

BENCHMARK



Newsletter of the Vancouver Island Woodworkers' Guild
VISIT US AT - WWW.VIWG.COM

Issue: APRIL-2007

President's Report

The guild executive has been planning the last few meetings and events for the year, trying to squeeze everything in before the summer break. There is a lot going on, not to mention the Furniture Society Conference here in June. We have asked the organizers to put their program in this month's Benchmark to provide a general understanding of what to expect. I'm already hearing interesting hints of the furniture and equipment which will be auctioned off at the Friday night dinner, so anyone looking for some good equipment might want to take that event in. I know I'll be there.

The programs for the monthly guild meetings this season have been excellent and on varied topics, and this is in keeping with the input Karen and Keith got from guild members earlier this year. We have been discussing some speakers for next year, and some are clearly carryovers from the ideas provided on the survey; we are however always interested in your ideas on speakers or topics, so don't hold back.

We have not planned any major shows or exhibitions for this year, primarily due to the fact that the Furniture Society will be providing a platform for several exhibitions during the period it will run in mid June and a couple are planned to run for several months thereafter. The guild will however, be mounting a show for the 2007/8 season.

In keeping with tradition, the guild will have its annual executive position elections during the June meeting. This executive has functioned very well, however there will be a few changes due to personal and work situations, so you might want to consider who you'd like to add to the slate for next year.

Thanks and enjoy the rest of the spring season.

Bryan Kemper
President

Everything you need to know about the Furniture Society Conference in Victoria is in the link [below!](http://www.furnituresociety.org/confer/furn27/home.php)

<http://www.furnituresociety.org/confer/furn27/home.php>

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THIS MONTH'S MEETING

This meeting will be a demonstration and hands on event.

Firstly we will be having Russ Franson giving a demo on the table saw on simple stub tenon joinery. He will go over machine set ups and tips on how to get the perfect fit for good results. Darren Bertuccio will be giving a short presentation on the Furniture Society and what goes on at the conferences, remember the guild stipend everyone! To finish the evening off Karen Trickett will be giving a demo on tuning up a delta 14" bandsaw for resawing shop made veneers and accuracy. She will also be showing us some bandsaw jigs that simplify things.

We also have 2 upcoming events:

1. Peninsula tour on Saturday April 14th, come on out and view a few shops on the peninsula and get some idea's on equipment and shop set ups. Contact Bryan Kemper for more info at 656-7046.
2. The second Router work shop with Rob Blondeau is planned for Saturday April 28th at his shop. This workshop is currently full but if you would like to add your name to the sign-up sheet as a spare, then please see Rob at April's meeting, or call him at 881-8132.

If you wish to apply to the guild for the Stipend Offer for the Furniture Society Conference you should contact Russ Franson at 656-8724.

If you have not received any e-mails from the Guild in quite a few months, then please go log into our website and check that your membership has not expired. If it has, then you must renew it before you will begin getting the e-mails again

APRIL MEETING

Camosun College - Fine Furniture Program Building
Tuesday, April 10th. 7:15 PM

To get the latest Benchmark go to www.viwg.com and click on the "Resources" menu on the left side of the page. There you will find a link called "Benchmark Issues" which will take you to all the Benchmarks for the past couple of years. Please Note: The current Benchmark will only be posted sometime during the week prior to the monthly meeting.

Membership Renewals:

When you renew your membership, you have three payment options:

1. Manual payment by cash or cheque, via the mail or in person at the monthly meetings.

2. By using your Credit Card at the PayPal site without creating or signing in to a PayPal account.

3. By Signing in to, and paying with your PayPal account
Note: If you have a PayPal account and have forgotten your Login and/or password, then at the PayPal main page, simply click on the "Forgot your Password?" link and follow the instructions on the next page. Your Login will be your e-mail address. Once you have typed in your Login and the security password, click "Submit". Pay Pal will then e-mail you your password within a few minutes.

Best Regards,
Your Guild Executive

SHOP TIDS BITS

The formula for computing the required pulley diameter for a desired shaft speed based on a known motor speed and a known driven pulley diameter is:

$$d = R \times D / S$$

D is the required driving pulley diameter.

R is the known RPM of motor.

d is the known driven pulley diameter.

S is the known desired shaft speed of the load.

What to Look for When Buying a Bandsaw

by Garrett Lambert

Bigger bandsaw might be desirable but is not always better. Aside from initial expense, bulk, power (220vac), weight, more awkward band changes, and, let's be hon-

est, for many people, intimidation, are factors to consider.

For most hobby shop requirements, a 14" bandsaw will do 95% of whatever is required, and there are ways around the other 5%. A cast iron model with a riser block is a great combination, but there are 2 caveats: Many buyers find that tuning the saw after installing the block is a day-long job fraught with frustration, because, in general, the blocks aren't very well machined or have been painted after being machined, so the saw halves don't line up without fiddling and fitting. While this combination offers light-duty re-saw capability, the buyer has to be realistic. Heavy duty re-sawing requires more power than 3/4 or 1 HP motors deliver, especially for hardwoods or "pitchy" softwoods. Nevertheless, for occasional re-sawing, a slow feed rate and the right band can compensate somewhat. Notwithstanding my earlier comment on "bigger not necessarily being bigger", the motor is the exception to this rule. Get the highest HP you can on whatever saw you buy.

As an aside, re-sawing needs only a 1/2" 3 hook TPI band regardless of the saw. However, as well as more horsepower, larger bands also require more tension than small saws can deliver, so an aftermarket tensioning spring (inexpensive) is usually a good buy. Take any saw manufacturer's statements on their saws wide-band capacity with a grain of salt. I have a 3 HP 20" bandsaw - which weighs 600 pounds, btw - and I although I run 1" re-saw bands on it with no problems, a 1/2" band does the same re-saw job just as well.

Most "big" bandsaw offer about 12" under the guides. So will a 14" saw with riser block. A 1/2" band requires at least 15,000 psi of tension, so the saw must possess the necessary frame and spring strength to provide and manage it. Any saw that can accept a riser block will have a cast iron frame that will easily handle the tension but few are delivered with strong enough tension springs. As noted above, good, inexpensive, aftermarket replacements are readily available. The new generation of sheet metal cabinet bandsaw perform impressively when they are designed and fabricated properly. My impression is that the cabinet bandsaw market divides itself into 3 categories that are priced accordingly.

The bottom-end units have a single cabinet and should be avoided because they're simply not strong enough. (They do tend to have the most attractive paint jobs, however.) Better saws have a second frame sandwich-welded to the first, and the best have a third frame and/or a lateral box-beam to provide the necessary support. The number of layers is easy to see and count, but make sure to also check the quality of the welds, eg continuous is far better than intermittent. Overall fit and finish is probably a good indication of general build quality.

About 3500 fpm is a bandsaw's optimal cutting speed. Some saws offer a couple of speeds, but I suspect that's a rarely-used feature, because changing the belt over is a nuisance, and the slower speed doesn't make enough difference on hardwoods, and isn't slow enough for other than very light metalwork.

Opt for cast iron wheels over alloy wheels. The momentum their mass generates smoothes everything out and helps compensate for less than optimal power.

Big, strong, cast iron trunnions are far better than the flimsy pot metal on many if not most of the smaller saws. (Very difficult to find on 14" models.) The table is always going to be grabbed when moving the saw and the pot metal trunnions are prone to cracking. Believe me.

Blade guides are a matter of preference: Cool Blocks are good, bearings - in my opinion - are better, European flat bearings are possibly better still, and while ceramics might ultimately prove to be best, the jury's still out on them. No less important is the material that carries the guides and their adjustment methods. Guide rigidity when locked in position is a major contributor to good - or poor - performance. Just as with the trunnions, cast or steel guide holders are much/much better than pot metal; hex key machine screws are better than little thumb screws even if they might seem less convenient at first consideration, and are far more convenient than hex head bolts. (I use a rare earth magnet to keep the key right on the saw.)

Look for high quality, easy to grasp metal handles, knobs, and catches versus plastic. Not only are they nicer to use, they don't break.

The upper and lower doors should be hinged and operate independently of each other.

A dust port, foot brake, and wheel brush are all handy accessories and easier and cheaper to have as part of the OEM package.

Another useful feature is a hand-crank to adjust the height of the guides, especially if they are heavy. (Mine are very heavy, but were adjusted by manually lifting the guide post. It didn't take long for that aggravation to spur me into making an effective, inexpensive modification to provide for a crank. See the separate article for this modification.

Finally, the table should have a mitre slot designed to accept North American standard gauges, i.e. 3/4" wide by 3/8" deep. Some saws come with a fence some do not. The same criteria apply as for a table saw, i.e. the fence must

move easily and lock securely, offer at least modest adjustment for alignment to the band, and be removable easily. The higher and longer the fence the better.

Unfortunately, no one saw will meet every one of these criteria, but the one you want to buy should meet most.

Cleaning Oilstones

By Todd O. Cronkhite

I have a mini crab pot that measures 8½" across and 5¼" deep. I put some old but clean socks in the bottom of the pit, then added a slightly grimy 6"x2"x1" dark brown stone with perhaps a tablespoon of Dawn dish soap. I let it boil for 15 minutes, took it out of the water, gave it a quick wipe down with another clean rag, and then buried it some hot kitty litter that I had heated in another pan while I was boiling the stone (the kitty litter lengthens the cool-down time for the stone and prevents cracking). The boiling alone cleaned off a lot of the grime and exposed the stone's true color, a sort of light brown. On a scale of 1–10 I'd give the Dawn dish soap a 6. The socks didn't do much because they got out from under the stone and floated to the top as soon as the water started boiling.

For the second stone—also a 6x2x1—I used a ¼ cup of Surf laundry powder. On the box it says “sparkling ocean”, and “with active oxygen.” Into the pot I stuffed a red shirt that my daughter had recently donated to my rag collection. This rag completely surrounded the stone except for the top. The stone I chose this time was black, black, black. When the water started boiling I noticed that it was red, but let it go anyhow. After 15 minutes out it came and it was white!! From black to white!, I couldn't believe it, I was just shocked to see it was really a white stone. Again into the hot kitty litter for a slow cool down. No trace of the red dye was on the stone, but I'll make sure not to use a dyed shirt again. I'll use white or gray T-shirts. I'd give the Surf a 9, on a scale of 1–10.

To heat the kitty litter, I filled a shallow lidded pot and put a low flame under it. I don't know what temp it was, but it was too hot to hold in your hand for more than a second. However, it wasn't smoking.

Hope this helps other to re-claim some old stones.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

Shopsmith DC 3300 Dust collector - 330 CFM - \$200
 Shopsmith 12" Pro Planer on stand with casters - \$300
 Incra Miter3000SE miter gauge - new in box - \$200

Call Harvey Brooks **920-0636 or 857-1252**

Delta Benchtop heavy duty 14" Drill press 5/8" chuck \$240

Call Chico @ **858-4588**

Full set of Fine Woodworking Magazines from the first issue to the present.

Call Bob Young, **477-6601 or docbob1@shaw.ca**

Rockler router table plate to suit Porter-Cable 690 base.

FREE but you pay postage.

Contact Tim Rowledge, **tim@rowledge.org**

SPACE WANTED

Will loan the following power tools in exchange for space and sporadic use for a period of three years.

Table saw (General w/ Biesemeyer fence) 220volt
 Band saw (16" Delta wheels 12" throat) 1hp
 Drill press (Delta)
 Radial Arm saw
 Chop saw delta 12"
 Jointer (4" Craftsman)
 Bench (2 woodworking w/vices)
 Bench (1 metalworking w/vice)
 Dust collector (oil barrel type)

Contact

Derk Wolmuth @ **derkwolmuth@yahoo.ca**

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 Columbia Fire & Safety LTD. (10% off Card Required!)
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 PJ White Hardwoods LTD.
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 Richelieu Panel Products
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STUDENT LIASON REPS :

Belmont High - Brad Tikk 391-1992

Please use e-mail for your classified submissions. If you must phone to submit your ad, please do so after 8:00 pm any day of the week. Cut-off time is **FIRST MONDAY of EACH MONTH.**