

Next Meeting:

- Tuesday, Mar. 16th

When Last We Met

by Gordon Bednard

Phil glanced nervously around the room at the sea of anxious faces assembled for the February 2004 meeting of the Pacific Woodworkers Guild. His unease was well founded. Here it was, 7:15 on a cool and rainy night, and the much anticipated guest speaker had not yet appeared. Dread and foreboding filled the room as the members checked their watches and slowly shook their heads – would this be another no-show? Had circumstances again contrived to thwart the Guild in its pursuit of entertainment and higher learning?

Suddenly the door flew open and in walked a face (with the body following shortly thereafter) familiar to many of the old time members of the guild. The guest speaker had arrived.

Seizing this opportunity, Phil quickly put his



Judson Beaumont

foot down and the meeting was underway with introductions of guests including:

- **Ron Moss** - a retired friend of member **Bob Vergette**, who saw our booth at the October wood show and decided to join us for an evening. He considers himself an intermediate woodworker and he is interested in furniture making.
- **Bill Flowers** - a friend of member **David Adshead**, lives in Richmond “about 400 yards” from Bill’s shop. He too decided that since all the noise was keeping him up anyway, he might as well join the party.

Following introductions, and without further ado, **Phil Laliberte** introduced our guest speaker for the evening – **Judson Beaumont** – founder and owner of Straight Line Designs, which, as the members soon found out, was about as contrary a description of his work as could be imagined. There followed a slide show and narrative by Judson, which chronicled the history of his involvement in woodworking and showcased some of his designs, which, let me tell you, almost completely defy written or verbal description. I should know, I tried to describe some of the items to my wife on returning from the meeting, and only when I showed her the postcard of the dresser Judson had handed out did she understand what I was attempting to describe. Actually, she didn’t really understand, but she gave me that same smile that I get during my woodworking ramblings, and sent me to bed with the old “hmm, interesting”.

Here, follows my notes, taken hastily during the Q&A which followed the slide show. I

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Please direct
newsletter
submissions to the
newsletter editor,

The Pacific Woodworkers Guild is a non-profit association of British Columbia Craftspeople dedicated to excellence in woodworking. Guild members meet on the third Tuesday of each month (except July and August) in Richmond, B.C.

The newsletter is published monthly, ten times per year, and distributed free to members and associate members. Membership is available to anyone interested in any form of fine woodworking. Membership fees are \$25 for twelve months; Associate membership fees (newsletter only) are \$15 for ten issues.

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Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Pacific Woodworkers Guild will be held on Tuesday, March 16th starting at 7:15pm. Pre-meeting demo at 6:30.

Guest Speaker—Ross Garner who will speak on inlay and marquetry.

President's Challenge—Something for the garden.



When Last We Met (con't)

(Continued from page 1)

would have taken notes during the show but wouldn't you know it, I had left my night vision goggles and my glow in the dark Batman pen at home.

Judson works with every type of material from MDF (he recommends you use the good stuff only), laminate, Corian, foam, metal and yes, real wood. There are few if any straight lines in his work and the only thing I can suggest is that you visit his website at www.straightlinedesigns.com to see what I mean.

Judson started out as an art school drop-in at the suggestion of his father. The influence of the school shows in his work. Its not just furniture, its more like functional art. And indeed, Judson insists that all the drawers slide and the doors swing open, although they likely don't move the way you might expect. Much of Judson's inspiration appears to have come from cartoons, especially Bugs Bunny and Roger Rabbit. These influences show in the way his designs lean, bend and flair in seemingly comic fashion. (And the giant carrot chest of drawers was a dead give-away.)

Much of his early work involved designing and building bedroom furniture for children whose parents wanted something different for their tykes. Judson would work with the parents, but as he stressed, he would also play with and talk to the children to find out what they were interested in. He moved on from there to designing reception areas in hospitals, airports, galleries and private homes. He works mostly on commissions of which he gets 80% from the USA and 20% from Canada. Judson works out of a 3500 square foot studio at 1000 Parker St in Vancouver. He has 5 employees at present, but has had up to 17 on occasion for special projects.

Judson gave us an altogether inspiring and entertaining presentation which kept the members rapt attention for well over an hour. As a token of our appreciation, he was presented with a turned pen set from the Guild. Thank you, Judson.

Following a break at 9:00, we reconvened with the President's Challenge and Show and Tell. **Denis Reid** showed off several Valentines cutouts done with the scroll saw – each showed a silhouette of a rocker or chair. **Dave Pye** displayed a checker board, toy airplane, and small lidded box made from quilted maple, all finished with spray lacquer. He also asked us to take home some of the toy parts provided, assemble and store them ready for the toy workshops later this year. **John Weir** demonstrated a modification designed to turn a thickness planer into a thickness sander. Custom made end clamps hold the paper strip in place. See the article in elsewhere in this newsletter.

“Much of Judson’s inspiration appears to have come from cartoons, especially Bugs Bunny and Roger Rabbit”



Denis Reid



Converting A Thickness Planer Into A Sander

by John Weir

Choosing a Planer

The planer I used is sold by:

Busy Bee - model # B2437

KMS Tools - model King KC 426C

And is priced at about \$325.00

It is likely that this planer is sold under several brand names. I expect most 12-inch planers will be similar. The identifying features are 2 rollers on the case top. The sides (w/ plastic handles) pin into the base and screw to the top, which bolts to the 4 vertical posts, a very boxy looking case. There is no dust collector hood accessory for this model, but, the chip deflector hood could be modified to close it in and add a vacuum attachment.

"I recommend taking the time to make 4 new clamp bars rather than trying to cut the original clamp bars"

Decision

A) Permanent Conversion

When the sandpaper wraps around the drum there will be 2 flat stripes where the slots are. You need to have both ends of each slot for about 1-1/2 inches free for clamps, but, fill the balance of the slots with wood and round it over to the diameter of the drum. I suggest making a tapered piece to square up the slot and a rectangular piece to fill the slot snugly. Remove any oil in the slots with a solvent. Make the fillers the same size, shape & weight otherwise the drum will be out of balance.

B) Switchable between sander & planer

You will have to put up with 2 flat spots on the drum, I do not recommend making removable filler because, if the sandpaper tears, anything that is not securely fastened could come flying out and cause injury or worse.

Drum

The modification is quite simple. Remove the planer blades, clamp bars and springs. That leaves 2 tapered slots in the drum. You could cut 4 clamps, 1 from each end of the original blade tightening bars (you will need a spacer to take up the thickness of the blade less the thickness of the sandpaper - about 1/8"). You may want to make a filler for the rest of the 2 blade slots.

Clamps

I recommend taking the time to make 4 new clamp bars rather than trying to cut the original clamp bars and using shims to take up

the blade thickness. The more little pieces that are flying around at 8000 RPM the more chance of something coming loose, flying out and causing injury.

Someone had suggested using the original



Clamp Block

clamp bars as is. There are 3 problems that initially come to mind. While clamping the starting end of the sandpaper is possible, the clamp bar would be in the slot at an angle leaving the middle of the bar with questionable support. The sandpaper would not be clamped flat against the slot. The clamp bar at the trailing end of the sandpaper could only be held in by 1 clamp screw as the others would be under the sandpaper and not accessible to tighten. This is not a safe or practical idea.

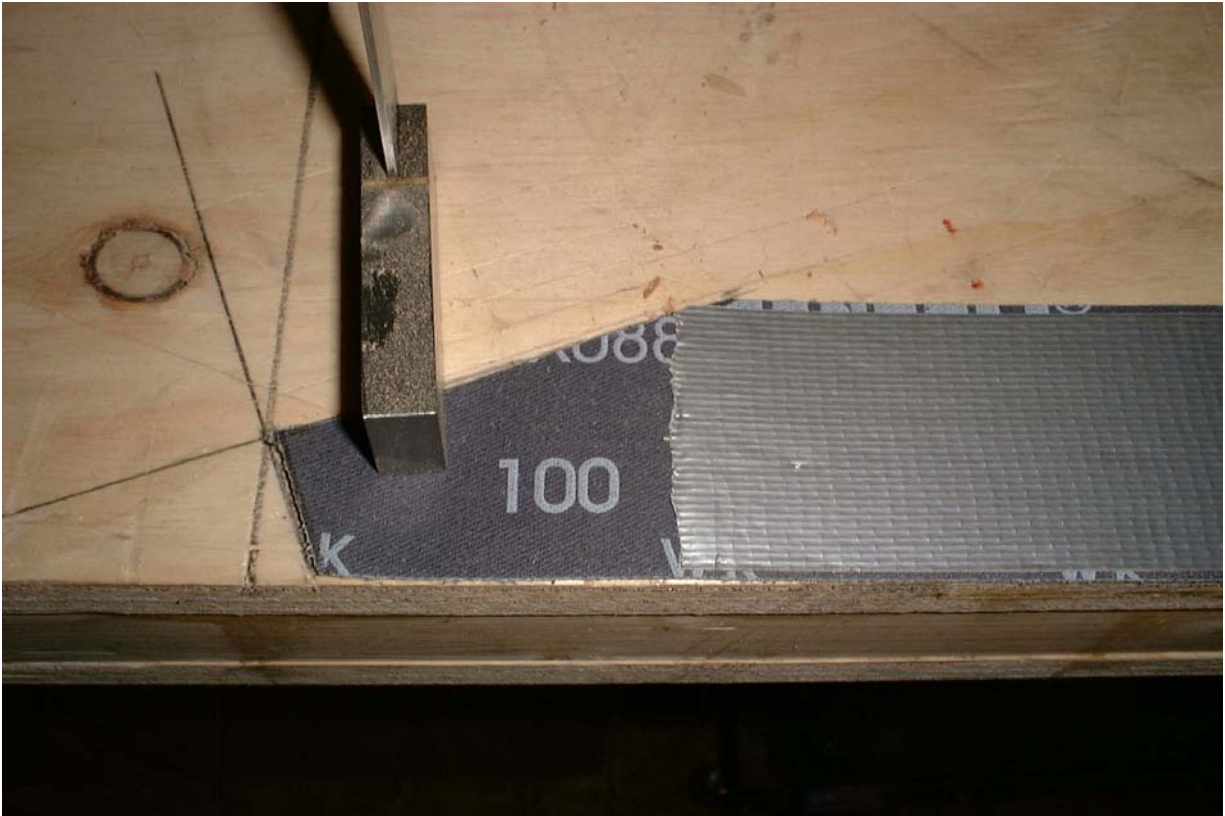
You could cut both ends off each of the clamp bars. They should be 1 to 1 1/4 inches long and the screw should be centered in the clamp. You will need a spacer to take up most of the thickness of the planer blade (about 1/8 inch). Use metal for the spacer (aluminum, brass or steel) not wood.

Instead of cutting the clamp bars and using spacers, I am making clamp blocks the right size. You will need 4 clamp blocks to be able to balance the drum. The taper in the slots is about 20°. Start with 4" to 6" of 1/2" key steel and grind or file to shape. Taper one side to 20° then shorten it to 7/16" high. Drill a 5mm hole and tap it to 6mm x 1.0mm pitch to use the clamp screws from the original planer clamp bar.

It is important that the clamps be the same size / shape / weight to keep the drum in balance.

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Converting A Thickness Planer To A Sander (con't)



Taper the leading end of the sandpaper about 20°



Start wrapping it over the clamp

Converting A Thickness Planer To A Sander (con't)

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Sandpaper

I am using 2" wide roll sandpaper (I am cutting a 4" roll in half) and the length is about 37 1/2". Taper the leading end of the sandpaper about 20° (leave it about 1" wide at the end) and clamp it in the left end of the blade slot (abrasive side away from the clamp). Start wrapping it over the clamp, round & round the drum to the other end, cut it long enough to reach the slot bottom plus about 1/2 inch. The diameter of the sandpaper on the drum needs to be increased a little. Remove the sandpaper from the drum and apply 3 layers of duct tape onto the back of the sandpaper. This seems to work for the 80 grit that I am using now. Finer sandpaper may need another layer. The reason for the duct tape is 2 fold: to increase the effective diameter to more closely approximate the diameter of the planer blades and also provide some cushioning for the sand paper. Replace the sandpaper on the drum, taper and trim the trailing end and clamp it in place.

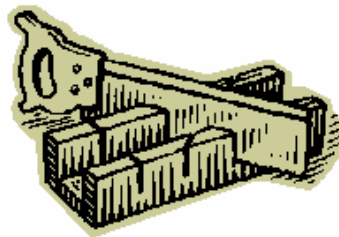
I could not get 2" wide drum sander paper easily, but 4" is available in rolls at Busy Bee. 4" is too wide to use directly as the wrap would be near horizontal so it needs to be cut to 2" wide. Delta has a sander that uses 2" wide roll sandpaper so it should be available somewhere.



Sandpaper installed

Notes:

1. The Duct Tape I had was about 1/8 inch narrower than the sandpaper.
2. Cut your first piece of sandpaper longer than necessary and trim to fit. Every layer of Duct Tape will require about 1/4 inch more sandpaper.



Calendar of Events

- **March 16, 2004**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild March meeting.
 - **April 20, 2004**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild April meeting. **2X4 Challenge**
 - **May 2004**—Richmond Carver's Show
 - **May 18, 2004**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild May meeting.
 - **June 15, 2004**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild June meeting.
 - **August 2004**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild Picnic
 - **September 10 to 12, 2004**—West Coast Woodturning Symposium. Contact Steve Hansen 604-585-0638 for details.
 - **September 21, 2004**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild September meeting.
 - **October, 2004**—Woodworking show
 - **October 19, 2004**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild September meeting.
 - **November 16, 2004**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild September meeting.
 - **December 21, 2004**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild January meeting.
 - **January 18, 2005**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild February meeting.
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