

SOUTH BAY WOODWORKERS' NEWS

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President's Column

By Jay Perrine

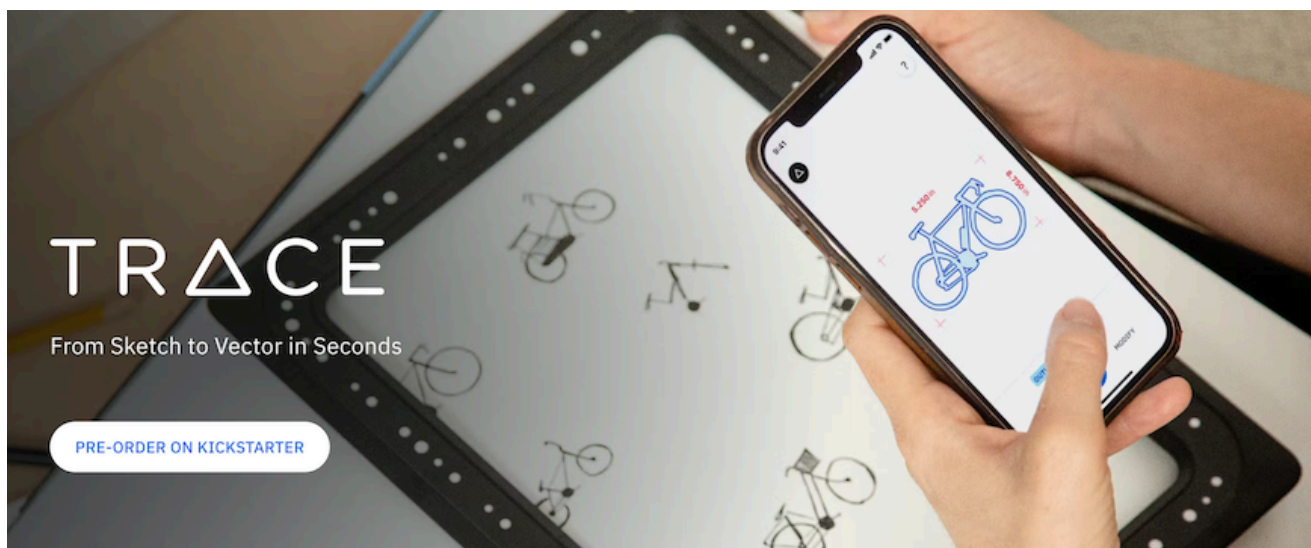


TRACE - From Sketch to Vector in Seconds

So I still think that this 'product' is really more the cutting edge of a new capability for woodworkers and other craftspeople (even wanna be craftspeople)...

The product I am talking about is Trace by Shaper Origin (which is owned by Festool!) and is being offered on Kickstarter.com to be delivered in October-November 2023. Let me review what I have learned so far: the physical piece looks about like an 8x10 picture frame with no glass and no back. You draw something (pretty sure at this juncture it has to be line drawing or 'cartoon' in marquetry terminology) on paper, white, or even on a brown paper bag, as long as the ink you draw with

contrasts well against the paper. You lay the 'frame' around it and snap a photo with your smartphone, using, which converts the drawing into an SVG (vector) file. You can import that file into your Shaper Origin (which is a CNC controlled hand router), or any other software or laser cutter, vinyl cutter, etc. that takes SVG design files. You can choose whether you want to use the edges of the lines (1 mm apart if you use the supplied pen), or have Trace compute the centerline. This makes a difference if you want to get the exact outline of the object (an antique hinge, or a router base, for example. Here, you want the side of the line closest to the edge of the object.) When you cut against the line in the SVG CAD file, Shaper Origin can be told to cut *on* the line, cut inside the line, or cut outside the line or even pocket out the entire area inside the shape). I saw an example of exporting the file to a paper cutter machine and cutting out stencils with that file - so it will have uses outside of the Shaper products.



I think this is big because folks that are not swift at using CAD software are suddenly empowered to create stuff, cutting out the need to having to draw using CAD (okay sure the uses are limited - can't draw house framing plans and such). Trace will have a Smoothing tool that will allow you to clean up some lines right in the Trace app. From there you can edit it in Studio. Currently there aren't features that will quickly and easily straighten lines or circles, but you can accomplish them with Studio functions like the Make Shape and ShapeShifter tools.

So here is an immediate use for us hobby woodworkers...say we want to make a jewelry box for someone and have their initials in a contrasting wood on the lid. But if you aren't proficient in marquetry, and even if you are, you don't want to mess with creating a veneer piece to glue over the entire lid panel. You can draw the lettering you want and use Trace to make an SVG file. Then, using the Outside-the-Line function on Shaper Origin, cut out the lettering from a veneer or fairly thin piece of stock. Shaper Origin will cut, very precisely, against the lines, as you guide the Origin approximately along the lines. Then cut a pocket about 1/16" into the lid for the letter shapes using the Inside the Line function using the Shaper Origin. Glue in and sand, as needed, until the whole lid surface is even. A 'for sure' or definite capability would be what our VP Tracie is always encouraging us to do - sign your work. It can easily take your signature and convert it to a CAD file for CNC cutting!

As I mentioned above, Trace can produce SVG files, which can be read by Vectric's CAD software, and then cut on even a large 4'x8' CNC router. So you can combine hand sketches from Trace into a larger CAD file - so, for

example, a flower shape feature can be engraved into cabinets being cut on the CNC machine.

Well, time will tell if I sensed a quantum leap forward to enable those 'delaying' learning CAD to jump forward and be able to design stuff that more woodworking machines can be programmed to cut what we want and increase the creative side of project making. We can be one of the first Clubs to make good use of this new capability!

For more reference you can go to the website:

<https://www.shapertools.com/en-us/Trace>

July 25 Meeting CNC Projects with Steve Kelem

Meeting Location

Saratoga Federated Church Postal Annex
Building 14376 Saratoga Ave. Saratoga, CA

Map and directions:

<https://www.southbaywoodworkers.org/>

June Program in Review

Bob Konigsberg continues his house building saga in Morgan Hill with part two.



In part one, we learned how he built the massive earthquake resistant base, retaining walls, foundation, and 5000 gallon water storage tank. Sheetmetal studs with R-38 insulation and 5/8" sheetrock were installed over plywood floors supported by steel beams and a fire sprinkler system was installed as required by Morgan Hill's building code.

In part two, we learned how storm water was handled. Solar panels were placed on the roof, the driveway was completed with



pavers and planter boxes were installed and filled with soil. There was a description of the electrical system and Bob gave us details of the workshop.



Pacific Gas and Electric is scheduled to provide service in July.

June Show n' Tell

Allen Glessner described using a pair of Showa Atlas 300 gloves that helps him operate better in spite of the neuropathy in his hands. The gloves are stippled on the inside which allows him to better grasp and control objects that he is working with.



Steve Kelem created an address sign from a large slab of ash that measures about two by three feet with bark left at the top edge. It will be placed between his house



and his neighbors house. He says that working on a large slab with a CNC router was a learning experience. He found that if he took a full width cut, the cutter would get bogged down and sometimes stop cutting. Cutting with only 1/2 the width of the cutter and using 1/16 depth of cut worked much better. The numbers and arrows will be inlaid with brass.

Ron Gerard made a chisel plane from channel brass with an apricot infill that's capped with ebony. Two knobs that secure the blade are inlaid with Delrin, a type of plastic. The blade is made from 01 tool steel and was heat treated by Ron Hock of Hock Tools. The adjustment knob is made of stainless steel



2023 Program Responsibilities

If there are conflicts or need for changes, please contact **Tracie Johnson**.

July 25	Steve Kelem CNC Projects Mateo McCullough
August 22	Allan Kutach Terry O'Donnell
September 26	Dave Burkett- Marquetry Projects
October 24	Bill Turner
November 28	Ron Gerard Dennis Yamamoto
December	
January 2024	New Years Party date to be determined



June Meeting 2023

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