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W1812 Planer Moulder w/Stand



2 HP, 10" OPEN STAND HYBRID TABLE SAW

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W1685 1½ HP Dust Collector

16" SCROLL SAW

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BLOGS



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



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T10462

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- Maximum throat: 8"
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TAKING STOCK

with TOD RIGGIO

Forecast is for increased regulation with chance of growth

he U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued its final rule to reduce exposure to formaldehyde vapors from certain wood products produced domestically or imported into the United States.

The agency said it worked with the California Air Resources Board to help ensure the final national rule is consistent with California requirements for composite wood products.

"We are carrying out important measures laid out by Congress to protect the public from harmful exposure of this widely used chemical found in homes and workplaces," Jim Jones, EPA assistant administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, said in a statement.

"We have worked with the State of California as a partner to help ensure consistency in our requirements. The new rule will level the playing field for domestic manufacturers who have a high rate of compliance with the California standard and will ensure that imported products not subject to California's requirements will meet the new standard and thus, not contain dangerous formaldehyde vapors."

The Formaldehyde Emission Standards for Composite Wood Products Act of 2010 established emission standards for formaldehyde from composite wood products and directed the EPA to finalize a rule on implementing and enforcing a number of provisions covering composite wood products.

One year after the rule is published, composite wood products that are sold, supplied, offered for sale, manufactured or imported in the United States will need to be labeled as TSCA Title VI compliant. These products include hardwood plywood, MDF and particleboard, as well as household and other finished goods containing these products.

The EPA is also setting testing requirements

to ensure that products comply with those standards, establishing eligibility requirements for third-party certifiers and establishing eligibility requirements for accreditation bodies to be recognized by the EPA that will accredit the third-party certifiers.

The new rule includes certain exemptions for products made with ultra-low formaldehyde or no-added formaldehyde resins and new requirements for product labeling, recordkeeping and enforcement provisions.

Continued growth predicted

In the coming year, homeowner remodeling activity is projected to accelerate, keeping the rate of growth above its long-term trend, according to the Leading Indicator of Remodeling Activity from the Remodeling Futures Program at the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University.

The LIRA anticipates growth in home improvement and repair expenditures will reach 8 percent by the start of 2017, well in excess of its 4.9 percent historical average.

"A healthier housing market, with rising house prices and increased sales activity, should translate into bigger gains for remodeling this year and next," managing director Chris Herbert said in a statement. "As more homeowners are enticed to list their properties, we can expect increased remodeling and repair in preparation for sales, coupled with spending by the new owners who are looking to customize their homes to fit their needs."

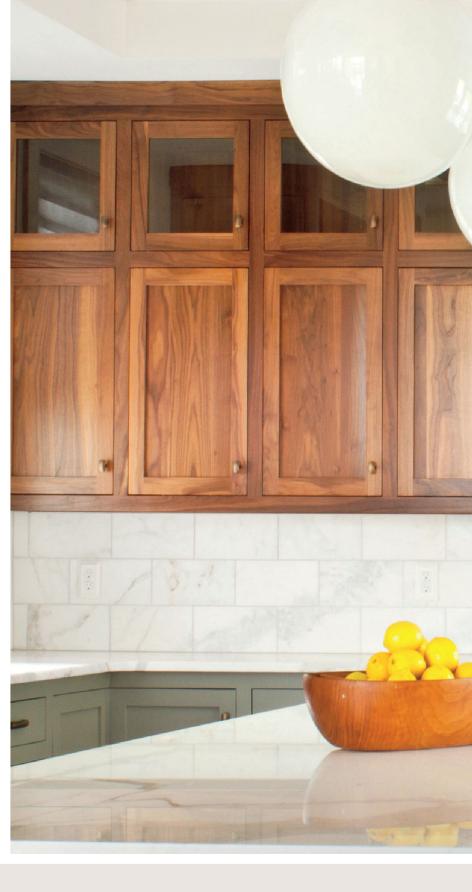
"By the middle of next year, the national remodeling market should be very close to a full recovery from its worst downturn on record," research analyst Abbe Will added. "Annual spending is set to reach \$321 billion by then which, after adjusting for inflation, is just shy of the previous peak set in 2006 before the housing crash."

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.

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The perfect board Losis Hon has been searching for the perfect board for ending Wo—first on a familiar molecular than to cover of 16 surface for in Welshorn, No. Now his teached cold and

Decade has been kind to Irion Lumber

By Jennifer Hicks

ouis Irion started his lumber business, Irion Lumber, in 1997 after running a period furniture shop for 20 years. Demand for wide boards, essential for matching original designs, was too great to ignore.

"I hear so many times that woodworkers can't find wide lumber, let alone matching sets of the same, and it isn't that scarce. You just have to know where to look for it and probably pay a little more," Irion said in our March 2006 profile "Lumber heaven."

"Our strength is the fact that we have been involved in the lumber business for so long and have the background in the furniture business. That really has been much more of an asset than we ever realized because we also understand the processes that go with wood," he added.

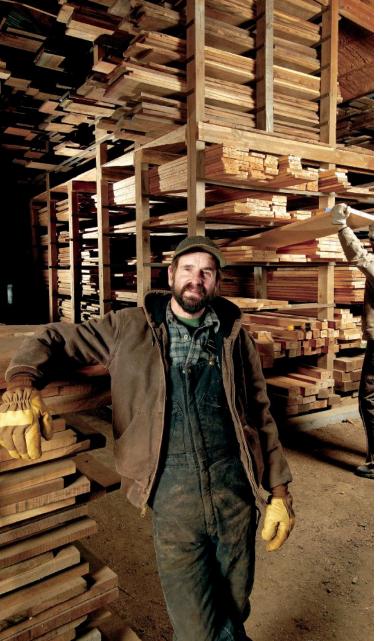
A decade later, Irion Lumber is still going strong. Located on a 300-acre farm in Wellsboro, Pa., the sawmill specializes in stocking plain and figured Pennsylvania cherry, tiger maple, unsteamed Eastern black walnut, mahogany and butternut, with intermittent supplies of curly birch. Thicknesses range from 4/4 to 24/4.

"The lumber business has grown," Irion said recently. "I'd say since 2005 we've probably tripled our sales and the whole concept behind the business is keeping it the size it is because we can control the quality of lumber. And we are really happy to have a life and a business, too. The problem we faced in the furniture business was it ran us. That can happen if you're not careful, so we've made the conscious decision not to grow out of our comfort zone."

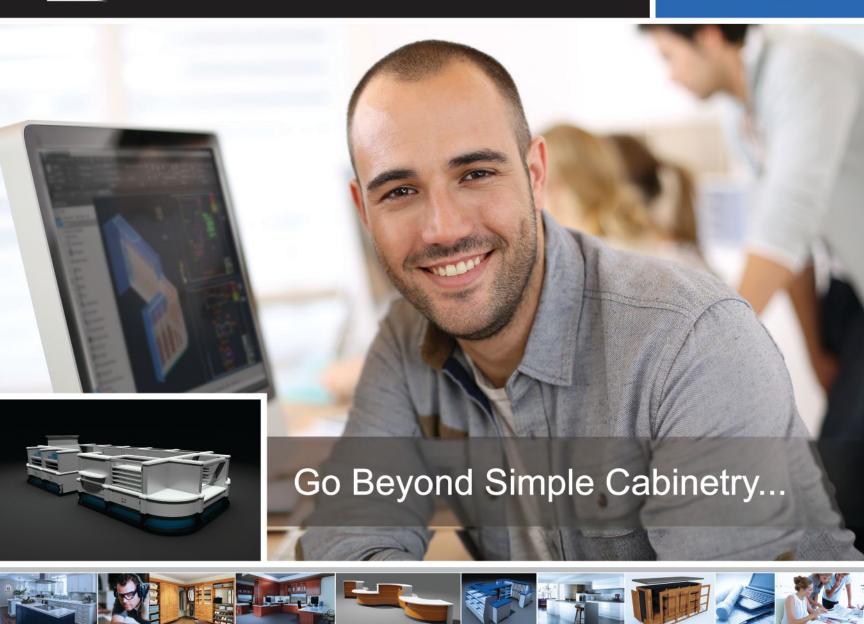
Irion recently purchased a larger sawmill and spends most of his time, with wife Wanda, selecting and buying logs.

The 2006 profile is available at www.woodshopnews.com. Search for "Irion." W









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NEWS DESK

Stairbuilders group reaches agreement with AWI

By Jennifer Hicks

he Stairbuilders and Manufacturers Association and Architectural Woodwork Institute reached a contributing-association agreement pertaining to the development of the AWI/ANSI standard for architectural woodwork.

"We are very pleased to be invited by AWI to provide valued input regarding stairway, handrail, and guard construction," SMA president Steve Guenzel said in a statement. "Although this is but a small part of the realm of architectural woodwork that will be covered in the AWI/

ANSI standard, stairbuilding is a specialized field in which our members are experts."

AWI president Greg Lutz notes that the agreement, signed in June,



marks the beginning of an era of mutual cooperation between industry stakeholders.

"We are proud of our affiliation with SMA and promise that our combined efforts will surpass any prior architectural woodwork

standards to date. AWI's collaboration and combined efforts with many different subject experts allows our new industry standard to embody the wisdom and experience that can be found nowhere else," Lutz says.

Under the agreement, both associations will use the American National Standard Institute and AWI's approved standard writing procedures for creating the first voluntary industry consensus standard.

For information, visit www.awinet.org and www.stairways.org.



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Cabinet Vision hosts automation seminars in Utah

By Jennifer Hicks

early 200 industry professionals turned out in July to learn about shop automation processes at seminars hosted by Cabinet Vision. The events took place at Utah-based production facilities Trim Art in Kaysville on July 19 and Lewis Cabinet Specialties in Tremonton the following day.

Cabinet Vision, along with partners Allmoxy, Lockdowel, Advanced Machinery Systems and Stiles Machinery, demonstrated how to automate multiple facets of the manufacturing process in a series of presentations.

"I was surprised at how excited the older, longtime woodworkers are about new technology. People I know to have previously criticized technology are now enthusiastic and excited to implement it into their businesses,"



Attendees gain a better understanding of automation at seminars hosted by Cabinet Vision and its partners.

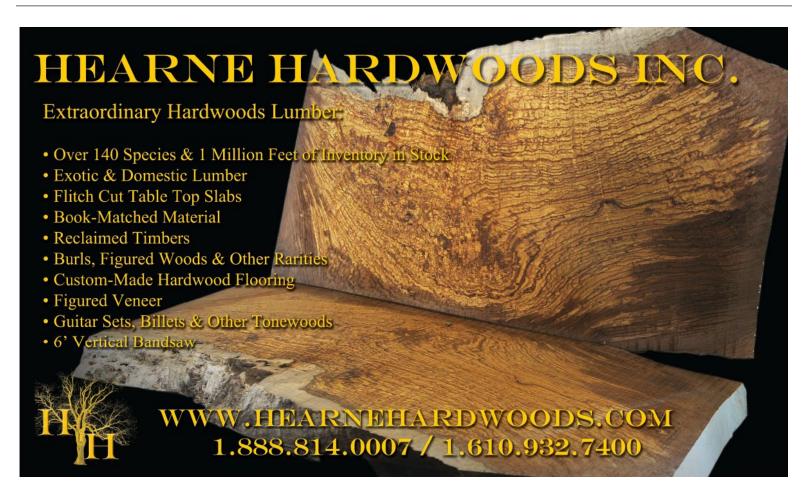
Brady Lewis, founder and CEO of Allmoxy, said afterwards. "I think people are finally seeing the application in their business partly because they're seeing the same technologies used with great success all around them in their personal lives."

The event included tours of the Lewis Cabinets and Trim Art production sites, where at-

tendees could see best practices in action.

"I was pleased to see the next generation of managers embrace technology that will allow them to grow without necessarily building new buildings to do so," Lockdowel CEO Stephen MacDonald says.

For upcoming seminars, visit www.cabinetvision.com. w





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Furniture Society celebrates its 20th anniversary

By Jennifer Hicks

reat efforts paid off at The Furniture Society Conference, held June 23-25 at the University of the Arts and the Center for Art in Wood in Philadelphia. Kathy Sharp, co-chairman of this year's conference, says a lot of work went into recognizing the studio furniture makers group's two decades of success.

"We really wanted the conference to be special," Sharp says. "Wendell Castle was the featured speaker. We also heard presentations from the Award of Distinction winners, Ned Cooke and Thomas Hucker, and from presenter Bebe Johnson."

Organizers were quite pleased with the turnout of about 275 attendees.

"We've had a lot more in the past," Sharp says. "The Furniture Society was hit pretty badly in 2008 when the economy turned south.

We lost a lot of members, but the membership has increased lately."

The society currently has about 700 members. This year's conference theme was craft and fracturing, which focused on manufacturing in

the handcraft business.

"The theme carried through there very well. One of the main reasons to go is because of the comradery and to catch up with old friends and talk about what machines they're using, what finishes they're using, and all of that. That's always very encouraging for the members to able to be exposed to one another," Sharp says.

In addition to the many workshops and panel presentations, the John Henry Challenge stood out. It was a contest between members using hand tools against a ShopBot CNC 4-axis carver.

"That one was a lot of fun," Sharp says.
"They had two hours to create and the hand-carvers won. It may have been a technicality



due to something with the machine, but it was great fun."

Attendees were also introduced to new executive director William Hinman, a certified fundraiser.

"It's what we need," Sharp says. "This has been a largely volunteer organization. We need the guidance of a professional who knows how to go out and find people to donate and support and we've had some very good support from [companies] like Powermatic, but we need to expand that and I think that's what he is going to do for us."

Sharp says the society is still deciding on whether it will hold a full conference or smaller symposium in 2017 and where it will be located.

For more, visit www.furnituresociety.org. W









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WOODMARKETS

Walnut keeps up a steady selling pace

By Jennifer Hicks

oodworkers can't get enough walnut — even if prices rise, according to lumber distributors interviewed by Woodshop News.

The demand, from both home and abroad, is causing unpredictable price fluctuations, says Lou Irion of Irion Lumber in Wellsboro, Pa.

"There was an absolute frenzy about a year ago and that's backed off a little. But it is still our most popular species and most problematic. It's difficult to get good quality logs and that just translates to having to pay more," Irion says.

"The ideal log goes to a veneer buyer and

those are sold at very high prices. We're looking for logs with maybe a few blemishes, but still a lot of good wood in them, so we are looking for logs larger in diameter around at least 18". By the time you get sap off, if you're trying to get decent boards, you need a good-sized log to get a good yield."

Black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) grows throughout the central and eastern U.S. and is used for making furniture, cabinetry, flooring and instruments. It is generally steamed to homogenize the sapwood and heartwood into a rich uniform chocolate color throughout the board.

Rick Hearne of Hearne Hardwoods in Oxford, Pa., says the large variety of domestic and European walnut he offers is not steamed but still popular.

"Walnut has been red hot for several for several years. Our customers do prefer the natural look of unsteamed. The disadvantage of steaming is when you steam it you kill the texture and it will never be the same ever again," says Hearne, who encourages customers to learn how it's graded differently than other domestic hardwoods.

Hearne also touched on the current issue of the thousand cankers disease threatening walnut trees.

"The supply issue from the disease is going to lead to more abundance of walnut logs. Walnut is mostly from private property. There are people who normally wouldn't cut a walnut tree out of their paddock and now they are cutting them. The supply side might be affected in 20 years from now when blight has reached its peak, but for right now, we're seeing big trees come in," Hearne adds.

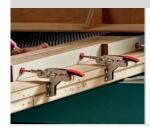
Scott Roberts of Roberts Plywood in Deer Park, N.Y., says walnut is a big seller. The rich deep color is driving demand and price doesn't matter as much as the quality, he says.

"Walnut is hot. All types, from Claro, plywood and veneer, live-edge slabs, FSC-certified, flat-cut, rift-cut and quartersawn. I'm selling a lot of walnut."

Prices for 4/4 FAS walnut start around \$7/bf and run to \$14 for clear grades and wider matched sets. Specialty logs up 5' wide and 16' long are going for \$25 to \$100/bf. W

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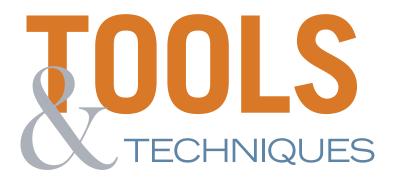






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Micro Jig unveils new dovetail clamps

By Jennifer Hicks

icro Jig introduced the Match-Fit Dovetail Clamp for attaching fences, outfeed tables, cutting guides and more.

Micro Jig director Bruce Wang says the clamps are an ideal solution to custom woodworking shops because of their versatility. They key, he says, is that the clamp head is enclosed within a dovetail groove so they stay clear of work surfaces, blades and bits.

"MatchFit Dovetail Clamps are manufac-

tured with a forged-head compatible with a universal 1/2"-wide, 14-degree dovetail groove. The unique shape of the MatchFit Clamp head allows it to be securely inserted into a dovetail slot and slide along the groove to the desired clamping position," Wang says.

With a jaw depth of 2-3/8" (60mm), the clamps can grip any surface up to 5-1/4" thick with up to 595 lbs. of clamping pressure, according to the company. Users create their own track grooves using any 14-degree, ½" dovetail router bit, then slide the clamp head along the dovetail groove to the desired clamping position.

"Because the clamps slide securely within the dovetail groove and stay out of the way during operation, users can clamp virtually anywhere. This gives woodworkers the flexibility to mount fences and extensions horizontally or vertically and without obstruction. They can quickly and easily attach taller fences, and extend infeed and outfeed capacity on table saws, router tables and band saws," Wang adds.

The MatchFit Dovetail Clamp system includes two clamps and retails for \$39.95.

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Vitap adds another glue option to Eclipse

By Jennifer Hicks

itap configured its Eclipse contour edgebander to apply PUR (polyurethane reactive) glue. A new model has a dual-glue system for use with conventional EVA (ethylene vinyl) or PUR glues with minimal changeover time.

"It can be switched from conventional glue to PUR glue by inserting a cartridge system. The PUR glue mixes with the regular glue initially, and as the glue is being used then you go into straight PUR glue," says Riccardo Azzoni, president of Atlantic Machinery, Vitap's exclusive distributor in North America.

The semi-automatic Eclipse has an onboard trimming unit and can process large or small panels without extra setup. It can also apply edging to straight or shaped parts.

The biggest benefit of using PUR glue is its resistance to heat and humidity changes, according to Azzoni.

"With conventional glue, there can be delamination issues," he says. "Shipping cross country, especially in the summertime, can cause [conventional] glue to melt or lose some of its bonding properties. PUR glue is much more resistant to temperature changes."

The Eclipse, set up to run conventional glue only, sells for about \$45,000. The PUR option bumps the price to about \$55,000.

For more information, visit www.atlantic-mach.com. w



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Miltec helps its neighbors

The owners and employees of Miltec UV rallied together to solicit donations, funds and support from the local community for the victims of the recent West Virginia floods.

Several managers at Miltec UV have family located in Rainelle, W. Va., who lost their homes and therefore, Miltec UV was directly impacted by this natural disaster. They felt compelled to help by gathering donations and becoming the donation center for the Chesapeake Bay Business Park in Stevensville, Md., according to the company.

Over a two-week period, Miltec UV gathered over three skids worth of donations. The company said it purchased supplies based on the needs of the devastated town. The immediate needs ranged from bleach and bottled water during the first few days to boots, fans, shovels, hoses, air mattresses, sheets, towels, toiletries, clothing and canned goods.

For more, visit www.miltec.com.

Pattern book produced online

Kuiken Brothers Co., a national residential and commercial building material supplier, published an online Molding Design Guide, a modern replica of architectural pattern books.

The digital resource features detailed interior elevation drawings of over 40 unique molding combinations, including full-room packages, cornice combinations and mantles designs.

The guide is available at www.kuiken-brothers.com.







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The RTA argument and how to turn it on its head

What we do is valuable and it shouldn't take long to show most customers the value of your shop's craftsmanship and assembly

By John English

n a June 2015 piece in The Huffington Post, design consultant Kelli Kaufer listed nine ways to save on a kitchen remodel. Topping the list was a suggestion that homeowners go with ready-to-assemble (RTA) cabinets. While her emphasis was on household budgets and DIY, it's telling that a mainstream-media piece zoned in on this industry trend.

Kelli estimated that an RTA solution would cost about half the price of a custom job and somewhere around twice that of bigbox factory cabinets off the shelf. As she pointed out, that's a subjective area. It depends on materials, styles, shipping and a host of other concerns. Most shop owners would perhaps be a little more conservative and put the figure in the range of 25 to 30 percent savings. That's still a big difference for a contractor or woodshop manager estimating a kitchen job and it can be very significant for the homeowner. Those

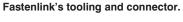
kinds of savings might make the difference between purchasing run-of-the-mill and premium appliances.

Her rule of thumb is definitely food for thought. It suggests that a custom shop's customer service — all that estimating, planning, design and installation — might be worth about the same to consumers as the actual boxes.

Of course, not everyone feels that way. When it comes to RTA casework, custom woodshops are often bypassed by a number of large physical and online retailers such as The Home Depot, Ikea, *TheRTAStore.com* and Kitchen Cabinet Kings, to name a few. These suppliers reach out to homeowners, landlords, remodelers and general contractors and their focus is heavily tilted toward do-it-yourself solutions. For them, the bottom line is, well, the bottom line. Their marketing is intensely pricebased and they assume that in most cases the end user will be the one doing the assembly.

Some even offer financing. Last year, RTA Cabinet Store in Conshohocken, Pa., began offering credit lines up to \$3,000 and repay-

ment terms up to 40 months for consumers who wish to do their own assembly and installation. That's a necessary service and a great option for many homeowners who are on a tight budget and don't have many choices. But consumers who are subject to such restrictions were never going to consider custom cabinets anyway, so there's an argument that such sales have little impact on the woodshop industry.





Other companies such as Colorado-based *CabParts.com* include some elements of the consumer market, but are historically much more honed into the professional segment and offer woodshops an enhanced level of service.

RTA cabinets offer a lot of solutions, but they also present some new issues. For example, the vast majority of adult consumers have had to assemble something they purchased from a big-box store in the last couple of decades. Professional cabinetmakers just scratch their heads when they think of Grandma standing in the living room looking at a pile of vinyl-wrapped MDF boards, 30 pounds of hardware in little plastic bags and a confusing manual. Why on earth wouldn't this woman hire a professional and get something that will last, look good and answer her needs?

But despite how familiar that image feels, many homeowners are pretty confident that they can handle the challenge of popping RTA cabinets together. And, more and more, they are correct. The knock-down (KD) mechanisms that suppliers use have evolved at a terrific pace during the last few years — from glue and screws to cams and bolts, to click-together milled edge profiles. And as the techniques have matured, the quality of the materials has also improved. As have the design choices: a customer can now order pretty much anything he or she wants in a KD package that ships inexpensively and fast. Kitchen can arrive in days, as opposed to waiting weeks or even months for a custom job.

Customer questions

So how does a woodshop take advantage of RTA technology? How does a shop owner explain to a customer why he wants to use RTA cabinets instead of building them inhouse and why that customer shouldn't run an end-route around him and just eliminate the middleman?

Begin with anything other than cost. That's your best argument, so keep it for last. Budget is the thought you want them to carry home at the top of their list. So concentrate first on all those design options. By looking beyond the limited capacity of your machines, they can choose from myriad colors, profiles, finishes and door styles. And by combining your expertise with the RTA supplier's product, they can upgrade to better slides and hardware or have you add a few unique options. These might involve accommodating the owners' hobbies or interests — perhaps a wine or gardening theme or a display case for collectibles.

Next, point out that the timing on RTA is a lot different than shop-built casework. If there are holidays looming or perhaps an occasion such as a graduation or wedding in the family, your customer will be quite interested in shrinking the timetable.

Another point worth exploring is that many of the big-box RTA cabinets are actually built overseas at low cost, so the quality can be suspect — and it's difficult to follow up with customer service issues. Woodshops tend to outsource from known and familiar top-quality American and Canadian manufacturers, so there is still an element of customizing involved. Questions can be asked and answered easily, returns or repairs can be handled through a real person and the shop can duplicate doors and other elements down the road if needed. Buying from reputable, nationally distributed outsourcing suppliers such as Decoreative Specialties (decore.com), Cabinets Quick (cabinetsquick.com), Conestoga (conestogawood. com) or Elias Woodwork (eliaswoodwork.com) means that a woodshop not only gets reliable physical products, but also buys into decades of high-end experience and is often able to use the supplier's design service, too.

And many RTA cabinets use technologies designed to deliver top-end joinery in a way that is more amenable to assembly by production shops than homeowners. For example, the rugged and rapid connection system from Fastenlink (fastenlink.com) is a superior technology that is ideally suited to larger suppliers that use CNC to build RTA casework and also to its custom woodshops clients that want to assemble cabinets in-house quickly, but sturdily.

Fastenlink is made up of two components: an invisible (when complete) plastic link that looks like a barbell-shaped dowel and a ramped pocket that receives the link. It can be machined on standard CNC routing and horizontal boring machines. Casework using Fastenlink is assembled in-house with glue (it doesn't just snap together), so a little cabinetmaking experience goes a long way toward helping the system deliver a perfect product every time.

A convincing argument

Talking a DIY enthusiast out of the end-run option should be relatively easy. Just think "oil changes." Thirty years ago, almost every man-about-the-house changed the oil in his vehicles himself. It wasn't unusual to drive down an alley on a Saturday morning and

spot two or three guys reaching for a filter wrench as they lay on their backs under the front end, garage door open and the dog chewing their shoes. Now, virtually nobody deals with that. We pay a quick-change place about the price of dinner for two and never give it a second thought.

Reminding customers why they shouldn't do their own install plays on the same emotions. Just start talking about working around plumbing and electrical elements, dishwashers and HVAC vents. Mention how you've never been in a kitchen that was both level and plumb. Talk about filler strips, aligning doors or the challenges of installing countertops on uneven cabinets. Mention all the tools needed to do a proper job. And then talk about the time involved. It takes two trained cabinetmakers a whole lot less time to install an RTA kitchen than it does a homeowner to surmount the learning curve and do the job by himself. Or herself. Meanwhile, the family is without a kitchen and domestic bliss is, well, elusive.

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Timesavers adds new feed-through sander model

By Jennifer Hicks

imesavers added a 52" four-head model to its extensive 2300 Series of feed-through sanders.

The company offers about 30 different models in the line

The company offers about 30 different models in the line of 37", 43" and 52" sanders, which until now were limited to a maximum of three heads in a single machine frame.

Timesavers national sales manager Dewayne Kangas says that several decades ago customers were satisfied using 80- and 100-grit belts. Demand for finer finishes required finer belts, which the company accommodated by offering machines with triple heads for 80-, 120- and 180-grit belts.

"Now it's come to the point where those three heads are not allowing for fine enough sanding. People want to offer products with even finer finishes so now we've gone to a four-head machine and customers can put up to 220- or even 240-grit on the top end of the final belt that gives almost a glass finish to their cabinet doors or whatever type of furniture parts that they're doing," Kangas says.

He adds the new model is ideal for small- to medium-sized shops because of its low price point.

"We've offered four- to six-head machines in the past, but they're designed to run all day and start at around \$150,000. The smaller shops with 10 to 50 employees run sanders less so we came up with this model. It's a little lighter in horsepower but very adequate for what most people have to do."

The 30-hp sander, model 2341-45-0001, sells for under \$95,000 installed. For more, visit www.timesaversinc.com.

Colonial Saw rolls out CNC profile grinder

By Jennifer Hicks

olonial Saw offers the new UTMA P20 CNC profile grinder for producing custom cutters, molder heads, router bits and more. "The main benefit is this is that it's full CNC, so the learning curve of your grinder person goes down. You don't need someone with 20 years of experience in the grinding industry to put out good product. You can train anyone to run it," product manager Jeff Goltz says.

The machine rough grinds a blank knife into a finished profile directly from DXF or HPGL CAD drawings. Templates are not required. It features a 12-hp grinding motor and variable-speed control, according to Colonial Saw.

"The reason you want variable speed on a machine like this is because some people are still running high speed steel and others are running carbide," Goltz says.

"With four CNC digital servo motor controlled axes, it automatically compensates for compound side and back clearance angles. The full cabin enclosure is significantly safer than manual knife grinders. The quick-change grinding wheel grinds against the cutting edge, limiting any burning to the bottom of the grind."

Goltz adds that the machine also helps shops eliminate inventory.

"If you're having somebody now do your sharpening for you, you



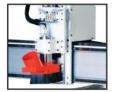
need certain sets on hand depending on the job. But now you don't need them because you can make a brand new set in 30 minutes."

The machine retails for \$150,000 to \$160,000, depending on the tooling specified.

For more, visit www.csaw.com. W

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The latest model of the Laguna SWIFT has been upgraded to include a vacuum table. This Laguna CNC is perfect for the small cabinet or woodworking shop looking to move into CNC automation. The machine comes equipped with a powerful 3HP industrial spindle and is manufactured with a heavy-duty robust one-piece welded tubular steel frame. The SWIFT is available in three sizes, 4x4, 4x8 and 5x10 table sizes.







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FINISHING

with BOB FLEXNER

Smart coatings might truly change the way you feel

t seems like everything is becoming smart these days: phones, watches, cars and coatings — including paints and finishes.

A smart coating is defined as a paint or finish that can sense and respond to a stimulus in its environment — for example, to pressure,

light or heat. Then the coating will react in a predictable way.

One of the most fascinating smart coatings is "pee-back" paint. It's my favorite example for explaining what a smart coating is.

The party district of Hamburg, Germany is called St. Pauli. The town had a problem. People, mostly guys, would come out of a bar or club late at night and relieve themselves in some dark area, usually against a wall or building.

Signs and warnings didn't help much. Neither did paying a guard to stand there all night because the person would just find another dark area.

The solution the town settled on was to paint the walls and sides of buildings with a super hydrophobic and oleophobic paint called Ultra-Ever Dry made by Ultra Tech International in Jacksonville, Fla. Hydrophobic means water repellent and oleophobic means oil repellent in this context.

The paint is made using nanotechnology, which creates billions of tiny peaks with air in between. So, essentially, there is an air barrier that repels droplets of pee back onto the shoes of the culprit.

Self-healing

Even more practical smart technologies are being developed by a number of companies called "self-healing" coatings.

It used to be, especially with automotive coatings, that you could remove light scratches by heating the surface. Lacquers are evaporative coatings that aren't very resistant to heat; they flow when heated. But lacquers are high in solvent content, so they began giving way to enamels in the 1970s because of increasingly strict environmental laws. Enamels are reactive (crosslinking) coatings that don't flow when heated. So it was no longer possible to fix light scratches with heat.

In the last couple of decades, researchers at several universities, including Illinois and Southern Mississippi, have been working on ways to repair scratches in crosslinked coatings, such as polyurethane, using UV light.

The day might come (fairly soon, actually) when a scratch caused by someone keying your car heals itself simply by sitting out in the sun for a short time. Also, scratches on crosslinked furniture finishes might be made to heal without changing the sheen.

Adhesive paint

You're probably aware that Google is working on self-driving cars. Well, the company has filed a patent for an adhesive paint to be used on these and other cars that will help reduce injuries to pedestrians hit by these cars.

The coating would be applied to the front end of the car and be composed of an adhesive layer and a topcoat of an "eggshell-like material" that



would break away instantly on contact. The pedestrian would stick to the adhesive layer, so as to not bounce off or be thrown over the car.

In the pipeline

Researchers at the University of Reading in the U.K. have developed a self-healing polyure-thane that fills in damage at low temperatures, in contrast to several others that work only when heated. Low temperature healing makes this coating not only useful in paints and finishes, but also for healing cuts in the human body.

Scientists in Ireland have developed a water-based coating that can be baked onto a surface to become 99.9 percent resistant to superbugs such as MRSA, E. coli and other fungi. This coating works on glass, metallic and ceramic surfaces without the aid of UV light, so it is great for indoor surfaces — for example, those in hospitals.

It can also be used on many surfaces people touch a lot such as handrails and door handles. The scientists are working on incorporating their technology into paints and plastics for use on many other surfaces, especially cell phones where bacteria can live for up to five months.

A nanotechnology coating developed in Israel at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev impedes the growth of surface bacteria on metal and could be used as an anti-fouling agent in coatings applied to submerged ship hulls and bridge structures. It could also be used on medical implants and surgical tools to prevent infection.

Researchers in San Diego, using slugs as their inspiration (they noticed that slugs come out of the ground at night with no dirt on their bodies), have developed a coating that exudes a silicone substance that is so slick that ice can't adhere to it. It simply slides off. The silicone substance is secreted from the coating when temperatures fall below freezing and it retreats back into the coating when temperatures rise above freezing. Obvious use: wings on airplanes.

Bob Flexner is author of "Understanding Wood Finishing" and "Wood Finishing 101."

WallGoldfinger expands sales force

Corporate furniture manufacturer Wall-Goldfinger of Randolph, Vt., expanded its sales representative team to Pennsylvania, Delaware and Southern New Jersey with the addition of Philadelphia-based Facility & Design Resource.

FDR is experienced in the contract furniture market and hopes to enhance WallGoldfinger's brand recognition in the Pennsylvania region.

"We are excited to partner with Wall-Goldfinger and expand our presence with key specifiers by representing a design and manufacturing leader in particularly the custom boardroom, conference and reception categories," FDR president Matt Boyle said in a release.

"Sales representatives allow clients face-to-face contact. We are excited to not only expand our representation and brand awareness in the Pennsylvania region, but to have such an experienced team working with us," added WallGoldfinger CEO John Wall. "The FDR team knows the industry, speaks the language and will expertly help clients choose the right furniture for their needs."

For more, visit www.wallgoldfinger.com/reps.

WPMA schedules annual meeting

The Wood Products Manufacturers As-

sociation will hold its annual meeting in conjunction with the Kentucky Forest Industry Association Sept. 27-29 at The Brown Hotel in Louisville, Ky.

The meeting will include a complete day of plant tour visits, a "mystery night" and educational sessions.

For more information, contact Philip Bibeau of the WPMA at 978-874-5445 or Bob Bauer of the KFIA at 502-695-3979.

Acrilex opens online factory store

Acrilex Inc. launched a new online factory store to offer the company's specialty and one-of-a-kind Acriglas colored acrylic materials.

The store — www.acrilex.com/shop — opened to fulfill the creative inspirations of designers, makers and manufacturers needing only a few square feet of ready-to-ship acrylic sheets, according to the company.

All products are available in small quantities and with no minimum purchase.

"Our customers have been requesting access to our edgy line of acrylic materials in small quantities," Daniel Rustin, the company's marketing director, said in a statement. "We listened and responded with the launch of the Acrilex Factory Store. It offers everyone from sign shops, display fabricators and lighting manufacturers to exhibitors, jewelry makers and hobbyists with a single, online outlet to purchase our unique acrylic sheets."



Introducing: The MultiTasker

Another innovation from W. Moore Profiles, LTD



The MultiTasker line of tooling is designed for dual purposes. For small production runs on a shaper the MultiTasker can be fitted with precision ground HSS knives for a low cost to complete the project. For larger runs, the MultiTasker can be fitted with carbide inserts for longer tool life and steel backer for support.

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PRO SHOP

with ANDREW GLANTZ

Write off solid-surface materials? No way, not yet

he kitchen and bath industry continues to move forward with new high-end materials for countertops and trim. The old stand-by, once the go-to finish, is relegated to the sidelines.

These days, both natural and engineered stone, or engineered quartz, are the high-end choices for the industry, and sheet acrylics and polyesters — often referred to as solid surface — are no longer in vogue. But there are advantages to working in solid surface that can't be duplicated in any other material. I recently designed and fabricated a piece of furniture using solid surface for the top and front façade that highlights these benefits and design opportunities.

The piece I had in mind was a small dresser that also could be used for a luggage rack. I wanted a material for the top that would be

scratch-resistant and easy to take care of, so solid surface was a natural choice. And if it did get scratched, I could sand out any dings easily.

But having decided to use solid surface for the top, the next question was what to use for the front façade. I could certainly switch to wood for this, since I am basically a wood guy, but my thought was to try to use solid surface throughout.

There were many complications given that my design was for a demilune-shaped piece. But I also realized that this would be a learning experience. I always

feel that it is good to add a material to my arsenal of media and I had worked with solid surface before.

However, the curves I had in mind were nothing like what I had fabricated in the past. I already owned the two most important tools necessary for working with solid surface — the glue gun and a blade for the table saw. So my investment was only that of time and materials in this experiment.

Curving the trim

To give me easy registration of all parts, I added an inch to the ends of every trim piece so that I could use ¼" bolts to align the two pieces during glue-up. I lightly oiled these bolts so they could be easily removed. You don't want to forget this step because the glue is tenacious. The holes also were used to



The completed dresser with solid surface top and front façade.

www.oneida-air.com





The front foot (above) was made from 14 pieces of solid surface; the top isn't something that could easily be produced with stone.

attach the guide for routing.

All of the front trim pieces are laminated to a 1" thickness. The verticals are straight, so that was no problem. But the horizontals are curved, so these had to be roughed out with the band saw, laminated and then trimmed to the final curve with a pattern and router table.

One advantage the solid surface holds over other materials is that glue joints are totally invisible. This is particularly true in the patterns with tiny color variants and a bit less so in the patterns with larger flakes or aggregate.

This is important if the design calls for gluing pieces at a 90-degree angle, since the aggregate style sheets are slightly different from front to back. Nevertheless, even with these aggregate patterns, glue joints all but disappear, leaving the illusion that the shapes you create are made from one solid chunk of material rather than laminated up in ½" increments.

For instance, the front foot looks like it is all one piece, But it is actually glued up from 14 different pieces that come together at this location. You can't do that with any other material.

Curving the fronts

The doors and drawer fronts presented a different kind of challenge. I wanted to curve them left to right and still stay with the ½" thickness. So thermoforming was the answer. Sheet acrylic can be shaped

by heating it in a 320-degree oven for 50 minutes and then lightly clamped to a form until it cools. A convex form works a bit better than a concave one, but I used both with good success. I also used bags of buckshot to weigh down the warmed sheets, which worked well as a clamp.

The material has no memory, so there is no spring-back at all. The only limitation is the size of the oven you use. I was using a household one, which limited me to about 6" x 26" inserting it diagonally with the piece in a little rack to hold it vertically. I used the already formed drawer front as the form for the sub-front that is part of the actual drawer structure.

The curved fronts were then ripped in half, the pull band was glued to one edge and then the other half was glued back on. This created a seamless transition from front to pull and back and allowed me to angle the edges of the pulls to form a shape top to bottom on the front of the piece.

These two advantages, invisible laminations and thermoforming, allowed me to create a piece that could not be made as easily or seam-

lessly with other materials. Even the transition between the two colors of materials used in the top would not have been possible in wood and I doubt that stone fabricators would want to try this design.

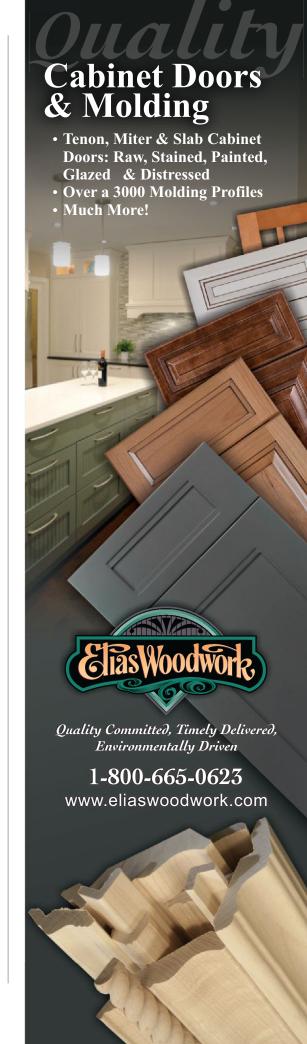
The net result is really interesting to me and the ramifications and possibilities for the material seem endless. While parts of this piece were a bit over the top and production took longer than I would want for a commissioned piece, I feel that I really learned a great deal about what I can do — and do easily — with solid surface.

And while the first one took a lot of time, a great deal of that was in the preparation of jigs and patterns, which would make the production of a run of these very cost-efficient.

I still love the look of stone. But I do not have enough shop space to add wet-diamond technology, nor do I have the volume to support the added expense of tooling. So, for me, solid surface is a good alternative.

I am not willing to write it off as a "hasbeen" quite yet. The ability to seamlessly join it, to sculpt it and to thermoform it are great advantages that we can all bring to bear on many projects in the future. W

Andrew Glantz is the owner of Zenith Design in Scottsdale, Ariz., and past president of The Furniture Society.





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- Motor: 2 HP, 120V/240V, single-phase, prewired to 120V
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- Precision-ground cast iron table size with wings: 401/2" W x 27" D
- Table height: 35%"
- Footprint: 21" L x 191/2" W
- Arbor: 5/8"
- Arbor speed: 3450 RPM
- Capacity: 31/4" @ 90°, 21/4" @ 45°
- Rip capacity: 30" right, 15" left Overall size: 571/4" W x 371/2" D x 35%" H
- Approx. shipping weight: 345 lbs.





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- Motor: 3 HP or 5 HP, 240V, single-phase
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- Arbor: 5/8
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- Approx. shipping weight: 550 lbs.



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Main motor: 10 HP, 220V/440V*, 3-phase, 25A/12.5A

- Sliding table size: 15" x 126" Main blade arbor: 1" Main blade speed: 3000, 4000, 5000, 6000 RPM
- Scoring blade motor: 1 HP, 3A/1.5A
- Scoring blade size: 43/4" . Scoring blade arbor: 22mm Scoring blade speed: 8000 RPM
- Scoring blade tilt: 0-45°
- Depth of cut: 4" @ 90°, 2¾ @ 45°
- Max. rip capacity: 521/2"
- Max. sheet capacity: 126" x 126"
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G0772

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8" X 76" JOINTERS WITH BUILT-IN MOBILE BASE

- Motor: 3 HP, 240V, single-phase, 15A, TEFC, 3450 RPM Total table size: 8" x 76%" Infeed table size: 8" x 43%"
- Cutterhead knives (G0490W): 4 HSS, 8" x 3/4" x 1/8"; (G0490XW):
- Spiral cutterhead with 40 indexable cutters
- Cutterhead speed: 4800 RPM Cutterhead diameter: 33/16"
- Max. depth of cut: 1/8" Max. rabbeting depth: 1/2"
- Cuts per minute: 21,400
- Deluxe cast iron fence size 36" long x 11/4" wide x 5" high
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- Arhor: 5%
- Arbor speed: 3850 RPM
- Capacity: 31/8" @ 90°, 23/16" @ 45°
- Rip capacity: 30" R. 12" L
- Quick-change riving knife
- Approx. shipping weight: 416 lbs.











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G0715P

10" CABINET TABLE SAWS

- Motor: 3 HP, 220V, single-phase, 12.8A
- Precision-ground cast iron table size with extension: (G0690) 27" x 40"; (G0691) 27" x 743/4"
- Table height: 34" Max. dado width: 13/16'
- Arbor: 5/8" Arbor speed: 4300 RPM
- Capacity: 31/6" @ 90°, 23/16" @ 45°
- Max. rip capacity: 12" L, 291/2" R (G0690); 12" L, 50" R (G0691)
- Approx. shipping weight: (G0690) 530 lbs: (G0691) 557 lbs.



G0691

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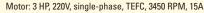
- Required power supply: 30A, 220V, single-phase, 60 Hz Feed motor: 3/4 HP • Glue and edge motor: 1/4 HP
- End trim motor: 1/4 HP
- Flush trim motor: 3/4 HP
- Buffing motor: 1/4 HP
- Heating element: 1455W Table size: 10½" W x 78¾" L
- Min. panel dimensions: 43/4" W x 91/2" L
- Compressed air required: 100 PSI
- Glue pot capacity: 34 oz
- Roller width: 334" Roller diameter: 13/6" Edgebanding coil capacity: 31½"
- Approx. shipping weight: 875 lbs.



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- Total table size: 81/8" x 821/2"
- Infeed table size: 81/8" x 42"
- Cutterhead: 4-row spiral with 36 indexable, solid-carbide inserts
- Cutterhead speed: 7000 RPM Cutterhead diameter: 31/16"
- Floor to table height: 31"
- Fence stops: 45°, 90°, & 135° Deluxe cast-iron fence size:
- 38" long x 11/2" wide x 43/4" high Approx. shipping weight: 796 lbs.

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- Precision-ground cast iron table size: 123/4" x 831/2"
- Floor to table height: 3111/16"
- Maximum depth of cut: 1/81
- Rabbeting capacity: 3/4"
- Cutterhead diameter: 31/81 Number of carbide inserts:
- 60, 14 x 14 x 2mm
- Cuts per minute: 19,800
- Cutterhead speed: 4300 RPM
- Fence stops at 45°, 90°, and 135° Footprint: 84" x 33"
- Approximate shipping weight: 1059 lbs.

WITH SPIRAL CUTTERHEAD

G0609X



20" PLANERS

- Motor: 5 HP, 240V, single-phase, 20A
- Table size: 20" x 253/4" (21" x 561/2" with wings)
- Max. cutting width: 20" Min. stock length: 71/2"
- Max. cutting depth: 1/8
- Feed rate: 16 and 20 FPM
- Number of carbide inserts: 96 (G0454ZW)
- Number of knives: 4 HSS (G0454W)
- Knife size: 20" x 1" x 1/8" (G0454W)
- Cutterhead speed: 5000 RPM
- Overall size: 44" W x 561/2" D x 431/2" H
- Approximate shipping weight: 947 lbs.

ONLY \$179500 G0454W

WITH SPIRAL CUTTERHEAD

G0454ZW ONLY \$262500



PRECISION GROUND **CAST IRON** BED & INFEED/ **OUTFEED TABLES**



25" EXTREME-DUTY PLANER WITH SPIRAL CUTTERHEAD EXTREME

- Cutterhead motor: 15 HP, 220V/440V*, prewired 220V, 3-phase, 37A/18.5A
- Table elevation motor: 1/2 HP, 2.4/1.2A
- Precision-ground cast iron table size: 25" x 57"
- Max. cutting width: 25"
- Max. cutting height: 9"
- Max. cutting depth: 1/4"
- Min. stock length: 10"
- Feed rates: 20, 25, and 30 FPM
- Cutterhead speed: 4900 RPM
- Approximate shipping weight: 2054 lbs.

PRECISION-GROUND SUPER HEAVY-DUTY

CAST IRON INFEED & OUTFEED TABLES G0603X \$999500 SALE \$919500



30TH ANNIVERSARY 17" HEAVY-DUTY BANDSAW

- Motor: 2 HP, 110V/220V, single-phase, TEFC, prewired 220V, 1725 RPM
- Amps: 20A at 110V, 10A at 220V
- Precision-ground cast iron table size: 17" x 17" x 1½" thick
- Table tilt: 10° left, 45° right
- Floor-to-table height: 371/2"
- Cutting capacity/throat: 161/4"
- Blade size: 1311/2" long
- Approximate shipping weight: 342 lbs.



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15" PLANERS

- · Motor: 3 HP, 240V, single-phase, 15A Max. cutting width: 15" • Max. stock thickness: 8"
- Min. stock thickness: 3/16"
- Min. stock length: 8" (G0453W), 6" (G0453ZW)
- Max. cutting depth: 1/8" Feed rate: 16 and 20 FPM
- Cutterhead diameter: 27/8"
- Cutterhead speed: 5000 RPM
- Power feed rollers: solid serrated steel
- Table size: 41¾" x 16"
- Overall size: 38" W x 42" D x 421/2" H
- Approximate shipping weight: 594 lbs. (G0453W), 604 lbs. (G0453ZW)

G0453W ONLY \$119500

WITH SPIRAL CUTTERHEAD

G0453ZW ONLY \$189500



EXTREME

275 shipping

EXTREME SERIES

24" EXTREME-DUTY PLANERS

Cutterhead motor: 10 HP, 220V/440V*, prewired 220V, 3-phase

MADE IN ISO

9001 FACTORY

- Feed motor: 1 HP
- Table elevation motor: ½ HP
- Precision-ground cast iron table size: 24" x 351/2"
- Max. cutting width: 24" Max. cutting height: 9"
- Max. cutting depth: 5/16"
- Feed rate: 20-40 FPM
- Cutterhead speed: 5000 RPM
- Cutterhead dia.: 45%"
- Approximate shipping weight:
- 1935 lbs. (G9741), 2024 lbs. (G9961)

G9741 \$79950 SALE \$765000

WITH SPIRAL CUTTERHEAD

G9961 \$9250 SALE

HEAVY-DUTY TILTING ARBOR SHAPER

 Motor: 7½ HP, 220V/440V*, prewired 220V, 3-phase, 3450 RPM, 20A/10A

- Precision-ground cast iron table size 471/4" x 351/2"
- Spindle travel: 65%"
- Spindle size: 11/4" W x 7" L
- Spindle tilt: -5° to +45° Spindle capacity: 6"
- Spindle speeds: 3900, 5000, 7200, & 9400 RPM Max. cutter dia.: 10"
- Approximate shipping weight: 1096 lbs.

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19" BANDSAWS

- Motor: 3 HP, 220V, single-phase, TEFC, 60 Hz, 12A
- Precision-ground cast iron table size: 263/4" x 19" x 11/2" thick
- Floor-to-table height: 371/2"
- Cutting capacity/throat: 181/41 Max. cutting height: 12"
- Blade size: 143" long
- Blade widths available: 1/8"-11/4"
- 2 Blade speeds: 1700, 3500 FPM Overall size: 36" W x 32" D x 76" H
- Approximate shipping weight: (G0514X) 460 lbs; (G0514X2B) 512 lbs.

G0514X WITH MOTOR BRAKE ONLY \$147500

G0514X2B ONLY \$175500



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DUSTIN SANDERS LEFT A GOOD-PAYING JOB TO BUILD HIS OWN WOODWORKING BUSINESS IN THE ROCKIES THAT CATERS TO A WIDE ARRAY OF NEEDS

BY JENNIFER HICKS







aving left a steady job in the lumber industry to start a custom woodworking business in his late 20s, Dustin Sanders is glad he stuck with his gut instinct. Now 31, Sanders made the decision in 2012 to leave a large lumber distributor he had worked at for almost a decade. He took his networking and woodworking skills to the next level and started Growth Ring Innovations in Golden, Colo., which has already grown significantly in the last four years.

And yes, Dustin Sanders is his birth-given name, despite jokes and misunderstandings that it's only promotional word play.

Growth Ring Innovations has seven employees and operates from a 2,500-sq.-ft. shop at the base of the Rocky Mountain foothills, not far from the original Coors brewery.

A TEENAGE ENTREPRENEUR

Sanders hails from Arvada, Colo., and went to work for Paxton Lumber at its headquarters in Denver just after his high school graduation. The truth is he didn't know what he wanted to do for a living, but was happy to have a job associated with woodworking.

"My dad was very handy and he was the reason I always played with scrap wood. I got a scroll saw at age 10 and did woodworking as a hobby. I did bigger jobs in high school like mantles, cabinets and furniture. It was always my passion, my hobby. I always spent time doing it," Sanders says.

In high school, Sanders started a part-time woodworking business, hiring other students in the shop program to help him build furniture. He bought his lumber from Paxton and



a relationship was formed.

"I went to Paxton just a couple weeks after graduation. I finally gave in because Jack Egan, the store manager there, knew me since I was 13 or 14 and kept calling me my senior year. I was already having success in my side business, but I started working in the Paxton retail store helping retail customers find woods they were looking for."

After just a few months, he was promoted to a regional sales manager. "The whole time I was there, I never quit my side work. Nights and weekends, I was building this business. Every job was word of mouth, including work through some of the industry contacts I made at Paxton.

"Paxton was an awesome job. It helped me get a house and get my shop running. But I had to make a decision. I couldn't do that job and be with my family and have the business. I was spreading myself way too thin. I went to the vice president of the company, told him what I was doing and that I wanted to be his biggest customer."

He also changed the name of the business from The Dusty Sander to Growth Ring Innovations. "I wanted something unique that used wood terms to promote innovation," he says. "This is an old industry and we are trying to implement modern technology."

A MINDFUL BALANCE

Growth Ring serves three primary markets. Commercial work (restaurants, bars, hospitality industry) accounts for about 40 percent of its yearly revenue. Residential contributes 25 to 30 percent. The balance comes from manufacturing parts and products for other companies.

"The idea is to be prepared for any future recession or market downturn for security," Sanders says. "We did memorial plaques for a customer years ago and we are still trying to take any job we can, even small things from people off the street. It's about diversity.

"We have a national contract producing boat parts for Sea Ray making transom boards for the backs of yachts. I want my employees to know that we'll always have work."

The shop completes 10 to 15 high-end residential projects per year, including millwork, custom cabinets, countertops and more.



"We do a lot of homes in the mountains. There is some work here in town and in Denver, but mainly we work along the Front Range, which is the mountain frontal area that ranges from Colorado Springs to Fort Collins.

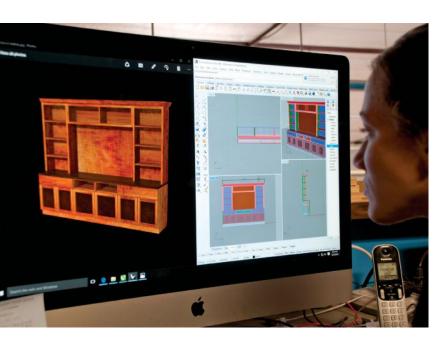
"I would say 95 percent of our work comes from repeat customers and others seeing work and people passing the word."

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

But Sanders is too savvy to rest on his good reputation alone. In the spring, he hired a business developer to focus on sales and marketing.

"We're doing a lot of creative things like producing small tokens and memorabilia out of different woods on our laser engraver for our target customers with their logos on them. We can say we do anything out of wood, but people don't really seem to grasp that So we are out of wood, but people don't really seem to grasp that. So we are tying it into our marketing efforts.

"In the 10 years that I was at Paxton, I was really blown away by $\frac{Q}{L}$



how many shops were just doing a certain niche. They just called themselves a cabinet or furniture shop and that's all they did. But they had a 10,000-sq.-ft. shop, however-many employees and millions of dollars in equipment. And if a customer walked in off the street and wanted boards cut or planed, they'd turn them away. I could never understand that. So the fact that we're trying to take on all different aspects of work really makes us a very unique shop."

It has to be, given the wide range of style preferences in the shop's market. Sanders explains that customers in Denver want something far

different from those who live in the mountains, for example.

"A lot of what we're seeing in the highlands are contemporary cabinets with modern straight lines and European cabinets. The people in the city want a lot of laminates and high gloss. In the mountains, there is a lot more traditional construction and we see use of a lot more hardwoods. Someone with a mountain home next to a stream doesn't want a white kitchen. It's like two different worlds."

A MAN WITH A PLAN

Sanders is always trying to stay a step ahead. He recently added a retirement savings program, mostly as a signal to his employees that he's making a long-term investment in them. And if and when he needs more workers, he knows where to find them. His last three hires were fresh out of the woodworking program at Red Rocks Community College in Lakewood and Arvada, Colo.

"I really want the people just out of school because they still have a taste of art in their mouth and a little more enthusiasm for the industry. I'd probably like workers who are a little more seasoned, but sometimes it's just a job for them. So I just want people here that are passionate about it. These guys step up. For example, we don't have the best lathe here and one of our guys took the piece home and turned it.

"It's really an art to be successful with business relationships and networking," Sanders adds. "You have to do everything to keep good contacts with other shops, vendors and lumber and hardware suppliers. And you're also a teacher. I didn't realize that when I started this, but being a teacher to my customers and to the crew is one of my primary jobs." w

Contact: Growth Ring Innovations, 13900 W. 44th Ave., Golden, CO 80403. Tel: 720-495-1133. www.growthringinnovations.com



Ruffino Cabinetry talks about brand growth through relationships

We traveled to Fort Myers, Florida to talk with Steve Ruffino, founder and CEO of Ruffino Cabinetry, and his Chemcraft Distributors Oscar and Mario Hernandez of Famis Inc. located in Miami and Naples, Florida.

Ruffino Cabinetry was founded in 1981 and produces luxury custom cabinetry and fitted furniture for projects throughout Florida and selected national and international projects. Their award winning work has been featured in several publications including Home & Design and Florida Design.

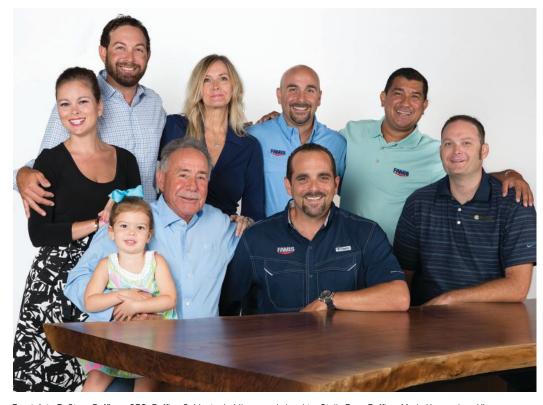
"While we're obviously cabinet makers, we consider our true specialty to be our custom colors and finishing techniques," said Steve Ruffino, "it offers our customers more options than they can typically get from the larger manufacturers. It's what sets us apart.

"I started the business as a solo operation in 1981," said Ruffino, "and now we have 60 employees. We don't advertise and we don't have a sales force to speak of. Most of our business comes from longtime repeat customers and referrals.

"Our reputation for quality has established us as a brand name," continued Ruffino, "we now have designers and architects coming to us as their preferred cabinet company.

"A few years ago we were experiencing a severe production bottleneck in our finishing area. We realized that we needed to find a new partner that could help take our product and our production to the next level – that's when we reached out to Famis and Chemcraft."





Front, L to R: Steve Ruffino - CEO, Ruffino Cabinetry holding grand-daughter Stella Rose Ruffino, Mario Hernandez - Vice President, Famis Inc., Mike McIntyre - Operations Mgr., Ruffino Cabinetry.

Back, L to R: Meghan Ruffino, Stephen Ruffino - Vice President, Ruffino Cabinetry, Carol Ruffino - Sales / Design Mgr., Ruffino Cabinetry, Oscar Hernandez - Partner / Sales Director, Famis Inc., Fernando Rivadeneira - Sales Representative, Famis Inc.

"One of our specialties at Famis is custom engineering automated and semi-automated finishing systems," said Mario Hernandez, "so we were confident that we could help improve their work flow. But first we needed to identify the correct Chemcraft product to fit the system.

"We brought in our Chemcraft technical representative and together we did extensive testing," continued Hernandez, "the solution we arrived at was Chemlife® 24.

"Chemlife 24 was a perfect fit with the on-demand finishing system we set up, and its properties allowed us to greatly simplify their finishing process," he said.

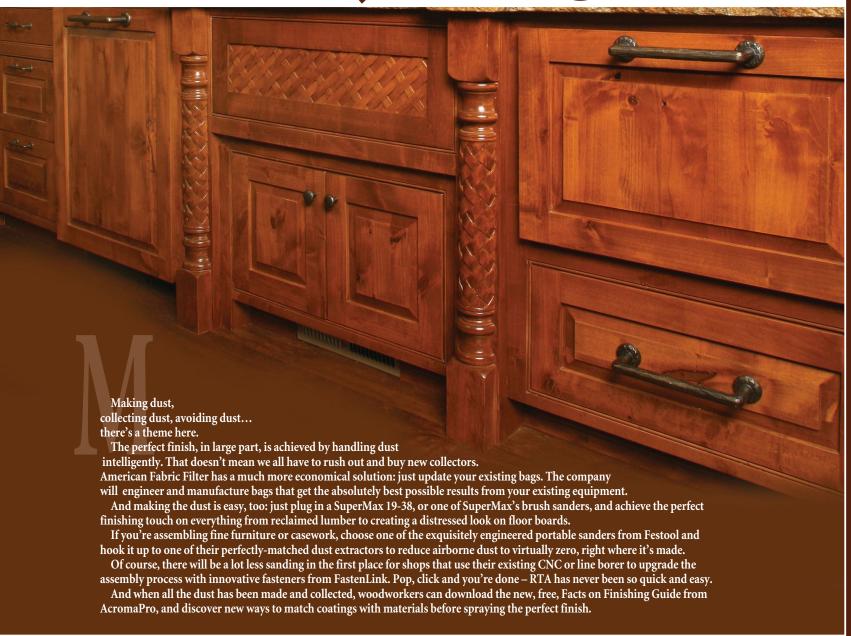
"Between the equipment upgrades and Chemlife 24," added Ruffino, "a step that was taking us 8 hours was reduced to 40 minutes. Overall we've seen at least a 50% improvement in production time." "Chemlife 24 allows us to use this type of system," said Oscar Hernandez, "we're circulating both white and clear and because the same catalyst is used for both, the number of steps involved have been reduced.

"In addition," continued Hernandez, "the 24 hour pot life of the product ensures that there aren't fluctuations in the sheen and helps offset any external factors that might cause problems in the finish such as humidity."

"And, with Chemlife 24," said Ruffino, "we have far less of an issue with formaldehyde off-gassing than we had with the product our previous supplier had us using. Between our distributor Famis, and Chemcraft we get the attention to detail, knowledge and support we need. It's a relationship we can grow with."

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Custom filter bag manufacturer American Fabric Filter Co. (AFF) has been working with woodshops of every size for the past two decades, and has proven over and over again that most existing systems can outperform a brand new one when they're equipped with AFF's optimized filters. Based in Wesley Chapel, Fla., the staff of experienced technical designers works closely with its custom manufacturing



facilities to solve customers' challenges. They offer the same individualized custom filter design technology to small and mid-sized commercial shops – and even home hobbyists – as they do to large manufacturing plants. AFF is proud to deliver fabric products from just three inches long to three stories high. That range is possible because the company recognizes that no two woodshops are alike, and filtration needs vary with the size of the collector,

the type of dust generated, and the amount of use the system gets. The company's experienced sales staff can recommend fabrics, designs and sizes that maximize both vacuum and the cleanliness of the air being returned to the shop. They manufacture a wide line of filtration bags including custom filters for small collectors, bag-house bags, and vent bags used on any piece of air moving equipment.

For woodshops, AFF typically uses a scrim supported felt, which creates highly efficient bags that can improve performance while capturing dust particles as fine as 1 micron. The scrimsupported media adds strength to the felt for greater durability, so it extends the life of the

AFF also offers replacement cartridge filter elements for bag-houses and dust collectors. They fit most OEM units, and are manufactured from quality components to meet or exceed original factory specs and provide top performance.

Consultations with the experts at AFF are free, so call soon to learn how to make your shop a cleaner –and healthier – place to work.



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We Design & Fabricate Custom Filter Bags That REALLY WORK!

Superior Finishes Don't Begin in the Booth

As any craftsman knows, jobs need to be perfectly sanded and dust-free before sealing and top coating. Superior prep is a job for an integrated system – a thoughtful, beautifully engineered one that considers everything from workstation fatigue to sanding patterns, and how to eliminate dust at its source.

That's a job for Festool.

The company engineers and builds the highest quality portable sanders in the industry, and backs them with a three-year limited warranty. Festool offers a dozen finish sander options in pads ranging from 3-1/2" to 6" diameters.



And there are also some detailers with delta-shaped pads that make quick work of inside corners and other challenges.

Festool's family of Rotex tools can operate in several modes, making them arguably the most versatile sanders on the planet. With the flip of a switch a woodworker

can go from gear-driven aggressive stock removal to random-orbit, silky smooth, vibration-free finish sanding – or even polishing. On some models, the round pad can be switched to a delta-shaped detailer in seconds (no tools required), allowing furniture builders and refinishers to prep in some of the tightest corners. Other sanders are equipped with Festool's re-

nowned EC-TEC® brushless motor, specifically designed to deliver long-life and low-vibration. These units can sand all day through multiple shifts with low user fatigue, and that translates into fewer mistakes and higher production. These brushless motors provide constant, powerful performance in low profile, ergonomical housings.

All of Festool's finish sanders integrate seamlessly and systematically into the company's extraordinarily efficient dust extraction options – six HEPA dust extractors that run from a totally totable 0.9 gallons in the jobsite-friendly CT SYS, to the rugged and hefty CT 48 with a full 12.7 gallon capacity. They're triggered by the tool, connect in seconds, run quieter, and keep the motor completely separated from the dust.

Removing dust when and where it's created not only means that the workpiece is far cleaner when it gets to the spray booth, but the worker is also much more protected. By using Festool's integrated system, fine contaminants introduced into the shop's ambient air are essentially eliminated. This can significantly improve the quality of the entire woodshop's output, extend the service life of tools, and even increase the useful life of abrasives.

Festool offers several different options when it comes to abrasives, each one specifically tailored to both the material and the sander being used. The company's 'Rubin' abrasive was developed for natural wood, wood composites and veneers and has a special coating that sheds wood fibers. It is recommended for hardwoods, softwoods, exotics and many wood-based products. Rubin is a closed coat aluminum oxide abrasive, bonded with a synthetic resin, and available in grits from 40 to 220. Festool's 'Granat' is the company's longest lasting and highest performing abrasive. It is well suited to most applications including bare wood, paints,



most modern paint systems, VOC clear coats, plastic materials, solid surface materials, acrylics, and composites. This is a hardened aluminum oxide in grits from 40 to 1500.

'Saphir' is for aggressive stock removal and heavy stripping jobs (24 to 100 grit), while the 'Vlies' (pronounced fleece, in 80 to 800 grits), is an excellent choice for deep pore cleaning on natural wood and veneers, and also works wonderfully on contours.

Having the correct backing pad makes a huge difference in results and resilience, and Festool offers half a dozen different options that run the gamut from hard to soft. That's also part of this superior system – sanders, abrasives and dust extractors – that delivers perfect parts to the spray booth every time.

FESTOOL



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Cam-less, Clampless, SIMPLE Connections!

It's evolution.

FastenLink is the logical conclusion to thousands of years of joinery efforts. Since the discovery of glue, woodworkers have been trying to find the perfect way to join parts together. Dowels, biscuits, bolts and cams have paved the way. Now, perfection has finally arrived.

The one-piece FastenLink connector slides into a ramped pocket and... you're done!

Installed using standard CNC routing and horizontal boring machines, FastenLink delivers a simple and rapid manufacturing solution. The patent pending connector system leaves no visible hardware, providing the ultimate finishing touch to assembly.

The genius of the connector lies in its unique shape, which allows a woodshop to build boxes without clamps and still provide customers with glued, permanent, strong joinery. The plastic design brings extra strength to the equation, and the groove in the tip of the dowel creates a shoul-



der that simply slides into place. The tapered groove cut into the wood guides the FastenLink connector until it clicks into the locked position, seamlessly joining parts together.

FastenLink replaces wooden dowels with a superior solution while eliminating the need for

cams, screws or pneumatic nails and staples. And for shops that ship RTA (ready-to-assemble) cabinets, the beauty of FastenLink is that installers – or even consumers – can assemble the end products with no more tools than a glue bottle and a rubber mallet. Gone is that dreaded bag of fasteners and incomprehensible instructions that were written overseas. The customer simply lines up the pre-inserted FastenLink dowels so they pop into the holes, and then snaps the product together.

Now, that's evolution.

And for woodshops, it's also revolutionary. Manufacturing with Fastenlink is an easy retrofit, because it only requires the use of standard

machinery. The ramped pocket can be milled on a CNC router – rail and pod, flatbed or feedthrough. And you can replace wooden dowels for the boring machine with Fastenlinks.

Try it, and you will never again manually insert hardware.





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Fastenlink

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Before your next job starts, think about the finish.



Finding a defect on a coated surface is fairly easy, but finding its cause can be difficult. A woodshop finisher can use Facts on Finishing to help determine what is causing the problem, and source relevant solutions.

AcromaProTM is committed to improving customers' competitiveness by developing products and techniques to meet shops' needs, and also those of the environment. The new Facts on Finishing Guide is just one way the company supports woodworkers' efforts in these areas. To download your copy, visit the URL listed below. And to locate an AcromaPro distributor near you, or for more information on some of the world's leading waterborne, post-catalyzed and pre-catalyzed coatings, plus a wide selection of both clear and pig-

The new Facts on Finishing Guide from AcromaProTM is an essential tool for any woodshop.

As new finishing techniques become available, it can be a challenge to understand the complex relationship between products, application methods and curing techniques. A woodworker also needs to grasp how these elements form an integral part of the finished wood product. The new Facts on Finishing Guide, which is available free of charge as a downloadable PDF file, covers a host of topics from surface finishing materials to various substrates, plus different application and curing methods. It also addresses environmental considerations, cost efficiencies and the durability of finishes - all of which help woodworkers make better use of increasingly technical options.

AcromaPro has been serving woodshops since 1874, so it's no surprise that the company has created this hands-on tool for finishers. Originally founded in Sweden as Beckers and merging with Acroma Lack AB in 1968, the company has evolved over the past 142 years into one of the world's most trusted providers of wood finishing solutions. Becker Acroma was acquired by Sherwin-Williams in 2010, further broadening its knowledge base and bolstering its leadership in finishing technologies.

With ten easy to navigate sections of content, the new Guide is a must-read for both beginning and experienced finishers. It describes everything from pot life to drying/curing and how to sand a finish. And it's not just a tool for hands-on finish application: it also helps a woodshop manage resources. Shop owners and project managers will gain valuable insights on how to achieve the best

finish while optimizing capacity, and cutting production costs.

As any artisan knows, pairing the right treatment with a specific wood species is crucial. In the section on substrates, the Guide focuses on materials such as solid wood, veneers and sheet stock. It describes how correct sanding techniques can be combined with the right finishing materials and technology to achieve

a top quality coating. After all, a well-sanded surface is halfway to a perfect finish.

In the Guide's paints, lacquers and stains section, finishers can enhance their knowledge of the differences between various binders, solvents, additives, pigments and fillers. Then the publication talks about drying and curing, and the best ways to accelerate drying in order to reduce hazards and manage solvent emissions in a responsible manner.

When comparing the costs of different finishing systems, a shop manager needs to take several factors into account such as the type of product, its dry content, density and dilution curve. The Guide addresses these issues and also covers the handling of paints and lacquers in a safe manner, plus how to employ finishing techniques that minimize environmental impact – all while creating a safer and cleaner workstation for employees. And it deals with surface resistance – how cured furniture finishes will behave in the real world.



mented stains and glazes and AcromaPro's Aqualight $^{\text{TM}}$ Waterborne UV products, visit the company online at acromapro.com.

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SuperMax Tools Knows Sanding

It's said the devil is in the details, and nowhere is that more evident than when putting the final touches on a woodworking project. Sanding has always been the most tedious part of woodworking but SuperMax Tools' line of drum and brush sanders help to make sanding another enjoyable part of the creation process.

Customer Doug Sikkema came to SuperMax for a sanding solution when building a craftsman-style kitchen in his daughter's house. Contractor bids

were coming in over \$50k, way over budget. Sikkema, a retired furniture builder, offered to do the project and knew he needed a dependable sander. He didn't have the space or the budget to buy a commercial oscillating sander that he had used during his career. After reading reviews and machine comparisons online,



he settled on the 19-38 Drum Sander.

"Your sander is the most impressive sander I have ever used," Sikkema later wrote in a letter to SuperMax. "I would put this sander up against any wide belt on the market. I absolutely worked the SuperMax 19-38 to death on this kitchen. It never let me down. It is by far the best tool in my shop."

SuperMax Tools also offers the SuperBrush Brush Sander which

is said to be "The Most Versatile Machine in Woodworking," with good reason. Models can be equipped with dozens of different brush heads to help customers achieve nearly any finish. SuperMax Tools sales manager John Geyen works with the SuperBrush line and says he has seen tremendous growth with wire brush-

ing to create a distressed finish, and using a nylon head to clean reclaimed wood.

"We get calls every day from companies that are looking to cut down on the time spent on labor-intensive finishes," says Geyen. "They have guys using homemade wire brushes, trying to get distress hundreds of feet of board. With a SuperBrush, a project that used to take a week can be done in a couple of hours. We pride ourselves on being the right solution for so many woodworkers."





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LEAN CLEAN AND SIMPLE

Those three guiding lights will drive your shop's processes and help make business thrive

BY JOHN ENGLISH

t's hard to keep up with manufacturing technology and also the vast glossary of new terms that it has generated. In a rush to be "innovative," many leading woodshop machine manufacturers have followed the lead of the computer industry and fallen into the habit of engineer-speak. They now describe their products in such technical language that it often leaves cabinetmakers scratching our heads.

The same is true of shop management. Many lean manufacturing terms were inherited from an early Toyota model in the 1980s and have never been translated to English. As the woodshop industry becomes more and more immersed in the doctrine, one might be forgiven for suggesting that a project manager should carry a Japanese dictionary just to get through a Monday morning meeting. American management seems utterly intrigued by words such as Kaizen, KanBan and Muda, and attributes a mystical aura to them. Through the years, executives and theorists have added an entire glossary of new acronyms and shorthand to this vocabulary – terms such as 6 Sigma, Andon, Takt Time and Smed.

Sounds a bit like Klingon, doesn't it?

These two worlds — complex machines/software and lean manufacturing — are becoming more and more intertwined in the modern woodshop. And the language they use is simultaneously becoming more and more confusing for people who just want to work wood. Manufacturers are even changing the meaning and weight of some words as time goes by. For example, to most shop employees the term "nesting" simply refers to laying out parts on a sheet of plywood in the most efficient way. It's the old-fashioned concept of optimizing — trying to get the optimum (or greatest) number of parts out of a sheet.



All you're doing here is trying to maximize yield and minimize waste. So the nesting software is being asked to physically rotate and move parts about in an effort to make more of them fit on a sheet of MDF.

That's a simple enough concept, right?

But to engineers, nesting has become an entire software regimen that no longer just describes the physical act. Yes, the code writers are still referring to the same process as a woodworker, but they're often doing so in exclusionary language that only they can understand. For example, nesting programs don't save time: they "optimize schedule adherence." Really? An old woodworker we once knew used to laughingly refer to nails as inter-fibrous friction fasteners. He was before his time.

And the software engineers don't just nest: they do it "dynamically."

Their cryptic insider lexicon is making it more and more difficult for a woodshop owner or employee to read and understand a technical manual, a trade magazine or even a brochure for a machine or software program. American advertising has always been celebrated for its inventive ability to simplify options, rather than confuse the potential buyer. Today, understanding CNC ads often requires something akin to a degree in computer science. When did product flyers become a more comfortable read for the people who make the machines than the people who buy them?

Take, for example, that phrase "dynamic nesting." In real life, the word dynamic describes movement and, in most cases, it just means that something is able to respond rapidly to changes in its environment. (For example, a dynamic football coach might put in another tight end if the deep ball isn't there.) But depending on the software engineer who is writing the manual, "dynamic" might mean that the program is



able to handle both 2-D and 3-D design formats or automatically decide whether to use a whole sheet or just a remnant (which many programs can now track by size in a shop's physical inventory) or stack two or more sheets and cut them simultaneously or link to the woodshop's purchasing database or make decisions based on information from other jobs beyond the one it's currently milling or even talk through the cloud or an app with other machines. Or perhaps all of the above.

Now, to be fair, nesting has come a long way and it has revolutionized many aspects of our trade. The problem here is not what new software does, but rather the industry's inability to allow the people who use it to understand fully what it does — and also what they might be able to make it do beyond the manual. There was a time when we believed that computers would simplify our offices and eliminate paper. What actually happened was that they turned every office into its own print shop and paper production soared. Anyone who once believed that software would make our jobs easier, well ...

What software does is make a cabinet shop more efficient, more manageable and a little less reliant on individual cabinetmakers. That means our roles are evolving and we need to evolve with them or be left behind.

LEAN LEANINGS

All of those dynamic functions listed above underline one fact. Nesting software has evolved into an essential component of lean manufacturing. You can't have one without the other.

Lean manufacturing is a management tool (or some would say a complete system), which has the primary goal of eliminating waste. Most definitions take that a little bit farther by adding a codicil: the ob-

ject is to maximize a product or service's value to the customer while eliminating or minimizing waste. In simple English, lean means giving the customer the best product at the lowest possible cost of production. The word "lean" expresses the desire to eliminate all excess fat in the budget in terms of both materials and employee time.

Nesting is inherently lean, or at least a lot leaner, than traditional layout tools. Remember when shops chopped sheets into smaller rectangles on saws and then milled those on the CNC? That progression actually illustrates the core of lean thinking. The old way was task-centric. It concentrated on one single action and tried to make that part of the puzzle as efficient as possible. The new way is to look at the entire flow of production in terms of all the machinery, people, materials and other assets involved and then strive to make the woodshop — and not just an individual task — as efficient as possible. That approach engenders processes, rather than tasks. One of the side benefits here is that information becomes much more shared throughout the shop. When you're part of a process, you need to know what comes before and after and adjust accordingly (dare we say dynamically?). More knowledge allows managers to more easily pinpoint hiccups in the system. Instead of each workstation working in isolation, it becomes a larger part of the whole. Lean is conceptual: it's a way of thinking.

Incidentally, Kaizen refers to continuous improvement, KanBan is a signal (such as a card inserted in a pile of parts that tells the shop when more is needed) and Muda means "waste." The term Six Sigma describes a scientific method for achieving results that lie within acceptable deviations; Andon is a set of, well, traffic lights really, that tell a manager at a glance the status of a workstation (green is good, yellow means something is needed and red says the machine is offline); Takt Time is a way of using real time to measure whether a process is in balance (going just fast enough and not too fast to mesh with other processes); and Smed means Single Minute Exchange of Dies, which is a strange way of describing a reduction in the amount of time it takes to change something such as a CNC tool.

NESTING IS INHERENTLY GREEN

Yes, nesting is lean, but it's also quite green. The abiding concept in lean manufacturing is to reduce or even eliminate waste. Now what could possibly be greener than that? Reducing waste is obviously good for the woodshop and the planet.

So how good?

Well, waste reduction is an elusive concept. Our first instinct is to apply it only to direct savings produced by a more efficient physical use of materials. The more parts we can cut from a single sheet, the less waste there is.

But there's a much broader definition at work here, too. For example, nesting reduces the amount of shop time that people and machines spend making and handling parts. That can reduce the light bill and the shop's heating and cooling costs, especially if it leads to less overtime or a smaller crew. And because nesting uses fewer full sheets, it also reduces floor space requirements. Then there's the pneumatic and electric power used to run the machines and even the number of times a truck needs to stop by and empty the dumpsters and the diesel it uses to get there. Less waste reduces the woodshop's landfill use and the number of trees required to make the plywood being nested and milled. That means there's some positive impact at both the sawmill and the plywood factory because of slightly smaller orders. There's the fact that the woodshop's employees will spend less time cleaning up and disposing of offcuts and even stocking and moving sheet goods from inventory to workstation simply because there are fewer sheets.

OK, let's jump on the terminology bandwagon for a minute. Back in the 1980s, Toyota actually defined three broad categories of waste, which it named muda, muri and mura.

Muda, which was loosely defined above as overall waste, is further refined to seven subcategories: transport, inventory, motion, waiting, overproduction, over-processing and defects. Nesting reduces Muda





by requiring less transport (fewer sheets need to be forklifted and handled); less inventory (obviously); less motion (the operator has to load fewer sheets and unload fewer offcuts); less waiting (a nesting CNC program allows workers to shift change without slowing production and more parts being made means somebody down the line doesn't have to twiddle their thumbs as long between batches); less overproduction (because the current generation of nesting programs can constantly keep in contact with the project manager and other production stations); less overprocessing (nesting invites such subtle economies as two parts sharing a single release cut, and generally eliminates processing the sheets on a saw

first); and fewer defects (improved spindles, drive motors, tooling and programming have made nesting an extremely efficient activity).

Muri, the second category of waste, is a subtle way of describing poor management. It includes all the extra work that poor planning and supervision can impose on a process. With automated CNC and a sophisticated nesting program, there is a significant (if not huge) reduction in the amount of human involvement required to manufacture parts. Without people, there's no extra work being done.

Mura, in the simplest terms, refers to bumps in the road — hiccups in the process. The easiest way to grasp it is to consider its cure rather than its symptoms. Mura is generally dealt with by

implementing a just-in-time (JIT) solution, where there is very little inventory either coming into the CNC as sheet stock or leaving as parts. And there is no delay caused by not having sheets ready to go or not having somebody pick up the parts as soon as they're milled (of course, larger shops will have automatic feed and harvest systems in place). Because a nesting system can be very precisely quantified, timed and programmed, it is far more predictable that, say, a couple of woodworkers running parts manually through a table saw. That predictability allows the project manager to implement a more precise and efficient (JIT) solution and thus deal with mura.

Eliminating all or even some categories of waste means that the average woodshop will improve its carbon footprint and become greener, while also becoming leaner.

CONCLUSIONS

Woodshops can obviously benefit from better nesting procedures in terms of both profits (lean) and conscience (green). The struggle is to survey the vast amount of information, products, software, machinery and training available and to navigate through it all to a point where rational decisions can be made.

Woodworkers can benefit from better nesting software and processes because of safer workplaces (less lifting, dust etc. than traditional sheet reduction processes); better shop profits (which means more job security); and a less detrimental day in terms of their jobs' negative impact on the planet.

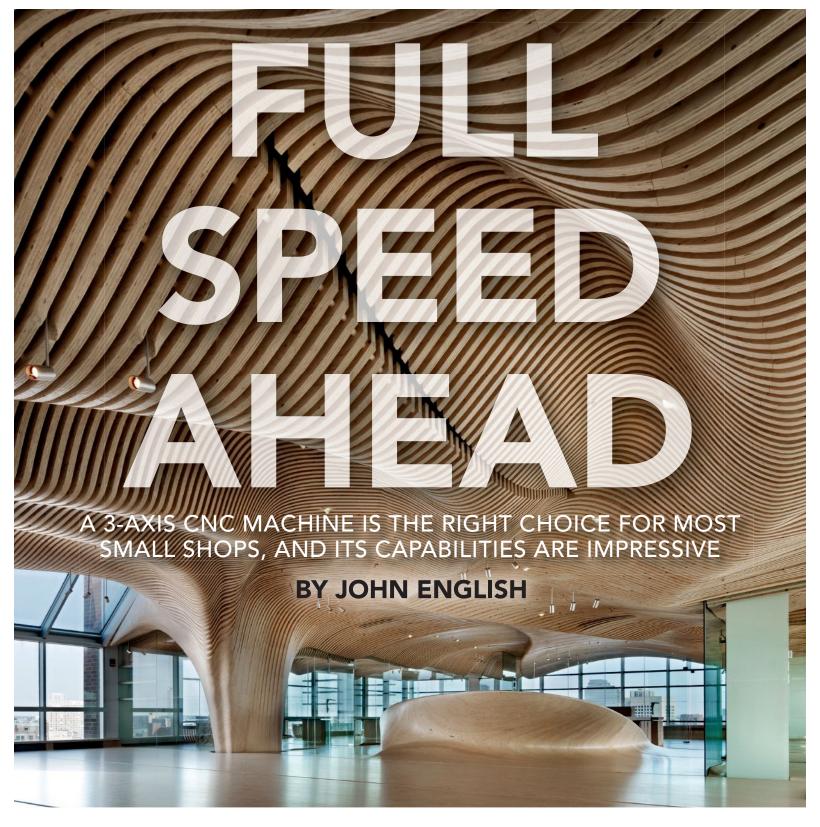
The best offense, going back to our football metaphor, is a good defense. So, understanding how the engineers and MBAs think is paramount. That begins with learning their lingo, but we also need to remind them at every opportunity that we still speak English and ask that they simplify the jargon.

Program writers are not terribly concerned with the inherent art of working wood, but rather with one defining word: efficiency. Woodworking, to the software experts, is not a prized skill that was developed through a lifetime of experience and has been passed down through generations. Today, most of what we do is just another manufacturing process that needs to be micromanaged.

And here's the chilling reality: technology does what it's told to do and people sometimes don't. It's a lot easier to manage machines than men, especially if you're isolated from them through a software program. It would be nice if our industry had programmers who know how to sharpen a hand plane, but the sad truth is that even most woodshop employees no longer have that skill.

Yes, the future lies with robots running routers and nesting will continue to grow in importance. But fortunately, there's still a little room in the custom shop for innovation. Thankfully, the machines can only deduce: they can't actually imagine.

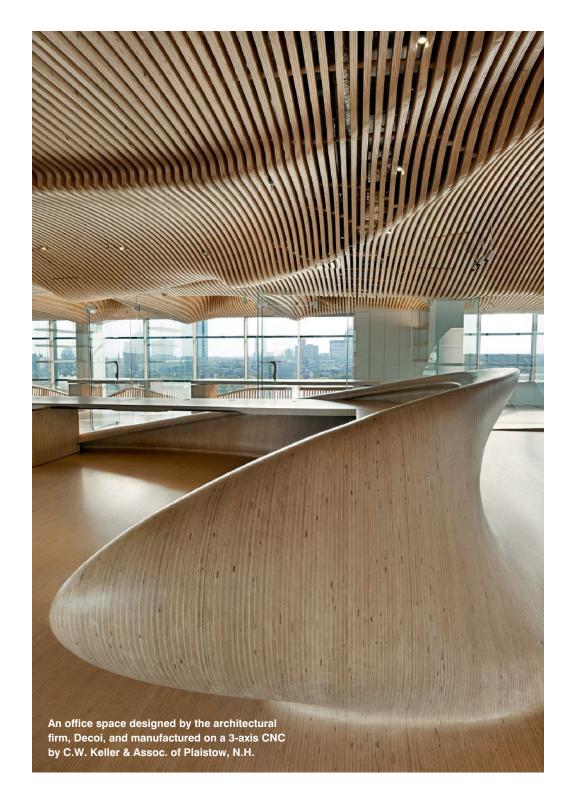




n axis is a direction or a line of travel, so the head on a 3-axis CNC machine can travel in three linear directions: forward and back (X), left and right (Y), plus up and down (Z). In woodshops, these machines are usually employed to work on flat stock (that is, panel processing). Even though CNC machining is becoming highly complex in many other areas of manufacturing, 3-axis configurations are still very common in woodshops. That's be-

cause cabinets are generally built with flat parts.

Those more complex (and usually more expensive) 4- and 5-axis machines add one or two circular, as opposed to linear, functions. They rotate in A (which revolves around the X-axis) and/or B (which circles around Y). There is technically a sixth movement, C, which rotates around the Z-axis, but this offers so few advantages that it is rarely offered or used in woodshop applications. Plus, parts need to be secured for machining in a way that would often



physically interfere with the sixth axis.

So, in 4- and 5-axis configurations, the head itself can rotate in addition to traveling across the platform and moving up and down. This allows a tool (a router bit, laser or 3-D printer) to reach a part from virtually any direction. The result is that more complicated, sculpted pieces can be milled without having to stop and reposition the work in a new orientation, if such repositioning is even possible.

Some basic CNC platforms are described as 2.5-axis. In these, travel along all three linear axes still exists, but only two can be operational simultaneously. So, for example, a router bit might travel to the entry point, stop, plunge to the correct depth, stop and then travel only along the X- and Y-axes while milling a part to size. A true 3-axis machine can

vary the depth of cut as it travels, while a 2.5-axis head would, in this case, maintain the same depth of cut until it stops moving.

The nomenclature here (X, Y and so on) is used as it exists in a standard vertical machine. If the milling center is rotated to the horizontal position, the axes' designations change. For example, the vertical Z-axis will be what was originally the X-axis.

Confused yet? Hang on, there's more.

A 3-axis CNC can be configured to emulate many of the properties of a 5-axis machine. For example, the head on some models can be tilted to a predetermined angle (that is, indexed) before it travels or the table can be adjusted or the part can be supported in a custom holder that holds it at a specified angle.

A woodshop can also install an aggregate head, which is an affordable way to add a fourth axis to a 3-axis setup. This has the effect of turning the spindle's business end up to 90 degrees. In that case, a head traveling along the X-axis (which would usually just mill vertically or directly below it) can now work horizontally (sideways, if you will). Many aggregate heads also tilt to variable stops between 0 and 90 degrees, adding even more complex abilities.

Is three axes enough?

If you're building boxes and drawers, doors and fronts, filler strips and appliance panels, then 3-axis milling will probably work. If you're machining architectural details that incorporate carving or work in the round, then you might want to look at 4- or 5-axis units.

For woodshops looking at buying a first 3-axis router or upgrading an existing one, the price can vary a lot depending on needs. Beyond the bed size, some of the major concerns are travel speed, horsepower, workholding options and tooling capacities and changers. The ability to add an aggregate head might be important, too, especially for sign shops and furniture makers.

In addition to looking at stepper motors and travel, it's a good idea to ask the salesperson about the relationship between the new machine's spindle speed (how fast it

rotates) and its horsepower rating. Are there different power ratings for different speed ranges? Think about the materials you mill and the profiles you cut. Shallow grooves in softwood window parts are going to require a whole lot less work than through-cuts in thick cabinet sides. Are you buying too much power or too little?

The CNC setup for a shop that plans on buying in its RTA boxes and just doing a little custom work is going to be a lot different than the arrangement for an architectural millwork fabricator, or a freeform furniture or stair builder. Those shops might need to look beyond three axes.

Keep in mind too that 3-axis machines have come a long way in a short time and so have their tooling, spindles and especially their software. When buying new, you'll need to be very specific about explaining to your salesperson what tasks the machine will be asked to perform. If you're looking at used equipment, begin with the software and its ability to be upgraded, even before you discuss spindles and tool changers. Rapid advances in the worlds of imaging and printing, data storage and transmission all affect the way that your computer talks to your router. Who would have thought 10 years ago that we could someday take a picture with a phone, send it to a CNC and engrave a panel for an appliance or a set of doors?

One of the more salient observations made by CNC salespeople is that many shops buy a 5-axis machine and then operate it as though it only had three. They don't push the envelope, look for design challenges and discover what the machine can do.

The same can be said, in a way, for 3-axis CNC. A lot of shops use their machine to process panels and nothing more. That's fine if the jobs are all boxes and doors. But if your shop has a chance to bid on more interesting fare and hesitates because you lack the confidence, the knowledge or experience to do so, then you might not need a new CNC.

Perhaps what you really need is an imaginative designer. W







BOSCH offers a new 18-volt reciprocating saw with a variable-speed trigger, allowing tradesmen to ease into a cut without concerns about potential binding or kickback, according to the company. The saw, model GSA18V-083B, weighs 5.5 lbs. and measures only 15-3/4" in length, yet delivers up to 3,050 strokes per minute. The saw also features tool-less blade changing and an LED worklight. The bare tool sells for \$139. For more, visit www.boschtools.com.



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5355 25" SINGLE HEAD W/ 15HP MOTOR 5385 37" SINGLE HEAD W/ 20HP MOTOR 5360 25" DOUBLE HEAD W/ 15HP MOTOR 5390 37" DOUBLE HEAD W/ 25HP MOTOR 5395 43" DOUBLE HEAD W/ 25HP MOTOR



5424 52" HD DOUBLE HEAD WITH 2 POWERFUL MOTORS (40/30HP)

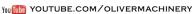


Panel cleaning brush roller standard on the 5424. The panel cleaning brush roller is provided at outfeed end of the conveyor belt for removal of dust on work pieces. A dust hood for panel cleaning brush allows for effective dust collection.

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HETTICH redesigned its Grant Box Track Sliding door systems for installations that require the movement of heavy panels, space dividers and large doors up to 500 lbs. per door. Improvements include a low-profile mounting option for restricted headroom applications. For more, visit www. hettichamerica.com.

KERFKORE introduces Timberflex Premium, a bendable panel that has a three-ply Italian poplar face ready to paint or laminate without the need for patching or sanding, according to the company. The panels can bend to a 5" radius and are available in 1/2", 5/8" and 3/4" thicknesses. For more, visit *www.kerfkore.com*.







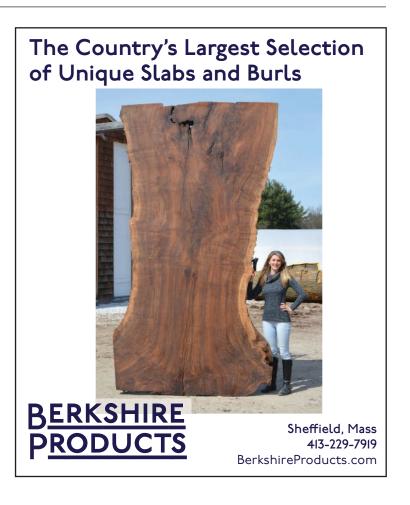


MILWAUKEE TOOL presents a new line of magnetic tape measures with the Finger Stop mechanism, which protects fingers during retraction. The tape measures are also more compact and ergonomic, providing a better fit in the user's hand, according to the company. Other features include a smaller magnetic hook to access tight spaces and an improved wire-form belt clip. The tape measures are available in 16', 25', 30' and 35' lengths, as well as two metric options. They sell for \$20 to \$35. For more, visit www.milwaukeetool.com.

AIR HANDLING SYSTEMS offers its new Clamp Together Duct System that uses a barrel-type clamp to attach two rolled edges of ducting together. No special tools are required for installation. For more, visit www.airhand.com.









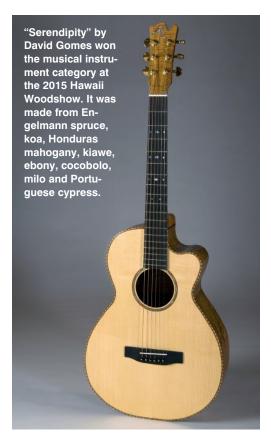
M.L. CAMPBELL presents waterborne pre-catalyzed Agualente Plus, a one-component, VOC-compliant coatings system based on advanced resin technology that provides a hard, durable, stain-resistant finish for interior wood surfaces, according to the company. Agualente Plus consists of a sealer, primer and clear topcoats with a full range of sheens. For more, visit www.mlcampbell.com.

GRIZZLY INDUSTRIAL offers a pair of new heavy-duty wood lathes, model G0799 with a 20" swing and model G0800 with a 24" swing. The lathes feature a fully adjustable 14-1/4" tool rest and more, according to Grizzly. The headstock assembly can be positioned anywhere along the bed and the tailstock swings aside on the hinged bed when not in use. They have a speed range of 60 to 3,500 rpm, 3-hp motor, digital readout and forward/reverse spindle function. For more, visit www.grizzly.com.









Acadia exhibit comes to Maine in October

Heirloom-quality works will be on display at upcoming Hawaii show

By Jennifer Hicks

urniture makers David Lamb and Judy Kensley McKie are featured in the exhibit, "Acadia through a furniture maker's eyes," at the Gallery at Somes Sound in Somesville, Maine, scheduled to open Oct. 31.

Lamb made a special piece for the exhibit, "Four Seasons of Acadia", to capture the four seasons of Acadia. Lamb is a founding mem-

ber of the New Hampshire Furniture Masters Association.

McKie's "Eagle Console Table," made from mahogany, is another featured piece. McKie, known for her use of animal, bird, and fish imagery in her furniture and sculptures, lives in Cambridge, Mass.

Last year's Best of Show piece at the Hawaii Woodshow: "Roots of Inspiration" by Mats Fogelvik, made with koa, milo, primavera, rosewood, holly, olive and ash.











(From left) Joel Bright's koa entry table from the 2015 Hawaii Woodshow; David Lamb, left, with "Four Seasons of Acadia."

A large portion of the proceeds from the exhibit will be donated to Friends of Acadia, according to the gallery.

Hawaii Woodshow

The 2016 Hawaii's Woodshow, an annual juried woodworking exhibition sponsored by the Hawaii Forest Industry Association, is scheduled for Sept. 17 through Oct. 2 at the Honolulu Museum of Art School Gallery at Linekona.

The show features heirloom-quality works, which are required to be made from native Hawaiian-grown trees such as koa, mango, kamani, milo, Norfolk pine, macadamia nut, kiawe and other species.

The focus of the show is to encourage an appreciation for the participating artists and the materials they use, and to promote the positive role forests play in the economy and ecology.

This year's jurors are Betty Scarpino, a contemporary artist and sculptor from Indianapo-

lis; Duane Preble, a University of Hawaii professor emeritus, and R.W. "Rollo" Scheurenbrand, an Oahu luthier. **W**

Contacts:

Gallery at Somes Sound, 1112 Main St., Somesville, ME 04660. Tel: 207-244-1165. www. galleryatsomessound.com

Hawaii Forest Industry Association, P.O. Box 66, 'O' kala HI 96774. Tel: 808-933-9411. www.hawaiiforest.org





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CALENDAR

ARIZONA

Sept. 9-Oct. 29 — The Vision Gallery in downtown Chandler is hosting the sixth annual Makin Funiture+, an exhibition of handcrafted furniture by Arizona artists. It will feature functional furniture, turnings, wood carvings, wood bending and more. For information, email curator Steven Makin at *makinfurniture@yahoo.com*.

Sept. 12-16 — Joinery Advanced with Raul Ramirez. Learn joint and drawer layout through dovetails, half-blind dovetails, full-blind mitered dovetails and angled dovetails. Fee: \$680 plus \$60 for materials. Location: Southwest School of Woodworking in Phoenix. www.swcfc.org

FLORIDA

Jan. 10-12, 2017 — Kitchen & Bath Industry Show, an exhibition of new products, industry trends and manufacturing technologies. Location: Orange County Convention Center in Orlando. For information, visit www.kbis.com

KENTUCKY

Sept. 27-29 — The Wood Products Manufac-

turers Association will hold its annual meeting in conjunction with the Kentucky Forest Industry Association at The Brown Hotel in Louisville. The meeting will include a complete day of plant tour visits, a "mystery night" and educational sessions. For information, contact Philip Bibeau at 978-874-5445 or visit www.wpma.org.

INDIANA

Oct. 7-8 — Woodworking Showcase 2016. Annual woodworking event at the L.L. Johnson Lumber and Johnson's Workbench location in South Bend. Industry experts showcase the latest in woodworking innovations and technology. For information, visit www.theworkbench.com

MARYLAND

Monthly — The Howard County Woodworkers Guild meets the first Saturdays of the month at the Bain Senior Center at 5470 Ruth Keeton Way, Columbia, Md. from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Open to all those working in wood. For information, email Manny Flecker at aaron0641@hotmail.com

MASSACHUSETTS

Oct. 8-10 — Paradise City Arts Festival Northampton. A juried fair hosted in the spring and fall featuring furniture and other

handmade items for the home. Location: Three County Fairgrounds, Northampton. www.para-disecityarts.com

MICHIGAN

Sept. 9-10 — Wood Expo 2016 featuring Scott Philips. L.L. Johnson Lumber and Johnson's Workbench 26th annual Woodworking Show at its Charlotte location. For information, visit *www.theworkbench.com*.

MISSOURI

Oct. 23-25 — The 64th annual convention of the Architectural Woodwork Institute. Trade show features educational programs, professional speakers, plant tours and networking opportunities. Location: InterContinental Kansas City. For more, visit www.awinet.org.

NEW YORK

Monthly — Sawdust and Woodchips Woodworking Association meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Cold Springs Fire Department in Baldwinsville. www.sawdustwoodchips.org

Monthly — Northeast Woodworkers Association meetings held on second Thursday of the month at various locations in Albany area. *www.woodworker.org*



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NORTH CAROLINA

Oct. 26-27 — CMA Regional Event. The Cabinet Makers Association will sponsor the event hosted by Biesse, featuring seminars from industry experts and plant tours of local woodworking shops. Location: Charlotte. www.cabinetmakers.org

PENNSYLVANIA

Sept. 23-24 — The Eastool Expo is a tool and machinery event showcasing the latest products and equipment for the woodworking

and related industries. The two-day event has seminars, contests, and equipment demonstrations. Location: Quarryville. For information, call 717-933-8091 or email *merle@littlemountainprinting.com*.

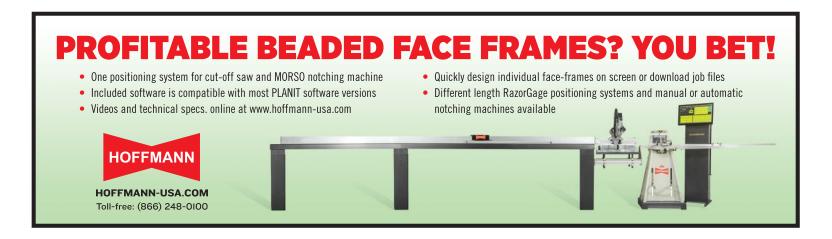
TEXAS

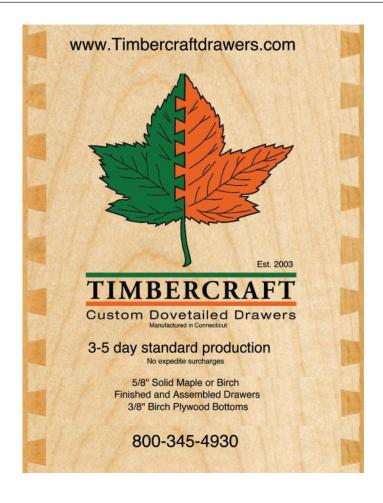
Oct. 27-Dec. 3 — Texas Furniture Makers Show. An annual juried exhibit featuring furniture makers from Texas. Location: Kerr Arts and Cultural Center in Kerrville. For more, visit www.kacckerrville.com.

WISCONSIN

Sept. 16-18 — Fine Furnishings Show featuring furniture and other handcrafted items for the home. Location: Muellner Building at Hart Park in Wauwatosa. For more information, visit *www.finefurnishingsshows.com*.

Oct. 12-15 — Great Lakes Kiln Drying Association fall meeting and kiln drying seminar. The three-day event in Wausau will feature educational presentations and local plant tours. To register or for more information, visit www.glkda.org.









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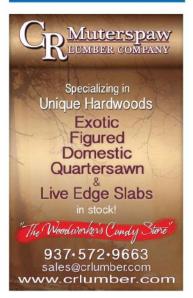


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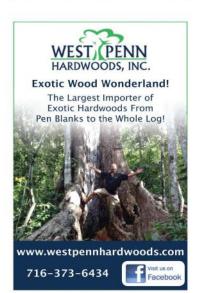
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OUT OF THE WOODWORK





Back and forth

ver been inspired to create something new from something old? It happens all the time and makes for an interesting exhibit theme.

The Center for Art in Wood, a gallery and educational resource in Philadelphia, is taking a new approach with its online "Flashback-Fast Forward" exhibit, which opened in July and runs through Oct. 21, featuring the work of more than 50 artists from the center's 40-year history.

"Flashback-Fast Forward features work that each artist chose, one from a past center exhibition where they were included, and a newer piece as their 'Fast Forward,' " executive director Albert LeCoff says.

"Each artist offers their thoughts on the older work and being included in a center exhibition and how the new piece reflects their evolving creative processes and technique. Some artists' involvement spans almost the entire time since my very first show."

LeCoff co-founded the center in 1976 with a series of wood turning symposiums. It had its first exhibition, "Turned Objects: The first North American turned object show," in 1981.

The center became a non-profit in 1986 and relocated to the heart of Old City Philadelphia in 2011. It gets about 16,000 visitors per year.

Its mission is to honor and promote the work of not only makers and artists who create wood turned objects, but to include all artwork produced from wood and wood in conjunction with other materials.

Participating artists include Marilyn Campbell, Mark Del Guidice, Virginia Dotson, Tom Eckert, Todd Hoyer, Philip Moulthrop, Gord Peteran, Betty Scarpino, Mark Sfirri and Tommy Simpson.

For more, visit www.centerforartin-wood.org.

— Jennifer Hicks







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