp corners and edges.

Final finish is a matter of personal taste. We chose to leave ours natural and simply add a couple of coats of Watco Danish Oil. We found a brush helped to apply the finish between the slats. Once the second coat was thoroughly dry, it was rubbed down with a clean cloth to complete the project.







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The ability to recognize shapes is an important part of a young child's development. This easy-to-make toy will help kids to learn several of the basic shapes — and have some fun while they learn. Five different profiles are cut into the box, one in each of the four sides and one in the top. The child is challenged to get the blocks in the box, and that can only be done if the shape of the block matches the cutout. A double ball catch keeps the hinged top shut until the youngster opens it to remove the blocks.

Ours is made from poplar, a wood that is relatively light, yet durable. Maple, which has excellent durability, is also a good choice.

A piece of stock measuring  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in. wide by 20 in. long will provide enough stock for the four sides (A), while a piece that's  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in. wide by 11 in. long will suffice for the top (C) and bottom (D). The width and length dimensions allow extra stock.

The four sides (A) are cut from the 20 in. long board. After thickness planing, set the table saw blade to 45 degrees, then raise it to a height of about ¾ in. Set the rip fence to cut the miter along one edge of the 20 in. length. When setting the fence, keep in mind that it should be located so that, after the miter is cut, the stock width is not less than 5 in. Now, with one miter cut, readjust the rip fence to establish the final stock width of 5 in., then cut the second miter.

To cut the spline groove (see spline detail), you'll need to lower the saw blade (which should still be set at 45 degrees) and relocate the rip fence. Use scrap stock to check the accuracy of your set-up. Most saw blades make a ½ in. wide cut, however if your blade makes a slightly wider or narrower cut, simply adjust the spline (B) thickness as needed.

Box of Shapes Toy

# The Gift Shop

The stock can now be crosscut into four pieces, each piece measuring  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in. long. To cut the dado groove along the bottom edge of each side (see bottom detail), a  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. dado head cutter is set to a depth of  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. and the rip fence is located  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. from the nearest tooth. Hold the stock firmly against the rip fence as it's pushed over the cutter. Be sure to use a push stick to keep hands a safe distance from the blade.

The  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in. by 11 in. board that was made earlier will serve as stock for the top and bottom. To make the bottom, cut to  $4\frac{3}{8}$  in. square, then cut the  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. by  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. rabbet all around. The top is 5 in. square with a  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. radius cove cut on the front edge. To cut the cove, we used a router table and a  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. cove bit.

Next, on the four sides and the top, lay out and mark the five shapes, then use a sharp chisel to cut out each one except the circle. To make the circle, use a Forstner bit or hole saw.

After cutting four splines, the sides and the bottom can be assembled with glue, then clamped firmly. Cut the splines a little on the long side so that after the glue dries, they can be trimmed flush with the ends of the sides. Since it must be free to expand and contract with seasonal changes in humidity, the bottom is not glued in

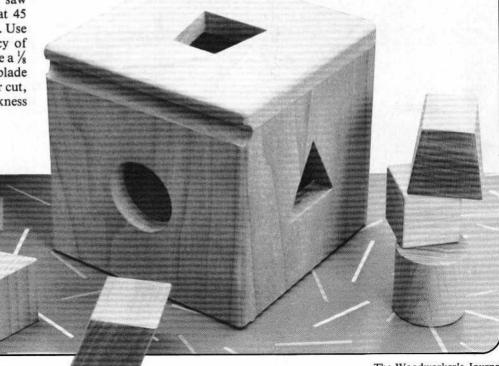
place. With the box assembled, the router table and ½ in. cove bit are once again used to add a cove, this time along the top edge of the front.

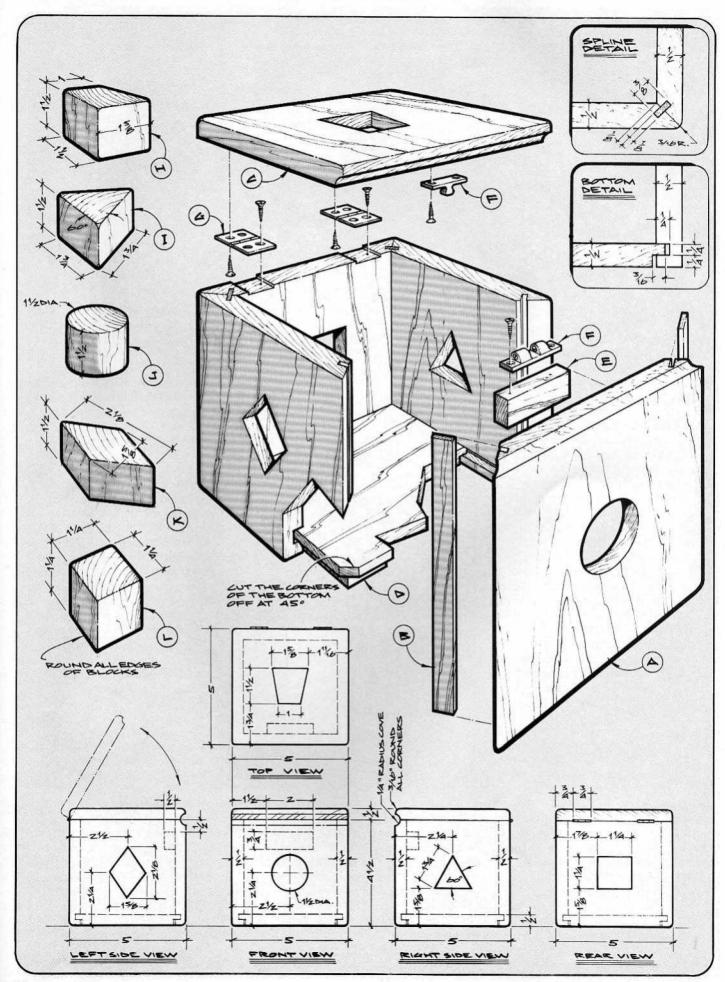
The top can now be attached to the box with a pair of hinges (G). Adding the catch block (E) and the double ball catch (F) completes work on the box.

The five blocks (H, I, J, K, and L) are made as shown. The circle block (J) can be turned to the 1½ in. diameter, although closet pole (sold at most hardware stores) can also be used.

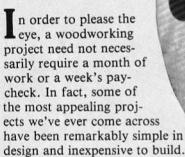
Final sand each part, taking care to round over all sharp edges and corners to a generous (about  $\frac{3}{16}$  in.) radius. Since small children have a natural inclination to chew on just about anything, we feel it's best not to apply a finish to a toy like this.

Part	Description	Size R	No. eq'd.
A	Side	1/2 × 5 × 41/2	4
В	Spline	1/8 × 1/8 × 41/2	4
C	Тор	1/2 × 5 × 5	- 1
D	Bottom	1/2 × 41/8 × 41/8	1
E	Catch Block	1/2 × 1/4 × 2	1
F	Double Ball Catch	% × 111/16"	1
G	Hinge	% × 1	2
Н	Trapezoid Block	see detail	1
1	Triangle Block	see detail	1
J	Circle Block	see detail	1
K	Diamond Block	see detail	1
L	Square Block	see detail	1





# The Gift Shop



To make the turning blank for the disk (A), cut two pieces of 3/4 in. thick stock to 10 in. square, then face glue (make sure the grain runs in the same direction) and clamp the two parts to create a block that measures  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick by 10 in. square. When dry, use a compass to scribe a 9\(^4\) in. diameter (4\(^1/\_8\) in. radius) circle and, with a band or saber saw, cut out the circle, staying slightly on the waste side of the line.

The best surface of the blank should face the front, so at this point, examine both sides to determine the front and back of the clock. Now, on the back of the clock, again use the compass, this time to scribe a 2 in. radius (4 in. diameter) circle. Later on, this circle will serve as a guide when the faceplate's waste circle is attached. Now, on the clock's front side, scribe the  $3\%_{16}$  in. radius ( $7\frac{1}{8}$  in. diameter) for the small markers (C) and the 3\% in. radius (7<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> in. diameter) for the large markers (B).

Next, at the centerpoint of the circle, bore a \(^{3}\) in. diameter hole completely through the stock, taking care to make sure the hole is square. Now, on the back side, lay out and mark the location of the  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in. square mortise. Use a sharp chisel to cut the mortise to a depth of \(^4\) in. Our mortise was sized to accept a quartz movement sold by Mason and Sullivan, 586 Higgins Crowell Road, West Yarmouth, MA

Bill of Materials (all dimensions actual)					
Part	Description	Size	No. Req'd.		
A	Disk	9% dia. × 1% thick*	1		
В	Large Marker	1 dia. × ¼ thick*	4		
С	Small Marker	% dia. × % thick*	8		
D	Quartz Movement		1		
E	Hour/Minute Hand		1 pair		
F	Second Hand		1		

02673 (part number 3609X-34, current price \$6.95 each plus shipping). However, if you plan to use another movement, you may need to revise the mortise dimensions we've given.

Lay out the location of the large and small markers on their respective radii, then bore holes as shown in the front view. Turn the four large markers (B) to a 1 in. diameter, and the eight small

markers to a 3/8 in. diameter before cutting them to 1/8 in. lengths. Use glue to assemble each one in place, allowing 1/8 in. to protrude. To make the waste circle, scribe a 41/4 in. diameter circle on a piece of 3/4 in. thick stock and cut out with the band or saber saw. Attach the faceplate to the waste circle, then attach the faceplate to your lathe and turn the circle to a 4 in. diameter.

Remove the faceplate from the lathe before gluing the waste circle to the back of the disk blank. Note that a piece of paper (brown grocery bag type works well) is sandwiched in between. The paper will make it easy to remove the waste circle later on. The 4 in. diameter circle previously scribed on the back of the disk blank will come in handy to help center the waste circle.

When the glue has thoroughly dried, mount the faceplate to the lathe. Using a roundnose cutter, turn the blank to the profile shown in the full-sized sectional view. Note that the profile is designed so that the glue line can't be

seen from the front.

Sand thoroughly while still on the lathe, smoothing to 220 grit. For a final finish we applied three coats of Deft's Semi-Gloss Clear Wood Finish, rubbing down the final coat with 0000 steel wool.

The movement is assembled as shown. We used Mason and Sullivan's Universal hour and minute hands (part number 4880X, 70° per pair) and second hand (part number 4892X, 50° each). These hands are longer than needed, so you'll have to clip each one to length. The hanger (supplied with the movement) permits the clock to be hung on the wall.

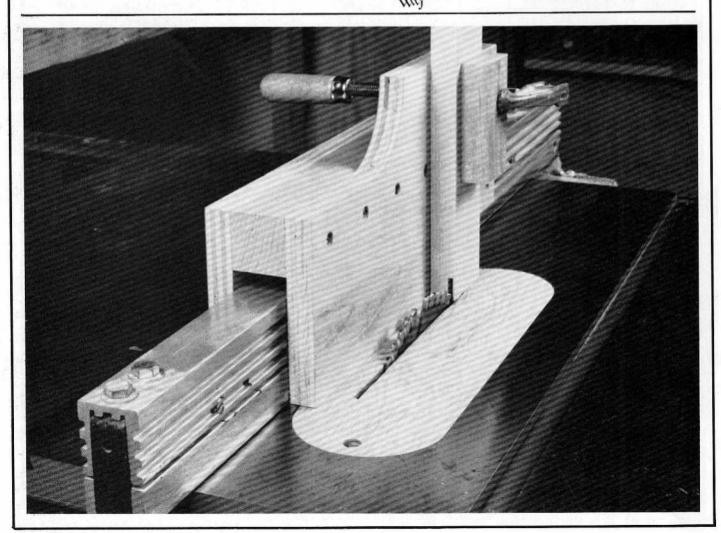
# Tenon Jig

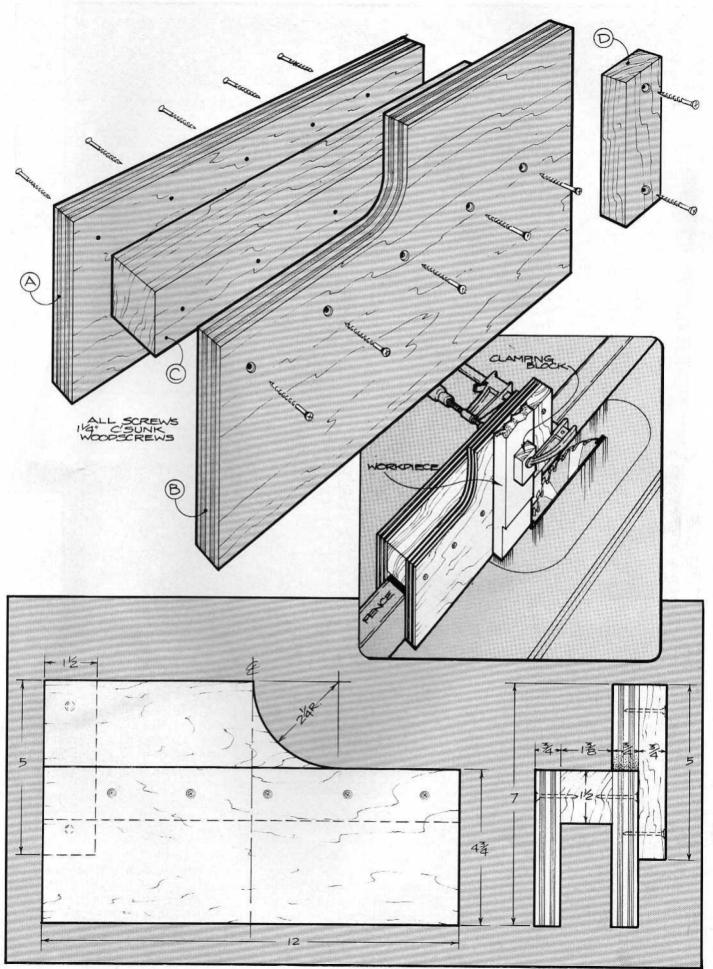
The tenon jig is one of the most frequently used table saw accessories. Although it is used primarily to cut tenons, the jig can also be used to groove, bevel, or perform any number of other operations on the ends of boards. As shown in the photo, the workpiece is positioned against the stop (D) and clamped securely to the jig. A clamp block protects the workpiece from the clamp jaws.

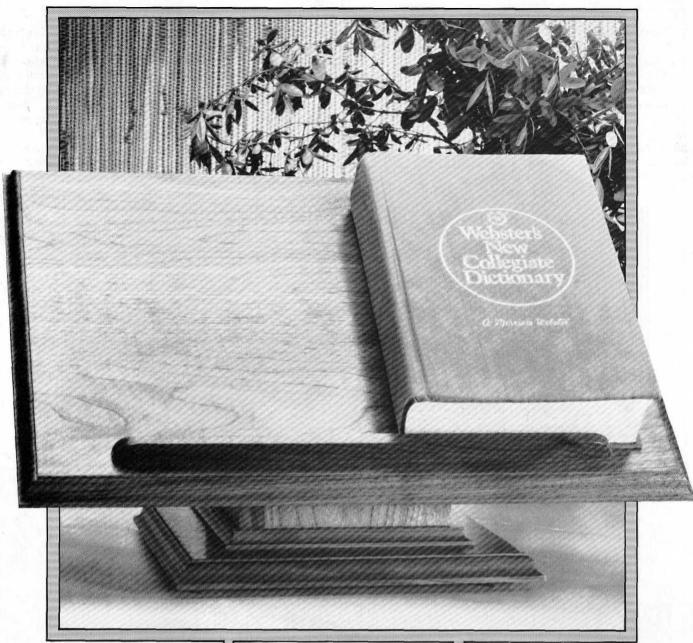
Most commercially sold tenon jigs mount in the miter gauge slot. Since our jig fits over the table saw fence, it is ad-

justable to practically any position.

The jig shown is sized to fit our table saw, a Rockwell Unisaw. Naturally you must size your tenon jig to fit the fence on your particular saw. The jig sides (A and B) are ¾ in. thick birch plywood, while the center section (C) and stop (D) are solid hardwood. When making the jig, keep in mind that all measurements and cuts should be accurate. The jig must fit snugly over the fence, yet must not be so tight that it is prevented from sliding back and forth. Assemble the jig with glue and countersunk screws, as illustrated. No finish is needed, although an occasional coat of paraffin wax on the surfaces that contact the saw will help the jig slide smoothly.







Reep your favorite dictionary close at hand with this handsome stand. We used walnut for ours, but cherry, mahogany, or oak would also be good choices.

The front (A) and back (C) can be made first. Cut  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. stock to a width of  $4\frac{3}{4}$  in. and a length of about 14 in., then use the table saw to cut the  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. wide by  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. deep spline groove along the center of both edges. Most saw blades make a  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. wide cut, so just one pass should be needed. If your saw blade makes a slightly wider or narrower cut, simply adjust the spline thickness as needed.

Once the spline grooves have been cut, set the table saw blade to make a 40 degree miter (see side view), then cut the front to an overall length of  $4\frac{1}{8}$  in. The back is then cut to an  $8\frac{3}{4}$  in. overall length.

# Desktop Dictionary Stand

Designed by John L. McPartland

To make the two sides (B), cut a piece of ¾ in. thick stock to a width of 6¼ in. and a length of about 18½ in. With the table saw blade set to make a ¾ in. deep cut, locate the rip fence ⅙ in. from the blade. One pass should be all that's needed to make each groove. As mentioned earlier, if your saw blade makes a cut that's slightly wider or narrower than ⅓ in., you'll have to adjust the ⅙ in. dimension accordingly.

Now that the spline grooves have been cut in both sides, crosscut the stock into two 9½ in. lengths. Set the miter gauge to make a 40 degree cut (see side view), then cut the miter on each end. Next, set the miter gauge to make a 90 degree cut and trim the end opposite the miter to establish the 8¾ in. length.

Make the two cleats (D), boring the four screw holes as shown, then glue and screw to the front and back. The front, back, sides, and cleats can now be assembled. Rip the ½ in. thick splines from ¼ in. thick stock. Make them a bit longer than necessary so they can be trimmed flush after assembly. Apply glue to the four splines and their respective grooves, then assemble and clamp. Check for squareness and make sure all edges are flush before setting aside to dry.

The bottom (E) is made from  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick stock cut to 71/4 in. square. We used the router table equipped with a 1/4 in, cove cutter to cut the cove as shown in the front view detail. The base (F) is made from \(^3\)/4 in. thick stock that's cut  $9\frac{1}{2}$  in. wide by  $10\frac{1}{2}$  in. long. A  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. Roman ogee bit is used to cut the molding on all four edges. The bottom and base can now be glued and clamped together as shown. Before gluing though, it's a good idea to drive a couple small brads into one of the mating surfaces, then snip the heads off so about 1/16 in. protrudes. The brads will keep the two parts from sliding when clamp pressure is applied.

To make the shelf (G), cut ¾ in. stock to 13 in. wide by 19 in. long, then add the ¼ in. Roman ogee molding to all four edges. Next, cut the lip (H) to size and join it to the shelf with glue

and three ½ in. diameter by ¼ in. dowels. Be sure to add the ¼ in. radius to each end of the lip before assembly.

All parts can now be final sanded. Take particular care to thoroughly sand the molded edges, especially the end-grain surfaces.

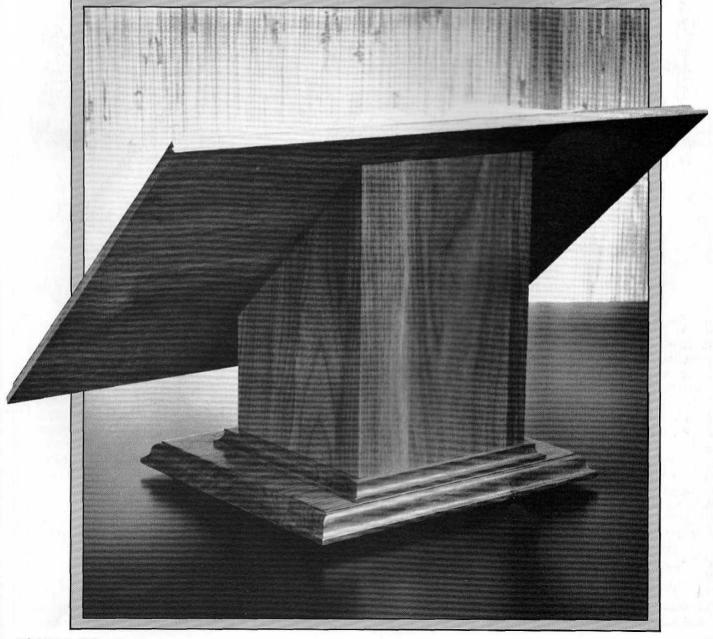
The shelf can now be joined to the subassembly consisting of parts A, B,

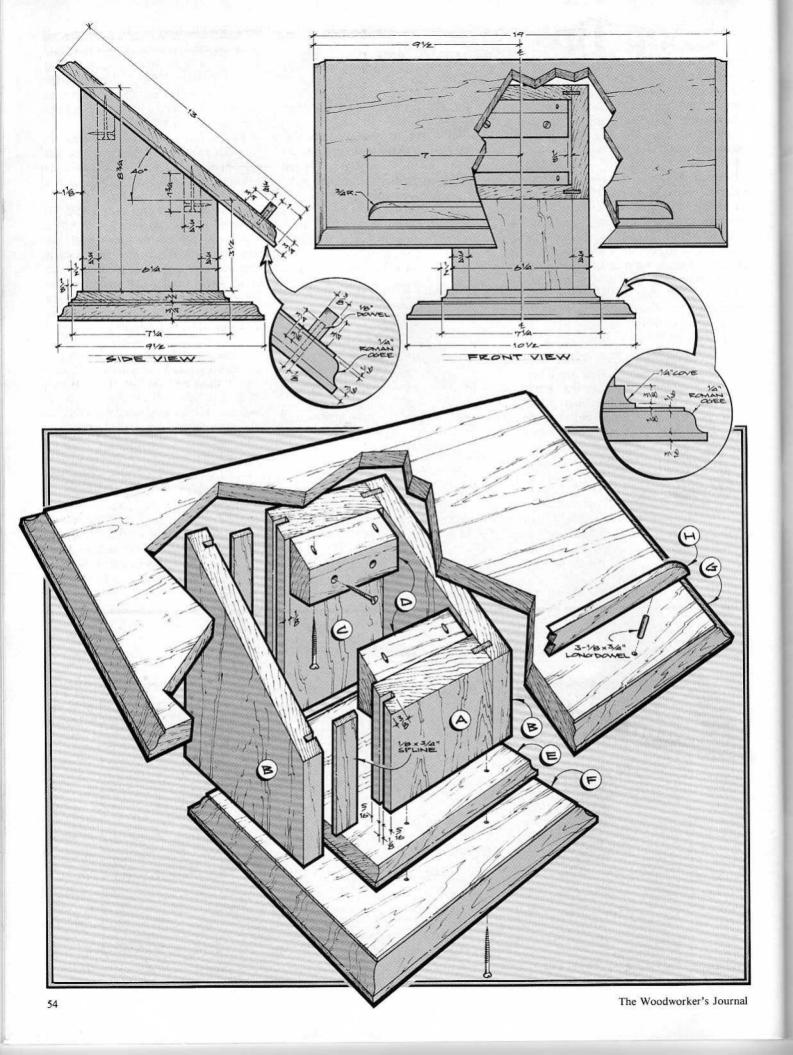
Bill of Materials (all dimensions actual)							
Part	Description	Size			No. Req'd.		
Α	Front	7/4	×	43/4	×	4%	1
В	Side	7/4	×	61/4	×	8%	2
C	Back	3/4	×	44	×	83/4	1
D	Cleat	3/4	×	1%	×	41/2	2
E	Bottom	1/2	×	71/4	×	71/4	1
F	Base	3/4	×	91/2	×	101/2	1
G	Shelf	3/4	×	13	X	19	1
Н	Lip	3/8	×	7/4 :	×	14	1

C, and D. A pair of screws driven up through the cleats and into the shelf serve to hold the shelf in place. Four flathead screws driven up through parts E and F and into the bottom ends of parts A and C will complete assembly of the project.

For a final finish we sprayed on three coats of Deft's Semi-Gloss Clear Wood Finish. One of our favorite finishes, it comes in a 13 ounce can, a convenient size for spraying small projects. Each coat takes only about 30 minutes to dry, so in 1½ - 2 hours you'll have the three finish coats on your project. When the final coat is dry, rub down the entire project with 0000 steel wool. To complete the finish, blow or wipe off any remaining steel wool particles, then apply a very thin coat of paste (Butcher's) wax. Will

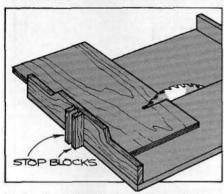
(continued on next page)





# =Shop Tips:

I constructed a cut-off table for my table saw last year and added a feature that I feel makes this jig safer to use. I positioned two "stopblocks" on the front fence, one on either side of the



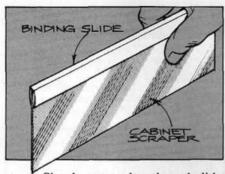
blade slot. The blocks help remind me not to put my thumb over the slot, and they also keep my thumb from accidently sliding over the slot when pushing the jig over the blade. This feature is not foolproof but it could prevent a serious cut, or worse yet, loss of a thumb.

William A. Matz, Dover, Del.

When turning tenons it's helpful to have a gauge that will enable you to quickly and accurately check your progress. Here's how to make one in short order. Select the drill bit that will be used to bore the mortise diameter you want, then use it to drill a hole

through scrap stock that measures about ½ in. thick. Cut the hole in half and you'll have a gauge that's perfect for checking the tenon diameter you'll need

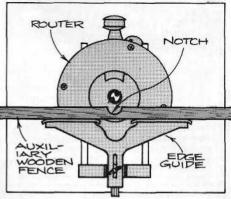
Using a cabinet scraper for any length of time can leave your hands cut and sore from the sharp edges. To keep pain and suffering to a minimum, cover the exposed edges with binding slide. Binding slide, sometimes called binding channel, is the 11 in. long plastic strip used to bind loose pages in those vinyl "term paper" folders. You can get it at just about any stationery



store. Simply cut to length and slide over the problem edges.

Bruce E. Montag, Aston, Penn.

Lengthening your router edge-guide with an auxiliary wood fence results in considerably more bearing surface, and that makes it easier to control the router. We find it especially helpful



when the router bit must run to a corner where only about half the edge-guide is in contact with the workpiece. The notch serves as clearance for operations that require the edge-guide to be close to the cutter.

Next time you drop a screw or other small object and can't find it, try laying a flashlight on the floor to help you. The light will cause the object to shine and cast a long shadow. You'll be surprised how easy it is to spot your lost item.

Greg Mihalevich, Jefferson City, Mo.

The Woodworker's Journal pays \$25 for reader-submitted shop tips that are published. Send your ideas (including sketch if necessary) to: The Woodworker's Journal, P.O. Box 1629, New Milford, CT 06776, Attention: Shop Tip Editor. We redraw all sketches so they need only be clear and complete.

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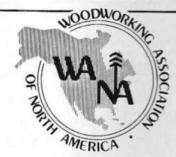
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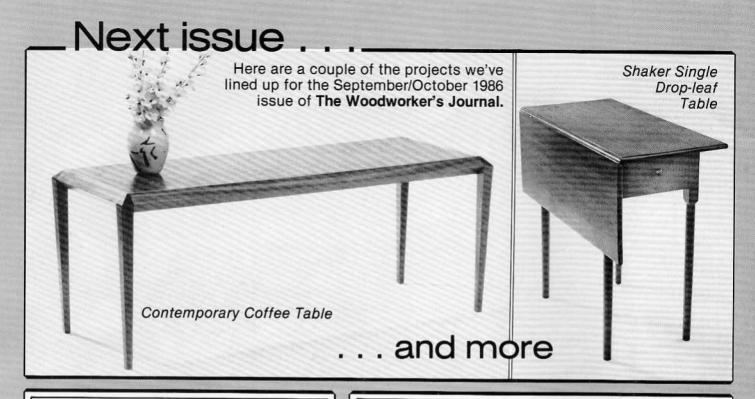
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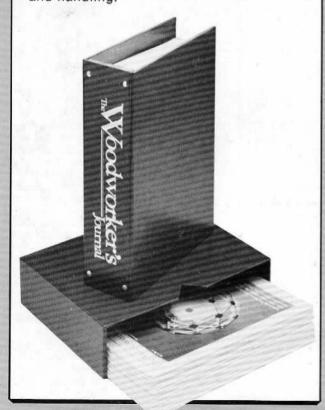
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