

WOOD CHIPS



Northwest Indiana Woodworkers Association

Volume 15, Issue 11 November 2011

President's Corner

Hi Friends that share the joy of woodworking! Hope you have had a great month finishing toys for our toy program. If you have an organization that is receiving toys bring your contact person with so they can receive their toys and see how many toys are made. Don't forget the meeting is a week early so we don't have to serve turkey to the entire membership ;) Wow that would really be a feast. Speaking of feasts, Claudia is still taking reservations for the Christmas / Awards Diner. This is a fine time to enjoy each other's company. Bring a guest. It's Always fun! It is our tradition to make gifts for the ladies attending the Christmas Diner. We are continuing this. We need members to make these gifts. There will be a sign up sheet at this month's meeting.

Finally the Election. The best way to enjoy the club is to be involved. Being on the Executive Board is great. You are the first to know...ok sometimes the second to know about things. The board members always work together for our Club's best interest. It's fun, sometimes challenging and I have to say very enjoyable. Good Luck to all candidates! See you at the meeting!

Make fun things!
Marcia Lichnerowicz

NOMINATIONS FORM

NOMINATION FOR NIWA OFFICERS 2012

PRESIDENT _____
VICE PRESIDENT _____
SECRETARY _____
TREASURER _____

Our election of officers will take place at the November meeting please use the above form to nominate any member for the listed offices.

SHOW AND TELL



Kevin Klebs



Lalo Gonzalez



Gene Davis



Clyde Hewlett Marcia Lichnerowicz



John Hunter Dick Sader



Mick King



Jesse Day



Bob Rinearson



Denny McCoole



Max Hernick



Joe McDaniel

EDUCATIONAL RAFFLE WINNERS

The club educational Raffle was held at the October meeting the results are:

Clock – winner – S. Cominsky
Bowl – winner – Bob Hamary
Falcon – winner – Ron Benson
Pen Set – winner - C. Cruz
Pen – winner - Ted Rosolowski
Pen – winner – Norm Johnson
Pen – winner – Monica Glass

Pen – winner – Lou Takacs
Crappie – winner - D. Cooper
Shaker Box – winner – Sam Kinslow
Watch – winner – Ted Rosolowski
Wolves – winner – Patricia Matuga
Chair – winner – Stan & Nancy Wagner

TOYS FOR KIDS

Just a reminder, that this month is our Toys For Kids program. Bring all the toys you have made for the program to the club meeting on November 17th (we are meeting a week early due to the Thanksgiving holiday) Skip and Claudia Brazil will be checking the toys in and can always use some help in setting the toys out on the tables for all of the organizations that will be picking them up.

ITEMS FOR SALE

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2011

November 17th Membership Meeting at Hidden Lake 7:00 PM Toy Program
December 20th Committees Meeting at Hidden Lake 7:00 PM
December 22nd Membership Meeting at Hidden Lake 7:00 Christmas Party, Installation and Awards

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2012

January 2nd Executive Board Meeting at Portage Library 7 PM
January 17th Committees Meeting at Hidden Lake 7:00 PM
January 26th Membership Meeting at Hidden Lake 7:00 PM Silent Auction
February 21st Committees Meeting at Hidden Lake 7:00 PM
February 23rd Membership Meeting at Hidden Lake 7:00 PM Shop Jigs & Jesse Day Chair Weaving
March 20th Committees Meeting at Hidden Lake 7:00 PM
March 23rd Membership Meeting at Hidden Lake 7:00 PM Garry Graves Kreg Jigs
April 2nd Executive Board Meeting at Portage Library 7 PM
April 17th Committees Meeting at Hidden Lake 7:00 PM
April 26th Membership Meeting at Hidden Lake 7:00 PM
May 15th Committees Meeting at Hidden Lake 7:00 PM
May 24th Membership Meeting at Hidden Lake 7:00 PM
June 19th Committees Meeting at Hidden Lake 7:00 PM
June 28th Membership Meeting at Hidden Lake 7:00 PM
July 2nd Executive Board Meeting at Portage Library 7 PM

July 17th Committees Meeting at Hidden Lake 7:00 PM
July 26th Membership Meeting at Hidden Lake 7:00 PM
August 21st Committees Meeting at Hidden Lake 7:00 PM
August 23rd Membership Meeting at Hidden Lake 7:00 PM
September 18th Committees Meeting at Hidden Lake 7:00 PM

September 27th Membership Meeting at Hidden Lake 7:00 PM
October 1st Executive Board Meeting at Portage Library 7 PM
October 16th Committees Meeting at Hidden Lake 7:00 PM
October 25th Membership Meeting at Hidden Lake 7:00 PM
November 20th Committees Meeting at Hidden Lake 7:00 PM
November 15th Membership Meeting at Hidden Lake 7:00 PM Toy Program
December 18th Committees Meeting at Hidden Lake 7:00 PM
December 20th Membership Meeting at Hidden Lake 7:00 PM Christmas Party, Installation and Awards

Bob Flexner's Finishing Tips

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

TIP: Pouring Solvent from a Can

The trick to pouring solvent from a full or nearly full can without getting the liquid all over the place is to hold the can with the spout near the top rather than the bottom. With the spout near the top of the can, air can enter easily to fill the void left by the exiting solvent. You will avoid the “glug-glug” uneven flow caused by air breaking through the liquid to get inside the can.



Buying Refurbished Tools

Every tool manufacture gets back broken or defective tools. Sometimes they are deficient in manufacture, other times customer s actually break them (often but claim otherwise), regardless of the reason, tools break and very often manufacturers take them back.

So, what do they do with these tools you ask? Well, some are destroyed, others used as parts and others still are refurbished for re-sale. In the industry they are called “refurbs”, and they are often retailed at 30% - 50% less than new-in-box (NIB) tools. Depending on the manufacturer and the tool, there may or may not be a warranty with the tool and if there is it may or may not be the same as the NIB tool.

The real question for most woodworkers is “are these tools worth purchasing”?, and the quick answer is yes they are, but there are a few things to watch for.

Some refurbis come in brown packaging while others come in what looks like new original boxes. Either way, they are still refurbis and there are 5 important things to look for, such as ...

1 – Most important – is the tool a brand name, well recognized tool brand or is it knock-off or lower quality made tool. If the tool is a brand name tool, like Makita, Milwaukee, DeWalt, Delta, Ridgid and so on, it is probably a good buy. Walk away from brand names that look and feel cheap and are names that you don't recognize, unless you are willing to risk your investment.

2 – Second Importance – What is the warranty? Some refurbis come with warrant, some do not, while others have a “modified” (often shortened) warrant period. Again, if it is a recognized tool, your chances are better even with a reduced warranty.

3 – Third importance – Who is selling the tool? Is this an established tool store or are you purchasing this from some sort of a “discount everything” - “Inventory slasher” type firm. How long have they been in business and are they reputable? Who will honour the warranty? And what if it is an out of box failure? Question you need to ask yourself.

4 – Fourth importance - Power source, is the tool battery operated or 110 / 220 volt? If the tool is battery powered, I recommend staying away from the older Ni-Cad batteries and look for newer Lithium battery powered tools. If the tool is “plug-in”, and all the above are in place, it is probably a good buy.

5 – Fifth importance – It's YOUR money. How much risk do you want it to carry? If the tool is not too expensive for your budget and it fails after the warranty but you got your use out of it, consider it a disposable tool – not unlike a rental. If the tool is more expensive you will want to make sure that your money is well invested and that the tool will stand up to the rigours you will put it through. Refurbished tools can be a good deal. What I like about refurbished tools is that in many cases a qualified technician has repaired or it least checked these tools individually, and I have more confidence in technicians checking tools than simply having them roll off an assembly line somewhere.

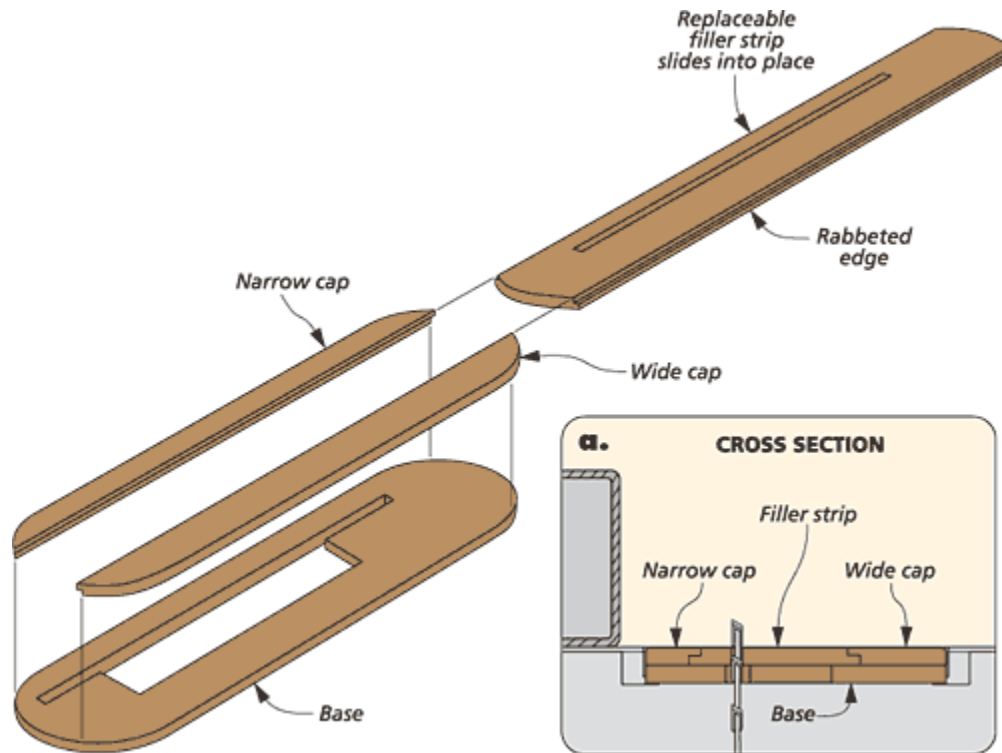
I have purchased refurbished tools in the past, some I still have and use quite happily while a few others (with off brand names) have long since been tossed, and yes I learned the hard way that purchasing brand names, in most cases, gives me longer lasting tools and yes ... I pay more for them but in the end it's worth it to me.

The decision you have to make is how much of your money do want risk and for what term of use for the tool. With that I'm sure you will make wise decisions.

Colin Knecht woodworkweb.com

One-Size-Fits-All Table Saw Insert

Switching between a standard blade and a dado blade on the table saw also means switching the throat insert. On top of that, different size dado blades require matching zero-clearance inserts. So rather than keep a stack of inserts on hand, I came up with a shop-made, one-size-fits-all insert.



The insert starts with a 1/4" hardboard base layer cut to fit the saw's throat opening. Cutouts in the base accommodate a standard blade and any size dado blade (*drawing above*).

The upper, hardboard layer (glued to the base) consists of two, rabbeted cap pieces separated by a space that holds interchangeable filler strips. You can make a different zero-clearance filler for each width of dado blade, as well as a standard blade.

After changing blades, you simply slide in the appropriate filler and you're ready to go. The real kicker is that the fillers are cheap to make or replace and don't take up much storage space.

Good Woodworking,

Ted Raife
Online Editor, *Woodsmith*