# WOODSHOP Shaping the Successful Shop™ January 2013 Shaping the Successful Shop™ January 2013

www.woodshopnews.com



# Where values matter

Merrill Woodworking gains an edge with its reputation

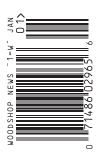
The many faces of mahogany

In finishing, 'half-right' rules

# **NEW TOOLS**

- Weeke CNC
- Oliver intelliCarve
- General router tables

\$3.95 (Canada, \$5.95)







# INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS SINCE 1989!



# TRACK SAW

- Motor: 120V, 9A, 1100 watt, 5500 RPM
- Blade diameter: 160mm (61/4")
- Cutting capacity:

With track: 131/32" @ 90°, 17/16" @ 45°

Without track: 25/32" @ 90°, 15/8" @ 45°



D4362 Guide Rails D4363 Accessory Pack

# 14" BANDSAW

- 1 HP, 110V/220V
- Precision ground cast iron table measures 14" x 14" x 111/2"
- Blade Size: 93½" (1/8" to 3/4" wide)
- Cutting capacity 131/2" (throat)
- Cast iron frame and wheels
- Ball bearing blade guides
- Includes fence and mitre gauge

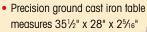
Feature packed, and an incredible value

W1706 14" Bandsaw



# **5 HP SPINDLE SHAPER**

 Motor: 5 HP, 220V, single-phase, 25A, 3450 RPM



- Spindle travel: 3½"
- Spindle sizes: <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>", 1", 11/4"
- Spindle capacity: 41/4", 45/8", 51/8"



W1827 5 HP Spindle Shaper

# 10" TABLE SAWS with Riving Knife

- 3 HP, 220V, single-phase motor
- Cast iron table size: 27" x 401/4" (W1819) 535/8" w/extension, (W1820) 74" w/extension)
- Max. rip capacity: (W1819) 29½", (W1820) 50"
- Camlock fence with HDPE face

Free 10" Carbide-Tipped Blade

W1819 10" Table Saw

W1820 10" Table Saw w/ Long Ext. Table

# **SLIDING TABLE and ROUTER TABLE** ATTACHMENTS for W1819 & W1820



### W1821 SLIDING TABLE **ATTACHMENT**

- Industrial grade anodized aluminum table size: 47" x 9"
- Max. cross cut: 48"

### W1822 **ROUTER TABLE ATTACHMENT**

- Precision-ground cast iron table size: 27" x 20"
- Universal router mount

# OSCILLATING BENCHTOP SPINDLE SANDER

- 1/2 HP, 120V, single-phase, 3.5A
- Table size: 15" L x 111/2" W
- 58 Oscillations per minute
- Stroke length: 5/8"
- 2000 RPM (1/2" spindle)





W1831 Oscillating Benchtop Spindle Sander

### OUTSTANDING SHOP FOX® **DUST COLLECTORS**

 Motor: 1½ HP, 110V/220V, pre-wired 110V, single-phase

- CFM: 806
- Filter: 2.0 micron, pleated
- 20 gal. steel collection drum with casters
- Inlet: 6" (or 4" x 2" with included Y)
- Maximum static pressure: 10.4"
- Includes remote control



PORTABLE CYCLONE

WALL DUST COLLECTOR



- Motor: 1 HP, 110V/220V. single-phase
- Air suction capacity: 537 CFM
- Bag capacity: 2 cubic feet
- Standard bag filtration: 2.5 micron
- Static pressure: 7.2"

W1826 Wall Dust Collector

**3-SPEED HANGING AIR** 





- Motor: ½ HP, 120V, 60Hz, 1A single-phase
- Air flow: 260, 362, and 409 CFM
- Outer filter: 5.0 micron
- Inner filter: 1.0 micron



W1830 Hanging Air Filter

WOODSTOCK INTERNATIONAL, INC. IS ALSO HOME TO PRO-STICK®, PLANER PAL®, JOINTER PAL®, AND MANY OTHER FINE BRANDS. PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CALL TOLL FREE TO FIND AN AUTHORIZED DEALER NEAR YOU.

# SHOPFOX.BIZ





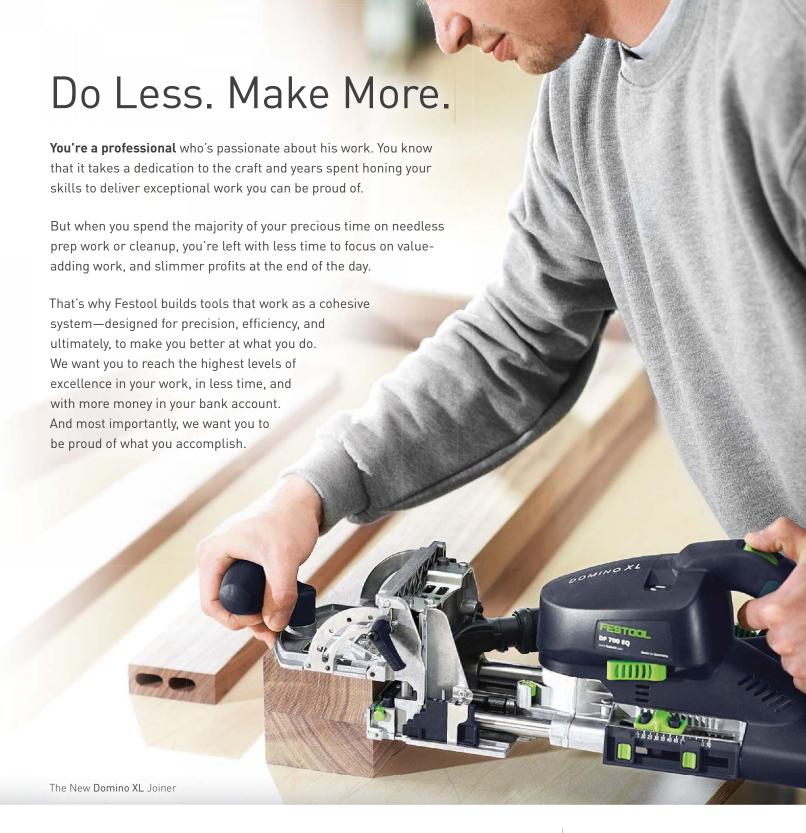
# I didn't know...

# Stiles offers a full range of dust control solutions.

Stop blowing dust around. Protect the premium quality of your work from dust by equipping your shop with a dust control or cleaning system. Your dust collection system plays a vital role in protecting the quality of your finished product and the efficiency of your machine's operation. Stiles offers economical solutions for any sized shop, from stand-alone units to centralized dust management systems. Let our experts help you choose the best solution for your business.

For more information, contact Stephan Waltman at **616.698.7500** or **swaltman@stilesmachinery.com**. Or visit us at **www.stilesmachinery.com**.







Visit us at **festoolusa.com** to learn how you can produce better work and make more money, while spending less time on the thankless tasks that get in the way.



# **Table of Contents**



# **Features**

- **WHERE VALUES MATTER:** Merrill Woodworking and Design serves clients far and wide and prides itself on its honesty and integrity.
- **OPEN AND SHUT:** Consumers have made their case for hardware that offers quiet operation, ease of use and convenience.
- **PICTURE-PERFECT PLAN:** Rob Grant puts the best of his Virginia woodworking business out there for all to see and it's helping business.

# News Desk

- 8 New Jersey furniture maker Frank Pollaro collaborates with actor Brad Pitt.
- **10** WOOD MARKETS:

  Genuine mahogany and the alternatives.

# Tooling and Accessories Since 1926

For: Tenoners
Moulders
Shapers
Routers
Planers



For a complete List of our Tooling, Accessories and Machinery ask for our New Catalog

# Specializing in Moulder & Shaper Knives Ordering is as easy as 1-2-3

 Complete Service We supply completely finished knives and templates from dxf files, wood samples or drawings. 2 to 3 day delivery

2) Pre-Roughed knives & Templates.

From a drawing, dxf file or wood sample, we produce pre-roughed knives and templates. Finish grinding is up to the customer.

1 to 2 day delivery.

3) Template Service

Supply us with your special profile and we will send you a 3/16" thick Acrylic template for your knife grinding machine. 1 to 2 day delivery.

We make knives for Corrugated Back Heads,
Williams & Hussey, US Concepts,
Grizzly, Logosol, Mikron,
Woodmaster Moulders & more.
Also Shaper, Moulder, Tenoner & Cope Heads.

If You Know Our Name You Know Our Number

1 800-SCHMIDT

Charles G. G. Schmidt & Co., Inc.

301 West Grand Ave Montvale, NJ 07645 Fax 201 391-3565 www.cggschmidt.com



manan







# **Tools & Techniques**

- **15** General International offers build-your-own router tables.
- **16** Oliver Machinery updates intelliCarve.
- **17** Weeke's BHX 055 CNC machining center is a space saver.

# **Departments**

- 6 Taking Stock
- 22 New Products
- **41** At the Galleries
- 42 Calendar
- 44 Classified
- 48 Out of the Woodwork

# **Columns**

- PRO SHOP: Writing off secondary activities.By Mark E. Battersby
- **20 FINISHING:** The half-right rule. **By Bob Flexner**

# Visit us online at www.woodshopnews.com

# Blogs



Over the Workbench Talkin' shop with former editor A.J. Hamler



This Business about Woodworking Share an opinion with David DeCristoforo but don't

expect to be right

www.woodshopnews.com/tools-machines

■ Contact Customer Service

www.woodshopnews.com/subscribe

www.woodshopnews.com/contact-us

Advertising Information
www.woodshopnews.com/advertise

■ 2013 Online Resource Guide http://resourceguide.woodshopnews.com







# **TAKING STOCK**

with JENNIFER HICKS

# Simple steps can lead to great opportunities

he Providence Fine Furnishings Show has proven to be a pretty reliable marketing platform for custom furniture makers throughout the Northeast, boosting sales for custom shops and opening doors for those with larger plans.

The 17th annual show, held Nov. 2-4, took place at a new venue as the event shifted to the Pawtucket Armory Arts Center in Pawtucket, R.I. Unlike the Rhode Island Convention Center, where the show was previously held, this historic building had a unique architectural character that served well as a backdrop for the custom items exhibited for sale.

While each of the 52 exhibitors knew the risk of participating in a struggling economy, they still had enough confidence to put in the effort required. Clearly, their positive attitudes separate them from their competitors. For example, Geoffrey Warner of Warner Studios in Stonington, Maine, says the six-hour drive was worth his time as he had more than \$13,000 worth of sales recorded two weeks after the show.

The show is also significant in that it played a role in helping launch a certain celebrity woodworker's television career. That individual is Thomas MacDonald, host of "Rough Cut: Woodworking with Tommy Mac," which is currently airing its third season on PBS stations across the country.

MacDonald, who lives in Canton, Mass., graduated from Boston's North Bennet Street School in 2002 and immediately opened his first shop called Thomas J. MacDonald Fine Furniture and Woodworking. A master at reproduction work, he first exhibited pieces at the Providence show in 2006.

There, he was discovered by Woodshop News which ran a feature on him in July 2007. MacDonald had an instant taste for stardom and began promoting himself to national media outlets. In 2010, after learning that Norm Abram was retiring as host of "The New Yankee Workshop," he touted himself as a replacement. He is now realizing his dream.

"After the first two seasons, like anything that's new, we had a few challenges to deal with because we were coming behind 'The New Yankee Workshop,' " MacDonald says. "But people tell me they really enjoy it. I travel all around the country and it's nice that people give me positive feedback about the show."

In our conversation, he emphasized that he had high expectations from Day One and was determined to make the show work, recalling how everything started with a podcast called "Rough Cuts with T Chisel" that was hosted on Bob Vila's website. Vila is the former host of "This Old House." This third season has the most diverse project offerings so far.

"I think what we do on TV is a broader spectrum of woodworking, so it's nice we can demonstrate ball and claw carving, marquetry and inlays, and all different genres, everything from William & Mary to contemporary work and turnings. We try to cast a broad net across the spectrum to involve everybody into the craft. Some of the things I don't like stylistically, but I feel they're important to the show."

It's been years since he's returned to the Providence show, but MacDonald's story serves as a reminder that even the simplest steps can lead to great opportunities. **W** 

Working with tools and wood is inherently dangerous. We try to give our readers tips that will enhance their understanding of woodworking. But our best advice is to make safety your first priority. Always read your owner's manuals, work with properly maintained equipment and use safety devices such as blade guards, push sticks and eye protection. Don't do things you're not sure you can do safely, including the techniques described in this publication or in others. Seek proper training if you have questions about woodworking techniques or the functions of power machinery.



JANUARY 2013 VOL. XXVII, NO. 2

Editor: Staff Writer: Online Editor: Art Director:

TOD RIGGIO
JENNIFER HICKS
MIKE TROCCHI
STEVEN JYLKKA
KELLY A. LEACH
ESTHER POPE

Editorial Assistant:

Group Publisher:

GARY DESANCTIS

**Group Digital Director:** 

**Design Supervisor Print/Web:** 

IAN C. BOWEN

**Group Circulation Director:** 

STEPHANIE FLANAGAN

ADVERTISING INFORMATION AND OFFICES

Main Office, 10 Bokum Road, Essex, CT 06426

AL, AZ, CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, HI, IL, IN, IA, MN, NJ, NM, NV, OH, OR, PA, TN, WA, & all international

National Sales Manager: RORY BEGLIN (860) 767-3200 Ext. 242, Fax (860) 767-1048 E-mail: rory@woodshopnews.com

AK, AR, DC, DE, ID, KS, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MS, MO, MT, NE, NH, NY, NC, ND, OK, RI, SC, SD, TX, UT, VT, VA, WI, WV, WY

National Account Manager: ALEX ROBERTSON (860) 767-3200 Ext. 284, Fax (860) 767-1048 E-mail: alex@woodshoonews.com

Classified Marketplace Advertising (860) 767-3200 Ext. 284, Fax (860) 767-1048

(860) 767-3200 Ext. 284, Fax (860) 767-1048 E-mail: marketplace@woodshopnews.com **Business Office Manager:** KATHRYN MO

Group Circulation Manager: Circulation Marketing Manager: Circulation Assistant:

CLAIRE BRAYFIELD MATTHEW BOYLES BILL STREETO

IT Manager:

ELAINE CIRILLO

Production Manager: Sr. Production Coordinator: Production Coordinators: SUNITA PATEL BOB CORTELLINO LAUREN EGAN JEANNINE MCNEIL BRIANA SMITH

Woodshop News, (ISSN 0894-5403, U.S.P.S. 000-966), Vol. XXVII, No. 2, is published monthly by Cruz Bay Publishing, Inc., an Active Interest Media company. The known office of publication is: 10 Bokum Road, Essex, CT 06426. \$21.95 for one year; \$35.95 for two years (Canadian subscribers add \$12 per year for postage; U.S. funds, foreign subscribers add \$14 per year for postage; U.S. funds). Periodicals postage paid at Essex, CT, and additional mailing offices. Printed in the U.S.A.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:
Woodshop News, PO Box 433211, Palm Coast, FL 32143-3211
CANADA POST RETURN ADDRESS UNDELIVERABLE TO:
DPGM 4960-2 Walker Road, Windsor, ON N9A 6.33
Canada Post Publication Mail Agreement No 40975036.
Subscription Customer Service and Orders:
Call (800) 243-9177, Mon. - Fri. 7:00 am to 12:00 pm Midnight EST.
Sat. - Sun. - 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM EST.
Classifieds (860) 767-3200, Mon. - Fri. 8:30 am - 5:30 pm EST.

**Headquarters:**10 Bokum Road, Essex, CT 06426 (860) 767-3200 • Fax (860) 767-0642 **Editorial E-mail:** editorial@woodshopnews.com

Editorial E-mail: editorial@woodshopnews.com
Circulation E-mail: circulation@woodshopnews.com
Advertising E-mail: sales@woodshopnews.com

Website: www.woodshopnews.com Advertising Billing Questions: (310) 356-4121





ACTIVE INTEREST MEDIA

Chairman & CEO:
President & COO:
Senior VP & CFO:
Senior VP, Operations:
VP, Controller:
Director of Retail Sales::
Retail Sales Manager:

EREST MEDIA
EFREM ZIMBALIST III
ANDREW W. CLURMAN
BRIAN J. SELLSTROM
PATRICIA B. FOX
JOSEPH COHEN
SUSAN ROSE
BEV GIACALONE
KRISTY KAUS

Copyright 2013 © Cruz Bay Publishing, Inc.



# PURVEYORS OF FINE MACHINERY®, SINCE 1983! OVER A MILLION SQUARE FEET PACKED TO THE RAFTERS WITH MACHINERY & TOOLS

- 2 OVERSEAS QUALITY CONTROL OFFICES STAFFED WITH QUALIFIED GRIZZLY ENGINEERS
- HUGE PARTS FACILITY WITH OVER 1 MILLION PARTS IN STOCK AT ALL TIMES
- TRAINED SERVICE TECHNICIANS AT ALL 3 LOCATIONS
   MOST ORDERS SHIP THE SAME DAY

### **6" JOINTER**

- Motor: 1 HP, 110V, single-phase
- Precision-ground cast iron table size: 7½" x 46"
- Cutterhead diameter: 21/2" Cutterhead
- knives: 3 Cutterhead speed:
- 4800 RPM
- Approx. shipping weight: 260 lbs.

FREE PAIR OF **SAFETY PUSH** BLOCKS

WITH BUILT-IN



MOBILE BASE G0452P ONLY \$52500

### **ULTIMATE 14" BANDSAW**

9001

- Motor: 1 HP. 110V/220V. single-phase, TEFC
- MADE IN Precision-ground cast iron table size: 14" sq.
- FACTORY! Table tilt: 15° L, 45° R
- Cutting capacity/throat: 13½
- Max. cutting height: 6"
- · Blade speeds: 1500 & 3200 FPM
- Approx. shipping weight: 196 lbs.





- Ballion

G0555P ONLY \$52500

## 11/2 HP SHAPER

- Motor: 1½ HP. 110V/220V. single-phase
- Precision-ground cast iron table size: 201/4" x 18"
- Spindle travel: 3"
- 2 interchangeable spindles: 1/2" & 3/4"
- Spindle speeds: 7000 & 10,000 RPM C
- Max. cutter dia.: 5"
- Approx. shipping weight: 240 lbs.



MADE IN TAIWAN

G1035P ONLY  $^{\$}560^{00}$ 



# 10" HYBRID TABLE SAW with Riving Knife

- · Motor: 2 HP, 110V/220V, single-phase
- · Precision-ground cast iron table size with wings: 27" x 40" • Arbor: 5/8" **CAST IRON TRUNNIONS**

Arbor speed: 3850 RPM

· Capacity: 31/8" @ 90°.

23/16" @ 45° Rip capacity: 30" R, 12" L

Approx. shipping weight: 404 lbs.



G0715P ONLY \$79500

# CYCLONE DUST COLLECTOR

- Motor: 1½ HP, 110/220V, single-phase, TEFC, 3450 RPM
- Air suction capacity: 775 CFM
- Intake port: 6" with included 5" optional port
- Built-in remote control switch
- Impeller: 131/2"
- Height: 65<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>"
- Approx. shipping weight: 210 lbs.

FULLY MOBILE WITH BUILT-IN CASTERS

MADE IN TAIWAN

G0703P ONLY \$79500

# **8" JOINTERS** with Built-in Mobile Base

- Motor: 3 HP, 220V, single-phase, TEFC
- Precision-ground cast iron table size: 9" x 72<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>"
- Max. rabbeting depth: 1/2"
- · Cutterhead dia.: 3'
- Cutterhead speed: 5000 RPM
- · Approx. shipping weight: 500 lbs.

G0656P ONLY \$82500

WITH SPIRAL CUTTERHEAD G0656PX ONLY \$122500



## 17" HEAVY-DUTY BANDSAWS

- Motor: 2 HP, 110V/220V, G0513P single-phase, TEFC
- · Precision-ground cast iron table size: 17" sq.
- Table tilt: 10° L, 45° R
- Cutting capacity/throat: 16<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub><sup>1</sup>
- Max. cutting height: 121/8"
- Blade size: 1311/2" long
- · Approx. shipping weight: 342 lbs.

**MADE IN ISO 9001 FACTORY!** 

## **MADE IN TAIWAN**

G0513P ONLY \$89500 CLASSIC GRIZZLY GREEN









# 15" PLANERS with Built-in Mobile Base

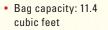
- Motor: 3 HP, 220V, single-phase
- Precision-ground cast iron table size: 15" x 20"
- Max. cutting depth: 1/8"
- Feed rate: 16 & 30 FPM Cutterhead speed:
- 5000 RPM
- Approx. shipping weight: 660 lbs.



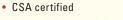
G0453P ONLY \$109500 WITH SPIRAL CUTTERHEAD G0453PX ONLY \$169500

# 3 HP DUST COLLECTOR

- Motor: 3 HP, 240V, single-phase, 12A
- Blower/impeller: 12<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" balanced cast aluminum
- Airflow capacity: 2320 CFM
- Max. static pressure: 16.9"
- Sound rating: 87dB
- 7" inlet has removable "Y" fitting with three 4" inlets
- Canister filter size (dia. x depth): 19<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" x 23<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" (2)



- Overall dimensions: 577/8" long x 32" wide x 71" high
- Approx. shipping weight: 232 lbs.



G0562ZP \$92500 ONLY \$67500 = \$79 in this print of the second of the seco









*1-800-523-4777 grizzly.com* **3 GREAT SHOWROOMS!** 

PayPal 

BillMeLater

BillMeLater

**TECHNICAL SERVICE:** 570-546-9663 FAX: 800-438-5901



BELLINGHAM, WA · MUNCY, PA · SPRINGFIELD, MO



# NEWS DESK

# **Brad Pitt-inspired pieces boost business**

New Jersey woodworker teams with Hollywood star to produce a high-end line of limited-edition work

# By Jennifer Hicks

STAFF WRITER

ast November, Frank Pollaro of Pollaro Custom Furniture in Union, N.J., hosted a private exhibition in New York City where he proudly unveiled 12 new pieces designed by actor Brad Pitt.

"It was exciting. I think the public took the work seriously. They treated it with respect. And the overall feedback I got was all positive," says Pollaro, adding that several of the pieces in the collection have already been sold and are being displayed with the owners' consent.

Contemporary in nature, the line includes a bed, two dining tables, three cocktail tables, two club chairs, an integrated shelf unit, a stone bathtub and a decorative wall installa-

tion. Each limited-edition piece took six months to create and all are numbered and signed by Pitt and Pollaro.

Founded in 1988, Pollaro Custom Furniture designs and manufactures custom furniture, cabinetry and architectural woodwork for clients that include architects, interior designers and homeowners. Pollaro has an international clientele and numerous high profile clients, 20 of whom are on the Forbes 400 list, he says.

Dealings with Pitt began in 2008, when the actor commissioned a custom desk through an interior designer in Los Angeles. Pollaro delivered the desk to Pitt's chateau in the South of France. During the installation, Pollaro noticed a design sketchbook filled with hundreds of furniture sketches that Pitt had created during a 10-year period. Pitt revealed that he had a common passion for furniture and design and Pollaro encouraged him to transform his drawings into reality.

"I've always known that [Brad]



was into design. He has a very high public image when it comes to design. It wasn't surprising to me. He views furniture as complete architecture on a miniature scale. He told me that he's been interested in furniture design since he was young and that he's been sketching furniture for years."

Pollaro invited Pitt to his shop and the two began discussing ways to bring the designs forward. In a four-year period, prototypes

were created, revised and re-created until Pitt was satisfied with every detail and Pollaro was confident of the comfort and structural integrity of each piece.

"[Brad's] very serious about it. He's very devoted. We have spent hundreds of hours together and that's no exaggeration. Hundreds of hours, typically at his chateau in France, and we will have marathon meetings typically for 10, 12, 14 hours at a time and we will meet for three or four consecutive days."

The line has already brought a lot of visibility to Pollaro's business and a number of large orders have been placed. The company's backlog is generally about a year. Pollaro has a 36-month expansion plan in the works that will triple the size of his current operation.

"The plans are to keep releasing new pieces according to Brad's schedule. Obviously this is not his day job; he's an actor. But we spend a lot of time together, and I imagine there's going to be several pieces per year, at least."

For information, visit the website *www.pitt-pollaro.com*. **W** 



Frank Pollaro, owner of Pollaro Custom Furniture in Union, N.J., has a business arrangement with Brad Pitt building furniture designed by the actor, including the bed above.

# Let Drawer Connection do the work!



# Streamline your workflow...

- Quality dovetail drawers in a wide selection of wood species
- Finely crafted custom doweled drawer boxes that meet all AWI specifications
- One-hour quote response
- On-time delivery
- FSC certified







**877.917.4887** toll free

480.917.5799 fax

**DrawerConnection.com** 





# WOODMARKETS

# Demand shifts to mahogany substitutes

# By Jennifer Hicks

STAFF WRITER

s less expensive and more readily available African hardwoods prove to be sufficient substitutes for genuine mahogany, lumber suppliers are seeing woodworkers' interest in the latter continue to wane.

Genuine mahogany (Swietenia macrophylla) grows plentifully in Central and South America, but supplies going to the U.S. have been reduced significantly over the past five years due to export restrictions in certain countries. This lack of availability is driving prices up so high on the small quantities coming in that many long-time fans no longer feel it's a sound purchase. Instead, they are gravitating to African varieties such as Khaya and sapele, species of different genres that share similar properties and have dark, rich tones close to that found in true mahogany, according to suppliers interviewed by Woodshop News.

"Genuine mahogany has always been the mahogany of preference. It's got a more even color across the spectrum than the African mahoganies which come in several subspecies. The genuine is a better option because it has more color and more of an even grain, whereas the African mahogany can vary in color. If it wasn't for the economic aspect of it, I think genuine mahogany will still be the preference because of the overall characteristics of it," says Fabs Corte of Cormark International in Weaverville, N.C.

On a regular basis, Corte keeps about 5,000 to 10,000 bf of African varieties in stock and only about 3,000 to 5,000 bf of genuine. He says a number of key importers bring in hundreds of thousands of board feet in African, and do a pretty good job of keeping the U.S. supplied where genuine mahogany volumes have dropped.

"I think for a lot of diehards, genuine mahogany is still something that they use but the African is one they're using more and more. The African species are priced the way genuine used to be over the last three or four years and have become the woods that they expect more than the genuine mahogany."

Lou Irion of Irion Lumber Co. in Wellsboro, Pa., says genuine mahogany sales are way off at his facility as quantities from some of the better source countries, such as Peru, have declined.

"We still sell the genuine to people where the quality of the lumber is very important to the outcome of the product, but things have changed. There are an awful lot of export restrictions on the South American countries so the quality of lumber that we really liked is not coming in anymore and most of the people that are using mahogany have switched to some of the African trees, like sapele," says Irion.

Irion says that customers tend to prefer the mahogany coming out of Peru because of its density and darkness, but most of the harvesting operations in that country have been shut down.

"Peru has shut down an awful lot of their export and capacity, so we're no longer seeing the mahogany, even though we get some out of other South American countries, there are still some differences in it depending on where the species is being grown. We won't even sell the Central American varieties because it is lighter in color, coarser, and not what our customers are looking for.

"They do want the mahogany that's very hard to find. We do get it occasionally. We stockpile it. We brought in 80,000 bf from another supplier in the springtime. Supply is down and demand is down, so we're hurt on both ends."

Irion currently has a fairly decent inventory, about 25,000 bf of genuine mahogany on hand, but is just not experiencing the sale volumes that he used to. He is, however, noticing an increase in walnut sales which he attributes to customers seeking a domestic, dark hardwood alternative the African substitutes. While he doesn't deal with the African species at all because his customers claim they lack the same qualities as genuine mahoganies, he still believes the substitutes are a prudent choice for those looking to complete a project in a cost-effective way.

"They just look like mahogany. That's okay because if all you're looking for is a dark red wood, it doesn't matter whether they are or aren't the real thing. What matters is that they're a reasonable substitute to genuine South American mahogany."

Average prices for African varieties sell between \$5 and \$8/bf, depending on who's stocking it, the size of their operation, and whether it's purchased retail or wholesale. Genuine mahogany slabs sell between \$9.50 and \$12/bf, and more for wider boards.

# **Unraveling the mysteries of mahogany**

### By John English

It's gotta be the most confusing wood out there. Mahogany comes in many guises, including genuine, sapele, utile, Philippine, Spanish cedar, African and Fiji. In fact, some woods sold as mahogany aren't even family members. For woodshop buyers, here are some notes that might help clarify the choices.

Genuine mahogany (Swietenia macrophylla): The most popular species actually has many other names, too. These include Honduras, Peruvian, Bolivian, American, South American and bigleaf. The "genuine" title comes from the fact that early cabinetmakers and shipwrights used this species exclusively until it began to get a little scarce, after which those industries both turned to African and Asian substitutes.

Genuine mahogany is among the most

workable woods available, in part because of its legendary stability. It has relatively even coloring and grain characteristics within the same board, but the color from tree to tree can vary quite a bit. Boards in a bunk can range from gray to red, so check with the warehouse on color or sift through the rack if possible when buying. Hardness can also be an issue: this species roams in specific gravity from about 0.39 to 0.56, so it can be as soft as poplar or harder than hard maple.

Specific gravity is simply the difference between the weight of a cubic foot of a wood species and the weight of a cubic foot of water (62.38 lbs.) To calculate specific gravity, divide the weight of the wood by 62.38. Genuine mahogany, according to most sources, ranges between 24 and 35 lbs.

continued on Page 12

# BUSINESS-BUILDING SOLUTIONS













JULY 24-27, 2013 LAS VEGAS CONVENTION CENTER LAS VEGAS, NEVADA www.awfsfair.org



# EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK.

For leading-edge technology, profit-making solutions and career-advancing education, look no further than the industry's main event. Now more than ever, it pays to attend AWFS®Fair 2013—the one resource focused 100% on helping you take advantage of the new opportunities presented by the strengthening economy.

REGISTER NOW: www.awfsfair.org | 877.303.0711

Find us:











### **MAHOGANY** from Page 10

That huge variation in both color and hardness lets some suppliers substitute other less valuable species for genuine mahogany. Most notable among these is the relatively bland lauan, which is sold in the U.S. as Philippine mahogany. It is generally a little bit redder than the real thing and, while it is in itself a valuable material, lauan is simply not as attractive.

Genuine mahogany has a long history in both furniture and boatbuilding. It comes from a huge area of Central and South America, ranging from southern Mexico all the way through Brazil. The trees can be immense—up to 150 feet tall and more, with trunk diameters in mature trees at about 6 feet. Because of its stable nature, it can often be found in widths of 12" to 18", and sometimes even wider. For example, wholesaler J. Gibson Mc-Ilvain usually stocks boards up to 35" wide.

Restrictions by the Brazilian and Bolivian governments on harvesting and exporting during the last few years have turned buyers' attention to Peru, where a large amount of the native growth has been felled. However, this species is still in good supply at fairly reasonable prices. It is becoming less available, in large part because it doesn't do well as a farmed species. Genuine mahogany grows naturally as individual trees (usually fewer than

five trees to the acre). When concentrated on farms where volume is essential to profit (that is, where trees are planted close together), it becomes very susceptible to insect damage.

Speaking of harvesting, one close cousin of genuine mahogany, commonly known as Cuban mahogany, was harvested so heavily during the last 400 years that it is no longer a viable commercial timber and only rarely appears on the market.

Genuine mahogany carves, cuts and turns beautifully and it is a pleasure to finish, although in some applications it does need a little grain filling. It behaves well with stains and dyes, and the rich color gives furniture and cabinetry a luxurious tone.

African mahogany (*Khaya ivorensis*): This less expensive, but still beautiful, hardwood is found in a natural range that includes the Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria and Cameroon in West Africa. If one thinks of Africa as being shaped like the handle of a pistol, these countries are all around the area where the trigger would be. The climate here is tropical and Cameroon is home to some of the wettest places on the planet with annual rainfall in the neighborhood of 400". For perspective, the wettest spot in the continental U.S. is Aberdeen Reservoir in Washington, with about 130" annually.

All that heat and moisture delivers wood

that has very consistent color and grain, with a light pink to deep red range of pigment. The word most commonly used to describe this species is "lustrous," which dictionaries define as having a sheen, gleam or radiance. These adjectives are usually associated with light and African mahogany does seem to glow when finished, especially as light rakes across a wide surface. The interlocking grain is usually straight, but crotches and other figured areas can be downright dramatic. When working this species, it feels a little heavier and harder than genuine mahogany and its variegated grain can appear as ribbons of light and dark color. There is little aroma and few woodworkers have noted allergies to it, but it does have a reputation for reacting with ferrous (iron-based) metals, so consider your hardware choices carefully. It can leave blackish stains if a reaction takes place.

African mahogany is used in fine furniture and casework, architectural millwork, by luthiers for musical instruments, and also in window and door applications because, like genuine mahogany, it is quite resistant to water damage. In addition to ivorensis, the Khaya genus also includes several other commercially harvested species. Your whole-saler might offer anthotheca, grandifolia or

continued on Page 14



1-800-365-6677 • Free Shipping on orders over \$150

MIRKA-ONLINE.COM







### **MAHOGANY** from Page 12

senegalensis options, all of which are correctly described as African mahogany.

Sapele (Entandrophragma cylindricum): The third most popular option, sapele is a slightly smaller tree with mature diameters at about 4 to 5 feet. It grows right along the equator, from the Congo to Uganda, and also in Ghana and a few other spots in West Africa. Sapele is quite common as a veneer option for architectural millwork because of its dramatic light and dark ribbons when quartersawn. Machine dust from this species can be irritating, causing both skin and breathing problems, so a good dust collection system is a must. Despite that, it's very popular because it costs only about half the price of genuine mahogany. It's a relatively soft hardwood, a bit harder than other mahoganies, and it machines well.

Sapele is generally a little darker than other mahogany species, running more to brown than red. Flat-sawn boards are relatively uniform in color and grain, while quartersawn sapele is very distinctly striped. It can distort and move a little more than its cousins, too. The surface at times can be "hairy" because of the interlocked grain, and sanding can often produce better surfacing results than

knives. A variant is pomelle sapele, which has a quilted surface that can reflect light in myriad directions, causing it to have exceptional depth and drama.

**Spanish cedar** (*Cedrela odorata*): This species is a member of the mahogany family and is most definitely neither a softwood nor a cedar. It grows throughout most of South America and especially in a swath from Bolivia to Columbia and west to Peru.

In color and grain, Spanish cedar looks a lot like genuine mahogany, although they smell very different. The former has an aroma that is decidedly similar to fresh-cut cedar, especially when milled. It is used in casework and millwork and often finds a home as a liner for closets and chests because it repels insects. As it is both lightweight and stable, Spanish cedar is a good choice for canoes, small boat hulls, musical instruments and even carving stock. It works well outdoors and is quite reasonably priced. And even though it doesn't weigh much, it's fairly strong structurally so it can be used in furniture, especially pieces that reside on decks and patios.

Fiji mahogany (Swietenia macrophylla): There has been a turbulent and somewhat troubled history of harvesting mahogany in Fiji. Much of it seems to involve allegations of both government and corporate corruption, with landowners there claiming that questionable leases were used by the government to harvest not just lumber, but also the landowners' profits. Last April, U.S. ambassador to Fiji Frankie Reid and representatives from the hardwoods industry attended the launch of Fiji Pure Mahogany, which is intended to ensure "sustainability, legality and the socially responsible use of this new hardwood brand."

Fiji mahogany looks like a legitimate and sustainable alternative to more expensive native timber from both Africa and South America. There might still be some political issues attached to it that a woodshop might want to research, but for now some eminent U.S. corporations such as Gibson Guitar are already betting on this new brand.

Sipo (Entandrophragma utile): Often called simply utile, this species has been used in Europe for a long time as a mahogany substitute and is gaining popularity in the U.S. It is a relative of African mahogany that looks like a plain and somewhat darker version of sapele. It can be hard to dry in a kiln, but woodworkers like it because it behaves well around blades and that makes it a good choice for doors, windows and moldings. Utile has little bright flecks in it that reflect light.



# TOOLS VIECHNIQUES

# General adds options to router table system

By Jennifer Hicks

eneral International's new interchangeable router table system, model 40-200, offers numerous options that fit the diverse needs of custom woodworkers.

The system offer two table sizes —  $16'' \times 27''$  with the benchtop 100 series and 24" x 32" with floor 200 series — and cast-iron, phenolic or MDF tabletops.

"Because of their durability, the cast-iron tables are by far our biggest seller so far," says General product manager Norm Frampton says. "We feel that we are offering a level of quality and durability that typical router table users have not previously had access to, and customers have responded favorably. For people who need portability, the MDF and especially the phenolic tops can be an interesting and less expensive option."

The system features a standard router lift with a four-post, lifting-screw design, which Frampton says is the most stable and physically substantial unit available.

"The basic concept of the design is that four posts are mounted to the corners of the top plate. The four-post, lift design prevents the lift from moving out of position when in use."

The router lift will accommodate fixed-base router motors up to 4.2" in diameter. Any smaller diameter fixed-base routers can also be installed by using an optional reducer collar or shim.

Additionally, the router fences for the benchtop and floor models features several advanced dust collection capabilities, according to Frampton. The fences come with adjustable scales, two sized spacer bars for jointing applications and tool-free positioning. The supplied mounting hardware is



adjustable to accommodate custom-built tables: model 40-065 will fit tops from 24" to 27" long and up to 1-1/2" thick and model 40-080 will fit tops from 24" to 32" long and up to 1-1/2" thick.

Steel stands are offered with the router tables. The stand for the benchtop model 40-060 is made from thick steel plate, while the floor model 40-085 stand is made with a thick-walled tubular steel design. Model 40-085 also comes with a caster set and a one-step footlever-controlled engage/disengage system. Both models come with a safety switch and independent levellers.

Finally, a dust containment kit, model 40-130, rounds out the system. The tables are available as kits, but components can be purchased separately. For prices and information, contact General International at 888-949-1161 or go to www.general.ca.







# Oliver updates its carving machine

By Jennifer Hicks

liver Machinery recently introduced the 15" intelliCarve Pro, a 3-axis CNC carving machine capable of transferring 3-D images onto a workpiece.

"It's a small automatic carving machine capable of working with CAD/CAM design programs. It comes with ArtCam Express software, so it's good for small shops making signs, any kind of art craft projects, or prototypes for custom shops," says Oliver's Dan Shaw.

An updated version of the original 1015 intelliCarve, Shaw says this model features a new table design so the hold-down slots run along the X-axis instead of the Y-axis, which helps to hold the material down better. Additionally, upgrades have also been made to the electrical system.

It's good for small shops making signs, any kind of art craft projects, or prototypes for custom shops.

The Pro model features a 500-watt DC brushless motor, providing a spindle speed up to 23,000 rpm and other advantages, according to Shaw.

"DC motors typically have a lot of torque to them so it allows for it to carve well. You can carve on any kind of hardwoods, acrylics, Corian or plastics and the motor won't slow down under load. It keeps the same power output."

The machine has a workpiece capacity of 15" x 20" x 4". Designed for cutting, engraving, etching or routing, it can reproduce a photo or other artwork using the supplied iPicture software, which converts the art to CNC code.

The intelliCarve Pro, model 1015, machine retails for \$4,995.

Contact: Oliver Machinery. Tel: 800-559-5065. www.olivermachinery.net W

# Stiles draws a crowd with its Weeke CNC

# By Jennifer Hicks

STAFF WRITER

tiles Machinery had the largest exhibit space at IWF 2012 with truckloads of machinery on display. But while visitors were climbing catwalks to get a better view, they were also consistently huddled around the Weeke BHX 055 CNC machining center, which performs routing, vertical drilling, horizontal drilling and groove-sawing operations.

The center, which debuted in 2010 and has since been redesigned, appeals to makers of custom closets and kitchen cabinets because of its small (6'  $\times$  10') footprint and simplicity of operation, according to product manager Jeff Conger.

"There's so little setup in changeover required for machining different parts. Normal machines like this can take from three to 10 minutes to set up and change from one part to the next. This has virtually zero setup required. You basically press the panel up against a positioning stop, hit the foot pedal to lock it in and hit the start button," says Conger.

The center gives shops of all sizes the flexibility to employ multiple router diameters or left- and right-tool rotations. It comes with Wood-Wop, the CNC programming system of the Homag Group, which gives a three-dimensional view of the workpiece. Routing, drilling and sawing operations are programmed by entering the machining parameters, which are then displayed in the 3-D view.

The center can process parts as small as  $3'' \times 8''$  or as large as  $3' \times 10'$ , one after another, according to Conger.

The center is available in three standard configurations, all for under \$100,000. Weeke is part of the Homag Group and its products are distributed exclusively by Stiles Machinery in the U.S.

Contact: Stiles Machinery. Tel: 616-698-7500. www.stilesmachinery.com W



The Weeke BHX 055 CNC machining center significantly increases flexibility and productivity, says the company.



1-800-365-6677 • Free Shipping on orders over \$50

FESTOOLS-ONLINE.COM





# **PRO SHOP**

with MARK E. BATTERSBY

# Income offsets vital to staying in business

hanks to today's tough economy, more and more shop owners are seeking additional sources of revenue. Often it's from hobbies and secondary activities. Not only will our tax laws partially underwrite those activities, but the almost inevitable losses can be as beneficial as extra income.

Although the tax laws consider all amounts earned from activities such as hobbies as income, the IRS allows all income to be offset or reduced using the hobby activity's expenses — but only to the extent of that hobby income. If the activity is operated as a business, the tax laws permit even more expense deductions to the point where the activity's losses offset wages, savings and investment income — and the tax bill on that income from other sources.

### **Hobbies and hobby businesses**

The first question is, obviously, how can a woodworking professional avoid the hobby label for a money-losing secondary business activity or for a hobby that it is hoped will eventually generate income? As a general rule, an activity is presumed not to be a hobby if profits (more income than expenses) result in any three of five consecutive tax years ending with the tax year in question.

Fortunately, there is more than one way in which to qualify an activity as a business. Without profitable years, anyone operating any sort of activity can, if asked, prove the intent to show a profit. What's more, that intent can be demonstrated using guidelines established by the courts that are now accepted by the IRS.

Quite simply, in order to be treated as a business for tax purposes, a profit motive must be present and some type of economic activity must be conducted. According to our lawmakers, among the factors which would ordinarily be taken into account are the following:

- The manner in which the activity is conducted
- The expertise of the taxpayer or his or her
- The time and effort expended by the tax-

payer in carrying on the activity

- The expectation that assets used in the activity might appreciate in value
- The success of the taxpayer in carrying on other similar or dissimilar activities
- The taxpayer's history of income or losses with respect to the activity
- The amount of occasional profits, if any, that are earned
- The financial state of the taxpayer
- Elements of personal pleasure or recreation

## **Grouping businesses**

It is quite common for many shop owners or self-employed professionals to have multiple business activities. Consider the situation of John Jones, who has been operating a used-car lot as a sole proprietor for the last five years. He recently opened an auto repair shop near his vacation home in the mountains.

According to the U.S. Tax Court, the used car lot is consistently profitable, while the auto repair business hasn't yet produced a profit. John Jones reports the two operations as one on his tax returns, offsetting the income and losses.

At first glance, this approach might seem an ideal way to circumvent the rules. In this case, however, the IRS viewed the operations as two separate activities and subjected each to the not-for-profit activity (hobby/loss) rules. Whether or not the IRS will challenge similar offset situations will usually depend on the facts and circumstances.

Expenses incurred in expanding an ongoing business are, in general, currently deductible. However, expenses incurred in starting a new business must generally be capitalized and amortized or written off over 15 years. There is, of course, a special exception: the first \$5,000 of expenses can be deducted if the total startup expenses don't exceed \$50,000. Obviously, a significant write-off is available if it can be argued that the new operation is really an extension of the original business.

To illustrate, suppose John Doe operates a custom hardware business and online store. The operation is profitable and he decides to build a shop at the same location that specializes in cabinets. John Doe's startup expenses amount to \$70,000 and include the cost of hiring skilled craftsmen and other help, setting up bookkeeping and an operations manual, as well as advertising and promoting the operation. If this were an integrated operation, John Doe could deduct the startup costs immediately. If not, the rules require they be capitalized and amortized.

### **Passive activities**

In the case of the used-car dealer using the losses from an auto repair shop operated near his vacation home, the geographic separation of the two operations might indicate to an IRS examiner that they are two separate activities. Even worse, the fact that the repair shop is operated by a manager, while John oversees only the used-car lot hurts, rather than helps the argument for an integrated operation.

Of course John Jones, if asked, might be able to convince an IRS examiner (or a court) that the two operations are integrated since both activities involve autos and if John managed both businesses, if the books and records are kept using a common system, if the repair shop regularly does significant repairs on automobiles sold by the used car lot. The integration argument would be a lot stronger if it could be shown that savings resulted by using the repair shop in the mountains.

# **Working from home**

Just as a woodworking business owner or manager, the operator of a hobby-related, secondary business, even someone with only the "intent" to show a profit from his or her secondary activities, is entitled to a tax deduction for the expense of maintaining an office, shop or studio at home. Naturally, a deduction for the expenses of using a home for business purposes cannot be claimed unless the expenses are attributable to a portion of the home (or separate structure) used exclusively on a regular basis.

The home workspace is also deductible if used as the principal place of a business. Generally, a specific portion of a home must be used solely for the purpose of carrying on a trade or business in order to satisfy the exclusive use test. This requirement is not met if the portion is used for both business and personal purposes.

A word of warning: the home office deduction cannot exceed the gross income from the activity, reduced by the home expenses that would be deductible in the absence of any business use (mortgage, interest, property taxes, etc.,) and the business expenses not related to the use of the home.

### Caught!

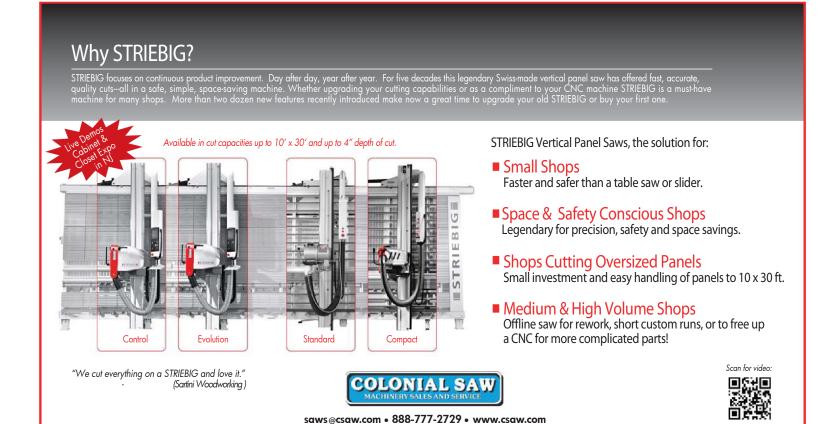
In a surprising number of cases, the IRS has accepted the characterization of two or more undertakings as one activity unless, of course,

the characterization is artificial or unreasonable. The odds of running afoul of the hobby/loss rules also remain long. However, there are situations with which every woodworking professional should be concerned. One such situation involves the so-called "material participation" rules.

Our voluminous tax rules limit the deduction for losses from so-called "passive activities." Generally, losses from passive activities can't be deducted from non-passive income (for example, wages, interest or dividends).

A passive activity is one that involves the conduct of any trade or business in which the taxpayer does not materially participate. Materially participating can be measured in a number of ways including putting in more than 500 hours each year. Materially participating also occurs when the individual's participation constitutes substantially all of the participation in the activity.

The IRS can both tax and help underwrite a secondary, part-time, or hobby-related activity. On the one hand, they are eager to tax all of an activity's income. On the other hand, many of an activity's expenses can be used to offset "hobby" income. Operate the activity as a "business," however, and the amount by which the activity's expenses exceed its income, the "losses," can be used to offset income from other sources. W





# **FINISHING**

with BOB FLEXNER

# Myths, folklore, tall tales and finishing

It is helpful to be skeptical of everything you hear or read and use your experience to question the explanations you are given

any years ago I coined what I call my half-right rule: Half of what you read or hear about finishing is right, but you just don't know which half.

I could have come up with this rule from reading contradictory information published in woodworking magazines, but I didn't. The rule originated from my experience with the elderly clerk, Glen, at a paint store down the street from my shop where I bought most of my supplies.

I always enjoyed my trips to the paint store because I was greeted warmly and I knew I was going to learn something. Glen had been around paints and finishes all his life and he gave me many tips that helped me raise the quality of my work. He also led me astray just about as often.

He wasn't misleading me about how to hold a brush or pull the trigger on a spray gun. Just as with the various procedures in woodworking, these are mechanical. They are physics. They are fairly intuitive and you can see them.

The problems were with the finishes, which are chemistry. You can't "see" what's going on inside a finish when it's drying or when you mix two products together. You can't see protection, durability, bonding or a dozen other qualities that separate one finishing product from another. This lack of visual confirmation opens up all sorts of possibilities for mythologies to develop and be spread from person to person, or "expert" to "expert."

Here are a few common examples that might sound familiar:

- Thin the first coat of finish by half for a better bond. On the contrary, full-strength finishes bond perfectly well. The purpose of thinning is to create a thinner build that is easier to sand.
- Don't sand to too fine a grit or you'll close the wood's pores and it won't take stain as well. You don't "close" the pores with finer grits. You create finer scratches that retain less stain when you wipe off the excess.
- Use sandpaper to knock off sharp edges because these will show wear first. Softened edges show wear as well. You should sand edges with a couple of sandpaper passes so the finish doesn't pull away (called a "fat edge") and leave too little build on the edge to be protective.

Custom orders available! **buy**ApplePly.com BuyApplePly.com is now online! America's favorite panel product is now available online! Select from multiple veneer species in 5 different thicknesses, all in convenient shippable sizes. Visit buyApplePly.com. Your next great project is only a click away. 1.800.203.1686 • States Industries LLC • Eugene, OR Like ApplePly on Facebook!

• The longer you leave a stain wet on the wood the more it soaks in and the darker the coloring when you wipe off the excess. This isn't the way it happens. The stain isn't soaking deeper; the thinner is evaporating, which leaves a higher colorant-to-liquid ratio.

Incorrect and misleading explanations circulate in magazines and books, but the primary source is store clerks and manufacturer reps.

Notice in all these examples that the problem with the instruction is not that you should or shouldn't do it. It's the explanation of what's going to happen or why it happens or how it happens that is incorrect.

When the what, why and how explanations are wrong, you are left struggling to understand finishing. You are left with the attitude expressed to me 25 years ago by the editor of a leading woodworking magazine: "Bob, we don't take finishing seriously because no one can understand it."

# **Clerks and reps**

Incorrect and misleading explanations circulate in magazines and books, but the primary source, at least for professionals, is store clerks and manufacturer reps.

Here's the problem: These people get their jobs (and keep them if they're good) because they are good at sales. It's rare that you find a former professional finisher or painter in one of these positions.

Selling, as it has been explained to me, is a talent that can't be easily taught. It's much easier to teach the ins and outs of finishes and finishing than how to sell. But you can't really teach finishing well either, especially if the teacher is steeped in mythologies.

Instead, clerks and reps learn most of what they know from the people to which they are selling. I can remember clearly reps who called on my shop telling me how other shops solved a problem. They were acting as a conduit of information between shops.

And this was great — as far as it went. But just as with Glen, the half-right rule applied. Some of what they were telling me was right on and I really appreciated it. But other solutions — especially the what, why and how — led me astray.

These reps, after all, were struggling just like I was to understand finishing. And it was even harder for them because they weren't actually doing it. They didn't have the personal experience with which to judge the accuracy of what they were saying.

So what's the solution? There is no solution, as far as I know. But it is helpful to be skeptical of everything you hear or read and use your experience to question the explanations you are given.

(I surely don't want any clerks or reps to take these comments personally. I'm just relating my experience and how I think things work. We are all more or less good at what we do and the hope is that we are always trying to get better.)

# One more thought

Supply sources for finishing products have changed a lot during the last three or four decades — and, in my opinion, not for the better.

It's not the Internet, which I think is far more positive than negative because of all the technical information made available (though the half-right rule still applies in chat rooms, on message boards and in manufacturers' instructions and explanations). It's the growing disappearance of owner-run paint stores and distributers in favor of chains that's the problem.

The owner of the paint store where Glen worked also worked there. The two of them, along with a couple of other clerks, were fixtures for decades. We became friends. They knew my wife and kids. There were always warm greetings when I went shopping. I felt good going there.

But that store no longer exists. It's been replaced by chain stores, including home centers. The managers and clerks come and go so often I rarely learn their names. Maybe they just move on to other jobs, but if they're good (which is what we want in a clerk), they get promoted to other stores in the chain.

Very often I'm dealing with a new person who I have no relationship with and whose knowledge I have to spend weeks or months trying to figure out.

The trend away from owner-occupied stores is a big loss for all finishers.  $\ensuremath{\mathbf{W}}$ 

Bob Flexner is author of "Understanding Wood Finishing" and "Flexner on Finishing."

# **ShopBot adds** education director

ShopBot Tools has hired Randy Johnson, former editor-in-chief of American Woodworker magazine, as its director of education.

"We're so excited that Randy has chosen to join us," said ShopBot CEO Ted Hall, in a company release. "He's highly respected by fellow woodworkers. He has been a champion of CNC from the beginning, and an inspiration to businesses and schools working to integrate CNC technology into their shops and classrooms."







Check out our forum at www.CAMheads.org



www.CAMaster.com

Toll Free

866-405-ROUT

Changing the Shape of Things!



# NEW PRODUCTS

**OUTWATER** has expanded its stair components offerings with traditional handrails and fittings in red oak. Straight and bendable rails are available in 12' lengths. For information, call 800-631-8375 or visit www.outwater.com.



MINI SILICONE GLUE BRUSH, from Rockler Woodworking and Hardware, is a re-usable glue brush made for small projects and detail work. It features a 3/8″-wide head with bristles arranged in a circular shape. The opposite end is a tapered dropper tip with grooves to hold glue and apply it in narrow, hard-to-reach areas. Wet glue can be rinsed off with warm water, while most cured woodworking glues simply peel and flake off the bristles, according to Rockler. The brush is sold in packs of two for \$7.99. For information, call 877-762-5537 or visit www.rockler.com.

MAKITA introduced a 12-volt cordless jigsaw, model VJ01W, powered with its Lithium-ion battery technology. The tool features variable speed control, three orbital settings, a throughthe-body dust port for use with a vacuum, and a built-in



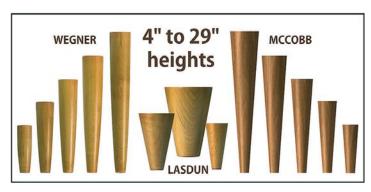
dust blower to clear the cut line. It weighs 3.7 lbs., according to the company. For information, call 800-462-5482 or visit www.makitausa.com





**CLASSIC DESIGNS** by Matthew Burak now carries three styles of furniture legs for mid-century décor in eight wood species. Along with the McCobb series of straight tapered legs, the company has added the Wegner collection of Danish Modern-style curve-tapering legs and the Lasdun collection of nine short tapered feet specifically for use under case pieces and sofas. All parts are fine-sanded and ready-to-finish, according to the company. For information, call 800-843-7405 or visit *www.tablelegs.com*.





THE KREG UNIVERSAL BENCH is a system of rails and adjustable-height legs — both made from thick, durable steel — that are available in multiple sizes. By combining legs and rails, there are 15 possible square or rectangular sizes – from 14" x 14" to 64" x 64" – and two heights. Both heights are adjustable over a 6" range using the included leg levelers and feet. The taller legs can be set from 29" to 35" tall, while shorter legs adjust from 15-1/4" to 21-1/4" tall. The levelers can also be used to accommodate uneven or sloping floors. Dual-locking 3" casters with rubber wheels are available as an option. Bench tops are also available. Contact: Kreg Tool Co. Tel: 800-447-8638. www.kregtool.com



# Nanofiber eats the competition's dust!

# (FREE with any Tempest Cyclone!)

The best value in dust collection is now the cleanest.

Our Tempest Cyclone Dust Collectors now include Nanofiber filters as a **FREE** upgrade (a \$54 value). Industry leading, MERV 15 rated Nanofiber filters combined with our cyclonic separation process captures 99.98% of wood chips and dust particles to below 1/2 micron. You achieve near surgical quality air and cleaner tools, while practically eliminating dust clean up forever! In addition, TEMPEST™ cyclones never clog and require almost no maintenance.

- 2.5 HP 1450CFM \$1095
- 3.5 HP 1700CFM \$1295
  - 700CFM \$1295 Ask about our solutions for smaller
- 5.0 HP 1800CFM \$1495 shops starting at only \$295.
- 2.0 HP Portable 1025CFM \$995

**SAVE on any system you buy!** PSI offers a variety of discounts and offers on dust collectors too numerous to list here. We're your complete resource for everything you need to get the job done right! To get the best deal on the system sized perfectly for your shop and number of tools, **call Bill at (215) 676-7606 x16**.

# **Penn State Industries**

**Top Quality, Great Prices and Expert Advice!** 

1-800-377-7297 • www.pennstateind.com



## PURVEYORS OF FINE MACHINERY®, SINCE 1983!

- OVER A MILLION SQUARE FEET PACKED TO THE RAFTERS WITH MACHINERY & TOOLS
- 2 OVERSEAS QUALITY CONTROL OFFICES STAFFED WITH QUALIFIED GRIZZLY ENGINEERS
- HUGE PARTS FACILITY WITH OVER 1 MILLION PARTS IN STOCK AT ALL TIMES
- TRAINED SERVICE TECHNICIANS AT ALL 3 LOCATIONS MOST ORDERS SHIP THE SAME DAY

# 10" HYBRID TABLE SAW

with Riving Knife

- Motor: 2 HP, 110V/220V, single-phase
- Precision-ground cast iron table with wings measures: 27" x 40"
- Arbor: 5/8"
- Arbor speed: 3850 RPM
- Capacity: 3½ @ 90°, 2½ @ 45°
- Rip capacity: 30" R, 12" L
- Quick change riving knife
- Cast iron trunnions
- Approx. shipping weight: 404 lbs.

**INCLUDES BOTH REGULAR & DADO BLADE INSERTS** 





## 17" HEAVY-DUTY BANDSAWS

- · Motor: 2 HP, 110V/220V, single-phase, TEFC
- Precision-ground cast iron table size: 17" sq.
- Table tilt: 45° R, 10° L
- Cutting capacity/throat: 161/4"
- Max. cutting height: 121/8"
- Blade size: 131½" L (1/8"-1" W)
- Blade speeds: 1700 & 3500 FPM
- Quick release blade tension lever
- Approx. shipping weight: 342 lbs.

### BEAUTIFUL WHITE COLOR!

INCLUDES DELUXE EXTRUDED ALUMINUM FENCE, MITER GAUGE & 1/2" BLADE

G0513P ONLY \$89500

ALSO AVAILABLE IN GRIZZLY GREEN G0513 HEAVY-DUTY 17" BANDSAW



MADE IN TAIWAN

# G0715P ONLY \$79500

# 10" LEFT-TILTING CONTRACTOR-STYLE TABLE SAW with Riving Knife

- Motor: 1½ HP, 110V/220V, single-phase
- · Precision-ground cast iron table with wings
- Table size: 25½" x 40" Arbor: 5%"
- Arbor speed: 4000 RPM Capacity:
- 31/4" @ 90° 21/4" @ 45° Rip capacity:
- 30" R, 12" L Approx. shipping





175370

MADE IN ISO 9001 FACTORY!







10" LEFT-TILTING TABLE SAWS

G1023RLW 3 HP ONLY \$1350000 G1023RLWX 5 HP ONLY \$139500



### 10" CABINET TABLE SAW with Riving Knife & Extension Rails

- · Motor: 3 HP, 220V, single-phase
- · Precision-ground cast iron table
- Table size with extension: 27" x 743/4"
- Arbor: 5/8" Arbor speed: 4300 RPM
- Max. depth of cut: 3½" @ 90°, 2¾6" @ 45°
- Max. rip capacity: 50" Max. dado width: <sup>13</sup>/<sub>16</sub>"
- Approx. shipping weight: 572 lbs.



G0691 ONLY \$142500



### 14" HEAVY-DUTY BANDSAW



- Motor: 11/2 HP. 110V/220V. single-phase, TEFC, 1725 RPM
- Amps: 15/7.5
- Precision-ground cast iron table size: 20½" x 14" x 1½"
- Floor to table height: 44"
- Table tilt: 15° L, 45° R
- Cutting capacity/throat: 131/2"
- Max. cutting height: 6"
- Blade size: 92½"-93½" L (½"-¾" W)
- Approx. shipping weight: 262 lbs.

MADE IN ISO 9001 FACTORY

MADE IN TAIWAN



# **ULTIMATE 14" BANDSAW**



- Motor: 1 HP. 110V/220V. single-phase, TEFC
- Precision-ground cast iron table size: 14" sq.
- Table tilt: 45° R. 15° L
  - Cutting capacity/throat: 131/6
  - · Max. cutting height: 6"
  - Blade size: 921/2"-931/2" L (1/8"-3/4" W)
  - Blade speeds: 1500 & 3200 FPM
  - Approx. shipping weight: 196 lbs.



MADE IN TAIWAN

G0555P ONLY \$52500 =





G0514X

- Motor: 3 HP, 220V. single-phase, TEFC
  - (SP:® iron table size: 26¾" x 19" (GOS14X ONLY)
- Table tilt: 45° R, 5° L
- Cutting capacity/throat: 181/4"
- Max. cutting height: 12"
- Blade size: 143" L (1/8"-11/4" W)
- Blade speeds: 1700 & 3500 FPM
- Approx. shipping weight: 460 lbs.

**DELUXE RE-SAW FENCE** INCLUDED

MADE IN TAIWAN

ONLY \$149500 ALSO AVAILABLE G0514XF W/ FOOT BRAKE ONLY \$ 139500 Now!



\*To maintain machine warranty, 440V operation requires additional conversion time and a \$250 fee. Please contact technical service for complete information before ordering.



**FOLLOW US ON** 

3 GREAT SHOWROOMS! BELLINGHAM, WA · MUNCY, PA · SPRINGFIELD, MO **TECHNICAL SERVICE:** 570-546-9663 FAX: 800-438-5901



G0555X ONLY \$82500

# th Anniversary 1983 - 2013



FREE CATALOG **764 PAGES OF HIGH QUALITY MACHINES & TOOLS** AT INCREDIBLE PRICES

# 12" JOINTER/PLANER **COMBINATION MACHINES**

- Motor: 5 HP, 220V, single-phase
- Jointer table size: 14" x 591/2"
- Cutterhead dia.: 31/8"
- Cutterhead speed: 5034 RPM
- Max. jointer depth of cut: 1/8"
- Max. width of cut: 12"
- Planer feed rate: 22 FPM
- Max. planer depth of cut: 1/8"
- Max. planer cutting height: 8"
- Planer table size: 121/4" x 231/8"
- Approx. shipping weight: 734 lbs.

# G0634XP ONLY \$229

ALSO AVAILABLE IN GRIZZLY GREEN

G0633 JOINTER/PLANER ONLY \$199500 G0634Z SPIRAL CUTTERHEAD MODEL ONLY  $^{\$}2595^{00}$ 

Fence: 5%" x 311/4"

Cutterhead dia.: 3341

Cutterhead speed:

4950 RPM

jointing: 45°,

Max. depth

Approx. shipping

weight: 832 lbs.

of cut: 3/8"

90°, 135°

Revel

· Motor: 3 HP, 220V, single-phase, TEFC

• Precision ground cast iron table size: 13" x 60"

MADE IN TAIWAN

CARBIDE INSERT SPIRAL

CUTTERHEAD!

**NEW** 

**END-MOUNTED** 

FENCE

## CYCLONE DUST COLLECTOR

MADE IN TAIWAN

- Motor: 1½ HP, 110V/220V, single-phase, TEFC, 3450 RPM
- · Air suction capacity: 775 CFM
- Static pressure at rated CFM: 1.08"
- Intake port: 6" with included 5" optional port
- Impeller: 13½"
- Height: 65½"
- Built-in remote control switch
- Approx. shipping weight: 210 lbs.





**FULLY MOBILE** WITH BUILT-IN **CASTERS** 

**BEAUTIFUL** 

WHITE

COLOR!



G0706

12" X 60" SHORT BED JOINTER

with Spiral Cutterhead

G0703P ONLY \$79500 - 879

MADE IN

ISO 9001 FACTORY!



## **8" JOINTERS**

- Motor: 3 HP, 220V, single-phase, TEFC
- Precision-ground cast iron table size: 9" x 721/2"
- Max. depth of cut: 1/8"
- Max. rabbeting depth: 1/2"
- Cutterhead dia.: 3"
- Cutterhead speed: 5000 RPM
- Cuts per minute: 20,000
- Approx. shipping weight: 500 lbs.

4 KNIFE CUTTERHEAD

**CHOOSE EITHER 4 HSS KNIVES** OR SPIRAL CUTTERHEAD MODEL

G0656P ONLY SPIRAL CUTTERHEAD

G0656PX ONLY \$122500



PARALLELOGRAM TABLE ADJUSTMENT §150 🗅

G0706 ONLY \$249500

SAFETY

**PUSH** 

BLOCKS

# 15" PLANERS

- · Motor: 3 HP, 220V, single-phase
- · Precision-ground cast iron table size: 15" x 20"
- Min. stock thickness: 3/16
- . Min. stock length: 8"
- Max. cutting depth: 1/8"
- Feed rate: 16 & 30 FPM
- Cutterhead speed: 5000 RPM
- Approx. shipping weight: 660 lbs.

**CHOOSE EITHER 3 KNIFE** OR SPIRAL CUTTERHEAD

G0453P ONLY \$109500

3 HP DUST COLLECTOR

New!

WITH SPIRAL CUTTERHEAD G0453PX ONLY \$169500



(B)

# 18" OPEN END DRUM SANDER

- Sanding motor: 11/2 HP, 110V, single-phase, 15A
- Drum surface speed: 4000 FPM Conveyor feed rate:
- Variable, 2-12 FPM
- Max. stock dimensions: 36" W x 41/2" H
- Min. board length: 6" Min. board thickness: 1/8"
- Sanding drum size: 4"
- 21/2" dust collection port Overall size: 35" W x 50" H x 24" D
- Approx. shipping weight: 328 lbs.



# 15" DISC SANDER with Stand

- Motor: 1½ HP, 220V, single-phase, 1720 RPM
- Cast iron sanding disc size: 15"
- Cast iron table size: 12" x 20'
- Table tilt: +15° to -45°
- Floor to table height: 37%
- Dust port: 21/2" Approx. shipping weight: 232 lbs.

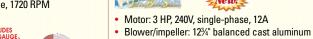


**FEATURES BUILT-IN MOTOR BRAKE &** STORAGE CABINET WITH SHELF



G0719 ONLY \$87500







- 7" inlet has removable "Y" fitting with three 4" inlets
- Canister filter size (dia. x depth): 195/8" x 235/8" (2)
- Bag capacity: 11.4 cubic feet
- Overall dimensions: 57%" long x 32" wide x 71" high
- Approx. shipping weight: 232 lbs.
- CSA certified

G0562ZP

\$925 SALE \$67500



G0458 ONLY \$89500



izzly.com **OVER 15,000 PRODUCTS ONLINE!** 



## BY JENNIFER HICKS / STAFF WRITER

stablished in 2007, Merrill Woodworking and Design in Rigby, Idaho, features a lineup of state-of-the-art machinery, allowing the company to offer a range of cabinetry styles for clients throughout Idaho, Utah, Wyoming and Montana.

Having lived in the rural area all their lives, owner Kent Merrill and his son Kris know integrity is worth its weight in gold when it comes to getting and keeping clients. The company's longstanding reputation in the community has helped it sustain the toughest economic times while competitors have gone under. In addition to standing by their products and services, Merrill says one of his key attributes is being honest with clients.

"We always try to take care of everybody, take care of every customer, stay ahead of schedule and stay on top. We know not to make promises you can't keep. If you can't follow through, it will hurt you. Don't just tell people what they want to hear. The truth is better," says Merrill.

Being able to keep a proper balance on what to offer clients is equally important. Merrill believes clients have a certain expectation about what the company should bring to the table when it comes to discussing a commission.





KRIS & KENT MERRILI



PRINCIPALS OF: Merrill
Woodworking and Design
LOCATION: Rigby, Idaho
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES: 9
SHOP SIZE: 10,000 sq. ft.
ABOUT: A family-run custom
cabinet shop that serves the
residential and commercial
markets in southeastern Idaho.

"Sometimes [shops] don't change with the needs of their clients with new products. We always offer new products. We always offer the latest inventions, which include drawer slides, drawer boxes and dovetailed drawers."

## Successful start

Though he only formed his company five years ago, Merrill had about three decades of woodworking experience prior to opening his own shop. He was first introduced to the trade at age 17 during a woodworking shop class at Rigby High School. The basic skills he learned there immediately led to an after-school job at his future father-in-law's shop, Upper Valley Cabinet, also located in Rigby.

"He asked me to come to work. He was busy and had just barely started up the shop. I started there, graduated and got married that same year. I just hung around and the next thing I knew I was in charge of installing and finishing."

Merrill worked his way up so quickly that within several years, he and his brother-in-law decided to purchase the business from his father-in-law. The partnership lasted for roughly 25 years, until Merrill parted from the company, which is still in business, and formed his own shop.

"Our kids grew up, times changed and we both had a different outlook on things. I built this building with my son Kris and we started here in July 2007."

## **Diverse clienteles**

Clients from both residential and commercial sectors are generally located within a 100-mile radius of the shop. The service area covers a vast range of the mountainous region, going east towards Jackson Hole, Wyo., north towards Yellowstone, Mont., and south towards Salt Lake City.

There is an even split between residential clients who contact the business directly for home renovations and commercial clients obtained through general contractors. Merrill says he prefers commercial work because the major decisions have already been made, meaning the clients have selected the materials, colors and designs they want. When everything is specified before the job goes to a general contractor, he says projects run a lot smoother.

Commercial work generated through builders includes work for local businesses, churches and schools. Merrill easily prefers these over residential jobs.

"I've had some contractors stay with me for 25 years. They never got a set of cabinets from anyone else and I still maintain those relationships today. Since I've started this business, because of our modern machinery, we do a lot more commercial work now."

In the residential sector, there is a 50/50 split between remodelcontinued on next page



The shop's portfolio includes this kitchen with raised seating (above) and home office with an in-house antiqued glaze finish.







A contemporary kitchen and a built-in are all in a day's work for Merrill Woodworking and Design.

**MERRILL** from previous page

ing jobs and new construction. Merrill says remodeling is the company's niche because it works with a number of restoration companies. Though most jobs come by way of referrals, the company does a fair amount of advertising just to keep its name out there with local television and newspaper ads.

"We're one of the few woodworking shops around here that does advertising. It's just about name recognition. The cost you put out doesn't come back immediately, but it sticks in their mind as to who to call when they want work done."

# Styles and services

The scope of services includes kitchen cabinets (frameless and face

frame), entertainment centers and millwork packages. All finishing is done in house.

"We offer quite a few different styles. There's a trend coming back more towards the white cabinetry. For this we use a crème-colored toner that we cover the wood with, we burn off the edges and then we glaze over top of that to give it that antique look. Another trend is a kitchen island in a darker shade with light cabinets. Everyone wants it all."

Popular material choices include cherry, maple, oak, walnut, hickory and cedar, as well as several variations of alder.

"Rustic or knotty alder is huge. It comes out of Oregon and Washington. It stains uniformly light or dark whereas the rustic maples have a lot of color differences. Some like clear alder with no knots also."

Merrill meets with clients and prepares the initial designs and bids. Kris manages the shop floor and helps with some of the most essential tasks.



"I hand-sketch and then send it to my son Kris to do the computerized drawings. His drawings are exact and precise. He shows the customer a digital version. This is not only good for the sales portion of our business, it's a must for accuracy and makes sure the customer is on the same page. I sign off or send an email asking for confirmation, and then if there's a problem there's a record of their approval. It eliminates a lot of problems ... a lot of problems."

Merrill keeps his shop equipped with up-to-date machinery. He purchased everything new when the 10,000-sq.-ft. shop and showroom was first built. The equipment includes a Weeke BHP 200 CNC router, Brandt Optimat edgebander, Altendorf sliding table saw, SCMI wide belt sander, SawStop table saw, Unique door machine, Weinig Unimat molder, JLT panel and door clamps, and a Castle pocket screw machine.

## **Expansion possible**

Merrill and his son are very interested in growing the business in the next five years and would like to steer the company toward more commercial work.

"On the commercial end, the more bids you put out to the general contractors, the more work you receive. It builds on itself. We could handle more employees in the shop. We have lots of room here."

He also wants to continue updating the shop's machinery to continue providing the best products possible. He says the only downside to using the most sophisticated and top-of-the-line equipment is that it can be difficult to deal with customers overly concerned with price.



Blair Merrill operates the company's Weeke BHP 200 CNC router.

"In today's economy, it's not like the customers can't find a cabinet shop. They want to get three and four bids out to get the best deal. In our area, there are a lot of small shops, building things with table saws in their shed instead of CNCs and nice edgebanders and things like that. Those guys base their product prices on their low overhead. We need to make our price match our product and it's frustrating when you know you build the best product and give the best service and people want the lowest price."

But there is no client shortage at this time. Merrill says the shop often has more work than it can handle and again attributes this to his reputation. There is currently a six-week backlog and business has improved greatly compared since last year.

"We're definitely still feeling the effects of the economy. We have been since 2008. Our best year was in 2007 and then the economy went bad. It was tough for a long time. I was fortunate to have been able to keep our whole crew. Many of the other shops went down to a one-man crew. But having our name out for many years has helped us." W

Contact: Merrill Cabinets, Woodworking and Design, 659 N. 4128 East, Rigby, ID 83442. Tel: (208) 745-7320. www.merrillwoodworking.com





# BY JENNIFER HICKS / STAFF WRITER

ent Merrill, owner of Merrill Woodworking in Rigby, Idaho, and featured in this month's cover story, makes the point that part of his business success depends on how well he keeps up to date with the latest designs and innovations. Merrill puts an emphasis on mentioning the latest hardware products to his clients, which, in turn, makes them appreciative of his knowledge about the various slides and hinges on the market today.

Year after year, trade show after trade show, it seems there are more and more slides, hinges and other functional cabinetry hardware systems that improve the quality of homeowners' lives. Many of the products listed below were found at the recent IWF in August and

more selections will be added in July at the AWFS fair in Las Vegas.

Through the years, Pat Abbe, owner of CabinetParts.com, an Internet-based hardware supplier headquartered in Pompano Beach, Fla., has seen consumer trends fluctuate greatly in this product category. He says that, lately, consumers have been leaning towards soft-close hinges and drawer slides that are designed to keep households quieter. He works with a number of leading manufacturers whom he says do extensive research on consumer preferences, so their latest products usually reflect the current trends. Another recent trend he notices is that many of the newer products are geared towards the aging baby boomer population.

# case for hardware that offers quiet operation and convenience



"The trends I see in new construction are starting to go towards corner drawers instead of Lazy Susans. Especially as we age as a population, we seem to be getting away from base cabinets; everybody has a corner system tandem box. These manufacturers do a lot of research on who's buying the product and the best use of space. I see that as a trend. Nobody likes to bend in and reach the back of the cabinet. Now everything is coming to us, so rollout drawers work really well," he says.

**Accuride International** recently introduced model 3600, a new heavy-duty slide option for the woodworking industry. The product offers full extension, includes a hold-in detent and carries loads up to 200 lbs. It is a non-disconnecting slide, which is useful in applications where heavy drawers are not intended to be removed from cabinets as a measure of safety, such as in medical or educational settings. Designed for drawers up to 42" wide, model 3600 is available in even lengths of 12" to 28" in a clear zinc finish. It is designed for wide drawers and trays, bulk storage bins or pullout shelving units in commercial and residential environments.

The company also added models 7950 and 7957 to its heavy-duty slide lineup. These slides offer an alternative for 3/4" side space projects, giving woodworkers additional slide options for drawers with larger loads, says the company. Accommodating drawers up to 42" wide, these products are suitable for applications including kitchen storage for small appliances and cookware; or garage and shed storage of paint and tools. The slides are full extension and carry loads up to 350 lbs. They can be mounted flat at a lesser load capacity of up to 150 lbs. per pair. Both models are available in lengths of 12" to 36" in a clear zinc finish.





**Blum** is launching its next-generation Tandem plus Blumotion drawer runner series this month. Several features have been incorporated into this new series. The company has added a side-adjustable locking device as an option for inset drawer applications, screw holes in the bottom of the runner for bottom mount applications and elongated holes for easy depth adjustment. The series offers users increased stability, the ability to use all the same rear mount brackets and a lateral stabilizer option for wide drawers.

**CounterBalance** offers a unique spring-loaded device called Lift-A-Syst to balance hinged countertop doors. The product works by using flexible rods that store mechanical energy when twisted. The torsion is applied to the rods as the countertop doors move in an upward or downward motion, neutralizing the weight of the countertop and making it virtually weightless while in motion. The product is available in six different sizes to accommodate different countertop door lengths and weights and can accommodate ranges between 21" and 39", and weights from 22 to 72 lbs.

The company also offers a custom product line for countertop doors called the Counter-A-Syst counterbalance.

continued on next page

# **SOURCE LIST**

For products listed in this story, contact the following companies:

- Accuride International. Tel: 562-903-0200. www.accuride.com
- Blum Inc. Tel: 800-438-6788. www.blum.com
- Cabinetparts.com. Tel: 800-857-8721. www.cabinetparts.com
- · CounterBalance. Tel: 215-957-9260. www.cbal.com
- Hafële America. Tel: 336-434-2322. www.hafele.com
- Hettich America. Tel: 800-777-1772. www.hettichamerica.net
- Rehau. Tel: 800-247-9445. www.rehau.com
- Rev-A-Shelf. Tel: 800-626-1126. www.rev-a-shelf.com

Information on hardware suppliers and distributors is also available from the Woodshop News' online resource directory at http://resourceguide.woodshopnews.com.





**Hafële** offers the new SmartCab Storage System for a wide range of functionality in the kitchen. It is an interchangeable storage system that offers a wide range of inserts that make it fully customizable without requiring a full height door. It can be custom-configured to fit into a standard 15" or 18" base cabinet with a door/drawer configuration.

**Hettich America** recently launched the Grant E-Series sliding and folding door hardware systems. These products cover solutions for bifold and multifold applications from 25 to 150 lbs. per panel. They also offer sliding solutions for single, pocket, bi-parting and bypassing applications. These systems feature an aluminum box track that hides the hardware for a clean appearance. The carriers feature high-quality precision bearing wheels that deliver a smooth, quiet and long-lasting performance, according to the company.

Hettich also introduced the new full-access Quadro, an updated version of its popular Quadro slide. The slide features a minimized extension loss compared to a full extension slide that provides 15 percent more access than a partial extension slide, making it and attractive option for upgrading furniture lines, the company says.

Hettich has also updated its Sensys hinge with an integrated Silent System that allows for soft closure of furniture doors from an unusually wide opening angle of 35 degrees.

**Rehau** offers a selection of innovative tambour door systems that suit a wide variety of market applications, with customization options to match size, design and finish preferences and to fit a variety of horizontal and vertical openings. They require minimal space and provide full access to the cabinet contents, unlike sliding doors or hinged doors



that open out into the work area. An unlike wooden doors, the durable polymer systems do not swell or stick with humidity.

Rehau's Vetro Line tambour door system addresses modern kitchen design trends that incorporate glass doors and translucent materials. The line combines the tambour door cassette system with 2" heat-tempered security glass slats, offering a sleek, translucent door solution for a wide variety of cabinet applications. The complete line also now includes clear, black and white color options.

Rehau also offers the appliance garage tambour door kit as part of its Express Collection stock program of edgeband, tambour door systems and related accessories. The complete and ready-to-install kit provides visually appealing countertop storage that offers convenient access to frequently used kitchen appliances.

**Rev-A-Shelf** is offering a new soft-close wall pullout, the 448 WCSC series, to enhance cabinetry accessibility in the home. This adjustable shelf wall pullout features Blumotion Soft-Close slides. Designed for 9" and 12" wall cabinets, these pullouts come complete and ready to install in existing cabinetry. Product highlights include adjustable shelves with stylish chrome rails and removable top rails that provide another shelf for taller 36" or 42" applications.

Another new product illustrates Rev-A-Shelf's many new drawer systems designed for better kitchen organization. The 18" two-tier knife drawer with soft-close, W4T Series, is packaged in a kit with Blumotion soft-close slides for smooth and silent operation. A drawer-front needs to be added to complete the system.

Rev-A-Shelf's soft-close tipout hinge, the LD-0220 Series, is designed for use with all of the company's tipout trays. It features a soft-close piston that eliminates slamming and a 50-degree opening that allows for complete accessibility to items stored within it. W





The focal point of the decor for every great bathroom is the vanity.

Osborne Wood Products offers a variety of carved vanity legs in delicate detail, as well as non-carved posts that exude a more simple elegance.









# Rob Grant puts the best of his Virginia woodworking business out there for all to see and it's helping business

# By Ann Goebel

hough Rob Grant loves his big equipment — Omnitech CNC, Whirlwind saw, Brandt edgebander — there's a smaller tool he uses to run his cabinetmaking business: a multi-lens digital camera. Creating a picture-perfect image is vital for any company and Grant, president of Contemporary Woodcrafts, does it largely with snapshots and labels to match.

Go to www.cwcabinet.com to see hundreds of photos that help motivate prospective customers to make their buying decisions. Step into the company's showroom in Chantilly, Va., to see screens projecting pictures, albums resting on sleek built-in cabinets and walls lined with framed photos. They're all clear, studied, informative shots that chronicle the company's output and 28-year history.

"We offer timeless cabinets for every room of the home — kitchen,

bath, living room, den, family room, closet, bar, mudroom — either built-in or freestanding. One of our mottos is 'build what we sell,' so nothing is premanufactured. Every commission is pre-thought-out to maximize design and production time versus cost and value to the buyer."

His audience lives in an area densely populated with millions of educated, affluent homeowners, mainly in metropolitan Northern Virginia and Washington D.C., where competition lurks around every corner.

### The products

The premise behind Grant's video blitz has a lot to do with exposing

# **ROB GRANT**

**OWNER OF:** Contemporary Woodcrafts Inc. LOCATION: Chantilly, Va.

SHOP SIZE: 8,000 sq. ft. • YEARS IN BUSINESS: 28

**EMPLOYEES:** 9 (7 on staff, 2 contractors)

QUOTABLE: "If you're not swimming upstream, you're floating downstream ... very fast."



# RECT PLAN

his company. People tend to remember pictures better than words, especially if they're plentiful and thoughtfully distributed.

Of course, the superiority of any product lies in the details, some of which the camera can't portray. That's where Grant explains what's beneath the surface for his customers and reinforces the pleasing visual aspects of his cabinets. One of the last notations in his sales pitch is always "our cabinets will typically last the life of your home."

The company designs and manufactures two cabinet lines that define the construction methods for all its cabinet products: CW Express bookcases and built-ins are semicustom-tailored to fit to 1/16''. Sides, tops and bottoms are 3/4-inch-thick. Shelves are 1-1/2'' thick to prevent sagging. Construction style is frameless bases and face-frame inset upper cabinets. There are several finish choices — white or pastel to match existing woodwork or stain and lacquer finish on cherry, maple, oak and mahogany. In addition, there are many hardware, molding and door selections. All cabinets in this line are installed by the company.

The PotomacWest Collection is composed of cabinets for kitchens, closets, baths and bars and installed by unaffiliated building contractors (with the exception of closets). Special features include four-point base levelers to keep cabinets off the floor and removable toe kick to allow cleaning and access beneath; wood dovetailed drawers or the popular European-style metal-drawer box systems with soft, self-closing, con-

cealed slides, a multitude of finishes and hardware choices, and easy-to-clean white or maple melamine interiors.

continued on next page



All projects start with a 15-point buyer's agreement.

# **NEW FROM FORREST!**

# Ply Veneer Worker Blade

**Designed Specifically for Cutting Plywood and Plywood Veneers** 

This commercial-quality blade is ideal for rip and cross cutting two-sided plywood, whether finished or unfinished. It is also perfect for cross cutting solid woods. In fact, there's no comparable blade on the market today.

The Ply Veneer Worker (PVW) uses the same high-precision technology that's behind our popular Woodworker II blade. Designed for cutting wood products only...

- The PVW's list price is \$23 less than our Duraline Hi-A/T.
- It delivers flawless cuts without splintering or fuzz. You never have to worry about chip-outs on top or bottom surfaces. No scoring blade is needed.
- It lasts up to 300% longer between sharpenings. The PVW is made of superstrong C-4 micrograin carbide for extra durability. Like other Forrest blades, it is hand-straightened to ensure perfect flatness and has a side runout of +/- .001.

The PVW is superbly engineered. It features a 10° hook, 70 teeth, and a high alternate top bevel grind. You can count on this



exceptional product to give you vibrationfree performance and long life.

All Forrest blades, including the new PVW, are *made in the U.S.A.* and have a 30-day, money-back guarantee. So order today from your Forrest dealer or retailer, by going on-line, or by calling us directly.

**FORRES** 

The First Choice of Serious Woodworkers Since 1946

www.ForrestBlades.com 1-800-733-7111 (In NJ, call 973-473-5236) © 2013 Forrest Manufacturing Code WN

# SELF-SET®

**JOINTER / PLANER KNIFE** 

The Worlds Only Affordable

Self-Setting Knife for your Jointer or Planer

Precisely Located Stops on the SELF-SET Holder Ensure Perfect Set-Ups
Every Time

Fast and Accurate Knife Changes in Every Machine Ever Made - Every Time



# **Organization man**

Grant's responsibilities as owner and president are wide-ranging and break down into four major categories: marketing; on-site measuring and monitoring; watching cash flow; and generating new products and production ideas.

"Since photography is a major sideline, I enjoy selling our products via our website pictorials and our in-house video presentations. My camera also comes in handy when I go to each new job site and get accurate measurements. I draw all the initial designs and then follow up to make sure everything is done right."



Built-ins are a popular choice at Contemporary Woodcrafts.

A mobile showroom is an example of one of Grant's innovative ideas. It's a modified custom racecar trailer hitched to a GMC Yukon hybrid SUV. The interior is decorated like an entertainment room with prototype built-in cabinets and video screen displays.

"We conceived the idea in 2007 and initially it was intended for visiting contractors, builders and interior designers at their offices. In other words, we took our products to them for their viewing convenience. Today's use is directed to both the consumer and contractor-designer."

Grant uses his exceptional organizational talents in dispatching his self-appointed duties. He runs his company much like he'd run a classroom — with disciplined order and attention to details, especially cash flow.

"In this business, organization, efficient time management, streamlined production and the latest equipment are all essential for keeping the business alive. You have to be in total control of your environment all the time. I prefer to keep what I consider a manageable six-week backlog. At any given time it doesn't take much additional business to feel swamped and extremely busy and, on the other hand, it doesn't take much loss or lack of new sales to feel you're on the edge of a cliff."

One way he maintains control is through the use of manuals. Like equipment instruction books, they provide valuable written guides. His business operating manual begins with an organizational values statement, covering four values geared toward giving customers high product value for their money and constantly monitoring and improving quality and production techniques. He also wrote a manual for contractors, providing detailed specs for all his company's products.

Dealing with every type of customer from the unreliable to the temperamental inspired him to rewrite the buyer's contract. It used to be a simple one-pager. Now it's an extremely detailed 15-point agreement.

"You have to have specifics spelled out so there's no possibility of mis-





understanding or surprises. Of course, way before the contract, the first thing I do when someone wants to purchase from me is ask their cost expectations to determine if I'm within their budget."

Now 55, Grant has concluded that owning a business isn't always about the bottom line. There's room for personal satisfaction as well as providing good jobs for his employees. "For me, it's never been all about making money. I recognize the importance of profit, but I also put weight on the intangibles."

# Coming of age

Grant grew up in Long Island, N.Y., so all he's ever known is the hustle and bustle of city life. His father was a businessman and inventor who patented, manufactured and installed car-washing systems. Grant accompanied his father on inspection rounds, learning the fundamentals of business development and management. He got his initial taste of woodworking in high school shop classes.

At the State University of New York in Oswego, he graduated with a degree in industrial arts/education. For two years, he taught industrial arts to eighth graders in Richmond, Va. His lessons were lost on restless, often disruptive adolescents. When low pay and discipline problems took some of the joy out of the classroom, he moved on to a good, but boring, desk job in defense contracting.

"Then I attained new technical skills and solid business experience in the corporate office of an exhibit fabricator involved in Smithsonian displays, large-scale business exhibits for trade shows, architectural woodwork, tourist information centers."

Along the way, he also taught adult education woodworking classes, which he loved because, unlike his middle school students, his mature scholars paid for their courses and were motivated.

"As a former educator, I believe you need to continue learning and that taking courses is a good idea. I did postgraduate work at



A recently completed kitchen project.

American University in business and in a variety of kitchen design and CNC programming classes."

Though Grant lauds formal education, he's also gleaned knowledge on his own from personal reading. He gained admiration for Steve Jobs' visionary inventions and drive after reading the recent biography on the Apple co-founder. Eli Goldratt's novel, "The Goal," gave him an expanded insight into operations management procedures, some of which he employs.

## **Job evolution**

Though Grant made good money at previous jobs, he was never satisfied. Either he was not challenged or didn't have enough independence.

continued on next page

# **CONSUMER ALERT!**

BEWARE OF UNAUTHORIZED SUBSCRIPTION OFFERS!
SEVERAL SUBSCRIBERS TO WOODSHOP NEWS HAVE NOTIFIED US THAT THEY HAVE
RECEIVED "RENEWAL/NEW SUBSCRIPTION" NOTICES OR OTHER OFFERS IN THE MAIL
FROM EITHER UNNAMED GROUPS OR GROUPS NAMED:

PUBLISHERS PERIODICAL SERVICE (PPS)
READERS PAYMENT SERVICE (RPS)
ABD INC.
SUBSCRIPTION BILLING
NATIONAL MAGAZINE SERVICES (NMS)
UNITED PUBLISHERS SERVICES
PUBLISHERS BILLING EXCHANGE (PBE)

Please do not order subscriptions through these groups.
They are not authorized to represent Woodshop News in any way
and we do not have a business relationship with them!

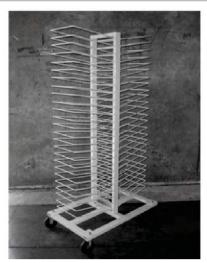
#### HOW CAN YOU TELL IF AN OFFER IS FROM WOODSHOP NEWS?

- Notices from Woodshop News will have our distinctive logo on the piece or may include the line "From the Publisher's Office."
- Our publishing office address is 10 Bokum Road, Essex, CT 06426.
   Our subscription mailing address is: P.O. Box 433212, Palm Coast, FL 32143.
- We nearly always provide return envelopes to one of the addresses listed above. Checks are normally payable to Woodshop News.
- We do not offer a 1 year subscription price of \$42.00 or 2 years @ \$94.95.

If you are ever in doubt whether you received an offer from an approved company... Call the publisher's office at 860-767-3200 ext. 238, Monday through Friday, or e-mail us at circulation@woodshopnews.com. Our toll-free customer service number at 800-243-9177 may also be helpful.



PUBLISHED BY SOUNDINGS PUBLICATIONS LLC
WARNING: PROTECT YOURSELF – KNOW WITH WHOM YOU ARE DOING BUSINESS!



# Hold Everything!

.....well, at least 50 shelves worth of everything. Our heavy duty cabinet drying rack. PN# RR3-KD. See details at www.wireline.net/cabinetdryingrack.aspx.

ENTER PROMO CODE R2252 TO RECEIVE 10% OFF.\*



\*Offer expires 02/15/2013. Can not be combined with any other offer.

Full-size performance. Mid-size package.

The Buddy: 16sq feet of industrial strength CNC.

- Get professional speed, power and accuracy at a fraction of the cost of a big-iron CNC machine.
- Cut wood, vinyl, aluminum, foam, plastic – just about anything
- All ShopBot Tools are designed, built and supported in the USA

Check out our website, then give us a call. We'll help you choose the right ShopBot tool for your business.

We make the tools for making the future.





#### **GRANT** from previous page

When the exhibit fabricator enterprise laid him off, he came to a reckoning point. Should he seek employment with another company or try something on his own? He needed an outlet for his energy, something to stop his spinning wheels. Perhaps he could mine his persistent love for tools and woodworking.

One day in 1984 he took the first step. He went down into his 120-sq.-ft. townhouse basement and with a power saw and a few hand tools, began to make wood items: chairs, tables and cradles. He displayed at craft and home shows as Contemporary Woodcrafts. Then he had a bright idea. He would design "The Jewelry Closet" along with a marketing plan and unique packaging — an attractive item that would be in demand. But the experiment netted disappointing sales.

Luckily, just as "The Jewelry Closet" fizzled, someone asked him to build a bookcase and it was a revelatory experience: "I was suddenly introduced to the fact that an individual would pay considerably more for a bigger bookcase versus a smaller jewelry box despite the fact that the bookcase took much less skill and labor to create."

He completed the bookcase, assembling it outside for lack of space. And that was the start of a bigger and better Contemporary Woodcrafts. In 1987, he incorporated and began full-time residential cabinetmaking and installation. Through slow, progressive growth, he moved to three other shop locations in Virginia before settling into his present and largest facility six years ago.

## A good spot

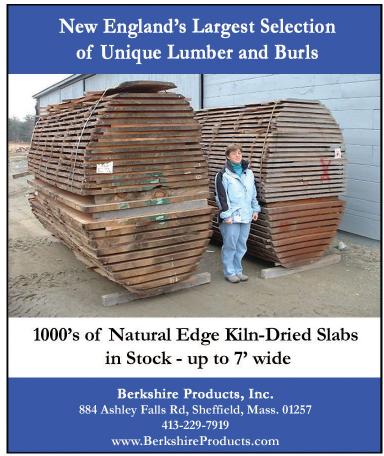
In 2005, Grant purchased an end unit condominium, zoned for commercial use. He designed the 8,000-sq.-ft. facility using experience in previous shops to determine the configuration and details. The first floor is allocated for reception area, showroom and the shop. The upper level is divided into three offices.

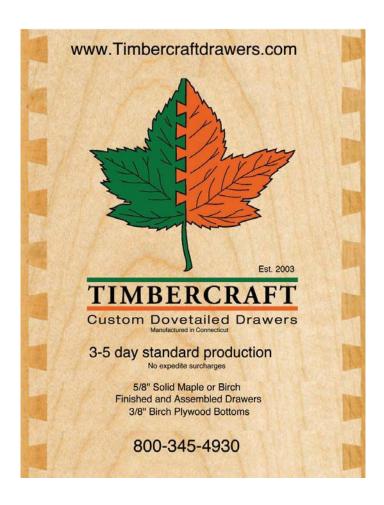
The entrance to the shop is from the kitchen area through double doors. In his former workshops, seeping dust polluted the air, clogged telephones and computers and left layers on all office surfaces, so he made sure the two-door setup was part of his design. Motion-sensor and fixed-time light switches were installed along with sodium bulbs in the shop's vaulted ceiling.

The facility came with 440 voltage, which is housed safely behind a wire fence. However, a portion of the current is reduced by a step-down transformer to 220, which some of his equipment requires. For environmental reasons, Grant has been utilizing waterborne finishes for more than 20 years. He now uses only M. L. Campbell products in the spray booth to eliminate air contaminants and vapor masks.

continued on Page 40









# REMANUFACTURED

SandingmasterWideBelt Sander Model 2075–C 37" x 75" Belt. This machine also has Veneer sanding capabilities. Combination Head allows for light thicknessing as well as fine sanding.

# Professional Quality At The Right Price

Remember the line of Sandingmaster Wide Belt Sanders we sold from the mid 80's to the mid 90's? We now sell them remanufactured to new specifications (subject to availability), along with many fine, accurate woodworking machines new and remanufactured.

Call us for parts, service, and advise on your woodworking needs.



P.O. Box 70, Rutland, Vermont 05701 (802) 773-3240 www.woodshopspecialties.org Sitting at the ready is a forklift, battery-generated instead of propane to eliminate air pollution.

The sequential cabinet production is done in a neat U-shaped path beginning at the drive-in supply bay and ending with a loading dock. The

manufacturing route takes materials to the CNC router, various saws, edgebander, Williams & Hussey molder, Conquest horizontal boring machine, Col-Met walk-in spray booth with air makeup system, Grass Zargen drawer box system, Hafele Moov-IT drawer box system, Salice hinge system, Sand Pro dust-free sanding station. In addition, there's a 7.5-hp dust collector system with individual collector units at each machine. Everything is streamlined to minimize movement of materials and employees.



# The staff

As important as having state-of-the-art equipment, including the camera, is the selection of employees. "I try to hire persons with similar philosophies and attributes — strong work ethic, customer-oriented — to avoid conflict down the road."

Key personnel are Juan Roberts, Benton Chrea and Kelli Koutstaal. Roberts, the shop manager, came to Grant from the carpentry industry more than 20 years ago. "His wonderful disposition and positive attitude help more than anything to keep up the morale among all my workers," says Grant.

Chrea is production and operations manager and has exceptional

CAD/CabinetVision software skills. He spends most of his time in front of a bank of four monitors, three of which are for CAD applications. Grant values his "computer skills and his calm demeanor and exceptional patience when dealing with our clients."

Koutstaal lends a friendly face to the organization and greets the public as they come through the door. She's the phone-answering service,

multitasker and bookkeeper all in one.

Every employee performs housekeeping duties on a rotation schedule. Hours are 7 a.m. to 3:30 pm. Monday through Friday. The work time was established to beat the heaviest rush hour traffic and cater to the building industry. Everyone is granted some slack for occasional family responsibilities, traffic or emergencies. If they wonder exactly what's expected of them, they go to Grant's standard operating procedure manual with bulleted entries.

Grant counts himself lucky to have a reliable and congenial staff that makes it all happen. It's dealing with stressed clients

and setting up meeting times around their jobs, soccer games and parent-teacher conferences that challenges him. So when the appointment is finally made and the deal closed, he might enjoy a brief getaway to the wharf, camera in hand. He unties his boat and floats out into Chesapeake Bay or the Potomac River and finds fresh wind for his sails, a pool of fish for his line. And he's sure to call that a fine day. W

Contact: Contemporary Woodcrafts Inc., 3656 Centerview Dr., Suite 14, Chantilly, VA 20151. Tel: 703-787-9711. www.cwcabinet.com





# Judges honor the best in Western shows

Texas furniture show and Wyoming arts festival feature hundreds of pieces inspired by the region







From top, Strazza won Best in Show honors at the Texas Furniture Makers Show for this Federal-style hall table. Secrest's trunk and Ray's table were runners-up pieces.

# By Jennifer Hicks

STAFF WRITER

rank Strazza of Waco won the Best in Show award at the 13th annual Texas Furniture Makers Show, held Nov. 8 to Dec. 8 at the Kerr Arts and Cultural Center in Kerrville, Texas.

The show, exclusively for Texas custom furniture makers feetured more than 40 exhibitors and more than 60 entries in the

The show, exclusively for Texas custom furniture makers, featured more than 40 exhibitors and more than 60 entries in the award categories.

Strazza is now a two-time winner of the Best in Show honor. The veteran woodworker and teacher at the Center for Essential Education's school of woodworking near Elm Mott won for a Federal-style hall table. Randolph Secrest of Spicewood was second and Bert Ray of Wimberley was third in the judging.

Other "Best of" awards went to James Breaux of San Antonio (contemporary piece), Caleb James of Katy (traditional style), Lou Quallenberg of Llano (Texas style) and Jeremy Grubb of Dickinson (art style).

In Jackson Hole, Wyo., more than a hundred artists, woodworkers and designers showed in September at the juried Western Design Conference.

The 20th anniversary show, part of the Jackson Hole Fall Arts Festival, features Western-influenced furniture, jewelry, leather goods and apparel. Two furniture makers did well in the best artist category, with a win by John Wesley Williams of Renick, W.Va., and honorable mention for Mike Roths of Bear Paw Designs in Stevensville, Mont.

#### **Contacts:**

Texas Furniture Makers Show, 228 Earl Garrett St., Kerrville, TX 78028. Tel: 830-895-2911. www.texasfurnituremakersshow.com

Western Design Conference, P.O. Box 7889, Jackson, WY 83002. Tel: 307-690-9719. www.westerndesignconference.com



# **CALENDAR**

Organizations sponsoring meetings, classes or shows of interest to professional or hobbyist woodworkers are invited to submit items to: Calendar, Woodshop News, 10 Bokum Road, Essex, CT 06426; editorial@woodshopnews.com.

The complete national calendar of events is updated monthly at *www.woodshopnews.com*.

— Compiled by Jennifer Hicks

# **CALIFORNIA**

Feb. 11-15 & 18-22, June 10-14 & 17-21 — Stage I: Boulle and Stage II: Classic method (piece by piece) classes at the American School of French Marquetry in San Diego with W. Patrick Edwards and Patrice Lejeune. Tuition: \$750 (for each stage), including materials. www.americanschooloffrenchmarquetry.com

**Monthly** — San Fernando Valley Woodworkers meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Balboa Park Sports Complex, Gym Building, at 17015 Burbank Boulevard in Encino. www.sfvw.org

## **COLORADO**

**Feb. 1-3** — The Woodworking Show at the Merchandise Mart in Denver. *www.thewoodworkingshows.com* 

## **FLORIDA**

Feb. 7-18 — Florida Handcrafted Furniture Show at the Florida State Fair in Tampa. Exhibitors must have a Florida mailing address. Entry deadline is Dec. 15. Contact Vernon Blackadar at vesablackadar@msn.com.

**March 15-17** — The Woodworking Show at the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa. *www.thewoodworkingshows.com* 

Ongoing — The Dunedin Fine Art Center is offering six-week woodturning classes at its Cottage Campus taught by AAW professional member Tony Marsh for beginners and intermediate-level participants. Full day classes are held on Thursdays. Call 727-298-3322 or e-mail education@dfac.org for information.

#### **GEORGIA**

March 22-24 — The Woodworking Show at the North Atlanta Trade Center in Norcross. www.thewoodworkingshows.com

#### **IDAHO**

Feb. 23-24 — The 2013 Idaho Artistry in Wood Show invites competitors from all skill levels. to submit their wood carving, turning, scroll work and fine wood working for display and judging. The show will feature demonstrations, vendors, raffles, an auction and banquet as well as the opportunity for artists to sell their work. Location: Boise Hotel and Conference Center in

02WHAT

Boise. Contact: www.idahoartistryinwood.org

# **ILLINOIS**

**Feb. 8-10** — The Woodworking Show at the Gateway Center in Collinsville. *www.the woodworkingshows.com* 

## **MAINE**

**Feb. 11-May 3** — Twelve-week intensive program at the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship in Rockport. Hands-on woodworking experience in a fully-equipped shop. Fee: \$6,950. www.woodschool.org

# **NEW JERSEY**

**Feb. 22-24** — The Woodworking Show at the Garden State Exhibit Center in Somerset. *www.thewoodworkingshows.com* 

**Feb. 27-March 1** — Cabinets & Closets Conference & Expo at the New Jersey Convention & Exposition Center in Edison.

#### OHIO

March 1-3 — The Woodworking Show at the Ohio Expo Center in Columbus. www.the woodworkingshows.com

# **WISCONSIN**

**Feb. 15-17** — The Woodworking Show at the Wisconsin Expo Center in West Allis. *www.the woodworkingshows.com* **W** 

# WOODSHOP Woods With a REDESIGNED format to ENHANCE your reading experience, now is a better time than ever to be reading WOODSHOP NEWS GET 12 ISSUES OF WOODSHOP NEWS PLUS A FREE HAT FOR ONLY \$21.95!

MAIL: WOODSHOP NEWS, PO BOX 433212 PALM COAST, FL 32143-3212						
1 year with Hat \$21.95 2 years with Hat \$35.95						
Name						
Address						
CityStateZip						
Daytime Phone						
E-mail						
(for renewal purposes only)						
Check Enclosed Bill my credit card						
No "bill me" orders please.						
Credit Card #						
Exp. Date						
Canadian subscribers add \$12 per year; Foreign subscribers add \$14 per year.						
Offer valid with this coupon only and may not be used						
in combination with other offers. This offer is not retroactive.  Valid on new subscriptions only.						

CALL: 1-800-243-9177
WEB: www.woodshopnews.com

# WOODSHOP 2013 Resource Guide

A fast and easy research tool to help you determine which companies can supply the products and services you are looking for.

Over 300 companies listed, covering well over 250 product and service categories.

If you are looking for it, we can help you find it.

Link through our web site www.WoodshopNews.com

or go direct resourcequide.woodshopnews.com





**Resource Guide Showcase Sponsors** 

cabinet vision











If you are supplying products or services to woodworking professionals, make sure you are listed!

Already listed? Make sure it's up to date!

For marketing information, e-mail: sales @woodshopnews.com

# CLASSIFIED MARKETPLACE

Call 860-767-3200 ext. 284 for Advertising Information

## **Band Saws**

# **Band Saw Blades** Swedish Silicon Steel Timber Wolf® 1/8" Through 2" call: Suffolk Machinery 800-234-7297 Now Order Online www.timberwolfblades.com

# Iturra Design

Your complete source for the best information and accessories for the home shop bandsaw

- Lenox Cabide-tipped bandsaw blades
- Blade Tension meters
- · Bandroller ball-bearing guides
- · Ceramic blade guides
- · Re-saw and rip fence
- Pulley and Powertwist belt kits
- Carter Quick Release for Delta/Jet 14" handsaws
- · Urethane & rubber bandsaw tires
- High Tension Springs

Call 904-642-2802 for free catalog

# **Bits, Cutters**

# RIDGE CARBIDE

# **EXPRESS CUSTOM CUTTERS & KNIVES**

- · Custom Router Bits
- · CNC Router Bits
- · Corrugated Back Knives
- · Molder Planer Knives (William and Hussy, Shop Fox, Grizzly)
- · Groovers & Cutters
- · Profile Shaper Cutters

We deliver what others only promise with 2-3 day delivery.

Call Toll Free: 1-800-443-0992 Tool Free Fax: 1-888-728-8665 Email: rcttool@verizon.net

www.ridgecarbidetool.com 595 New York Ave Lyndhurst, NJ 07071

## **Bits. Cutters**

# Freeborn Cope & Pattern Sets Now on Sale



3/4" to 1-1/8"

3/4" to 1"

1/4"







Phone (888)344-5545 Fax (209) 835-9378

www.pmetooling.net For all your tooling needs

# **Branding Irons**

**CUSTOM BRANDING IRONS** 

# FREE-FREE-FREE

information & sample brandings contact:

# NORCRAFT

P.O. Box 606, New Boston, NH 03070 Phone/Fax (800) 538-4831 Names, initials, monograms, signatures and logos faithfully reproduced.

# ANY SIZE or DESIGN

Professional quality tool, electric or torch heated-can be used both hand-held or drill press mounted.



"Hallmarks of distinction worthy of your labor."



# **Custom Branding Irons**



Electric or Flame Heated Custom Designs, Logos, Signatures

Quality for over 20 Years!

# **BrandNew** Industries, Inc.

(800) 964-8251 www.BrandNew.net

# **Business Opportunities**



# **Computers/Software**

**CUTTING OPTIMIZER SOFTWARE - INEXPENSIVE** AND EFFICIENT. \$49/\$149. www.rrdrummond.com 724-446-0159

# **Drawers**





- \* Call for Sample & Prices \* Thru & Blind
- Drawers & Pullouts
- \* Prefinishing \* Adjustable Tail Spacing
- \* Undermount Prep \* Prompt & Reliable \* 1-2 Week Turnaroun

Stratton Creek Wood Works

330-876-0005 Shop 330-876-0032 Fax www.strattoncreek.co

# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

860-767-3200 ext. 284



# **Drawers**

# **Industries**

- Quality Drawers Added Selling Tool
- No Minimum Order Quick Delivery
- · Constructed of Solid Wood, Baltic Birch, White and Wood Grain Ultrafoil

Melamine on an MDF Core.

1-800-581-3683 Web address: www.ccfdrawers.com

# **Finishes/Coatings**

BLOXYGEN SAVES LEFTOVER FINISHES Inert Gas Preservation System. www.bloxygen.com. 888-810-8311

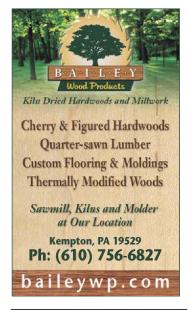
#### Glass

# Green Mountain Glass, LLC 211 Main St. • Charlestown, NH 03603

Small Lite, Narrow Sight Line Insulated Glass Silicone Dual Seal, All types, from historic wavy to blast resistant glass. Argon fill and warm edge available.

603-826-4660

## **Hardwoods**





# CLASSIFIED MARKETPLACE

E-Mail marketplace@woodshopnews.com for Advertising Information

**Hardwoods** 



Good Hope Hardwoods

(610)274-8842 www.goodhope.com



# **Exotic Wood Wonderland!**

The Largest Importer of Exotic Hardwoods From Pen Blanks to the Whole Log!

We recently just added several LOGS to our inventory! We have the most unique selection of flitches/slabs that you won't find anywhere else! Guanacaste, Quina, African Mahogany (Acajou), Sapele, Iroko, Apa (Afzelia) Purpleheart. Paduak and Granadillo! Visit our Website for a complete list or call us today!



Visit our Website: www.westpennhardwoods.com

230 South Clinton Street, Olean NY 14760



www.rarewoodsusa.com • (207) 364-1073 120 species of exotic & domestic woods Ebony, Olive, Rosewood, Satinwood, etc. \$3 million inventory – buy 1 plank or 1000!

# **Hardwoods**

NORTHWEST BAMBOO Inc

LUMBER, PLYWOOD VENEERS, FLOORING 503-695-3283

WWW.NWBAMBOO.COM

# **American Hardwoods**

Specialty Figures and Widths Sequential Sets

WOOD PRODUCTS, INC.

Online Inventory www.horizonevolutions.com 814-772-1651

# STEVE WALL LUMBER CO. Quality Hardwoods and Woodworking Machinery For The Craftsman and Educational Institutions.

The trusted supplier from the Heart of North Carolina Furniture County.

HARDWOODS • EXOTICS • THIN **CRAFTWOOD • AROMATIC CEDAR** HARDWOOD PLYWOOD • CUSTOM PANEL DOORS • HARDWOOD FLOORING

See Our Catalog on the WEB: walllumber.com

BOX 287 • MAYODAN, N.C. 27027 336-427-0637 • 1-800-633-4062 Email: wood@walllumber.com SEND \$1.00 FOR CATALOG

## CORMARK INTERNATIONAL **EXOTIC HARDWOODS**

- BEST PRICES DIRECT FROM SOURCE
   EXOTIC LUMBERS, BLANKS, BURLS,
- SLABS, TURNING BLOCKS AND MORE.

\*NATIONWIDE DELIVERY
WWW.CORMARKINT.COM / CORMARKINT.@AOL.COM
181, REEMS CREEK RO, WEAVERVILLE, NC 28787
(828) 658-8455

# RARE HIGHLY FIGURED **CLARO WALNUT**

1"-3" thick lumber RWL, large slabs, turning blocks & gunstocks. Wineland Walnut (530) 345-4012 Fax: (530) 345-0990 • Mon-Fri 8-3 9009 River Road, Chico, CA 95928 www.wineland-walnut.com

# **Hardwoods**

## Oregon Claro/Black Walnut

Slabs - Wide lumber - 4/4 through 16/4 Turning - Carving Stock - Gunstocks - Veneer Web Site www.gobywalnut.com

GOBL

WALNUT PRODUCTS 5315 NW St. Helens Rd. Portland, OR 97210 M-F 7-4; Sat. 9-4

(503) 477-6744

# **Hinges**



# Instruction

# The Furniture Institute of Massachusetts Phillip C. Lowe, Director

Two-Year hands-on Program with Master Furniture-Maker Summer Workshops Available

116 Water St. (978) 922-0615 Beverly, MA 01915 www.furnituremakingclasses.com

## Jointers/Planers



**KNIVES & CUTTERHEADS** AT DISCOUNT PRICES

CALL 1-800-489-6694 OR E-MAIL: SIMANTEC@OPTONLINE.NET

# **Knobs and Pulls**



# Lumber

# Help Yourself to a Great Selection of Lumber!



- Domestic & Exotic Hardwoods
- Mahogany
- Softwoods
- Plywood
- Turning Squares
- · and much more!

Mon - Fri: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM Sat: 7:00 AM - 11:30 AM

1-800-788-5568

60 Evans Dr. Stoughton, MA 02072 Visit us at downesandreader.com

# L.L. JOHNSON LUMBER MFG. CO.

# FOR THE WOODWORKER

CHARLOTTE, MI SOUTH BEND, IN

HARDWOODS **SOFTWOODS EXOTICS PLYWOOD TOOLS** 



# **West Coast Woods**

# VG Clears:

- Western Red Cedar
- Alakan Yellow Cedar
- Douglas Fir

# **Urban Forest Slabs:**

- Monterey Cypress
- Claro Walnut
- And More!



1-800-711-WOOD 831-768-3880 FAX: 831-768-3883

# **CLASSIFIED MARKETPLACE**

Call 860-767-3200 ext. 284 for Advertising Information

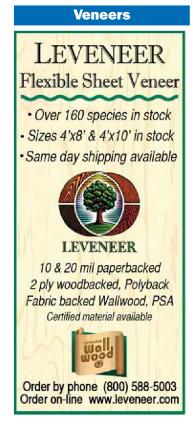






# **Real Estate**

FOR SALE BY OWNER: 1925 Arts and Crafts Style House and 1200 square foot Shop in the borough of East Stroudsburg, PA. Minutes from Route 80, NY/ NJ markets. Price: 158K. For Pictures and Information, phone: 615-429-1486 or e-mail: kunkelquitars@vahoo.com



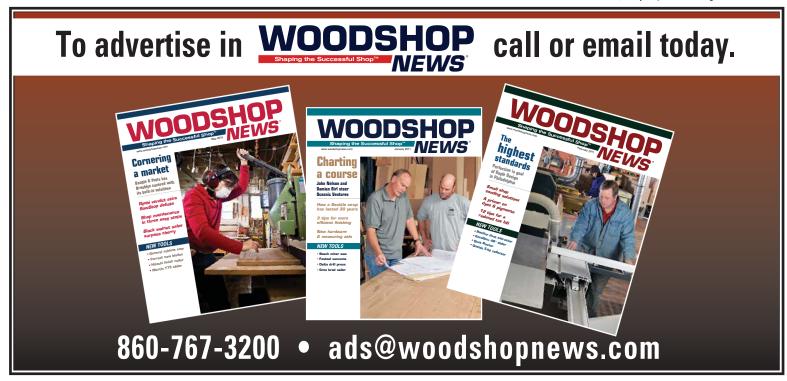




# **Wood Turning**



(CT) CUSTOM HAND WOODTURNING:
Architectural/furniture components, prototyping, reproduction. Small-to-medium quantity, small scale to 9'6". Jim Kephart Woodturning. Phone/fax 860-643-9431, www.jimkephartwoodturning.com





# ADVERTISING INDEX

Amana Tool	www.amanatool.com	C4	Osborne Wood Products, Inc	www.osbornewood.com	33
AWFS	www.awfsfair.org	11	Outwater Plastics Industries	www.outwater.com	47
Beaver Tools	www.beavertools.com	12, 17	Penn State Industries	www.pennstateind.com	23
Berkshire Products	www.BerkProducts.com	39	PMK Family, L.L.C	www.pmksystems.com	29
CAMaster	www.CAMaster.com	21	Resource Guide	resourceguide.woodshopnews.com	43
Charles GG Schmidt & Co	www.cggschmidt.com	3	RIKON Power Tools	www.rikantools.com	
Colonial Saw	www.csaw.com	19	Sata Spray	www.satausa.com	40
Connecticut Saw & Tool	www.ctsaw.com	36	SawStop, LLC	www.sawstop.com	4
Dispoz-A-Blade, L.L.C	www.estausa.com	35	Shopbot Tools, Inc	www.shopbottools.com	38
Drawer Connection, Inc	www.dcdrawers.com	9	Simantech Inc	www.simantechinc.com	38
Extrema Machinery Company, Inc	www.extremausa.com	5	SpeedSaver by Timesavers	www.SpeedSander.com	14
Festool USA	www.festoolusa.com	2	States industries	www.statesind.com	20
Forrest Manufacturing	www.ForrestBlades.com	35	Stiles Machinery	www.stilesmachinery.com	1
Goff's Enterprises, Inc	www.goffscurtainwalls.com	39	Timbercraft Mfg	www.timbercraftdrawers.com	39
Grizzly Industrial, Inc	www.grizzly.com	7, 24-25	Tool Nut, The	www.toolnut.com	28
Hearne Hardwoods	www.hearnehardwoods.com	13	US Body Products	www.usbodyproducts.com	36
Hickory Saw & Tool Inc	www.hickorysawandtool.com	40	W. Moore Profiles Ltd	www.wmooreprofiles.com	15
Highland Hardwoods	www.highlandhardwoods.com	22	Williams & Hussey Machine Co	www.williamsnhussey.com	16
Laguna Tools Inc	www.lagunatools.com	13	Wireline	www.Wireline.net	37
Oliver Macninery Co	www.olivermachinery.net	32	Woodshop Specialties	www.woodshopspecialties.org	39
Oneida Air Systems Inc	www.oneida-air.com	18	Woodstock International	www.woodstockinternational.com	C2

# Strictly shutters

Rick Skidmore, owner of Timberlane custom shutter company in Montgomeryville, Pa., started his woodworking business from a sales and marketing position. The company has grown to include clients from across the country who are looking for custom shutters to grace their buildings.

"I'm not a woodworker by trade. I started the business about 17 years ago when I had an old home in a historic area with old shutters that are falling apart. I went looking for a company that did that and couldn't find anyone. I had worked for an investment firm and knew how to develop brands and service customers, so I had thoughts on how to fill that void," says Skidmore.

The company operates out of a 70,000-sq.-ft. facility with about 60 employees, including in-house sales and design staffs.

"We have lots of different customer segments. We sell directly to homeowners and also to the design community. We sell to other woodworking firms when it's cost-effective for them to outsource to us. We have lots of little niche segments in the marketplace, like movie-set work."

The company is also tied to the National Trust for Historic Preservation and does work on numerous historically significant properties.



Timberlane builds custom shutters for residential homes and historic preservations across the country.

"The reproduction standards are really high so we have to match what would have been there originally to meet a certain code or certain standard that they have on the

property."

Skidmore says business has been challenging lately in light of the struggling economy. He concedes that

shutters are a product people want, but don't necessarily need. On the flip side, he says the company recently updated its equipment and made other adjustments to operate as a lean business and to be responsive to orders in ways that make better economic sense.

"People don't have to buy shutters. They're something that they can put off or delay from a sales perspective. It's difficult to manage our margins in an environment when it's harder to pass on price increases. The perception from our customer base is that these are tough times and these should be cheaper just by default and that's not the case."

Contact: Timberlane Inc., 150 Domorah Dr., Montgomeryville, PA 18936. Tel: 800-250-2221. www.timberlane.com

Jennifer Hicks









# INTRODUCING THE NEW RIKON 10-350 PROFESSIONAL BANDSAW



The NEW 10-350 14" Professional Bandsaw features a 14" Re-saw Capacity for slicing veneers and book matched projects with ease. We have added several new safety features including micro switches on both doors, that will stop the saw if a door is opened while the saw is running, as well as a switch that will prevent the saw from starting unless the quick release blade tension lever is engaged.

RIKON offers this saw in two versions. The 10-350 uses our 2.5 HP RIKON motor and the 10-350BAL uses a 3HP Baldor motor which is made in the USA.

For a Distributor near you please visit:

www.rikontools.com

Toll Free: (877)884-5167

Motor By:

BALDOR

Designed By: RIKON



LIFE INDUSTRIAL BITS



# STRAIGHT PLUNGE ROUTER BITS

- New generation of ultra-fine micro-grain carbide
- New superior geometric design
- New advanced automatic grinding technology that improves the carbide's resistance to wear
- Super clean smooth cuts
- 200% longer life time even when working with abrasive materials
- Cost effective



# **INCREASE YOUR PRODUCTIVITY!**

# SOLID CARBIDE

**SPIRAL & COMPRESSION BITS** 

- Unique carbide grade for superior cut quality
- Polished flutes and razor sharp cutting edges
- Excellent for cutting abrasive materials
- M Supports high feed rates
- ☑ Increased clearance geometry







