



Redwood Intermediate School 233 W. Gainesboro Rd. Thousand Oaks, CA
P.O. Box 1838, Thousand Oaks, CA 91358-0838

THE BLADERUNNER

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NOVEMBER 2001

Number 65

OCTOBER

MEETING The Auction

This year's auction was the best on record with over 100 items sold. Our sincere appreciation goes to Brad Ormsby, our past president and auctioneer extraordinaire. Thanks also to those who organized the event and took care of getting the refreshments, tagging the items and keeping track of all the bidders and goods. The high-ticket item was a new Bosch router for \$140.00; low-ticket best buy was two boxes of "stuff" for \$10, which included parts for a half-dozen hand planes. Best non-tool buy was a \$400 ten-speed bike for \$26. Most personal item was a \$300 dentist's teeth-whitening certificate that went for \$45. Most pounds per dollar item was a 130 lb table saw for \$5.

The white elephant award goes to the wrought iron, dual-purpose cassette rack and 7-roll toilet paper holder. Thanks go to all members who donated items and brought snacks for the potluck. Let's not forget the merchant donors, including hardware and home improvement stores, and our wood suppliers. They provided many of the power tools and gift certificates.



OCTOBER **NEW MEMBERS** **Brad Eden** reports that **Tom Recon** and **Gary Zieger** joined the club in October. A hearty welcome to you both and to **Felix Masci**, who renewed his membership.

OCTOBER **WORKSHOP** **John Knittle** and **Bob Fahrnbruch** met at **Bob Coyles'** house on two very, very hot days to work on the toy helicopters. They both put in long hours cutting and sanding.

NOVEMBER **MEETING** The November meeting will be held on Thursday, November 1, 2001 in the Cafetorium of the Redwood Intermediate School at 7:00 PM. Please come at 6:30 to help us prepare the space.

NOVEMBER **PROGRAM** **Robert Coyle** and **Guy Buchwitz** will discuss dust collection at the meeting. There are many approaches to dust collection and the complexity of a home system depends on the individual's needs and the depth of his wallet. Many of us are content (or frustrated, as the case may be) with using a shop-vac as a collector, but for a low volume generator of sawdust, this may be an adequate approach. For generators of higher volumes more complex systems may need to be installed. Bob and Guy will take a look at a number of scenarios and propose solutions for them. Both of these men are experienced woodworkers and have taken different approaches to the sawdust problem. We anticipate a good discussion with a lot of information for everyone.

NOVEMBER **TRIP** **Guy Buchwitz** is hosting a trip to his shop on the 3rd of November. You will have the opportunity to examine first hand the dust collection system he has designed and to determine how his approach can be applied to your shop. Seating is limited and maps will be available to the participants at the meeting.

NOVEMBER **RAFFLE** The prizes for November are a Jorgenson miter saw, a Ryobi 6" bench grinder with light and a Skil orbital jig saw.

DECEMBER **PROGRAM** The formal program will be dispensed with this month. December 6th is the day to bring in all of your toys for the Christmas projects, to drink, eat and socialize. We strongly urge the members to bring in one of your own, personal, home projects you have worked on this year. Show off your talents to the other members.

DECEMBER

RAFFLE Black and Decker 20 piece drill set and other

Christmas surprises.

DECEMBER

TRIP There will be no trip in December.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, THANKS AND OTHER STUFF

SANTA'S WORKSHOP The following toy workshops have been scheduled:

November 3rd, 10th, 17th & Dec 8th at 9:00 AM. Meet at **Greg & Eileen Charles'** residence to make toy trucks, band saw boxes, & magic wands.

To volunteer for any of these workshops please call Greg Charles at 805-499-4890. He needs all skill levels. Come join the fun and learn something while you're at it.

Winter Party

The annual winter solstice party will be held at Stephen Case-Pall's house on December 1, 2001. Please plan on arriving at 1:00 P.M. loaded with food. The Board has decided to make this a true potluck and not make any assignments for salads, entrees or desserts. Stephen will be providing and pouring drinks from his helmets. In addition don't bring any beverages, or plates, or napkins, or utensils or chips.

Thanks

The editor thanks Marshall Nathanson for his coverage of the auction.

If any of the membership wishes to contribute an article to the newsletter, we will be glad to publish it.

Resource of the Month

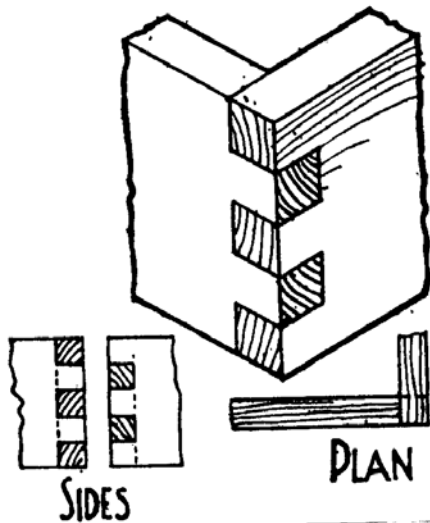
This month's resource, Innovation Specialties, Inc., carries electronic clocks - fit-ups and back mounted units. The fit-ups range from 1 7/16" to 3 1/4". Separate clock dials, both square and round, range to 4" to 9" and come in a wide variety of styles. Quartz movements are normal, with and without chimes and alarms. A number of radio-controlled units, the atomic clock, are also available as well as hands, numbers and dots.

Innovation Specialties, Inc
11869 Teale St.
Culver City, CA 90230
800-421-4445
<http://www.clockparts.com>



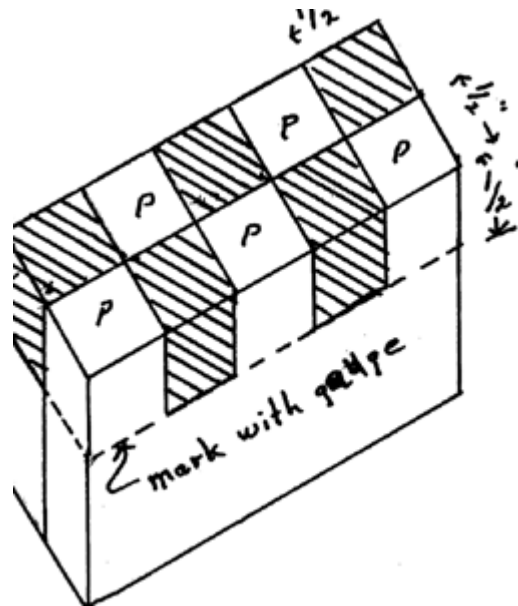
CUTTING BOX JOINTS BY HAND

Finger joints have been around for a long time and have found their place in woodworking in the making of boxes – from tiny ring boxes to blanket chests. In modern terminology, the fingers of the joint are referred to as pins and the notches between the pins as sockets.



In the dark ages (before the advent of power tools) the rule of thumb was that the pins should be the same size as the stock – with the admonition, that while it was less work, wider pins would weaken the joint. With the advent of power tools, pins $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$ the size of the stock are more the rule. The accepted way of making the joint is with an uneven number of pins, 3,5,7...on one board. While not mandatory, this arrangement gives the piece a more finished look. If you have a $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide board, using the traditional standard, the pin width and depth will each be $\frac{1}{2}$ ". A marking gauge set at the board width can be used to mark the depth of the cut and a pair of dividers set to the width of the board, can be used to mark off the width of the cuts. Clamping the

boards together will facilitate marking the pin widths. It is essential, at this point, to mark the location of the pins and sockets prior to cutting. If the box is being book matched, extra care needs to be taken to assure that the boards are in the correct order.



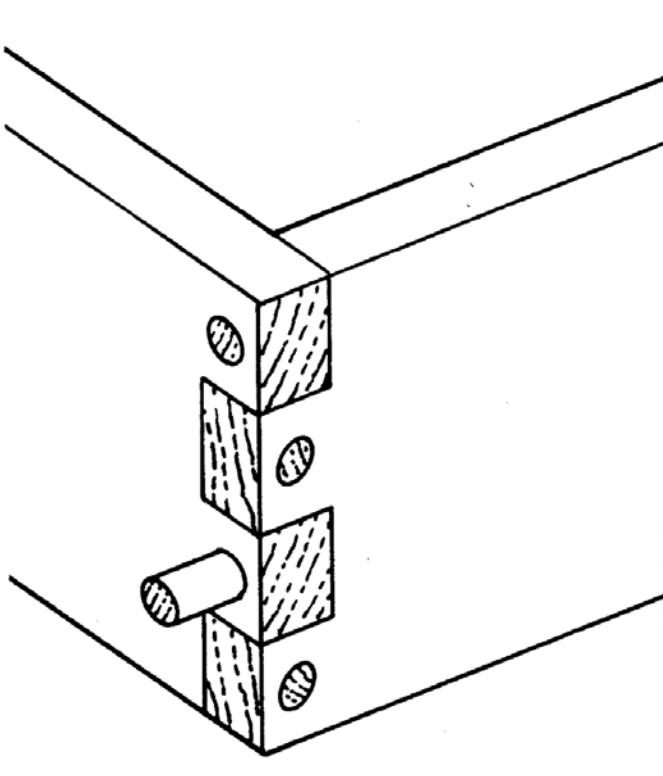
Another way of laying out the pins on the board is to:

1. Determine the number of pins (3); the number of cuts to be made is 4.
2. Lay a ruler with one edge at the corner of the joint. Set the 5" mark on the long edge of the board. Mark off the 1", 2", 3" and 4" marks on the line.
3. Using a square, extend the lines to the edge of the board. Your pins are laid out.

When cutting the joints, saw on the socket side of the line and stop the cut just before the bottom. Clean out the bottom of the socket with a chisel. (If you like, a series of "butcher" cuts may be made through the socket to facilitate the removal of the wood.) The width of the socket can then be finished off with a chisel. Remember that your saw will leave a kerf and if you cut on the line, you will have removed too much material and the joint will be loose.

The finger joint lacks the mechanical locking of a dovetail, and it gets its strength solely from the glue. Obviously, the glue has to be evenly spread on all interlocking surfaces. Since the outside of the box will be sanded, there is no need to worry about glue overflow.

Once the joint is assembled, it may be finished in a number of ways. If a stronger joint is required, dowels may be set into the ends of the pins. Contrasting wood makes this a nice decorative element. If the notches are cut deeper than the wood stock, the protruding pins can be chamfered, again making a nice decorative element. Running the edge through a curved router bit gives the piece a soft, smooth, rounded corner.



With the advent of power tools, cutting box joints by hand has become an extinct process. Many people use a table saw to cut out the joints. Jigs are available that make cutting out the joints with a router child's play. With the table saw, safety equipment has to be disabled; routers can be heavy and can get away from the operator. We caution you to be careful.

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