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March 2023



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- Airflow capacity: 868 CFM @ 1.8 in. SP
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- Filtration: 99.9% at 1 Micron
- Filter size: 14½ in. x 24 in. canister

W1868

2 HP

- Airflow capacity: 1023 CFM @ 1.2 in. SP
- Impeller size: 12¾ in.
- Filtration: 99.9% at 1 Micron
- Filter size: 14½ in. x 24 in. canister

W1869

3 HP

- Airflow capacity: 1941 CFM @ 2.9 in. SP
- Impeller size: 15 in.
- Filtration: 99.9% at 1 Micron
- Filter size: 14½ in. x 39¾ in. canister

W1864-65

### 20" 5 HP PLANER

- Motor: 5 HP
- Max cutting width: 20 in.
- Max cutting height: 8 in.
- Cutter head type: 4-Knife (W1864); Helical (W1865)
- Cutter head diameter: 3¼ in.
- Min stock length: 7 in.



⚠ WARNING! †<sup>1</sup>



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W1888

### 10" HYBRID TABLE SAW

- Motor: 2 HP
- Table saw type: Hybrid
- Blade size: 10 in.
- Max cutting height @ 90deg: 3⅞ in.
- Max cutting height @ 45deg: 2⅞ in.
- Maximum ripping capacity - right: 31½ in.
- Table type: Precision-ground cast iron
- Overall table size: 40⅞ in. x 27 in.



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W1848

### 13¼" OSCILLATING FLOOR DRILL PRESS

- Motor: ¾ HP
- Swing: 13¼ in.
- Type: Oscillating
- Spindle speed: Variable, 250–3050 RPM
- Spindle travel 3⅞
- Drilling capacity: ⅝ in.
- Drill chuck type: JT33 Key Chuck
- Quill diameter: 1.565 in.



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W1857-58

### 8" X 72" DOVETAIL JOINTERS WITH MOBILE BASE

- Motor: 3 HP
- Maximum cut width: 8 in.
- Table size: 9 in. x 72 in.
- Table type: Precision-ground cast iron
- Table adjustment: Dovetailed ways
- Cutterhead type: 4-Knife (W1857); Helical (W1858)



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W1729

### 19" 2 HP BANDSAW

- Motor: 2 HP
- Max cutting width: 18¼ in.
- Max cutting height: 12 in.
- Table size: 19 in. x 26¾ in.
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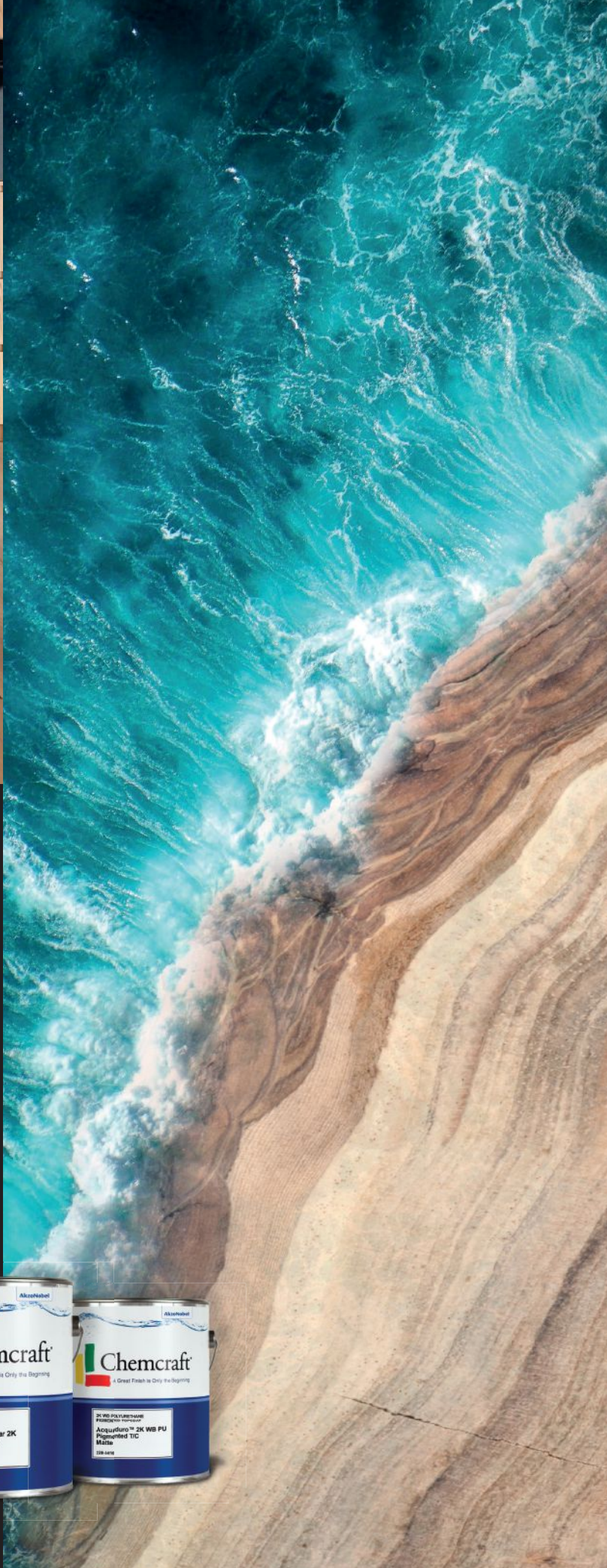
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# Table of Contents

Photos: Mark Sullivan (top, cover)



## Features

- 22 PICKING A PINNER, NAILER OR STAPLER:**  
Sorting through the latest functions, features and technologies available in the fastening gun category.
- 34 SURVIVE AND ADVANCE:** Premier Woodworking has prospered and stumbled, but steady commercial work and a new partner gives hope for the future.
- 43 A GOOD FIT:** Dovetail machines make quick work of producing a classic joint and are available from several manufacturers.
- 48 NEW COATINGS AND COLOR TRENDS:**  
Our annual look at the latest finishes, formula trends, and color-of-the-year picks from paint manufacturers.

## News Desk

- |                                                                                                                                |                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>8</b> The MiLL has generated a sharp rise in enrollment during its first five years of operation.</p>                    | <p><b>12</b> AWFS adds the Maverick Award to its Toul Tour Program.</p>      |
| <p><b>10</b> Dan Faia has been selected for the 2023 Cartouche Award from the Society of American Period Furniture Makers.</p> | <p><b>14</b> <b>WOOD MARKETS:</b><br/>Lower prices help white oak sales.</p> |

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## What's In Your Shop?

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## Tools & Techniques

- 16 Laguna adds a disc brake to 14/BX band saw.
- 18 New Cyclone 600 upcut saw from RazorGage.
- 20 Rod and shelf support invented for sloped ceilings.
- 21 New contour edge bander from Vitap.

## Departments

- 6 Taking Stock
- 53 New Products
- 54 At the Galleries
- 60 Calendar
- 61 Classified
- 64 Out of the Woodwork

## Columns

- 22 **FINISHING:**  
Get better results with silicon carbide abrasives.  
By Nick DeMars

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### BLOGS



#### Over the Workbench

Talkin' shop with former editor A.J. Hamler

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## IWF donates to the MiLL

By Tod Riggio

**The International Woodworking Fair** is contributing \$12,500 in unrestricted funds to the **Manufacturing Industry Learning Lab (MiLL)**, a training center for the wood industry, in Colorado Springs, Colo.

"For more than a half century, the International Woodworking Fair has served the ever-expanding needs of wood industry equipment and technology manufacturers and service providers and the tens of thousands of buyers attending its bi-annual trade show and conference produced every other August in Atlanta at the Georgia World Congress Center," the IWF said in a statement.

"The IWF contribution extends its long-standing commitment to industry advancement, innovation and education as evidenced in the IWF Education Conference, the IWF Challengers Distinguished Achievement Award and the IWF Design Emphasis Student Furniture Design competition."

For more about the MiLL, please see our story on Page 8.

**Lonnie Bird**, a furniture maker, teacher, tool designer and published author, died on Nov. 25, 2022. He was 63.

Bird was the head of the Fine Woodworking Program at the University of Rio Grande (Ohio) for 13 years and operated Lonnie Bird's School of Fine Woodworking in Dandridge, Tenn., for an additional 20 years.

"In both settings, he was well-able to duplicate his woodworking skills in others and was widely acclaimed as an excellent teacher. Impressively, Lonnie developed all the furniture designs and projects he taught. Lonnie was extremely talented; yet very willing to share his knowledge with others," ac-

cording to his obituary.

"Lonnie not only designed beautiful furniture with classic proportions and stunning beauty, but developed and patented commercial tooling and safety devices for CMT, Amana, and Bench Dog companies. He also published six woodworking books through The Taunton Press, was contributing editor for Fine Woodworking Magazine, and wrote many articles for various other woodworking publications, including Woodshop News."

**Unedda**, a manufacturer of abrasive products for the woodworking industry, has expanded its headquarters in Spring Valley, N.Y., adding 18,000-sq.-ft. of additional manufacturing space and 25,000-sq.-ft. of high ceiling warehouse space.

"Since 1967, Unedda has been supplying the highest quality coated abrasive products to a wide range of industrial end users and distributors. Throughout our 55-year history, we have been fortunate to experience significant growth while surmounting many economic difficulties along the way," the company said in a statement.

"A few years ago, we found ourselves running out of warehouse and manufacturing space to accommodate our continued growth. We were at a crossroads to decide what the best option could be to expand and support the business. We decided to make an investment in our local community and remain in Spring Valley, New York where we had our roots, both as a business and a family.

"We are excited about what the future may bring and look forward to many more years of sharing our success with our dedicated staff and loyal customers. **W**

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**“We started with 3 PivotLine® mobile rails and it wasn’t unusual for us to finish 200 doors in a day. Both sides – primer, paint, and clear.”**

Dion Richins, Owner  
Richins Carpentry, North Salt Lake, UT  
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Watch the video to see a Richins Carpentry finisher demonstrating the ease and speed of using the PivotLine System.



**“Now we have 9 mobile rails. I think if we pushed it, we could finish 300 – 350 doors in a day.”**

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**PivotLine, from Guffey Systems, is a manual-rail vertical finishing system that delivers the speed of an automated line without replacing the skill, art, and craftsmanship of the finisher.**

“I think that anyone that doesn’t give the system serious consideration is selling themselves short. The production time and money that’s saved by using it would be a benefit to any company.”

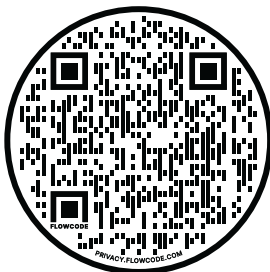


Finished parts are easily transferred from PivotLine’s stationary rail to a mobile rail for safe transport to a drying area.



By using multiple mobile rails, Richins Carpentry is able to continuously move parts in and out of the spray booth while dramatically reducing material handling and increasing volume.

Watch the full interview with Dion Richins



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# The MiLL generates a rising enrollment

By Jennifer Hicks

**The MiLL National Training Center** in Colorado Springs, Colo., has had a sharp rise in enrollment during its first five years of operation.

"We first started tracking attendance numbers back in 2018, and we have gone from essentially 60 kids on site to 422 for the 2022/2023 school year. On the cabinet manufacturing side, we have over 200 students alone this year," says Nikki Carter, Career and Technical Education Director for the Widefield School District 3.

The MiLL, an acronym for the Manufacturing Industry Learning Lab, opened in the fall of 2017 as a partnership between the local Widefield and Peyton school districts. It was founded by educator Dean Mattson, who developed a similar program in Oregon, with the support of superintendents Scott Campbell (Widefield) and Tim Kistler (Peyton).

The MiLL offers Cabinet Manufacturing, Construction Technology, and Welding Technology programs at its 45,000-sq.-ft. facility. Students in Cabinet Manufacturing

build cabinets in the first year, then learn additional skills, such as electrical and plumbing. Once they've completed two years in the program, they have an opportunity to earn an industry-recognized certification from the Woodwork Career Alliance.

The MiLL strives to keep its programs relevant to the current job markets. It also has the support of over 60 worldwide partners connected to wood manufacturing. Both have been major factors in the MiLL's success, according to Carter.

"Definitely enrollment is up and a lot of that has to do with not only the partnerships and the validity students see with industry, but I think it's also making sure they get the big picture of the next step for them," she says. "[We're] not only giving them the skills but helping them transition to the next level."

The MiLL is investigating ways to share its education model, according to Shane Skalla, director of Widefield's Innovation and Alternative Education program.

"We are working closely with the National Woods Board, which is a nonprofit organization put together to help take the MiLL model that we've created and transplant that model in other locations throughout the United States," says Skalla. "We're also working on a curriculum that schools across the nation will be able to utilize. The mission is to promote this model in other regions throughout the U.S."

For more, visit [mill.wsd3.org](http://mill.wsd3.org). **W**

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 Dan Faia and his curly cherry, Queen Anne-inspired highboy.

## Daniel Faia selected for Cartouche Award

By Jennifer Hicks

**Daniel Faia** will receive the 2023 Cartouche Award from the Society of American Period Furniture Makers at its annual conference, scheduled for April 28 to May 1 in New Bern, N.C.

Faia, who has a new studio in Rolinsford, N.H., has produced period reproductions, wood carvings, Windsor chairs, and more since graduating from Boston's North Bennet Street School in 1994.

"I am incredibly grateful to be recognized with this award," says Faia. "The nomination itself was humbling and now to be named the 2023 recipient is amazing. Being listed with such a prestigious group of gifted furniture makers has been difficult to imagine. I have always considered myself a student of the craft and many of the previous recipients were influencers, mentors, teachers, colleagues, and friends. My hope is to continue to share and promote the craft as they always have."

Faia is an instructor and department head at North Bennet. He has also taught at the Furniture Institute of Massachusetts, Connecticut Valley School of Woodworking, and Windsor Institute. He has participated in demonstrations, exhibits, and presentations for organizations across the country.

In wake of the pandemic, Faia decided to open his new shop last spring to teach small group workshops.

"I had always imagined that as time went on, I would dedicate more time in my own shop by opening a new studio that embraces teaching, making and exploring new challenges in my work. Reflecting on the challenges of the pandemic, coupled with other factors, I decided to do just that. Now moving forward, I believe this creative balance will be my future path," Faia says.

For more, visit [danielfaia.com](http://danielfaia.com) and [sapfm.org](http://sapfm.org). **W**

Highboy photo courtesy of Fine Woodworking

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2023

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As attendees, you can visit their booth to learn about and experience their new tools. Everyone has fun and if you finish the tour, there is a free collector's t-shirt to take back to the shop!

Learn more here:  
<https://www.awfsfair.org/attendee-information/tool-tour/>

Register now for the 2023 AWFS Fair to receive Tool Tour Updates!

**The Maverick Award** will honor excellence in marketing strategy and execution for Tool Tour participation at AWFS Fair 2023.

The competition will recognize one qualifying exhibitor based on a variety of criteria within seven different categories. The winner will be announced at the AWFS Fair, July 25-28, 2023 at the Las Vegas Convention Center. The winner will receive a custom trophy and featured at the show and online.



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The Maverick Award will honor excellence in marketing at the AWFS Fair.

# AWFS adds Maverick Award

By Jennifer Hicks

The Association of Woodworking and Furnishings Suppliers is adding the Maverick Award to its Tool Tour Program, a feature of the biennial AWFS Fair, scheduled for July 25-28, 2023, at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

The Maverick Award will honor excellence in marketing strategy and execution.

"The competition will recognize one qualifying exhibitor based on a variety of criteria within seven different categories," the AWFS said in a statement.

The winner will receive a custom trophy and acknowledgement at the show.

Launched in 2021, the AWFS Tool Tour highlights manufacturers and suppliers of hand and power tools and small equipment. All participating exhibiting booths act as tour stops. Attendees will be encouraged to visit these stops throughout the show through the AWFS Fair app. After completing the tour, attendees will receive a commemorative, concert-style tour shirt featuring the 2023 Tool Tour logo. This year, the Tool Tour will have a western theme.

For more, visit [awfsfair.org](http://awfsfair.org). **w**

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# Lower prices help white oak sales

By Jennifer Hicks

**Market conditions** have improved for white oak, thanks to lower, stable prices and adequate supplies in most areas of the country, according to lumber suppliers interviewed by Woodshop News.

"The price had gotten real high last year, but it's falling back down now," says John Sliney of Vienna Hardwoods in Fairfax, Va. "Even a few months ago, people would call looking for white oak and when I'd give them the price, they'd switch to the red oak. But recently it seems like if they call for white oak, they go ahead and buy it."

Clint Dillon of Steve Wall Lumber in Mayodan, N.C., says white oak is a top-four seller, especially for customers looking for character-grade flooring.

"It seems like the last year or two, white oak has been extremely popular," says Dillon. "I'm still moving a ton of white oak for stair treads, flooring, all kinds of stuff. Prices have [leveled] out; they're not going up anymore."

White oak (*Quercus alba*) grows from eastern Canada, south to Florida and Texas, and throughout the Midwest. The tree reaches heights up to 120' with a trunk diameter of 2' to 3'. The narrow sapwood is white to light brown in color, while the heartwood ranges from light to dark brown. Quartersawn lumber often produces bright flake patterns that are sometimes referred to as butterfly or tiger ray.

White oak has a coarse texture, is usually straight-grained, heavy, strong and durable, and has a specific gravity of .60. Generally, the wood is easy to work with. It dries fairly slowly and may occasionally check or crack.

"White oak, it's still very popular, although it has started to flatten out a little bit from last year when it was extremely popular," adds Carl Mahlstedt of Goosebay Sawmill & Lumber in Chichester, N.H. "The craze has died down a little bit, I would say. At least in what I'm seeing there's less of a frenzy for it than what it was. We're still selling a bunch of it. The most popular sizes are 4/4 and 8/4 and there's



White oak is the state tree of Connecticut, Illinois, and Maryland.

still some flooring being made, and we do some plywood and flat sawn. The price is definitely coming down.

"The other thing is we do sell a lot of green white oak for boat builders also that are either steam bending it or using it for keels or other boat parts. It's always been popular for that, but it seems like it's been harder to get. Being in New Hampshire, we don't get a ton of white oak logs. It can just be hard to get a good grade out of it because we're not in the heart of white oak country here. We only get so much that's clear, so it can be a little tough compared to red oak where we have a ton of it."

Retail prices for 4/4 FAS white oak were quoted at \$7 to \$8.50/bf. **W**

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# Laguna adds a disc brake to 14/BX band saw

By Jennifer Hicks

**Laguna Tools** introduces the 14/BX band saw, an upgrade from the company's 14/12 model, featuring a heavier one-piece frame and a patented, foot-operated disc brake that shuts off the motor to safely reposi-

tion or swap stock for the next cut.

"The footbrake is the X factor," says Laguna's Benjamin Helshoj. "We have footbrakes on all machines that are a drum style, but this one is a disc style, similar to



The 14/BX band saw from Laguna Tools features a footbrake to stop the blade.

ones used in the bicycle industry, but much faster and smoother.

"It depends on how hard you step on it but it [stops] almost instantly. It is a nice feature that people really like. When you have it, it's hard to go to a band saw that doesn't have it. You don't have to wait to change blades or remove wood."

Available as a 110-volt, 1-3/4-hp or 220-volt, 2-1/2-hp option, the 14/BX offers a 12" resaw capacity, according to the company. It stands 70-1/4" tall and has a 21-1/2" x 16" cast-iron table that tilts 7 degrees left and 45 degrees right. It runs a 115" blade as wide as 3/4".

Other features include tool-free, adjustable ceramic guides, a 3/8" x 3/4" miter slot, adjustable fence, tension/tracking windows and tension release lever, and two 4" dust ports.

The 14/BX sells for \$1,999. For more, visit [lagunatools.com](http://lagunatools.com). **W**

Photo: Laguna Tools

MARCH 2023

16

WOODSHOPNEWS



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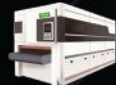
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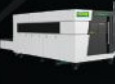
  
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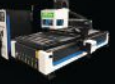
  
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# New Cyclone 600 upcut saw from RazorGage

By Jennifer Hicks

**RazorGage** presents the Cyclone 600 upcut saw, designed with safety and innovation at the forefront, to cut wood and other materials up to 20" wide, according to the company.

Steve Hoshor, operations manager at RazorGage, says the Cyclone 600's design stems from looking at what was lacking in competing products.

"There are many upcut saws available and nearly all of them are basically the same," says Hoshor. "RazorGage began work on this new upcut saw for a few reasons, [but foremost was] that the top clamp must slide on linear bearings so that we could be confident that it would not wander during clamping."

Other design criteria called for tables and 16" fences on both sides of the blade, accessible components, a well-supported saw spindle, and safety features.

"To address the safety, we designed the patented Safe T Crowdors, two sliding handles, one on either side of the blade, which the operator uses to crowd the stock against the fence. Each handle has a thumb button and the two must be pressed simultaneously in order to cycle the saw," says Hoshor.

The 3-phase machine, which accepts wood blades from 14" to 24" in diameter, also features a variable-speed 7.5-hp Baldor motor and two 4" dust ports.

Contact the company for pricing and customization through [razorgage.com](http://razorgage.com). **W**



The Cyclone 600 from RazorGage.

Photo: RazorGage

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# Rod and shelf bracket fits sloped ceilings

By Jennifer Hicks

**The Angle Surface Bracket (ASB)**, developed by entrepreneur Warren E. Ignacio of WEI Angle Surface Bracket LLC, is a patented rod and shelf-style bracket that serves as a solution to turn

sloped ceilings and slanted walls into functional storage. Ignacio exhibited his product for the first time at IWF 2022.

"What the angled surface rod and shelf bracket can do, the



The Angle Surface Bracket features 25 telescoping angle adjustments. It can also be configured to hold a flat-screen TV.

problem that it solves, is for over 16 years of my time in the construction business there's never been a rod and shelf bracket that would mount to a sloped ceiling or a wall. You could always buy a 90-degree bracket that would be facing downward but the shelf would never stay on it. The ASB has 25 adjustments in it so once it's mounted to your sloped ceiling, you can adjust the shelf on so it's level," says Ignacio.

The steel brackets are coated with an electrostatic spray and rated to hold over 125 pounds. They feature two hooks for clothing rods and can support a 12"-wide overhead shelf. ASBs should be mounted to roof rafters for a typical 32" to 48" span, though longer spans are possible with extra brackets, according to Ignacio.

One Angle Surface Bracket sells for \$69.95. Two-, three- and six-piece sets are available. Rods and shelves are not included.

For more, visit [anglesurfacebracket.com](http://anglesurfacebracket.com). **W**

Photos: ASB

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# New contour edge bander from Vitap

By Jennifer Hicks

**Atlantic Machinery Corp.**, the U.S. distributor for Italian machinery manufacturer Vitap, announces the launch of a new semi-automatic contour edge bander with a trimming unit, the Giotto, named after late Italian painter Giotto di Bondone.

The Giotto replaces Vitap's Eclipse model and features a built-in memory system.

"The Eclipse has been phased out in favor of this machine, which is basically the same machine with a two-tone color scheme and a few bells and whistles," says Riccardo Azzoni, president of Atlantic Machinery.

"The Giotto's programmer has a memory system that will allow you to store certain measurements you're working with regularly, so you don't have to re-write them every time. Normally, you'd

have to input information about the circumference or dimensions of the piece, but once you enter it now, it's there for future reference."

The machine can apply 1 to 3mm banding to shaped and straight panels from 10 to 60mm thick. It can handle panels as small as 50 x 200mm, or as large as 1000 x 2000mm, thanks to a reinforced holding arm and a vacuum table. Other features include a 1kg glue pot, trimming unit with two high-frequency 12,000 rpm motors, and 10" rotating color touchscreen with a USB portal.

Azzoni says the Giotto builds on the legacy of the Eclipse.

"We always said that the Eclipse was the original semi-automatic contour edge bander on the market. There are only expensive automatic machines above it and stand-alone machines below it. Basically, this is the only machine that combines the edge banding and the top and bottom trimming into one unit," he says.

The Giotto starts at \$60,000. For more, visit [atlanticmach.com](http://atlanticmach.com). **W**



The Giotto replaces Vitap's Eclipse model.

Photo: Atlantic Machinery



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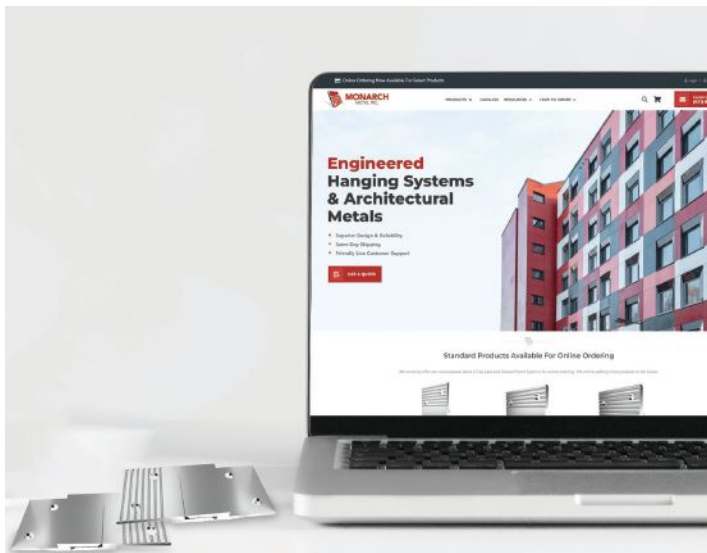
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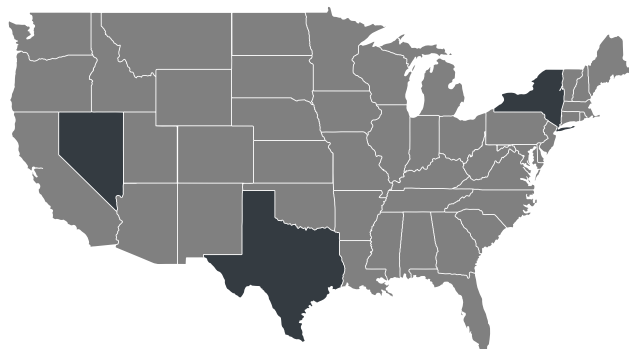




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## TOOLS & TECHNIQUES



The Bostitch BTFP72155 features the company's SmartPoint technology for reaching into tight corners.

## Picking a pinner, nailer or stapler

Sorting through the latest functions, features and technologies available in the fastening gun category

By John English

**Woodworkers** looking at buying fastener guns usually have a few basic questions, the most obvious of which is whether to go cordless or pneumatic. Next up is which of the guns is going to be the most useful, and does a shop really need one of each? Then there are qualms about angles, gauge sizing, jam fixing, and a host of other concerns.

Some nailing tasks such as crown molding can involve slow and detailed work, while other jobs move fast because they don't even need to have the heads set. But no matter what the application, using a gun is going to be faster in a production environment, and in most cases dramatically so, than driving nails with a hammer and set. A gun can shoot, set, and reload in the blink of an eye, while manual nailing and setting involves several time-consuming steps. It won't be long before collaborative robotic arms do most of the nailing on production lines, but until then woodworkers will still need to teach new employees how to avoid splitting narrow moldings or driving long fasteners through thin stock. Part of that process is having the right tools available.

Images courtesy of manufacturers



Arrow's T50AC electric stapler is popular with furniture upholsterers; the BeA Group offers a huge range of nail guns and staplers, and Craftsman's CMCN623C1, a cordless 23-gauge pin nailer with a tool-free jam release.

### SMALLER IS THICKER

Let's start with gauges, as this will usually determine whether a woodshop needs a pin, brad, finish, or stapling gun.

Carpenters are used to the old penny system that is based on the length of a nail, and the girth (diameter) is a secondary concern. Nail guns are the other way around: they're measured first according to the nail's diameter, and then its length.

Nails range from a thick 15-gauge which is 3/40" in diam-

eter to a thin 23-gauge that measures just 1/40" in diameter – that's about the thickness of a thin veneer. The higher the number, the thinner the nail and the smaller the hole it leaves. A woodworker needs to use a big enough fastener to make parts stay together, but small enough so the holes made by the heads can be ignored, or at least easily filled.

A 23-gauge nail is referred to as a pin, and they're usually headless or have such small heads that the hole they leave in the wood doesn't need to be filled. Fine sanding

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 DeWalt's PowerStack batteries use pouch battery cell technology; two 18-gauge brad nailers from Everwin (model FN8015-CT) and Freeman (PE20VT2118).

and a topcoat will disguise it in most species. Pins make great clamps for small moldings: they hold the part in place while glue dries, and because they're so thin they rarely split the wood. Unfortunately, they don't have a lot of holding power, so most woodworkers only reach for a pin nailer when they're working with very small parts, or they want to temporarily position something but not rely on the friction

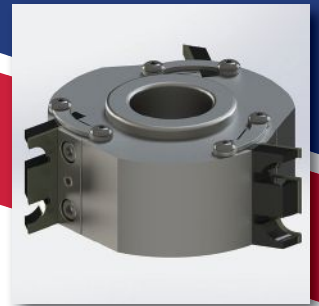
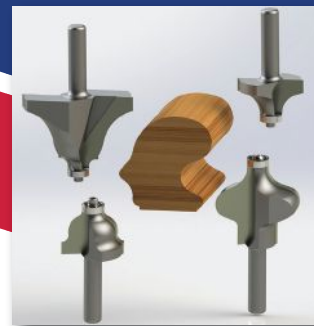
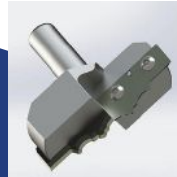
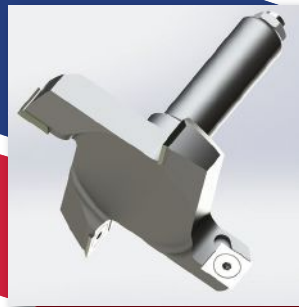
fastener to keep it in place forever.

Brad nails run from 18 to 21 gauge, and they bridge the gap between pins and finish nails. Some suppliers classify 21-gauge brads as pins or micro-brads, so it's a subjective definition. They usually have enough of a head to hold thin moldings tight to the work, but holes left by the heads almost always need to be filled if the work will be clear

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24

WOODSHOPNEWS



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 Grizzly Industrial's 18-gauge model H7664 (left) shoots 5/8" to 2" brads and 5/8" to 1-5/8" staples, while GreX offers the 21-gauge model H850LX.

coated. Thicker paint primers may fill the holes, but it's a good idea to check for depressions with a raking light before top-coating.

Finish nails (which for traditional carpenters start at 4d) are 15- and 16-gauge for guns. Again, the smaller number is thicker. A 15-gauge gun is ideal for fastening standard 1x boards. The 16-gauge nails are a little thinner (about

1.65mm in diameter, but that can vary a little with different manufacturers), and both the nails and the guns are smaller and lighter. That makes them ideal for thinner trim or working above one's shoulders. Both 15- and 16-gauge nails come in a range of lengths up to 2-1/2" long for most gun brands, and these are the go-to guns for most trim and finish carpentry tasks. If a finish carpenter or furniture builder

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Makita's GTPO1Z is a 40-volt, 23-gauge pin nailer that can drive six different lengths of nails; Max USA makes the NF255SF2/18 brad nailer that can clear dust with a blast of air; Metabo HPT's NT1850DF cordless brad nailer, and an angled 16-gauge nailer from Milwaukee, model 2841-20, that features a nitrogen air spring mechanism.

could only own one size gun, a 16-gauge is probably the better choice. And if there is a choice, guns that hold nails at an angle can reach better into tight corners than guns with straight-up nail cartridges.

### CORDLESS TRENDS

Not so long ago, a discussion of the latest in nailers and pinners would have been restricted to pneumatic guns. Now, it's

mostly about batteries and brushless motors. The freedom offered by going cordless hits a home run with fastening tools more than most others because the woodworker isn't just losing an electric cord but is also escaping from hauling around heavy hoses and compressors. That said, it's still a good idea to hook up to hoses on larger projects that will require a lot of nailing, as batteries tend to drain rather quickly in guns. A lot of shops stick with hoses in the shop, and bat-

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WOODSHOPNEWS

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 Paslode's IM250A-Li2 is a relatively new 16-gauge cordless angled finish nailer; Neumaster's NTC0040 drives 18-gauge brad nails up to 1-1/4" and 1/4" crown staples up to 1", and Omer's new 16-gauge 7/16" crown stapler (M2.50 CL4-42) that runs Senco N staples.

teries on installs.

Batteries are still very brand specific, and within a brand some tools can now accept multiple voltage batteries, or even a plug-in power cord. Not making batteries universal means that the manufacturers can 'encourage' woodworkers to buy a whole inventory of single brand tools. Odds are that there will be adapters available soon that make the batteries interchangeable between brands, as the technologies and outputs are similar. But for now, it's worth looking at guns for which the woodworker already owns batteries.

There are many trends in the power tool industry that are eye-catching to say the least. Flex Power Tools and DeWalt seem to be reinventing battery technology with impressive results that include a lot more power, faster charging, and longer battery life. That's a promising direction for nail, pin and staple guns that rely heavily on both impact power and longevity to get woodworkers through a long day on the jobsite. Shops that are looking at upgrading all their cordless guns might want to ask whether stacked battery options are currently or imminently available.

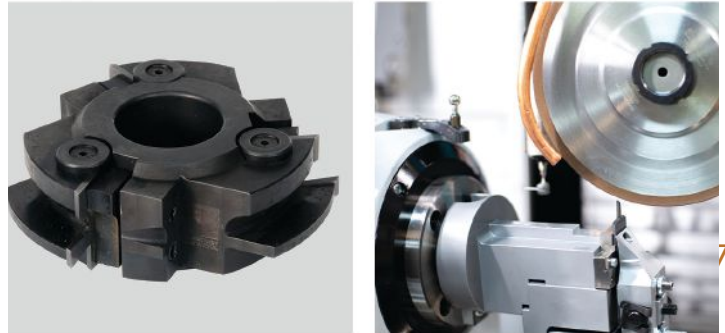
## WHAT TO LOOK FOR

A woodworker buying a nail, pin or staple gun might want to keep a few things in mind when comparing various models and brands. Perhaps the most important feature, especially in cabinet and furniture building, is the ability to control the depth of drive. This lets the woodworker decide how far below the surface the head of the nail will be, and how much filling will be required. It varies a lot between species. It only makes sense that a gun will set a nail in

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Porter-Cable offers a 20-volt 18-gauge narrow crown stapler (PCC791) and brad nailer (PCC790B); Ryobi's new 18-volt AirStrike finish nailer, model P326KN, and the Senco TN11G1 23-gauge pin nailer.

balsa a lot deeper than in lignum vitae (the densest and hardest wood known), even at the same setting. There are few things as frustrating as wrapping up a nailing project only to discover that the heads didn't seat properly, so now they all need to be set by hand. Woodworkers need the flexibility to decide on the setting on a job-by-job basis, rather than relying on factory settings.

Next up, has the gun got a built-in LED? This can make a

huge difference in accuracy.

Is the gun capable of bump-firing, where the operator keeps the trigger pressed and the gun fires on contact with the wood? If so, a dry-fire lockout is even more essential than it is with sequential (standard) firing. The lockout means that the gun won't fire on an empty cylinder and leave a dent in the work without delivering a nail. That can be especially annoying with staples, where the holes are elongated when the



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The newest fastening tool from WEN is the 61722K, an 18-gauge 2" brad nailer and 1/4" crown stapler, and the Worx WX840L, a cordless nail and staple gun that fires both 18-gauge brad nails and narrow crown staples.

contact tip hits the wood. Having to go back and fire where there were no staples means that there are now two large holes to fill, often side-by-side or very close together. And avoiding the second hole isn't easy: it's a challenge to fire again in the exact spot where the blank hit.

A directional exhaust is a very desirable feature in a gun. It lets the operator direct the exhaust away from his/her face, which is a wonderful bonus is that face is inside a cabinet.

If the gun has a hose, make sure it has a swivel connector to avoid tangling and knots.

Finally, easy jam-clearing should be a non-negotiable option on new guns. Most models nowadays have a head that pops apart and lets the operator clear a bent nail or staple in seconds. Experienced woodworkers will attest to the hours they have spent with a needle-nose pliers trying to get a gun to run again after a fastener jammed. **W**

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## FINISHING



# Using silicon carbide abrasives for a finer finish

By Nick DeMars

**When you're planning your wood project**, it is important to remember that there are two separate sanding processes that will take place. In the first process, you will be sanding raw wood. Depending upon the condition of your stock when you receive it, you could begin as low as 24 grit with abrasive planing or dimensioning on a wide-belt sander or drum sander. Or you could start with some freshly planed material at 80 or 120 grit and climb up the grit sequence from there.

You will most likely use aluminum oxide (AO) abrasives as they are the most universal and economical of the more common abrasives available today. For most types of wood, and considering most finishes, sanding raw wood higher than 220 grit is not generally recommended, as the higher grits tend to burnish or polish the wood. When burnishing occurs, some of the wood's pores are closed off and the burnished surface might not take stain evenly or allow sealer and topcoats to adhere to their fullest extent. And you still might need to raise the grain with a damp cloth and lightly sand it with the same grit you previously used.

Regardless of how fine you sand the raw wood, eventually, you will reach a point where you begin applying the finish. This is where your second sanding process begins: Sanding between coats of finish.

Side note: The first step at every stage of adding finish will always be the removal of any dust and debris from the sanded surface and any contours on the workpiece. There are several ways to do this effectively and the one you use comes down to a matter of preference. I like to grab the air hose and lightly rub my hand over the piece while blowing it off with the nozzle. The hand rubbing lets you feel any stubborn debris that

doesn't want to let go and allows you to gently dislodge it to be swept away in the current of air pressure from the nozzle. At the same time, it can help you identify surface imperfections that weren't noticed during your visual inspection. A final rub-down with a tack cloth or a clean, soft paintbrush works for this process as well.

Now that the finishes are being applied to the workpiece, the sanding process provides a whole new set of demands. Whereas sanding raw wood requires more in the way of material removal, sanding finishes is more of a smoothing process that requires that you remove as little material as possible, while still sanding the surface smooth.

When sanding finishes, you are facing a different set of requirements. You need as fine and even a scratch pattern as you can get, and you need to ensure that the finish does not clog or load your sandpaper.

### THE PREFERRED GRAIN

In order to understand the "how-to" of a fine scratch pattern, we need to examine the different abrasive grains and how they affect the finishing process.

Aluminum oxide is a tough blocky abrasive grain that works well for almost any application. While in use, it will gouge or plow out the material and it leaves a good scratch pattern. As the aluminum oxide abrasive grains wear, they begin to round off, not unlike the lead of a pencil. Some say that they sand finer and finer, but technically this is not the case. An 80-grit abrasive grain will always be an 80-grit abrasive grain. It is categorized as such because of its size. Even though it becomes shorter and shorter as it wears, it will still maintain its width. So, it does not become a "finer" abrasive grain. It simply will not dig as deep into the material as it did when

new and untouched. It will be less aggressive.

The shape of the abrasive grains can also influence the uniformity of the scratch pattern. And even though aluminum oxide will do a good job of sanding coats of finish, the silicon carbide (SiC) abrasive is the preferred grain for this type of application.

Silicon carbide is a very hard abrasive grain. So hard, in fact, that it is considered second in hardness, with only diamond abrasives being harder. Therefore, it is the preferred abrasive for the glass industry.

Along with being a very hard abrasive, silicon carbide has a couple more characteristics that lend it to sanding between coats of finish. Minerals that are very hard are usually very sharp, as well. Such is the case with silicon carbide. And because this mineral is so sharp, it performs more of a cutting action than aluminum oxide with its plowing or gouging

scratch. This means that it will leave a much cleaner cut than the AO. And a series of cleaner cuts equate to a more refined and more even scratch pattern, and a better finish.

The SiC mineral is also friable. This means that as the abrasive grains are in use they continually fracture and re-sharpen themselves. This process requires light to moderate pressure and adds a benefit that is very valuable to the finish-sanding process.

Because of the continual sharpening of the abrasives, this mineral provides the same aggressive scratch pattern throughout the entire life of the abrasive material. So, you get a consistent scratch the whole time, which is perfect when smoothing coats of finish.

#### BACK IT UP

And finally, the backing comes into play, as well. Cloth backings are not recommended for finishing grits 150

and up. The cloth backings are made up of interwoven fibers or threads that make for a somewhat uneven surface for the application of abrasive grains. That is why cloth backings are recommended for material removal and intermediate grits from 24-120.

Paper backings are much smoother than cloth and make for a more even surface to which the abrasive grains adhere. Some paper backings are latex impregnated, which makes them waterproof.

Polyester film backings are even smoother than paper. They provide an ultra-flat surface along with toughness, and durability, and are waterproof for use in wet sanding applications, as well.

Silicon carbide abrasive grains on either paper, latex-modified paper, or film backings are all combinations that cannot be beaten for smoothing those coats of finish, helping to make your final project look gorgeous. **W**



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- Swing over bed: 22"
- Swing over tool rest base: 18"
- Distance between centers: 42"
- Spindle speed: Variable, 100–3200 RPM
- Spindle threads: 1 1/4" x 8 TPI RH
- Spindle taper: MT#2
- Tailstock taper: MT#2
- Tool rest width: 14"
- Tool rest post diameter: 1"
- Overall dimensions: 81" x W 23" D x 49 1/2" H
- Approximate shipping weight: 611 lbs.



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### 16 1/2" EXTREME SERIES DOVETAIL MACHINE

- Motor: 1 HP, 110V/220V (prewired 220V), single-phase, 10A/5A
- Number of spindles: 1
- Spindle speed: 18,500 RPM
- Dovetail bit: 10° angle x 5/8" long
- Dovetail shank: 1/2"
- Maximum dovetail height: 3/4"
- Minimum dovetail height: 3/16"
- Maximum thickness: 2 3/8"
- Minimum thickness: 19/32"
- Maximum stock size: 16 1/2" W x 59" L
- Minimum stock size: 2 3/8" W x 7 7/8" L
- Table size: 24" W x 7 3/4" L
- Floor to table height: 46 1/16"
- Overall Dimensions: 38 5/8" W x 26 1/2" D x 56 5/8" H
- Approximate shipping weight: 539 lbs.



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### 20" 5 HP PRO SPIRAL CUTTERHEAD PLANER

- Main motor: 5 HP, 220V, single-phase, 25A
- Feed motor: 2 HP, 12A
- Maximum stock width: 20"
- Maximum stock thickness: 7"
- Minimum stock thickness: 1/4"
- Minimum stock length: 8"
- Maximum cutting depth planing full width: 1/16"
- Maximum cutting depth planing 6" wide board: 1/8"
- Cutterhead diameter: 3 1/8"
- Cutterhead type: 4-row spiral with 96 inserts
- Insert size & type: 14 x 14 x 2mm, indexable carbide
- Cutterhead speed: 5200 RPM
- Feed rate: Variable, 17–26 FPM
- Table size with extensions: 21 1/4" x 28 1/4"
- Dust port size: 5"
- Footprint: 20 1/2" x 26 1/2"
- Overall dimensions: 38" W x 40 1/2" D x 42 1/2" H
- Approximate shipping weight: 1040 lbs.



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### 19 1/2" FLOOR DRILL PRESS

- Motor: 1 HP, 220V, 3-phase, 3.8A
- Required power supply: 220V, single-phase, 15A circuit
- Spindle travel: 5 1/2"
- Spindle taper: MT#3
- Max. distance spindle to column: 9 3/4"
- Max. distance spindle to table: 31 1/2"
- Drilling capacity: 1 1/16" mild steel
- Spindle speed: Variable, 50–2000 RPM
- Table size: 20" L x 16" W x 1 1/2" T
- Table swivel: 30° R/L
- Drill chuck type and size: JT6 key chuck, 3/64"–5/8" capacity
- Overall dimensions: 21 1/2" W x 33" D x 68 1/2" H
- Approximate shipping weight: 514 lbs.



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### 3 HP THREE-SPINDLE SHAPER

- Motor: (3) 3 HP, 220V, single-phase, 18A
- Maximum cutter height: 4 1/16"
- Maximum cutter diameter: 6"
- Spindle diameter: 1 1/4"
- Spindle length: 5 1/4"
- Spindle capacity under nut: 4 1/2"
- Spindle speeds: 7000 and 10,000 RPM
- Spindle travel: 4"
- Spindle openings: 3/4", 6 1/4", 8 1/4"
- Table counterbore: 8 1/4" dia., 3/8" depth
- Table size: 21 1/4" x 28 1/4"
- Floor-to-table height: 35"
- Footprint: 34 1/4" x 37 1/4"
- Overall dimensions: 45 1/2" W x 52 1/8" D x 45" H
- Approximate shipping weight: 1260 lbs.



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### 12" 5 HP PLANER/JOINTER WITH V-HELICAL CUTTERHEAD

- Motor: 5 HP, 220V, single-phase, 25A
- Maximum cut width: 11 1/4"
- Maximum cut depth: 1/8"
- Maximum planer stock thickness: 8"
- Cutterhead diameter: 3 3/4"
- Cutterhead speed: 5034 RPM
- Cutterhead type: V-helical, 4-row, 48 inserts
- Cutterhead insert size: 15 x 15 x 2.5mm
- Planer feed rate: 22 FPM
- Bevel jointing: 0°–45°
- Jointer table size: 14" x 59 1/2"
- Fence: 6" x 51 1/2", end-mounted
- Fence stops: 45 and 90°
- Dust port size: 4" (x2)
- Overall size: 67 1/2" W x 24" D x 41 1/2" H
- Approx. shipping weight: 704 lbs.



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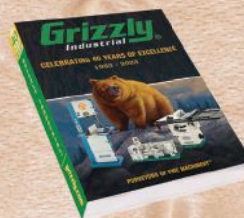
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- Spindle travel: 3"
- Spindle speed: 3450 RPM
- Max. stock width: 12 1/2"
- Drill Bit Type: Flat shank boring bits
- Drill bit capacity: 10 mm
- Table size: 28" W x 15 3/4" D
- Table travel (front to back): 8"
- Floor to table height: 34 1/4"
- Number of spindles on boring head: 15 (8L, 7R)
- Distance between spindle centers: 32mm
- Fence length: 28", plus 28" left extension
- Footprint: 19 5/8" x 25 3/4"
- Overall dimensions: 28" W x 25 3/4" D x 62 5/8" H
- Approx. shipping weight: 276 lbs.



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### 8" PARALLELOGRAM JOINTER WITH HELICAL CUTTERHEAD

- Motor: 3 HP, 230V, single-phase, 12A
- Maximum width of cut: 8"
- Maximum depth of cut: 1/8"
- Maximum rabbeting depth: 1/2"
- Cutterhead diameter: 3 1/16"
- Cutterhead type: 4-row helical with 36 inserts
- Insert size & type: 15 x 15 x 2.5mm, indexable carbide
- Cutterhead speed: 7000 RPM
- Table size: 8" x 83"
- Fence size: 38" L x 4 5/8" H
- Minimum stock length: 10"
- Minimum stock thickness: 1/2"
- Dust port size: 4"

- Footprint: 18" x 46"
- Overall dimensions: 83" W x 26" D x 46" H
- Approximate shipping weight: 730 lbs.



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### 10" 3 HP 240V CABINET TABLE SAW WITH 7' RAILS

- Motor: 3 HP, 240V, single-phase, 14A
- Rip capacity: 60" right, 14" left of blade
- Max. depth of cut @ 90°: 3"
- Max. depth of cut @ 45°: 2 1/8"
- Table size with extension: 74" W x 27" D
- Distance from front of table to center of blade: 17"
- Distance from front of table to blade at max. cut: 12"
- Floor-to-table height: 34"
- Arbor diameter: 5/8"
- Arbor speed: 4200 RPM
- Max. width of dado: 1 1/16"

- Dust port size: 4"
- Overall dimensions: 84" W x 47" D x 40" H
- Footprint: 20 1/2" x 20 1/2"
- Approximate shipping weight: 558 lbs.



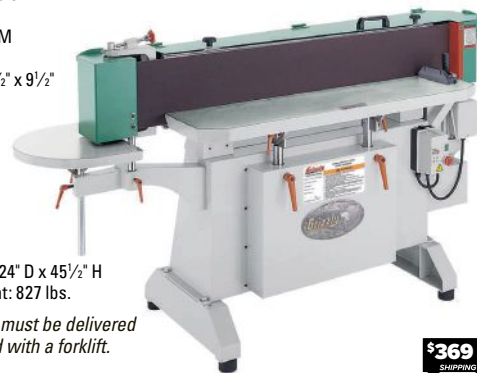
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### 9" X 138 1/2" 3-PHASE INDUSTRIAL OSCILLATING EDGE SANDER

- Motor: 3 HP, 220V, 3-phase, 9.5A
- Sanding belt size: 9" x 138 1/2"
- Sanding belt speed: 4120 FPM
- Oscillations: 1/4"
- Platen: graphite coated, 47 1/2" x 9 1/2"
- Main table size: 11 3/4" x 47 3/4"
- Main table vertical travel: 8"
- Main table tilt: 0-45°
- End table size: 18" x 13"
- End table travel: 8"
- Number of dust ports: 2
- Dust port size: 4"
- Footprint: 42" x 24 1/2"
- Overall dimensions: 82" W x 24" D x 45 1/2" H
- Approximate shipping weight: 827 lbs.



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### 5 HP CYCLONE DUST COLLECTOR

- Motor: 5HP, 220V, single-phase, 22.4A,
- Intake hole size: 10" with 8" adapter
- Impeller: 16" steel radial fin
- Airflow capacity: 2184 CFM @ 1.9" SP
- Maximum static pressure: 14.0"
- Filtration: 0.2-2 micron
- Filter surface area: 226 sq. ft.
- Collection drum: Steel, 55 gallons
- Sound rating: 83-86 dB
- Overall dimensions: 63" W x 56 5/8" D x 111 1/2" H
- Approximate shipping weight: 632 lbs.



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**G0442 ONLY \$3595<sup>00</sup>**

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### 14" 10 HP 3-PHASE SLIDING TABLE SAW WITH DRO AND CNC FENCE

- Main motor: 10 HP, 220V/440V\* (prewired for 220V), 3-phase, 26A/13A
- Rip capacity: 51"
- Max. crosscut: 134" W x 121" L
- Blade tilt: 0-45°
- Max. depth of cut at 9°: 4"
- Max. depth of cut at 45°: 2 3/4"
- Main blade size: 14"/12"

- Scoring blade size: 4 3/4"
- Dust port sizes: 4", 5"
- Floor space required: 271" W x 205" D
- Overall size: 133" W x 147" D x 66" H
- Approximate shipping weight: 2176 lbs.

Due to product size, this item must be delivered to a loading dock or unloaded with a forklift. Liftgate not available.



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Owner Ken Quinn (left) and the rest of the team at Premier Woodworking in Brick Township, N.J.



Photo: Mark Sullivan

# SURVIVE & ADVANCE

Premier Woodworking has prospered and stumbled, but steady commercial work and a new partner gives hope for the future

By Jennifer Hicks

**P**remier Woodworking, LLC is back to its pre-pandemic operating pace, churning out orders for clients near and far. Founded in 1998, the turnkey custom shop specializes in residential cabinetry, store fixtures and more in Brick Township, N.J.

Owner Ken Quinn, who has seven employees working out of an 11,000-sq.-ft. facility, has contended with several hurdles over the years but has always kept ahead of the area's fierce competition with one simple mantra.

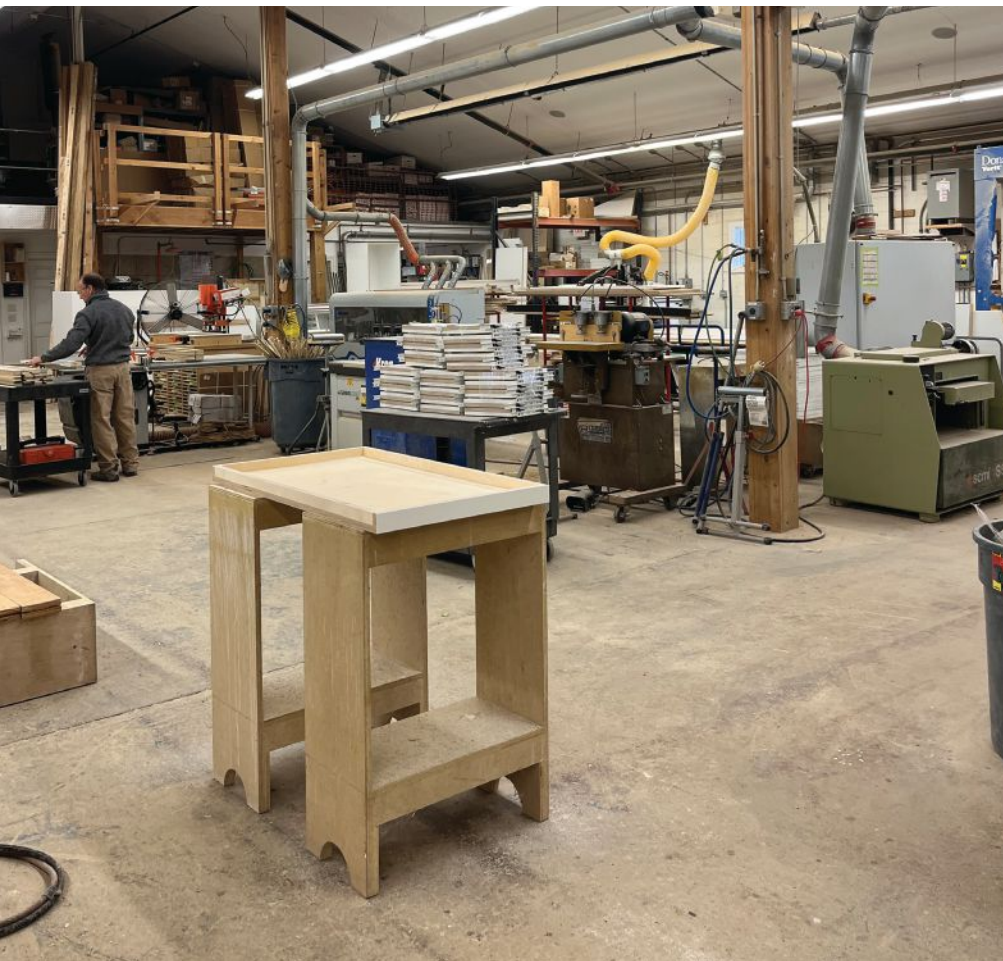
"I'd say it's because we do what we say we're going to do. We show up on time and we deliver what we're supposed to deliver. I will never tell somebody I'll have it done, knowing I'm not going to make that deadline. Over the years, I've turned away more work than I wish to think about, but when I go to bed at night, I put my head on the pillow and fall asleep. I don't have months of headaches. I don't want someone calling me on the phone and be avoiding them," says Quinn.

With plenty of work back in the pipeline, Quinn's looking forward to the year ahead. He's also eager to start making more concrete plans after recently adding a new business partner, James Bruno. The rest of the team includes James' father, John Bruno, and James Budish, Mark Manning, Pete O'Donnel, Chris Simoes, and Bruce Evano.

## PINK SLIPS AND A PARTNER

Born and raised in Linden, N.J., Quinn took an interest in cabinetmaking while working for a family friend's carpentry business as a teen. He pursued vocational training throughout his high school years.

"My senior year I did a work program where I went to work for a carpenter in a big apartment



The shop features an Altendorf sliding table saw, Brandt edge bander, Butfering wide-belt sander, Kremlin spray equipment and C.R. Onsrud CNC router (right).

complex, and when I graduated in '84 I got a job framing homes for two years. Then a friend working as cabinetmaker in a union shop told me about an apprenticeship there, and I got hired as apprentice in 1986. I was 19."

Quinn served a four-year apprenticeship to become a journeyman but was laid off in 1993. He joined another union shop and suffered the same fate after four years.

"Back at that (first) shop, I thought I was going to retire there. Other guys had been there thirty, forty years and retired. I thought, 'this was going to be my home'," says Quinn. "In 1997, the second company had a fallout with the union and went on strike. There was no work for me after that, and I was done with the union. That was the turning point."

Quinn immediately set up shop in his one-car garage. A year later, he and a partner, Anthony (Tony) Fatigante, started Premier Woodwork-

ing in an 1,100-sq.-ft. space in its current building.

"We grew and got more employees and kept running out of room," says Quinn. "We bought half of the building in 2005 and there was a fire in 2007, which forced us to move out and rebuild. We built a whole new building, but we needed to rent a space and buy new equipment while the fire was investigated."

"A year later, right when we moved back, the economy crashed. Here we are in this brand-new space and we had to lay off all our employees, except one guy who had been here the longest."

They pushed through the next couple of years and eventually began to hire again and added on to the shop.

"We had some decent clients that kept us busy during the recession and I found a new avenue. I made a connection in 2007 with someone from the second union shop I worked

at and one of the owners started giving me work after their shop closed. He had another connection that we hooked up with and since then began doing a lot of work through her with design studios for national home-builders."

In 2012, Fatigante retired and was bought out by Quinn.

### A NATIONAL CLIENTELE

All jobs are by word of mouth now, but it didn't start off that easily.

"In the beginning I was stopping at jobsites and knocking on doors at places like architects' offices," says Quinn. "I even went in the phone book and wrote letters. I got maybe two or three clients out of 400 letters, but I still have one today, a union contractor."

Premier's bread and butter is in the commercial sector. Residential only comprises about a quarter of the shop's work.

"In the past it was more residential and less commercial, but I always stayed in both because I always wanted to make sure if one slowed down, the other would get us through," says Quinn. "We've done the highest of the high end, but I don't know if there's as much money to be made in residential right now."

"Would I rather do one or the other? Yeah, I'd rather do commercial because when you do a residential job, and you bring a cabinet in and nick the door, you're done. You got to bring it back and fix it. I'm not saying we do this, but with commercial if it looks good and functions, they're happy and that's much less stressful."

Commercial projects have included offices, design studios, schools, libraries, medical facilities, banks, restaurants, bars and government projects. The design studios are a special niche for Premier. Located throughout the country, they provide custom displays that house samples of various flooring, drawer fronts and other

Photo: Mark Sullivan



Premier Woodworking operates from an 11,000-sq.-ft. shop which was rebuilt after a fire in 2007.

décor to be selected by customers of newly built homes.

Only about 50 percent of the shop's work is local. Quinn and his team travel far and wide for the commercial installs.

"If it can make money, we'll do it. If

it doesn't make money, I don't want to do it," he says.

### FUTURE PLANS

Quinn, 56, has put some serious thought into how he wants to proceed in the years ahead. Reflecting

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- Karl Brogger, Sogn Cabinets



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A pair of recent projects  
from the shop's 20-year portfolio.



on how he never wanted to sit at a desk, that's where he is most often. He handles most of the drawings and estimates, takes the field measurements, and manages projects. He also goes out on about 90 percent of the installs.

"I wish I had set this place up as more of a business than a job. If I'm not here, there's problems. My solution is my partner coming in. Tony retired in 2012 and I've been by myself since then.

"I had no successor, nobody to take over when I retire. My friend had a son interested in the business, so I approached him. He's been my partner since January. He's younger, 35, and is someone who can take over. I've been here a long time and I don't feel it's fair to just close the shop and say I'm done. At least [my employees] have an opportunity to keep working."

In the meantime, Quinn is working to have sales return to the levels achieved between the Great Recession and pandemic, the company's heyday. He says he owes much of his success to his wife, Margaret, for her support and help with payroll.

"And if it wasn't for my former partner Tony, and my guys, I wouldn't have made it. You can't do it on your own. I tried, but let's face it, you can't."

For more, visit [premierwoodworkingusa.com](http://premierwoodworkingusa.com). **W**

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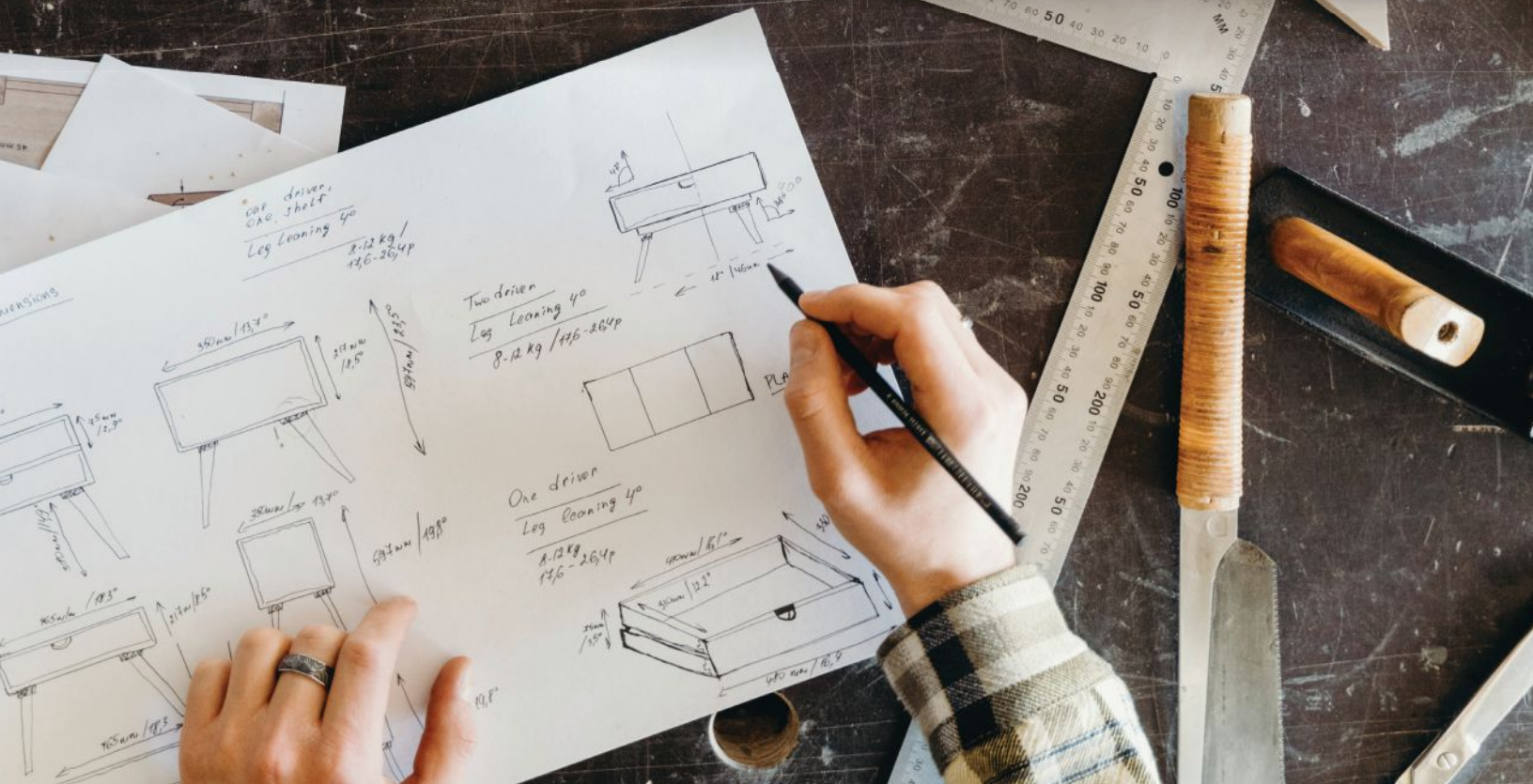
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# MAKING THE BEST CABINETS & FURNITURE



It's getting a little tough out there. The ongoing shortage of good help, rising interest rates, and a slowing housing market aren't helping. Cutting costs is becoming a thing again. It's been a few years, but the times are changing and once again it's important to recall an old rule. Saving one dollar is as effective on a bottom line as making about six dollars in sales.

Lockdowel offers one tried and true road forward. The company makes a connector system that can dramatically cut cabinet assembly time. Based on some simple CNC milling and its innovative hardware, Lockdowel has created a process that lets a woodshop assemble a cabinet complete with doors, drawers, slides, and hinges, and do it all in record time. The procedure doesn't require any glue, clamps, or cure time – or even tools beyond a simple rubber mallet – and it makes huge inroads into labor costs.

For shops that need to upgrade from traditional machines to CNCs but don't want to spend months on a learning curve, Thermwood's Cut Ready Cut Center may be the perfect answer. The machine is equipped with artificial intelligence that does all the designing and tool-pathing for you, without needing to delve into vast libraries of drawings. Anyone can run a Cut Center, and there's no programming experience required, nor software to buy and learn.

And for shops that want to deliver the highest quality components without investing in a CNC, Elias Woodworking offers a vast catalog of doors, drawer fronts, boxes, moldings, and other components that help a woodworker make the best cabinets and furniture. The product line is constantly evolving as customers define new styles and design trends, and a smaller woodshop can partner with Elias to keep ahead of the curve, and well ahead of orders and production goals.

Read on to learn more...



# Make the Best Custom Cabinets – With No Programming!

The jump from traditional machines to CNC isn't just about numbers. Woodshop owners who have been successful because they know their customers, employees and machines are often a bit wary about having to learn (and teach) a whole new set of computer skills.

Thermwood can automate a shop's production without that learning curve.

The company's Cut Ready Cut Center lets a cabinetmaker build cabinets instead of becoming a computer programmer. With this system, there's no need to explore and then buy expensive software, or to spend countless hours of downtime learning how to use it.

The Cut Center provides a bridge between traditional cabinetmaking and CNC manufacturing. It requires no special skill set to operate, and there's a very short learning curve for employees. Anyone on the team will be able to operate it. The machine guides an employee step-by-step through the production process, reducing human error

and eliminating confusion. And because of its own unique software, it already knows how to make furniture and cabinets quickly and easily, including boxes, drawers, fronts, doors, moldings, stair parts and more. Plus, it's simple to modify parameters (size, material, etc.), and then add those changes to the job.

If an employee is ever unsure of a step in the process, they can simply press a button and a video will play showing exactly what to do next. The Cut Ready Cut Center guides them through each step of the production process with an easy-to-use touchscreen interface.

Woodshops can also operate the Cut Ready Cut Center as a traditional CNC router, which allows the operator to run programs from third-party software. But there's no need, because the Cut Center requires neither a CNC programmer nor a trained machine operator. It's already capable of programming millions of unique products, so woodworkers can start building their best cabinets right away, with no programming.



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## The Easy Way to Make Custom Cabinets *With No Programming*

Designed and Engineered in America, the Cut Ready Cut Center is made to simplify and automate your production.

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Cabinets



Doors



Closets and More!

"Being able to go to the machine, quickly pick out a cabinet or a piece of furniture, plug in the size and start feeding material is huge."

Donovan Mumma, General Manager  
Byrne Custom Woodworking - Lenexa, KS

What Cut Center Owners Are Saying:



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# Lockdowel Locks In Fast Assembly!

What if there was a way to build more product in less time with fewer people? Whether it's cabinetry, furniture, closets, or drawer boxes, there's a new assembly solution to consider.

Lockdowel is an invisible joining system that can be either permanent or knock-down. The rapid assembly system uses simple CNC machining and clever hardware to create slide-together cabinets that require very little training to assemble – a huge advantage considering the difficulty of hiring and keeping qualified staff in the current labor market.

The company has also expanded its complete hardware solution to include One-Click 3D undermount or side-mount slides. There is no faster drawer slide installation in the industry.

The entire process is tool-free and glue-free, with no clamps or cure time.



Here's how it works...

Lockdowel's single fastener concept uses a keyhole slot designed to fit an engineered dowel. That's it! Any CNC router can use the special router bit to mill the keyhole slots, and any edge-boring machine can be used for edge drilling.

There are two fastening options. The Channel Lock system uses one fastener per joint and results in the fastest assembly in

the industry. Multiple variations are available based on panel thickness and material. The solution allows for either assembly in your shop, or an RTA method that allows for flat-packing to the job site. Panels assembled with Channel Locks can also be disassembled any time for moving or replacement of damaged parts if needed.

The second option, the H-Clip, creates a permanent joint that provides even greater rigidity, and cannot be pulled apart or disassembled.

Both fasteners use the same router bit, and both are invisible after assembly.

The Lockdowel system guarantees its fasteners are positioned correctly every time with precision holes and routes pre-drilled via CNC equipment. Products built with Lockdowel hardware have been independently tested to meet all ANSI/BIFMA test standards. It's also the only fastener solution tested and approved by AWI for up to Duty Level 3 base, tall, and wall cabinets. Customer satisfaction is outstanding and returned goods are virtually eliminated.

The production numbers are impressive, too. For example, after switching to Lockdowel, Chad Shelton, Owner of Bella Innovative Modern Cabinetry in Indiana notes that his shop went from 25 cabinets a day to 135 – with only six employees.

Those numbers are possible because the Lockdowel system reduces assembly hours by 40% or more. The fasteners slide firmly into the routed slots using a friction fit. There is no end-panel cover up necessary, and the invisible fasteners create a tight joint and a high-end finished look. The precision system ensures the fasteners are positioned correctly every time, so the potential for employee assembly error and rejects is minimized. Every Lockdowel product was created following the same principle: To simplify manufacturing and assembly.

Lockdowel offers an Evaluation Kit as a first step for woodshops to explore the system. It includes a router bit, samples, and a ready-to-assemble demo unit to introduce woodworkers to this state-of-the-art fastening technology.

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## LOOKING FOR MAXIMUM SAVINGS?

**Check out Lockdowel!** Our award-winning rapid fastening system offers incredible time savings, potentially doubling your installs per day! Our invisible fasteners and One-Click drawer slides use no glue, screws, or tools. It's revolutionary!

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See our home page video "Lockdowel Drawer Box..."

# High Quality and Competitive Pricing

*Elias Woodworking helps shops make the best cabinets*

Beyond dimensions, the most custom aspect of kitchens and baths is the door and drawer front style. Many shops choose to build their boxes in-house, and then take advantage of an outsourcing supplier's catalog to add the magic of doors to the room.

Celebrating forty years of being one of the most reliable and innovative suppliers of cabinet doors and drawers, Elias Woodwork has taken advantage of its geographical location at the epicenter of North America to provide components to shops across the continent. Part of that innovation is keeping up with trends, and to that end the manufacturer has recently introduced two new product lines to complement its already expansive catalog.

The newest member of Elias's thermofoil 1-piece door and drawer-front family is the 408 profile. This Shaker-style door has an inside step and a bevel that lead to a recessed panel. The door is available in any of over sixty finishes that range from solid color to simulated wood grains, and from smooth planes to textures. And with the new 408 profile comes a trendy new door style, the Albany, which can be seen

on the website.

Elias's new Precision Series are narrow framed Shaker doors that have a 1" frame with a standard 3/4" panel. The Limber (E9040) has a stile and rail profile that includes a wide and gentle chamfer on its outside edge. The Novel (E9041) has a beaded edge, and the Concord (E9042) has a slightly more abrupt chamfer than the Limber.

Samples are available upon request.

In addition to solid wood and rigid thermofoil (RTF) doors and fronts, Elias offers a comprehensive catalog of components to professional woodshops that includes material options such as 5-piece polyester laminate, TFL laminate slabs, and high-density fiberboard 1- and 5-piece doors. The company also supplies hardware and manufactures assemble-on-site (AOS) cabinet boxes, plus a huge array of accessories and sheet goods that can be ordered with stains and clear coatings. Drawer boxes are available in a wide range of species and various finishes, and in dovetailed or doweled options.

For woodworkers who are interested in making the best cabinets and furniture, a

visit to Elias's website can reveal how to add the company's 470+ employees, four decades of experience, and 400,000 square feet of production space to the woodshop's own catalog.



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Model BDTM-XXP from  
Baileigh Industrial.



# A GOOD FIT

Dovetail machines make quick work of producing a classic joint and are available from several manufacturers

By John English

**B**uilding dovetail drawers in-house can be a complicated and time-consuming process, especially when they're built one-at-a-time using a jig and a portable router. But shops that build more than an occasional drawer have quite a few choices for automation. Outsourcing can be an elegant and affordable option, but it does have a couple of drawbacks. For one, the shop surrenders quality control. The choices can also be limited in terms of species, spacing options for the tails, and most importantly, scheduling. If the supplier gets busy, then newer and smaller customers may be asked to wait for a bottleneck to ease. Building in-house means that drawers can be built immediately.

Investing in a dedicated dovetail machine may seem a little daunting at first glance, as they're not exactly cheap. But when doing the math, don't forget to include the delivery charges on drawers that are ordered in, or the time com-

mitment and high reject rates associated with using jigs and routers. Plus, poorly fitting joints can become a serious consideration when a new employee is being trained on a jig, or even when an experienced worker hasn't built drawers for a few weeks. For some reason, woodworkers seem to suffer short-term memory loss when it comes to setting up dovetail jigs.

That all changes with a new generation of dovetailing machines.

## NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Among the Challengers Award winners at last year's IWF show in Atlanta was a CNC entry from Indiana-based **Northtech Machine** ([northtechmachine.com](http://northtechmachine.com)). The company's new iDovetail24 also won a Visionary Award in Las Vegas at AWFS. This is a 6-hp, 3-phase, single-spindle CNC dovetailer with a 3-axis system that can handle parts as



 The CNC 700 (top) from Pro Edge Technology and the new SE-25CNC-TS-PS from Alexander Dodds.

short as 9-1/2", and as narrow as 1". Its range is impressive – it can dovetail the ends of boards up to 24" wide (think blanket chest), and it will run parts with thicknesses from just 0.2" to a full 1.97". It's billed as "the simplest dovetailer available with a real-time 3D custom designer interface", according to the company, and it comes with a 10.1" touchscreen that operates just like a phone. The control software is so comprehensive that there's little chance of operator error. Just choose a bit, set the dimensions, and let the machine do the work. A separated dust hood design allows for changing the tool without removing the entire hood, and there is a built-in lube system. The iDovetail has eight profile modes and a 90/45-degree rotating clamp support for mitered profiles. It can mill finger joints, through and half-blind dovetails, sliding dovetails, custom tail spacing, and mortise-and-tenon joints.

The CNC 700 dovetail machine from **Pro Edge Technology** ([proedgetechnology.com](http://proedgetechnology.com)) has servo drives on the left and right fences, so they're automatic. The machine cuts both halves of a dovetail joint simultaneously for a

high degree of accuracy, and the tail width and depth are adjustable using an HMI controller. The CNC 700 offers single-part and automatic continuous tenoning, with an adjustable feed to account for different types of materials and species. The spindle is adjustable for carbide cutter wear, and diamond tooling is an option. The machine can deliver standard, French, straight and irregularly spaced dovetails. Setups are remarkably easy (the operator can change from one saved program to another in seconds with just two taps on the screen), and the CNC700 has a compact footprint of approximately 65" x 35" x 46".

The new BDTM-XXP from **Baileigh Industrial** ([baileigh.com](http://baileigh.com)) is a single-spindle dovetailer with a 1-hp, 230-volt, single-phase motor plus pneumatic parts clamping, a magnetic starter, a carbide-tipped cutter, and a four-sided template that produces dovetails on 1", 1-1/2", 2", and 2-1/2" centerlines. A woodshop can combine different dovetail centerlines to produce a unique custom appearance. A spring-loaded carriage makes for smooth and effortless cutting, and a height range from 3/16" to 3/4" accommodates different cutting depths and board thicknesses. The machine has a cast-iron and steel structure and includes linear carriage bearings that are sealed on both ends against dust buildup, plus material stops that make it easy to repetitively position workpieces.

## LOTS OF CHOICES

**Cantek America** ([cantekamerica.com](http://cantekamerica.com)) offers dovetailing solutions for shops that are producing just a few drawer boxes per day, or those requiring higher performance up to 40 dovetail drawer boxes an hour. Cantek has manual and semi-automatic dovetail machine solutions, ideal for small- to mid-sized cabinet shops looking to produce its own drawers. Offered through distributors such as Akhurst and John G. Weber Co., the JDT65 is a manual dovetailer and the JDT75 is automatic. The 65 produces both the pin and tail of the dovetail simultaneously. All four sides of the drawer can be loaded into the machine, which is equipped with a choice of four pitch templates for varying types of dovetail joints. The maximum workpiece size is a generous 59" x 16-1/2", and parts are secured with air clamps. The model 75 is a fully automatic machine that produces both the pin and tail simultaneously, and it has a 21,500 rpm spindle for a fine finish. It offers independent adjustment of both the tenon and the mortise depths, a cast-iron base for vibration free cutting, pneumatic clamping for fast component changeover, and three cycle speeds for best finishes. There's an automatic lubrication system for the spindle stroke, a dust hood for the milling cutter, and a safety rail in front of the spindle motor.

**Castaly/Lobo** ([castalymachine.com](http://castalymachine.com)) offer a whole family of dovetailing machines to suit small and medium woodshop needs. There are eight options on [lobomachine.com](http://lobomachine.com), ranging from a 28" manual machine at \$3,690 to a CNC that can mill six types of dovetails at \$40,990. In between are a variety of specialty units that handle everything from standard drawer production to curves and automation. The most popular is the CM-A36, a single-bit, 10-hp machine that handles work up to 36" long and has four large air

clamps for making two sets of male and female dovetails at the same time. It takes a two-wing cutter and has three cutting speeds.

The **Alexander Dodds Co.** in Grand Rapids, Mich. ([dodds.com](http://dodds.com)) has been building machines since 1882, and currently offers seven dovetailing models. The SE-1A is single-spindle dovetailer for custom or low-volume production. The SE-1-AFA adds automatic feed for dovetailing standard English dovetails on one or two-inch centerlines. Dodd's newest single-spindle model, the SE-1-25AF, is an entry-level machine with a 25" capacity. Next up, the SE-1CNC-D-PS comes with programmable mortise side stops and can produce both standard and custom centerline dovetails at 40 to 80 drawers per hour plus custom width dovetails, box joints, and optional French dovetails. The SE-25CNC-TS-PS is a multiple-spindle CNC single-end dovetailer with programmable side stops and the latest in servo technology. Then there's the CNC double-end dovetailer, the DE-760CNC, which is a high-production machine that can deliver up to 1,100

drawer sides per hour. And at the head of the class is the DE-790CNC that produces up to 650 drawer fronts and/or backs per hour.

**Grizzly Industrial** ([grizzly.com](http://grizzly.com)) offers the 11-1/4" G0610 and the 16-1/2" G0611X. The latter can handle stock up to 16-1/2" wide, and it can cut two joints at a time. It will produce a four-sided drawer in under two minutes if the boards are prepared properly, and it includes a four-sided template for cutting 1", 1-1/2", 2", and 2-1/2" dovetails. Its spindle heads are micro-adjustable to give complete control of the dovetail fit. The company also offers 16-1/2" and 11-1/4" Shop Fox models.

### FAMILIAR NAMES

The **Laguna** DT18 dovetail machine ([lagunatools.com](http://lagunatools.com)) has a production rate of about 40 to 50 boxes per hour. It can cut the pins and tails separately or at the same time to speed up production. Individual pneumatic clamps allow users to cut two joints in one pass or to work on wide panels for furniture. The collet chuck makes bit changes fast and easy and increases cutter life. Ad-



Model G0611X from Grizzly Industrial.

Cantek's models JDT65 (left) and JDT75.





Model DT18 from  
Laguna Tools

justments are read on individual scales for quick, repeatable setups. The centralized control panel makes the operation easy and automatic; the operator just needs to load the parts and start.

**Mereen Johnson** ([mereen-johnson.com](http://mereen-johnson.com)) offers two CNC dovetailers that are also available through RT Machine. The 1105 is designed for high-production operations and it has a large, easy-to-use touchscreen and simple setup procedure. The new 1101 is a more compact machine that still offers drawer size flexibility, cutter compensation, and a menu-driven operator's console.

Among its numerous specialty milling machines, **Oec** ([womec-srl.com](http://womec-srl.com)) offers the 650A, 650M, 750CN and F11TS dovetailers. The company's products are available through distributors such as Macoser and RT Machine. The 650A is a

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two-axis automatic mill cutter with numerical control, and it's designed to cut single male or female workpieces, or both simultaneously. It's controlled by a CNC system that is programmed to manufacture two types of fixed pitch joints (25mm and 50mm). The 650M is equipped with a mill spindle which can cut four types of dovetails with different pitches. Locking and release is done manually with pneumatic valves. The 750 CN is controlled by a numerical control system that can change the machining limits within a wide range of variables including pitch, number, depth, dimensions, cutting speed, tool feed, and compensation for variation in the tool radius. And the F11TS is a 2-axis machine designed for standard, French and parallel dovetails for drawers and several furniture elements.

**Powermatic** ([powermatic.com](http://powermatic.com)) also makes a pair of dovetailers. The company offers the DT45 115-volt and the DT65 230-volt, both of which are single-phase machines. The smaller DT45 is equipped with a router spindle which allows cutting dovetails of adjustable height. It can machine four types of dovetails with different pitches, and locking/unlocking of parts takes place manually using an eccentric clamp. The DT65 has pneumatic clamping, a magnetic starter, a carbide-tipped cutter, and a four-sided template that produces dovetails on 1", 1-1/2", 2", and 2-1/2" center-lines.

## OTHER OPTIONS

Beyond dedicated dovetail machines, woodshop owners might wish to look at other options for occasional drawer manufacturing. Those include the **Shaper Origin** ([shapertools.com](http://shapertools.com)), which can be set up using a parametric Fusion360 model to generate basic dovetail files. What that means is that the company offers software through a library, so the woodshop doesn't need to create it. **Hoffmann Machine Co.** ([hoffmann-usa.com](http://hoffmann-usa.com)) offers a system that uses plastic floating dovetails to create boxes, panels, and other parts. It's fast, efficient, inexpensive, and designed for production runs.

**Leigh Industries** ([leightools.com](http://leightools.com)) makes some very sophisticated jigs for small shops, including the D4R. Quite And the **PantoRouter** ([pantorouter.com](http://pantorouter.com)) is a precision woodworking joinery machine that can handle mortise-and-tenon, box joints, and dovetails.

One final thought: there are several Asian, and especially Chinese machines beginning to enter the U.S. market, and these are often offered at surprisingly low price-points. Brands such as **Winstar** and **Beehive** come to mind. They can be found online, and it's worth taking the time to check reviews and research the availability of repair parts before committing to a purchase. Plus, be aware of the freight charges before ordering from an overseas supplier. **W**

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# NEW COATINGS AND COLOR TRENDS

Our annual look at the latest finishes, formula trends, and color-of-the-year picks from paint manufacturers

By John English



Raspberry Blush from Benjamin Moore.

Humanity seems to be getting back on track after a few tough years, and one of the most visible signs of recovery is an abundance of happier, brighter, and more impactful shades in the coatings we use to color our world.

But joyful tones aren't the only things happening in finishing. Other strong themes are hygiene and environmental responsibility. The former may be reactive in the wake of Covid 19, while the latter is most definitely proactive – this January, the U.N. released an upbeat prognosis saying that the planet's ozone layer is recovering nicely, thanks to international cooperation. To misquote Monty Python, it might be time to look on the brighter side of life.

## HYGIENE ADVANCES

Last year, **AkzoNobel** (*akzonobel.com*) reintroduced its antimicrobial Interpon AM range, which is typical-

ly used on surfaces in hygiene conscious environments such as hospitals, schools, and public transport. But another variation of Interpon from the Dutch manufacturer is turning more heads as it opens the door to advances in powder coating for wood. The company's Interpon W is a protective coating that enables heat-sensitive substrates such as wood and wood-based products to be coated and cured in minutes. AkzoNobel notes that "the curing technology is customizable and affordable for even smaller businesses looking to convert to powder coatings". To that end, the company has created a team of tech people to help shops design and customize a powder-coating line, and has created a website to give shop owners more info at [hss.interpon.com/us](http://hss.interpon.com/us).

Staying with the hygiene theme, **Healthy Wood** (*healthy-woodmilesi.com*) is a line of polyurethane, acrylic,

UV, nitrocellulose, and waterborne wood varnishes from **Milesi** that are intended for interior surfaces. The line also includes self-sealers and top-coats for exteriors, and together they deliver some innovative sanitizing features. The company says that lab tests following ISO 22196 regulations show that bacterial growth is reduced by more than 99.9 percent on surfaces coated with these products. They can be used in kitchens, bathrooms, children's bedrooms, and public spaces such as restaurants. The coatings feature sanitizing particles integrated directly in their formulation, allowing a perfectly homogenous distribution within the product. Entire coated surfaces remain consistently resistant to bacterial growth and, as the particles don't evaporate, their sanitizing action lasts forever, even on surfaces cleaned with particularly aggressive cleaning agents.

Living Well is a paint collection

Photo: Benjamin Moore

from **Sherwin Williams** ([sherwin-williams.com](https://www.sherwin-williams.com)) that includes two versions of the company's SuperPaint product. One has air purifying technology and the other has sanitizing properties. The company says that the air purifying paint "contributes to better indoor air quality by reducing VOC levels from potential sources such as carpets, cabinets and fabrics. It also helps rooms stay fresher, longer, with odor eliminating technology that breaks down unwanted household odors."

### RESPONSIBLE APPROACHES

In a now historic industry-wide trend, the decades-long move toward safer and less impactful waterborne coatings continues to gather pace.

Last fall, **M.L. Campbell** ([mlcampbell.com](https://mlcampbell.com)) introduced a clear version of its Arroyo 1K waterborne topcoat, and the manufacturer notes that the product is environmentally conscious without sacrificing a shop's throughput. This is a single-component, hybrid, water-based urethane system for interior use. Developed to apply easily, Arroyo reduces waste while improving productivity by eliminating additional mixing steps. It's ready to spray with no reduction or catalyzation required, has an unlimited application window with no pot-life restrictions, and shows very good stability and fastness for both even and repeatable color, according to the company.

**Chemcraft** ([chemcraft.com](https://chemcraft.com)), a division of AkzoNobel, has introduced a new waterborne system called Acquaduro, which features new 2K polyurethane technology for exceptional chemical and water resistance as well as low VOC, HAPs and odor benefits, according to the company. It is available in pigmented and clear versions.

**BASF** ([basf.com](https://www.basf.com)) has developed a way to offer two of the building blocks of responsible coatings, neopentyl glycol (NPG) and propionic acid, with a zero-carbon footprint. Produced at the company's Ludwigshafen Verbund site in Germany, the products are available globally as

NPG ZeroPCF and PA ZeroPCF. NPG is basic to powder coating and besides emitting minimal to zero VOCs, the process also reduces processing times and energy requirements. By applying NPG ZeroPCF, the carbon footprint of powder-coating resins can be reduced significantly. This can help manufacturers in the furniture industry achieve its Scope 3 CO2 emission reduction targets. Scope 3 emissions are not directly produced by a manufacturer itself, but are caused by the company's business activities up and down its value chain (by, for example, its suppliers and customers). Due to its high chemical and thermal stability, NPG has proven itself as a building block to produce polyester and alkyd resins for various coatings and plastics. BASF's zero footprint is being achieved by using renewable raw materials in a balanced biomass approach.

Discovery is a family of plant-based resins from the Dutch company **DSM** ([dsm.com](https://www.dsm.com)). The Discovery portfolio includes products with as much as 49% plant-based content. The company

says that "waterborne paints are still largely fossil based. DSM has created a revolutionary technology to replace these fossil-based components with renewable materials, lowering the environmental footprint... without sacrificing performance."

### COLOR TRENDS

Color palettes can change quickly in the retail kitchen market, and custom cabinetmakers need to be aware where things are headed so they can offer clients a palette of contemporary choices. A good way to track trends is to check out the websites of the major manufacturers and keep abreast of the current year's colors.

This year's new trends seem to be pointing away from the grays, tans, and earth tones that manufacturers said gave people comfort during the pandemic years. We're seeing splashes of vibrancy that suggest an upbeat market, and there's strong evidence that the mood is translating into more colorful kitchens.

**PPG Paints** says that its 2023 color of the year, Vining Ivy (PPG1148-6),





Vining Ivy  
from PPG Paints

*getpaint.com*, which allows customers to buy paint online and have it delivered to the jobsite. They're not alone in this.

The 2023 color of the year from **Benjamin Moore** (*benjaminmoore.com*) is Raspberry Blush (2008-30). It's a saturated red orange "that enlivens our surroundings while awakening our senses with charismatic color. This vivacious color is unapologetic in its boldness," according to the company.

One of the world's largest paint producers, the **Nippon Paint Group** (*nipponpaint-holdings.com*), has a presence in North America through the Dunn Edwards Group (*dunnedwards.com*), and that company's 2023 color is Terra Rosa. It's described as "a deep, rosy-pink hue with a touch of terra-cotta influence that exudes confidence, creativity and coziness."

Photo: PPG

is "an enchanting deep aqua representing contemporary and traditional styles, perfectly marrying a touch of the past and a taste of the future." It's a deep, shaded, Caribbean aqua with a turquoise undertone that "can

be considered quite traditional, classic, or elegant. This hue works in a variety of decorating styles – pair it with warm metal and wood finishes". And in a nod to post-pandemic buying habits, PPG has also launched

## New England Drawer

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Again, this is a warm, joyful, upbeat pink that seems to say we're ready to shed the pandemic years and do something fun for a change.

Going from pink to purple, **Rust-Oleum** ([rustoleum.com](http://rustoleum.com)) has chosen Gloss Grape as its spray paint color of the year for 2023. The company says that "this luscious shade of purple reflects creativity, well-being, and resilience."

**Axalta Coating System's** new Wood Pro app provides access to the company's latest color trends and product information for the wood coatings market. For example, Axalta ([axalta.com](http://axalta.com)) has created the Wood Vibes collection, and the newest addition there is called Blossom. It keys in on flowers, and the colors run from "pastels such as muted blue, green, and soft shades of lavender to bold tonalities like earth brown, dark gray, and black." The collection also includes light grays, whites, and warm beiges. And though it's not intended for wood, the company's 2023 global automotive color of the year, Techno

Blue, reflects the energetic trend seen in cabinet coatings.

**Behr Paint Co.** ([behr.com](http://behr.com)) is also sticking with muted tones for 2023. Described as a soft white hue with a warm undertone, its Blank Canvas underscores the manufacturer's belief that people are still seeking solace. "We looked at our top-selling colors at Behr to determine the Color of the Year," says Erika Woelfel, the company's Vice President of Color & Creative Services, "and white paint colors were on top of the list. We were seeking a color that would inspire renewal, positivity, and a sense of calm. Blank Canvas is the most versatile shade of white, which made it an easy decision for us to select."

**Valspar** is a Sherwin-Williams brand and for 2023 the company ([valspar.com](http://valspar.com)) has chosen a dozen pastel colors designed to evoke "comfort, acceptance and joy." Among them are Flora, which is a darker olive, and Desert Carnation which Valspar describes as a faded natural terracotta. Also new from Valspar is Defense, a new line of

exterior paint and primer that provides protection through advanced beading technology to repel water and help prevent moisture damage.

**Dutch Boy Paints** 2023 color of the year is Rustic Greige, "a charming neutral that adds a touch of sophistication to any room and can be applied with just a single coat". It's a medium-toned neutral color with a slight red undertone, and it gives the illusion of being slightly washed. "Dutch Boy's 2023 Color Trend Forecast is strongly rooted in the new ways we are experiencing life, nature and one another," said Michelle Bangs, the company's senior brand manager. "They're warm yet bold, dependable yet creative, and inspirational yet soothing for mind, body and soul."

**Kelly-Moore** is a Texas-based manufacturer that sells primarily to businesses. The company has an online resource at [kellymoreshop.com](http://kellymoreshop.com) where designers talk about recent projects and the trending colors they are using.

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## OTHER SOLUTIONS

There are times when one still needs to use an oil instead of a water-based coating, especially in renovation work. **Old Masters** ([myoldmasters.com](http://myoldmasters.com)) makes a 350 VOC interior oil-based clear polyurethane that is self-leveling and formulated for use on interior wood, metal, and fiberglass surfaces. It applies easily, dries quickly, and provides protection from abrasion, marring, chipping, alcohol, and water, according to the company.

**Rubio Monocoat** ([rubiomonocoatusa.com](http://rubiomonocoatusa.com)) makes a plant-based, hard wax oil wood finish that is VOC-free, durable, matte and keeps the natural look and feel of the wood. It's easy to apply, easy to maintain, and comes in 55 color choices. The company offers free ground shipping to the contiguous U.S. on orders over \$49.

**Odie's Oil** ([odiesoil.com](http://odiesoil.com)) also offers free shipping and this, too, is a hard wax oil that contains absolutely no solvents, so nothing will evaporate during the drying process. What is applied to the medium will stay in

the medium, meaning a little Odie's goes a long way – just buff a small amount into the surface, wait a bit, and buff off. It also contains no toxic chemicals, solvents, catalysts, VOCs, allergens, or hardeners, according to the company.

For shops that need to match topcoats on a stained surface, **Bush Oil** ([bushproducts.com](http://bushproducts.com)) forms "a durable grain-defining finish with a rich luster" that can be top-coated using conventional products such as nitrocellulose lacquers, urethanes, and rubbing varnishes, the company said.

Shops considering switching to powder-coating might want to visit **Green-Fast-Cure** ([greenfastcure.com](http://greenfastcure.com)). The GFC process works by mixing fresh air and gas for a more effective infrared cure, which creates both time and energy savings for shops.

Grain filling can change the way a surface looks by hiding or highlighting the natural grain. Illinois-based **Aqua Coat** ([aquacoat.com](http://aquacoat.com)) manufactures eco-friendly water-based wood coatings, including grain and pore fillers

plus stains, topcoats, seal coats, sanding sealers, and paints. Last fall, the company released a new version of its Clear Wood Grain Filler, which has higher solids, better fill, and requires fewer coats, according to the company.

For exterior coatings, **ZAR Paint** ([zar.com](http://zar.com)) has created a new online interface for choosing colors. It can be a handy tool on the jobsite to show color ranges on a tablet or laptop to customers and contractors.

For shops that need to deal with unusual species in exterior jobs, **Olympic's** Elite stain won Best Semi-Solid Stain and Sealant from Better Homes & Gardens. It's made from a urethane-strengthened formula that protects the wood from cracking and peeling during the colder months and can be used on a variety of wood types, including less-common species such as lpe.

And Dutch Boy Paints has introduced Exterior Stain + Sealer, available in four opacities, that delivers all-weather protection in a single coat, according to the company. **W**

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# Hawaii Woodshow celebrates 30th anniversary

By Jennifer Hicks

The Hawaii Forest Industry Association hosted its 30th Hawaii Woodshow last October in Honolulu.

The show calls for furniture and other pieces made of wood from Hawaiian-grown tree species, particularly those that have been planted and brought to maturity in Hawaii. It also aims to encourage the public to plant native and non-native high value hardwoods for future generations.

The 2022 show theme was Ho'ike Kālai Kūpono, and numerous awards were given in multiple categories. Three jurors, Marcus Castaing, Vince Hazen and Jorma Winkler, selected the winners based on their knowledge of contemporary woodworking and Hawaii forestry.

A component of Hawaii's Woodshow is the Innovation + Imagination Student Challenge, a division that was initiated in 2017 to introduce students to the diverse world of Hawaii woods. Students are challenged to construct artwork using a mixture of donated Hawaii-grown wood and other materials of their choice.

This year students from UH-Mānoa School of Architecture, Brigham Young University-Hawaii, Maui and Kalani High Schools, and Olomana School participated in the challenge.

For more about the show, visit [hawaiiiforest.org](http://hawaiiiforest.org).



Photos: Hawaii Woodshow

## NWA EYES 30TH SHOW

The Northeastern Woodworkers Association is about to celebrate the 30th anniversary of its annual Woodworkers Showcase on March 25-26 in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

The show features furniture, carvings, turnings and sculptures, free lectures and demonstrations, vendors, and more.

For more, visit [woodworker.org](http://woodworker.org). **W**



From the 2022 Hawaii Woodshow (clockwise, from left), box by Joel Bright of O'ahu; table by Dick Willson of O'ahu; vessel and spoon by Derek Bencomo of Maui, and the Best of Show piece, *Drift*, by Luke Shaffer of O'ahu.



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**SNX TECHNOLOGIES**, a manufacturer of contour edge banders in Sauk Rapids, Minn., introduces the CoilHub edge banding heater and storage system. The CoilHub keeps banding at the perfect temperature and softens the banding to make it more pliable. It can store up to 20 coils, according to the company. For more, visit [snxtechnologies.com](http://snxtechnologies.com).



Photos: Dura Supreme, SNX Technologies

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Photo: WalzCraft



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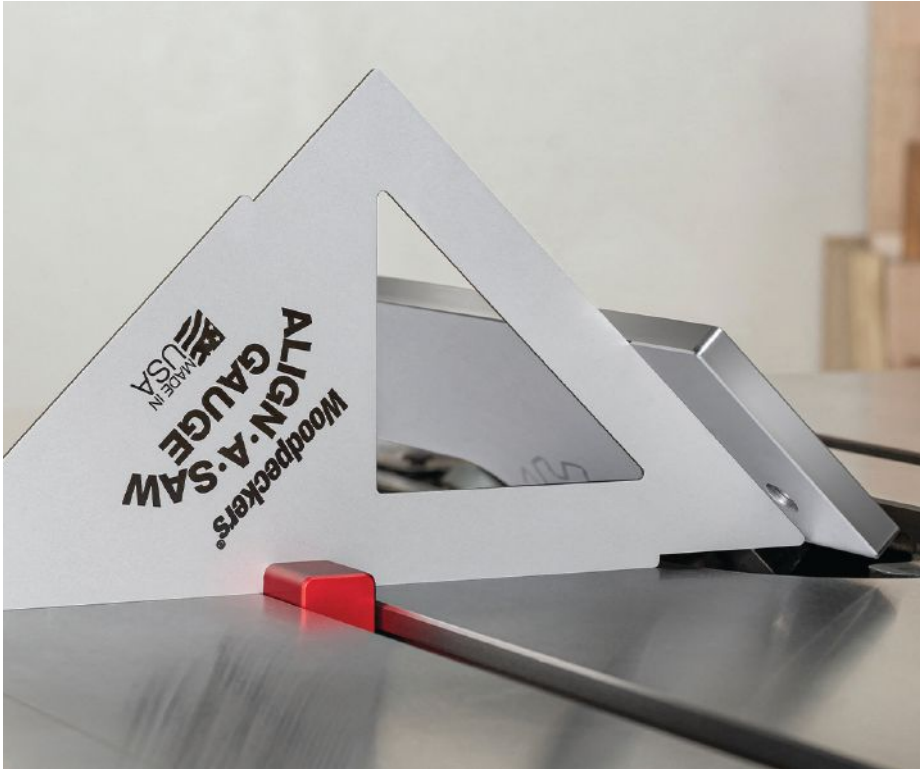
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Organizations sponsoring meetings, classes or shows of interest to professional or hobbyist woodworkers are invited to submit items to: Calendar, Woodshop News, 10 Bokum Road, Essex, CT 06426; [editorial@woodshopnews.com](mailto:editorial@woodshopnews.com).

Include name, dates, location, description of event and a contact address or telephone number. Calendar items, which should be typed or printed clearly, must be received a minimum of 60 days before the event.

Please note that fees, as listed, might not include materials or shop fees. Check with a specific class for further details.

— Compiled by Jennifer Hicks

## CALIFORNIA

**April 25-28** — Woodworking Industry Conference, co-hosted by the WMIA and WMMA, offering business development, education and networking opportunities. Location: Hotel Del Coronado in San Diego. [wmma.org](http://wmma.org)

**June 7 - July 4** — Design in Wood exhibition and competition. Hosted by the San Diego Fine Woodworkers Association in conjunction with the

San Diego County Fair, the event features a variety of custom woodwork for viewing and purchase, as well as a competition with 15 prizes in 13 categories. Location: Del Mar Fairgrounds. [sdfwa.org](http://sdfwa.org)

## GEORGIA

**March 29-31** — International Wood Products Association's World of Wood convention. Location: Hyatt Regency in Savannah. For more details, visit [iwpawood.org](http://iwpawood.org).

## MARYLAND

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

## MINNESOTA

**April 27-30** — Northern Woods Exhibition. Presented by the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild, the event features furniture, turnings, carvings, sculptures, and a competition for cash prizes. Location: Eden Prairie Center in Eden Prairie. [mnwwg.org](http://mnwwg.org)

## NEVADA

**July 25-28** — Association of Woodworking and Furnishings Suppliers' Fair, a biennial woodworking industry trade show featuring new products, educational programs, networking opportunities, and student competitions. Location: Las Vegas Convention Center. [awfsfair.org](http://awfsfair.org)

## NEW JERSEY

**Monthly** — The North Jersey Woodworkers Association meets the third Monday of every month in. [njwawoodworkers.org](http://njwawoodworkers.org)

**Monthly** — The Professional Woodworkers Guild of Upper New Jersey meets the third Wednesday of every month. For more, visit [njwoodguild.com](http://njwoodguild.com).

## NEW YORK

**Monthly** — The Woodworkers of Central New York hold meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Belgium Cold Springs Fire

Department in Baldwinsville. [woodcny.org](http://woodcny.org)

**Monthly** — Northeast Woodworkers Association meetings held on the second Thursday of the month at various locations in the Albany area. For more, visit [woodworker.org](http://woodworker.org).

**Monthly** — The Long Island Woodworkers meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Frank Brush Barn of the Smithtown Historical Society in Smithtown. For more, visit [liwoodworkers.org](http://liwoodworkers.org).

**March 25-26** — Woodworkers Showcase, the annual fine woodworking show presented by the Northeastern Woodworkers Association. Location: Saratoga Springs City Center in Saratoga Springs. [woodworker.org](http://woodworker.org)

## N. CAROLINA

**April 28 - May 1** — Society of American Period Furniture Makers' annual conference, featuring seminars, guest speakers, awards and more. Location: North Carolina History Center in New Bern. [sapfm.org](http://sapfm.org)

## RHODE ISLAND

**May 6-7** — May Day Market, a juried show featuring handcrafted items from over 90 artisans and craftsmen. Location: Waterfire Arts Center in Providence. [finefurnishingshows.com](http://finefurnishingshows.com)

## WISCONSIN

**May 2-4** — National Wood Flooring Association Expo, an annual trade show dedicated exclusively to wood flooring. Location: Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee. [nwfaexpo.org](http://nwfaexpo.org) **W**



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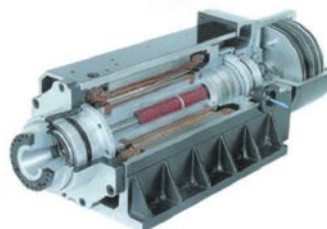


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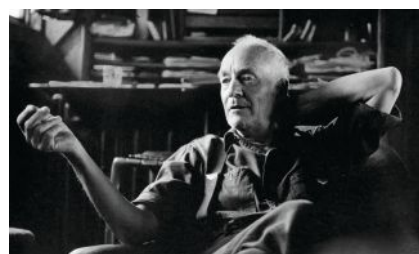
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63

## ADVERTISING INDEX

|                                     |                                       |       |                                     |                                              |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Amana Tool.....                     | www.amanatool.com.....                | C4    | Lapp Millwright.....                | 54                                           |
| Anderson America Corp.....          | www.andersonamerica.com.....          | 9     | Lignomat USA, LTD.....              | www.lignomat.com.....14                      |
| AWFS Fair 2023.....                 | www.awfsfair.org.....                 | 17    | Lockdowel.....                      | www.lockdowel.com.....41                     |
| Axiom Tool Group.....               | www.axiomprecision.com.....           | 13    | Machine Tool Camp.....              | www.MachineToolCamp.com.....23               |
| Bainbridge Manufacturing.....       | www.BainbridgeMfg.com.....            | 51    | MARTIN Woodworking Machines.....    | www.martin-usa.com.....47                    |
| Better Vacuum Cups, Inc.....        | www.GreenBVC.com.....                 | 55    | Monarch Metal Fabrication.....      | www.monarchmetal.com.....22                  |
| Cabinet Pro LLC.....                | www.cabinetpro.com.....               | 3     | Mozaik Software.....                | www.mozaiksoftware.com.....4                 |
| Cabinotch Innovative Solutions..... | www.cabinotch.com.....                | 25    | New England Drawer.....             | www.newenglanddrawer.com.....50              |
| Castaly Machine.....                | www.castalymachine.com.....           | 16    | Northtech Machine.....              | www.northtechmachine.com.....38              |
| Castle USA.....                     | www.castleusa.com.....                | 21    | Odies Oil.....                      | www.OdiesOil.com.....46                      |
| CCF Industries.....                 | www.ccfdrawers.com.....               | 59    | Oneida Air Systems Inc.....         | www.oneida-air.com.....28                    |
| Charles GG Schmidt & Co.....        | www.cggsgschmidt.com.....             | 52    | Osborne Wood Products, Inc.....     | www.osbornewood.com.....57                   |
| Chatterator.....                    | www.profilesander.com.....            | 57    | Resource Guide.....                 | http://resourceguide.woodshopnews.com.....C3 |
| Chemcraft.....                      | www.chemcraft.com.....                | 1     | Sata Spray.....                     | www.satausa.com.....55, 57                   |
| Colonial Saw Co. / STRIEBIG.....    | www.csaw.com/striebig.....            | 27    | Sawtooth Shelf System.....          | www.sawtoothshelvesystem.com.....54          |
| Connecticut Saw & Tool.....         | www.ctsaw.com.....                    | 27    | Scm Group.....                      | www.scmgroupna.com.....20                    |
| DC Distributing.....                | www.dc-dist.com.....                  | 10    | Shop Fox.....                       | www.shopfox.biz.....C2                       |
| Diamond Tropical Hardwoods.....     | www.DiamondTropicalHardwoods.com..... | 31    | ShopBot Tools, Inc.....             | www.shopbottools.com.....26                  |
| Elias Woodwork.....                 | www.eliaswoodwork.com.....            | 42    | SMARTECH.....                       | www.smartechonline.com.....12                |
| Felder Group USA.....               | www.feldergroupusa.com.....           | 15    | SNX Technologies.....               | www.snxtechnologies.com.....56               |
| Grex Power Tool.....                | www.grexusa.com.....                  | 18    | Stoltzfus Forest Products.....      | www.stoltzfusforestproducts.net.....58       |
| Grizzly Industrial, Inc.....        | www.grizzly.com.....                  | 32-33 | Thermwood Corp.....                 | www.thermwood.com.....40                     |
| Guffey Systems.....                 | www.guffeysystems.com.....            | 7     | Total Finishing Solutions.....      | www.totalfinishingsupplies.com.....11        |
| Hoffmann Machine Company.....       | www.hoffmann-usa.com.....             | 56    | Vexor Custom Woodworking Tools..... | www.vexorcwt.com.....24                      |
| KCD Software.....                   | www.KCDsoftware.com.....              | 19    | Vortex Tool Co., Inc.....           | www.vortextool.com.....29                    |
| KLINGSPOR Abrasive.....             | www.klingspor.com.....                | 5     | Wagner Meters.....                  | www.wagnermeters.com.....30                  |
| KYOCERA Senco Industrial Tools..... | www.senco.com.....                    | 2     | WalzCraft Industries Inc.....       | www.WalzCraft.com.....60                     |
| La-Man Corp.....                    | www.laman.com.....                    | 58    |                                     |                                              |



## A year to remember

The Wharton Esherick Museum in Malvern, Pa., celebrated its 50th anniversary, received a \$130,000 matching grant, and was featured on a Craft in America: HOME episode of PBS in 2022. The Save America's Treasures Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences will fund the conservation of the museum's works on paper collection, including sketches, watercolors, and prints by Wharton Esherick (1887-1970), a founder of the studio furniture movement.

"We are actively working on a multi-year planning process to transform the areas for collection storage, internal operations, and visitor engagement at the museum as part of our proposed campus expansion plan," Julie Siglin, the museum's executive director, said in a statement. "The Save America's Treasures Grant will allow us to improve our collection's long-term stability and allow for greater public access of these rich archives."

The preservation is scheduled to be completed over a three-year period in partnership with the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts and will involve a combination of conservation treatment and archival rehousing for 90 watercolors, 80 prints, six pastels, and numerous sketches including a 36' sketch scroll. The HOME episode, which premiered on Dec. 16, 2002, featured Esherick's home and studio.

"Esherick considered his home to be his autobiography. Anyone who walks through the doors of his studio can feel the unconventional and joyful creative impulse he brought to every aspect of his life, added Siglin.

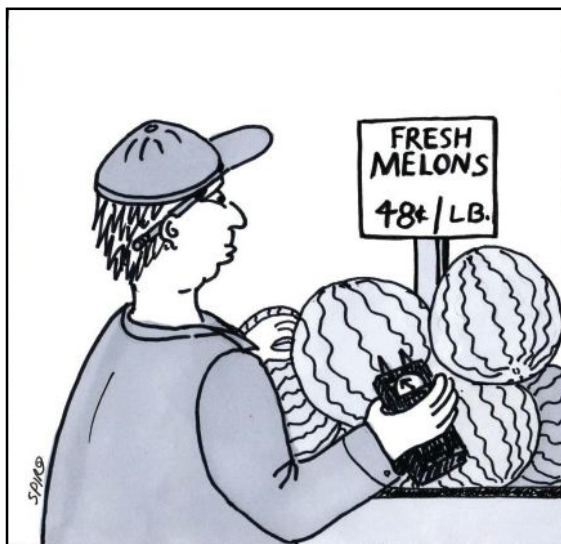
For more, visit [whartonesherickmuseum.org](http://whartonesherickmuseum.org). [W](#)



Wharton Esherick, the exterior of his studio, and a peak inside.

### 60 Grit

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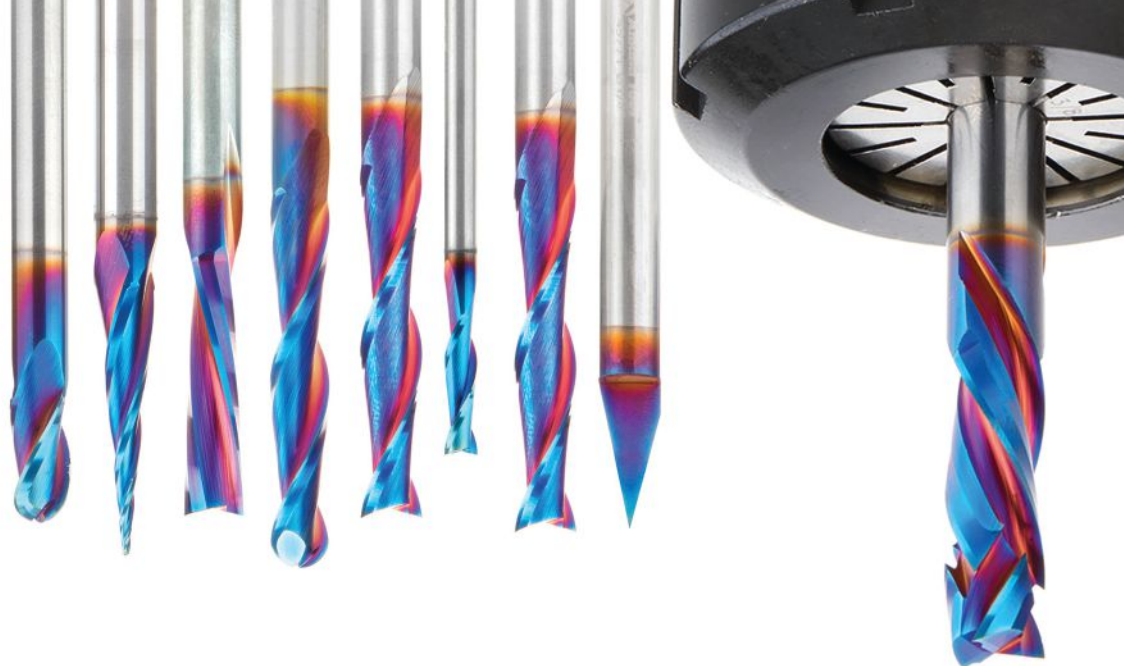
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