

SOUTH BAY WOODWORKERS' NEWS

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President's Column

By Jay Perrine



River Tables, I'm seeing them more and more and I still have questions.

A River Table is quite simply a nice wood slab cut down the middle and placed into a custom made pouring box with sides like 2" high. , The slab's cut edges are on the outside. The pouring box is all taped together with something like packing tape in such a manner that no epoxy leaks out when gallons of epoxy are added. Now it seems to be something made just for this. Two halves are placed against the pouring box's outer edges and literally quarts of epoxy are poured in until flush with the wood slabs in thickness or better slightly over that level. Let dry a couple days. Then take apart this specially made box or enormous tray and there is a tabletop that sports mostly wood but there is this epoxy in between. Then aggressive sand until the wood and epoxy are at the same level. Smooth the epoxy using finer and finer grits. The topcoat finish is applied over both wood and epoxy.

I was initially led to believe that these tabletops needed to be supported across the epoxy or 'river'. Then, I happened to find reference to a YouTube video put out by Goby Walnut. He tested the tops and essentially demonstrated that not only does this epoxy adhere magically to the wood, usually a live edge turned inward, but the 'river' section is strong and doesn't require support spanning both sides. Full disclosure, I never finished watching the video until the end.

If we look up-river, in time, pun intended, the first development in the direction of creating River Tables was 'epoxy' that could be made in fairly large batch and could be 'poured up to like 1/2" thick, then two days later pour another say 1/2". Seems like only a few weeks later it was 3/4" thick that could be poured and then 1". Suddenly it was 2" but you had to let it set for like 48 hours, current versions you still wait a couple days. Quite different epoxy from epoxy we currently use, such as West Epoxy where a pint is about max so it doesn't 'cook off'.

What is the stuff? No one using it in any video or posting I have seen is using any kind of respirator. The epoxy is and billed as Non-Toxic or 'eco-friendly' and safe to breath. This tells me it isn't the epoxies we've been using for 25 years. In the last 6 months I have seen photos of round shaped tables, tables with just one side in wood with the other

side in this epoxy. Then, my goodness there are very exciting colors that can be added, particularly with the CHILL brand. Some of which are over done and no longer tasteful. Makers have imbedded coins, rocks, bullets, etc. Beyond tables there are cutting boards and cheese boards usually 1/3 to 1/2 of the flat item is epoxy. Frankly, some good uses of scraps that are not integral from one end to the other but sport a good grain pattern or color.

I follow two makers of this stuff on Instagram: Polymeres Technologies in Quebec and Ecopoxy. They sell this 'epoxy' in large quantities, multi liter or quarts and sometimes ship pallets full, based on photos of postings. It is not cheap. It is sold in two parts. The assumption is that one part is a catalyst. Perhaps, depending on your feedback, if there is enough interest, I could get a representative of one of the companies to give an hour or so Zoom presentation. Hopefully, explaining a bit more what it is, trade secret I'm sure, and limitations. Perhaps, including some creative examples of using it. If someone in the Club wants to investigate this more, I will buy some with you, so we can experiment with it. Then we can see how it can be poured the consistency of thick paint and be worked with no breathing protection. Then, several days later be hard and sandable and so forth? Lemme know.

Jay

2021 Dues

2021 dues are due. Send your checks payable to "Southbay Woodworkers" to Syd Dunton, our treasurer. His address is on the roster, available on the web site, member's section.

Show & Tell Note:

If you have a Show & Tell for zoom meetings, please forwarded the photos to me, takenyon1@gmail.com prior to the meeting. I will prepare a slide show. Thank You – Tom Kenyon

2021 Program Responsibilities

The Program Responsibility table was being updated at the time this newsletter was being distributed.

May's Zoom Program



Jay Perrine has arranged for Vicco von Voss to discuss some of his projects and methods. Link to his website;

<https://www.viccovonvoss.com/about>

Aprill's Program



Bill Henzel displayed and described the various hand tools that he uses in making his varied projects. If you are drawing up plans without using a software program, you need drafting equipment that includes a board, T-square, triangles, an architectural scale, and sometimes French curves. Lee Valley has tools called "asymmetric and symmetric drawing bows" that are used to form long curves. You can make your own with a long thin strip of wood and a string to pull it into a curve.

No shop can go without having a variety of rulers handy. It's nice to have rulers of 6, 12 and even 24-inch lengths in your arsenal. Tape measures are also indispensable. Dial calipers are available that measure in decimals of an inch or in millimeters. Electronic versions can measure in either millimeters or inch units.

Various types and sizes of squares were shown for checking squareness and marking 90 degree lines as well as tools for marking angles. He's used a Marples marking gauge for a very long time that

he likes very much and he also has a marking gauge that has a circular cutter.

He discussed the advantages of using a brace and bit for chair making especially paired with a spoon bit. Other specialty tools for chair making include an inshave, travisher, scorp, and straight and curved spokeshaves.

No shop would be complete without a selection of chisels. Bill used Marples chisels for years, but now uses Japanese chisels. He has chisels made by Yeung Chan that he uses for small details. There was also a robust chisel made for cutting mortises.

The use of dowels is common in woodworking and having centering dowel jigs, dowel centers, dowel sizing plates, and transfer punches help to place the dowel holes accurately.

No wood shop would be complete without a variety of handsaws. Bill has Japanese Dozuki and Ryoba saws, back, coping, veneer, flush cutting saws, and a carpenter crosscut hand saw that belonged to his father.

There is a varied collection of hand planes including block, shoulder, and a router plane. He uses a shooting plane with a bench hook.

When it comes to rasps, Bill prefers his Auriou rasps. Besides the Auriou and surfboard rasps, he uses needle files and rifflers along with a Japanese saw rasp.

No shop would be complete without a selection of scrapers. Aside from the usual rectangular shaped ones, Bill has oval, round, and French curved scrapers plus scrapers that form inside and outside curves. A good quality burnisher is also part of his tool collection and is

used for creating the all important hook on the edge.

Show and Tell



Syd Dunton made a pipe rack of cherry that measures 30 inches wide by 4 1/2 inches deep and has spaces for 28 pipes. The keyhole shaped holes are two inches on center. Because the rack is so wide, he placed a vertical support in the middle. The project is finished with polyurethane.



Dennis Yamamoto created a queen sized bed from claro walnut. The frame of the headboard is constructed using loose tenons in mortice and tenon joints. The panels in the headboard are made up of four laminations. He used both Unibond and epoxy glues. The horizontal slats are maple except for two. He used what he had on hand and came up short so he used mahogany pieces to fill in.

The project is finished with Minwax's wipe-on poly.

2021 Program Responsibilities

All meetings will be conducted on zoom till further notice.

Program responsibilities are being resolved.



Tracie Johnson continues to update us on her students popsicle stick and toothpick projects. She made a cellphone holder using toothpicks and showed some of the students efforts in making cellphone holders using popsicle sticks. She encouraged the students to check U-tube for additional project ideas.

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