

WOOD CHIPS



Northwest Indiana Woodworkers Association

Volume 25, Issue 11 November 2020

President's Ramblings

Greetings Fellow Woodworkers, First things first, Happy Veterans Day, Thank You to all that served so we can enjoy our freedoms.

Remember our **November** meeting will be on the **19th**, at the regular time (7:00 PM) one week earlier than normal.

I hope everyone enjoyed the Oktoberfest meeting. I hope all of you are well and practicing good shop safety. I was absent from the October meeting, spending some quality time with our children's families. I was able to sneak in one last class at Marc Adams School this last two weeks before they close this season. A Christmas present to myself! What a great time I am having. Yes, Covid is a concern but we are using plenty of hand sanitizer, face masks and we have sanitizer at our club meetings.

At the October meeting we held the nominations for the 2021 officers.

The nominees are as follows:

PRESIDENT – KEVIN STURGEON

VICE PRESIDENT – JON ROBBINS

TREASURER – RON BENSON

SECRETARY - JOHN HUNTER

Additional nominations will be held prior to the election at the November 19th meeting. The club is also in need to some committee chairpersons:

Message from Santa: This meeting we will be distributing the Toys For Kids. If you listed a charitable organization, it will be your responsibility to get the items delivered to your organization(s). Please invite a representative from the organization that you

submitted, to the club meeting, we would like to hear from them how this program has helped. Have any spare boxes? Please bring some to help package these toys for delivery.

Our **EDUCATIONAL RAFFLE DRAWING** is at the November meeting. Bring in your ticket stubs. We still have tickets if you want to make any last minute ticket purchases. This money will help our club provide for our Needy Kids Toy Program this year at Christmas as well as educational programs in the future. Thanks to all for helping make our raffle a success.

The Christmas Party is coming up on December 17th, 2020 (a week before our normal meeting and an hour earlier than our normal meeting) at **6 PM** and we will have a sign-up sheet for our members and guests. The dinner will be buffet style with the club providing the meat and drinks. Members are asked to bring a dish to share. We always have a wonderful selection of foods.

We need your HELP! For some handmade gifts for our ladies. Please bring a wrapped gift or two for the ladies that support us and participate in our craft. We will have a sign up sheet so we will know how many gifts are coming. It would be nice to see something other than pens.

Enjoy this weather and Don't let your tools rust!

Your President, Kevin Sturgeon

SHOW AND TELL



John Hunter



Bill Schoech



Steve Bennett



Sign made for Moose Lodge by Jeff Snellgrove

PROGRAM



Our program was presented by Marcia Yrineo on wood carving.

ITEMS FOR SALE

If you have any wood working related items that you wish to sell through the newsletter please contact John Hunter john.b.hunter@frontier.com Include a description and the price you are selling them for, also how you may be contacted.

If you are looking for a tool that another member would like to sell you can place a wanted ad in the newsletter, just contact John Hunter at john.b.hunter@frontier.com

2020

November 11th Committees Meeting at 143 South Hobart Road, Portage 7:00 PM

November 19th Membership Meeting at 143 South Hobart Road, Hobart IN 7:00

PM Toy Program

December 9th Committees Meeting at 143 South Hobart Road, Portage 7:00 PM
December 17th Membership Meeting at 143 South Hobart Road, Hobart IN 6:00
PM Christmas Party, Installation and Awards

Bob Flexner's Finishing Tips

<http://www.thefinishingstore.com/>

TIP: Stain gets wood too dark

There are two broad categories of stain: dye that is dissolved in a liquid, and dye and/or pigment combined with a binder. The first are usually called “dye” stains and are sold either as powders for you to do the dissolving, or are already dissolved in a liquid solvent. The second are often called “wiping stains,” “pigment stains,” “oil stains,” “water-based stains” or “lacquer stains” and are the common stains you buy in cans at home centers and paint stores.

If a dye stain gets the wood too dark, try removing some of the dye by wiping with its solvent. The powder dyes labeled Lockwood and Moser (which are the same) are easier to lighten than the liquid dyes labeled “NGR” (non-grain-raising) or Transtint (which are also the same; Transtint is just concentrated).

If a pigment or wiping stain (those that contain a varnish, lacquer or water-based binder) gets the wood too dark, try removing some of the color by wiping with the thinner for the stain or with lacquer thinner or acetone. These stains are much more difficult to lighten than dye stains.

In both cases, you can also scrub the surface with steel wool or a synthetic abrasive pad together with the solvent or thinner for the stain to remove more color. Try to keep the scrubbing even over the surface so you maintain a roughly even color overall.

With dye stains, you can usually bleach out most of the color using household bleach or swimming-pool bleach. It won't be possible to remove all the color, however, without many applications, sanding between each.

TIP: Dealing with Bubbles in a Finish

Bubbles in a finish are more likely from brushing than from spraying, though it's possible to get bubbles in a sprayed finish if you have the air pressure turned up real high. Bubbles are caused by the turbulence created by the brush gliding over the surface much more than from shaking or stirring the finish. The problem is worse if your shop is hot or if the finish and wood are at different temperatures.



Because some formulations bubble less than others, especially with varnishes and water-based finishes, you can also switch to another brand, which may reduce the problem. To remove bubbles that have dried in the finish, sand them out and apply another coat. It's difficult to avoid bubbles if you're brushing, but you can keep them from drying in the finish. Lightly brush back over the finish to break the bubbles (called "tipping off"), or slow the drying of the finish so the bubbles have more time to pop out on their own before the finish skins over. Do this by adding thinner or a retarder or flow additive. Use mineral spirits (paint thinner) in oil-based varnish and polyurethane. Use a retarder for lacquer, and use a flow additive for water-based finish.

TIP: Make Cherry Look Old

One of the great unknowns commonly pursued by woodworkers is how to make new cherry look old without any blotching. Here's a discussion.

The rust-red coloring in old cherry develops over many decades from oxidation accelerated by UV light—and possibly also by an original application of linseed oil that has darkened. You can get part way to this coloring by exposing cherry to sunlight, but only part way. You can also get part way by applying boiled linseed oil, and the wood will darken more as it ages.

But to get all the way, you have to use a dye stain or chemical such as lye, and these colorants cause much more blotching than linseed oil or any other clear finish. Moreover, the dyed cherry will continue to darken, probably leaving you with a color darker than you wanted.



So you have a choice. You can give new cherry the coloring of old cherry, but you may have to live with blotching—depending on the specific boards you’re using. Or you can color cherry and avoid much of the blotching by using any combination of UV light, linseed oil, washcoat and stain, toner or glaze. But the cherry won’t have both the color and vibrancy of old cherry. You may have noticed that factory-finished cherry furniture is darker than old cherry and also not as vibrant. Factories avoid the blotching problem by using toners and glazes to create the coloring in the finish rather than in the wood and this muddies the appearance of the wood. If there were a way to recreate the color of old cherry without blotching, you can be sure factories would use it because of the beauty and popularity of this wood.

Or you can let the cherry age naturally.

How To Handle a Scraper

There's really no single way to use a scraper. But, a few pointers will help you get better results.

A Slight Bow. Using a scraper is a two-handed job. The main reason for this is that the flexible scraper works best when forced into a slight bow (lower right drawing). This bowed shape concentrates the scraping action over a smaller area and reduces the effort involved. It also keeps the corners of the scraper from gouging the wood.

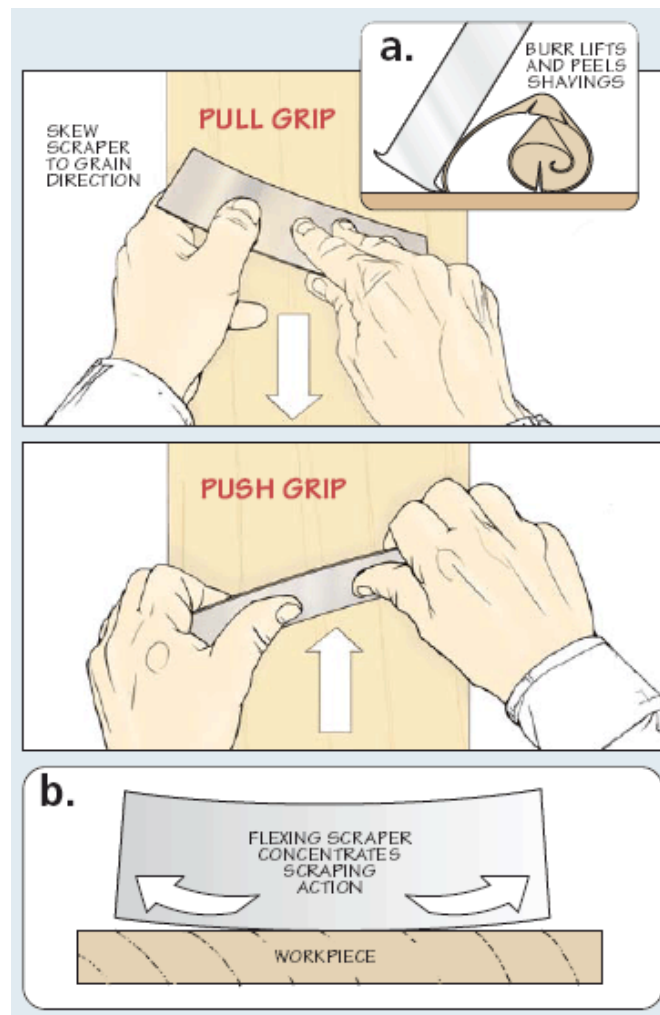
Push or Pull. Some woodworkers like to "crown" the blade away from their bodies and push it across the wood (middle drawing). Others, myself included, find it easier to pull the scraper (top drawing). This method makes bending the scraper a bit more work, but for me, it's easier to see and control the cut.

Two Angles. When you draw a scraper across a workpiece, there are a couple angles to think about. The first is the pitch or cutting angle of the blade (detail 'a' at right). The

second is the angle of the long scraper edge in relation to the grain direction. The good news here is that neither angle is critical.

The cutting angle is usually somewhere between 45° to 60° to vertical. But basically, it's whatever angle seems to work best. The burr you form isn't always going to be the same size and shape. So basically, it's just a matter of feel. Fine shavings let you know it's right.

As the drawing shows, the scraper blade is held slightly skewed to the grain direction. This way, the scraper is more likely to hit the high spots and skip over the low spots. To avoid creating ridges, I alternate angling the blade from one side to the other.



You'll find that the learning curve for success with a scraper is a pretty small hill to climb. And it's definitely worth the effort.

Good woodworking,

Phil Huber
Editor, *ShopNotes*