

WOOD CHIPS



Northwest Indiana Woodworkers Association
Volume 19, Issue 9 September 2015

President's Ramblings

Greetings Fellow Woodworkers, here it is mid-September and what a great time I had this past month. Our Annual Club Picnic was great, couldn't ask for better weather. Thank you Fred for your expertise in grilling, the chicken was so moist and tender, the burgers were great, and we had so much food. We had a great turn out of members and plenty of White Elephant gifts for the ladies that attended. Thank You to everyone that participated to make this event a great success.



Eric Pinter

Field Trip to Johnson's Workbench in Charlotte, MI. was this past weekend. We had a few members take the drive up. I talked with Eric Pinter from the Home Shop, he still remembered us from the last time he was here to do the Shaker Box class at Lou Takes's home. Eric is willing to come back and have another class if we have enough interest. He suggested we hold the class at the American Legion Post. I would like to make another set of boxes, that was a great skills builder. One of my highlights of the trip was to talk to and see Scott Phillips of the American Woodshop. My wife, Julie, took interest in Kathy Wise and her Intarsia seminar. Kathy specializes in 3D effect in her work, just fantastic.

Upcoming Field Trip, EXPERT WOODWORKERS, Elmer Phelps in Lake Village will be demonstrating his sawmill on the Saturday the 26th starting at Noon.

In November, Artistry in Wood Hosted by Dayton Carvers Guild on the 14th and 15th.

Programs, this month's program is Bob Stark of Stark Furniture in Merrillville. Talking about Finishing.

October program is Josh Magner from Hobart Fire department to discuss shop safety.

Reminder to all Elves, Santa is in need of some good old fashioned handmade wooden toys to give out to needy children! November is just around the corner and we need to make a list of what you can commit to make and a list of charitable, needy organizations we can donate to.

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

Your President

Kevin Sturgeon

From The Vice President Mike Clark

Johnson's Workbench just had a show in Charlotte, MI. Johnson's Workbench in South Bend will have their woodworking show October 2- 3:

<http://theworkbench.com/showcase.php>

Field Trip!

Jeff Snellgrove our Program Chairman has arranged for a field trip to Expert Woodworkers, Elmer Phelps Shop and Saw Mill in Lake Village Indiana on Saturday September 26th at 12 Noon. Here is Elmer's reply to his email:

“That date will be fine....I just want to say I am NOT responsible for any accidents....but I don't expect any. No smoking in shop. If the guys want to bring their own bottles of water, pop, etc....that's fine. I will TRY to straighten the place up a little- the address is 9126 N 200 E, Lake Village, IN 46349. I'm about 7/8 of a mile off Rt. 10....in between I-65 and Rt. 41. If you need further directions...let me know...phone # 219-345-2705. Any further questions...let me know. Thanks, Elmer”

We can make plans to drive down together at the monthly club meeting on Thursday the 24th. Here is a link to a Google Map showing where it is at:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/9126+N+200+E,+Lake+Village,+IN+46349/@41.131966,-87.354269,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m2!3m1!1s0x88121b1dafa37e55:0x53ee7ddc56dee9c6>

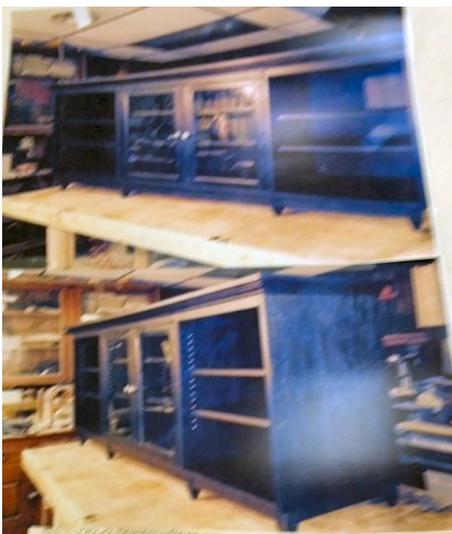
SHOW AND TELL



Kevin Sturgeon



Fred Bogwill



Jeff Snellgrove



Bill Schoech



Phil Malavolta



John Hunter

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2015

September 24th Membership Meeting at 208 South Linda Street, Hobart IN 7:00 PM

Program: Finishing with Bob Stark

September 26th Field Trip to Expert Woodworkers

October 5th Executive Board Meeting at 7 PM at 2949 Willowcreek Rd, Portage

October 20th Committees Meeting at 2949 Willowcreek Rd, Portage 7:00 PM

October 22nd Membership Meeting at 208 South Linda Street, Hobart IN 7:00 PM

November 17th Committees Meeting at 7:00 PM

November 19th Membership Meeting at 208 South Linda Street, Hobart IN 7:00 PM Toy
Program
December 15th Committees Meeting at 2949 Willowcreek Rd, Portage 7:00 PM
December 17th Membership Meeting at 208 South Linda Street, Hobart IN 6:00 PM
Christmas Party, Installation and Awards

Bob Flexner's Finishing Tips

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

This is Not Rocket Science

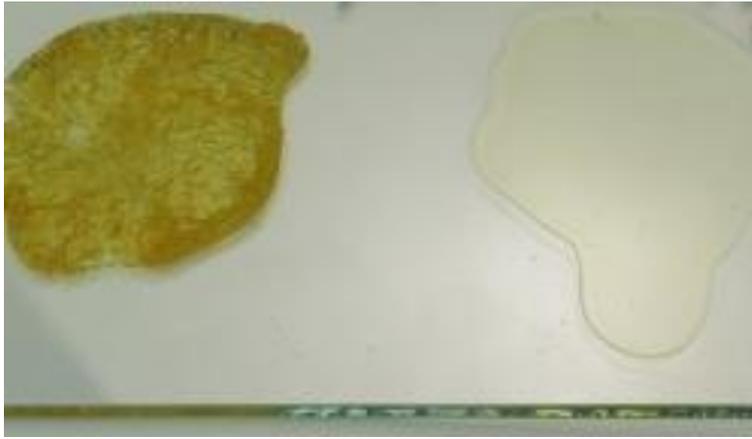
Back in the 1970s and 80s, it was common to see explanations of the difference between Danish oil and wiping varnish described as that between oil and resin-fortified oil.

I couldn't make sense of this explanation because the term "resin" is so vague. It commonly refers to fossilized tree saps such as rosin, copal and amber, and sometimes to synthetic alkyd and polyurethane. So, is one of these resins just added to the oil to "fortify" it, or is something else done?

A further confusion is that linseed oil and tung oil are, themselves, sometimes classified as resins. So, is wiping varnish oil fortified with more oil? Doesn't make sense.

In 1990, I added some clarity to the issue in an article I wrote for Woodwork magazine. Danish oil is simply a mixture of linseed oil and alkyd or polyurethane varnish. That is, you take a can of boiled linseed oil and add some of it to a can of polyurethane and you have Danish oil.

The mixture dries very similar to boiled linseed oil alone—that is, soft, wrinkled and sticky if all the excess isn't wiped off after each coat. But several coats are a little glossier and slightly more water resistant than linseed oil alone because of the polyurethane component.



Danish Oil & Wiping Varnish Dried on Glass

In significant contrast, wiping varnish, which is often mislabeled “oil” or “tung oil,” is simply alkyd or polyurethane varnish thinned about half with mineral spirits (paint thinner). That is, you take a regular can of varnish or polyurethane that you buy at the store and add some paint thinner to it.

There is no oil involved except in the making of the original varnish. But that oil is chemically reacted with the alkyd or polyurethane “resin” to make the varnish. It is no longer oil, anymore than yeast is still yeast after it has been reacted with flour to make bread.

Just as unthinned alkyd and polyurethane varnish dry hard, so does the thinned varnish. Because it dries hard, you can build it up to a thicker, more protective, film on the wood with numerous coats. You don’t have to wipe off the excess to get a functional result.

The difference in the way Danish oil and wiping varnish dry is well illustrated in the photo of two dried puddles on glass.

Over the last two decades, seemingly everyone writing in woodworking books and magazines has adopted this explanation of Danish oil and wiping varnish. Even the term, “wiping varnish,” which I coined to categorize the thinned varnishes, has become part of the finishing vocabulary (though most manufacturers have continued with their confusing and sometimes misleading labeling).

I have felt very gratified at having been able to contribute to a better understanding of these two very popular finishes.

So imagine my sadness the other day when I read in a prominent woodworking magazine that the difference between Danish oil and wiping varnish is the

percentage of “resin” included. According to this author, if more than 35%, it’s wiping varnish. If less, it’s Danish oil. (Try to find that information on the label!)

After two decades, here we are back at the beginning, with an explanation that makes no sense. There’s no need for this. Finishes aren’t rocket science.

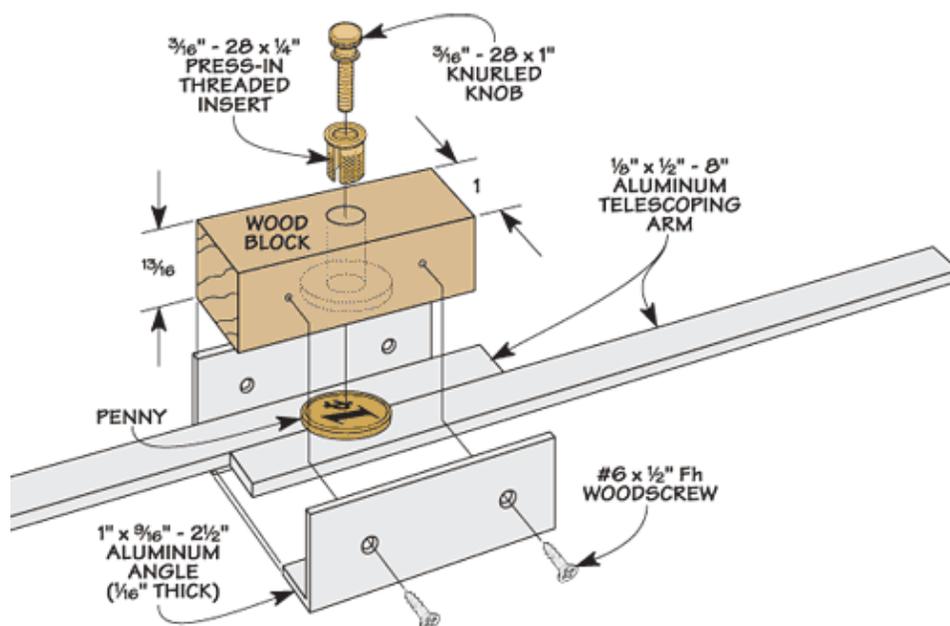
Telescoping Drawer Gauge

Measuring the width for a drawer bottom can be a challenge. I usually measure several times just to make sure I get it right.

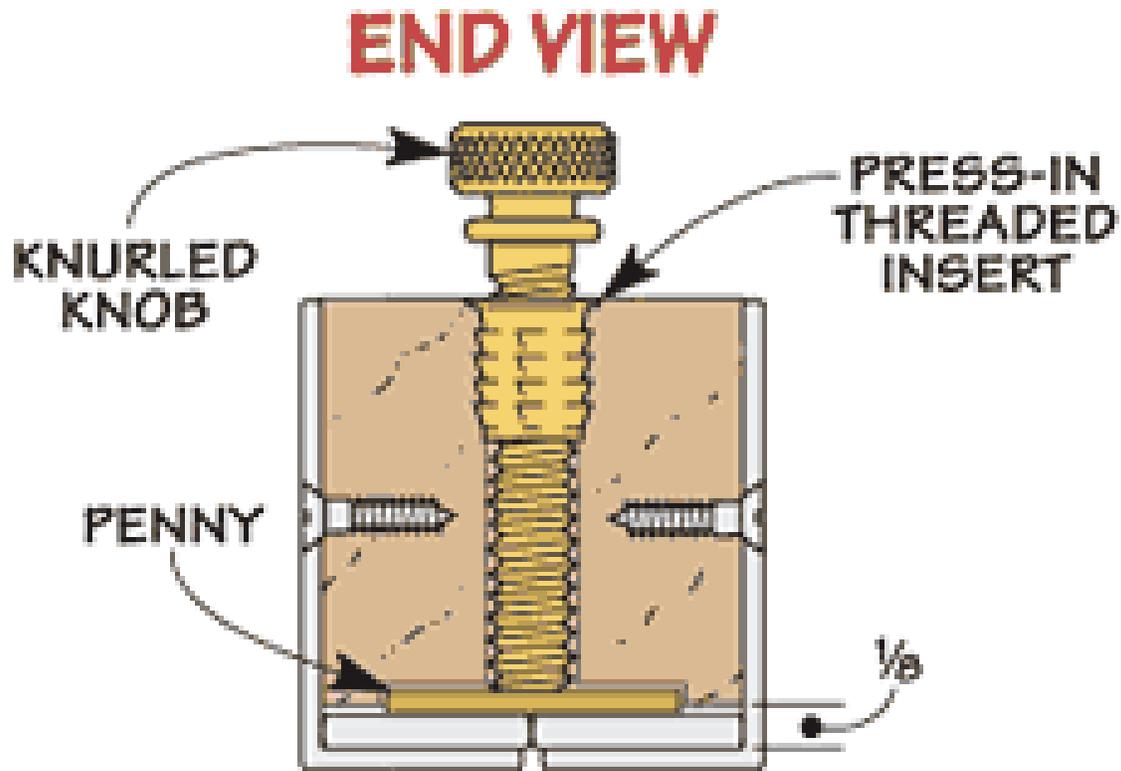
Then I made the simple drawer gauge shown in the photo below. Now, I don’t have to worry about the “numbers.” The gauge always shows me the exact distance.



It’s made from two pieces of aluminum angle joined together by a small wood block (see end view below right). The telescoping arms are two pieces of flat aluminum bar stock set side by side. A knurled knob, pressed-in threaded insert, and a penny sets and adjusts the arms.



It's easy to use the gauge to set up your table saw for the cut. Just slide the arms until each one touches the bottom of the groove in the drawer sides. Then tighten the knob to secure the arms.



Next place the end of one arm against the blade and the other arm against your rip fence. Lock the fence in position and make the cut.

Good Woodworking,

Phil Huber
Online Editor, *ShopNotes*