

SOUTHERN FELLOWSHIP OF WOODWORKERS

Newsletter

Issue 14– October 2010



AGM

NOVEMBER 25th

www.sfwoodworkers.co.uk

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Secretary's Grain of thought.

I've received no comments on my revised title for this item so for now I'll stick with it. Hopefully when the next newsletter is due the fellowship will have a Chairman, then I can relinquish this spot to him.

I trust you all had a good summer and that most of you will have completed all you holiday ventures you will all be keen to get back to the Winter programme meetings. The summer programme proved to be quite difficult to organise for the committee, with June and July having to be cancelled. However, the May visit to Benchmark and Tyler hardwoods was quite a success. My thanks also go to Francis Hollowes for hosting the August workshop visit when Jim Hooker had to cancel due to other commitments. The summer visits still had relatively low attendances so I'm hoping that the Winter meetings will do better.

It does cost a fair amount to get speakers to our meetings, so unless we get good numbers attending the Fellowship suffers a loss, which has to come from the funds.

As mentioned in the last newsletter to AGM is coming up and is now only a few weeks away. I know I do go on about this but it is very important to the future of the Fellowship. I'm already doing the work of three committee members and as a result, progressing my own business in furniture restoration is suffering and I do need to redress this.

So please have a really hard think about joining the committee and putting something back into the Fellowship. **Remember that without a committee the fellowship will cease to function.**

Enjoy your woodworking. What ever form that may take.

Roger Hardwick

Deadline for next Newsletter is 13th January 2011.

Email to:- sfwoodworkers@btinternet.com

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NEW MEMBERS

The following new members have recently joined the Fellowship:

None

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Members' Welfare

If you know of any members that are of ill health then please let a committee members know so we can express our concerns and see if we can offer any help.

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FOR SALE AND WANTS:

If you want to sell any woodworking items or are looking for one, then this is the place to advertise. Adds are Free so take advantage of it. I promise not to bag all the best bargains before they go to print.

FOR SALE:

Coronet Minor Lathe 36" bed with rotating head on a 4 drawer bench. 4 speeds,6 chisels(almost new), collets set, 13mm mt chuck. Screw and spindle chuck, spare motor. Suitable for spare parts as it requires a no volt starter and a belt guard for safe operating use. Reasonable offers please.
Alan Longstreeth 01483 277632.

DOMINION PLANER / THICKNESSER (Circa 1950's : 3 phase model)

Massive Cast Iron body with 16inch twin-blade (some spares)
MOD workshop use since new (serviced Aug 1999) - -no safety guards/ brake /etc .
Has been dismantled and in storage since June 2007 (some surface rust on table tops)-- photos & inspection available on request.

Brook Motors

Frame: C-84 – Serial No: FB2405/1
330-420V – 7.1amps – PH3
F.L.Speed 2880 – 5 HP

Machine stored just off A.303 near Amesbury in Wiltshire. Mechanical aid will need to be supplied to lift it. Best reasonable offer secures !

Contact: Robert Hayden
07887-822196

Wanted:

"Faithfull" reversible sash clamps. These look like normal steal sash clamps but the

pins are held in with spring clips and the head can be turned round to make it into a spreader. These clamps are no longer in production. If members have any of these clamps or see any for sale, I would be happy to buy them. (at reasonable cost of course)

Also, Old brass keys, the ones that fit jewellery boxes or chest of drawers etc.
Roger Hardwick 01252376797

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MEETING REPORTS

Members' Workshop Visit

Saturday 21st August was the date five members of the Fellowship visited the home of Francis and Elizabeth Hallows in Felbridge new East Grinstead. We were not only greeted by Francis but also Russell Jones from Hammer. After a welcome cup of tea/ coffee Russell gave us a very informative PowerPoint presentation on the Hammer range of woodworking machines. Francis has a Hammer bandsaw and planner thicknesser and later we would see how they performed and Russell would explain some of the upgrades that have been added since Francis purchased his.

Before moving into his workshop Francis showed us some of the furniture he had made. The first item was a three legged triangular table made of Black Walnut and Steamed Beech. This was made as part of a two year project at Crawley College. It had three drawers at the front which due to the triangle shape of the table got smaller from left to right. The largest drawer on the left was conventionally made except that the front extended to the left to cover the front leg. The middle drawer had an angled back to match the shape of the table and the far right drawer was not a conventional drawer but was hinged from the top of the right leg. A very well made piece of furniture.

Next he showed us a pair of bedside cabinets which were bowed out at the front. These were made from Oak with Wenge inserts on the top. To allow the drawers to go far enough back the tops for the front legs were recessed at an angle to match the drawers. Francis had brought one of these along to show at the West timber show in May.

Another item he displayed at the show was a jewellery box. This is made of Steamed Beech with trays of ripple sycamore. It also had wooden hinges. I remembered this item at the show for two reasons. One, Trend were demonstrating a tool for cutting hinges and often sent customers over to our stand to look at the hinges on Francis box. The other was that people were amazed at the way the trays just floated back down.

The next item was a table made for Elizabeth. It gave Francis a bit of a design issue because Elizabeth had insisted that it did not have conventional rails and stretchers. To overcome this Francis designed semicircular rails. One joined the back legs together and the other the front with the two rails meeting in the middle. The same method was used at the top of legs and the table completed with a glass top.

Located in the garden a few yards from the house Francis workshop is a large shed which he had extended at the front. Just inside was his workbench which had a very

nice cabinet sitting on it. This was being made for a client to put a sculpture on. It is Made of Black Walnut and Maple with a Black Walnut top. All the edges had been rounded over to give it a softer look. I'm sure the client will be very pleased with it. Close to the bench was his Hammer bandsaw. Russell explained that this model had a 2.5hp motor which had now been superseded with a 4hp motor. I think this was done to standardise on one size of motor for all machines but personally I think 2.5hp is plenty for a bandsaw. Francis had removed the standard fence and fitted a Kreg system. He had also fitted a M42 blade from Dragon Saws, available from Workshop Heaven.

Next Francis demonstrated the Hammer planner / thicknesser and how it converted from one to the other. I very much liked the way both tops moved out the way for thickening. He also showed us how efficiently the wheel system worked. The machine has two fixed wheels at the back and a bracket at the front. A pair of wheels on a long handle locate into the bracket to lift the machine and move it. The handle with wheels fits all Hammer machines so only one set is required.

In the left corner of the workshop was a compact Festool table saw which Francis has fitted onto a trolley. This enabled him to move the saw into the middle of the workshop for use.

Francis also had a Triton table with a router in it, but he was not too impressed with it. Linking all these machines was a very efficient dust extraction system. 100mm pipe work was routed around the workshop and when through the side of the workshop into a second shed which housed the dust extractor.

After another cup of tea it was time to head home as Francis had the client coming to look at the cabinet.

Roger Hardwick

Hammer woodworking machinery

Founded in 1955 by Johann Felder in Absam, Tyrol, Austria.

By 1964 Felder's continued research and development is helping Felder win major accolades from a series of woodworking industry experts and societies. 1981 sees Felder move to a new purpose built home in Hall, Tyrol, Austria. By 1984 the BF3 & later the BF4 combination machines are instant hits with discerning woodworkers the world over. 1990 saw another Felder breakthrough with the introduction of the sliding table on the combination machine which further consolidated Felder as the number one for the innovation of woodworking machinery.

1994 and Felder increase its product line with a range of stand alone machines.

The Felder success story continues in 1997 with the development and manufacture of a completely new range of machines to compete with the influx of Far Eastern imports. This range is high in quality but inexpensive in price.



The Hammer range is born!

Your complete workshop requirements

A3-31:- planer / thicknesser
A3-41:- planer / thicknesser
K3:- table saw
B3:- saw/spindle combination
F3 spindle moulder
C3-31:- full combination machine
N4400:- band saw

Any questions?

Russell Jones
UK Hammer sales (South)
01908 635385
07803 658739
r.jones@ukfelder.co.uk



September Meeting

Brendan Devitt Spooner – designer maker based in Worthing

A response from Brendan

Hello Terry,

Thank you for your kind email and for inviting me to your group.

I enjoyed myself and hope that your members did to.

As I said at the end of the evening, your group would be most welcome to visit the workshop should you wish to. As not all the members are lucky enough to be retired I would be able to make the day a weekend should that be more convenient.

Looking forward to meeting up with you again.

Kind regards Brendan

PROMOTING THE FELLOWSHIP

Surrey Association of Woodturner's Open Day

This takes place on Sunday October 31st at the Mytchett Centre.
The Fellowship has a stand at this show and will need YOUR help.

We need members to man our stand. The show is open from 10:30am to 4pm, so if any of you can spare an hour or two to man our stand it would be very much appreciated.

We also need items of furniture to display on the stand. This year we are situated not in the main hall but in a side room just off the main hall with St Johns Ambulance. We have three tables so need plenty of items to fill them. We also hope to do a wood ID challenge as we did at the New Forest Show. If you are able to help in anyway please contact the Secretary.

D&M show

This show was on October 8th to the 10th October. I travelled up on the Friday to Kempton park where the show is held with Steve Isherwood and Peter Guyett. To a woodworker this show is like being a child in a sweet shop but I suspect that like most members attending I had to be careful on how much I spent so had to be very selective. It is a great show to see all the latest gadgets that are on offer.

It was good to see so many of our members attending this show. I'm told there were also others that I didn't see. I'm sure other also attended on the Saturday and Sunday. In fact membership attendance was almost better than at one of our meetings.

Steve and I were very interested in the new impact cordless drill drivers that have come onto the market. I thought these would come in very handy removing stubborn screws from old furniture. I liked the compactness of the 10.6 volt versions but Steve preferred the power of the 18Volt ones. As it happens I spent my money on another item but Steve did get an 18V one.

I had to go to the show with the intention of buying a Makita SDS drill. Having done some research I decided this was the one to get. Also, as hoped the show price for this item was better than I could get elsewhere. In the end I didn't buy one. I got side tracked into looking at table saws. I don't have the money or the room for a really good quality full size table/ panel saw so was looking to see what was in the budget range. I first looked at the Makita MLT100 table saw with 10" blade. This has a cast aluminium table of good quality and although a little small it does have pull out extensions. It also has a sliding table and a reasonable quite 1500w motor. An option was a folding base with wheels. This base folded down with the use of a handle which also allowed for it to be height adjustable.

I also looked at the equivalent Bosch and Dewalt versions but didn't consider them as good as the Makita.

The I went to the Kitty/ Scheppach stand. I was impressed with the Kitty Junior. This has a similar size table in cast aluminium to the Makita but has larger extension tables. The induction motor was also a bit smaller. The quality of the cut on this machine was really good but I think that was mostly down to the type of blade fitted. Although more expensive than the Makita I was very tempted with this machine. However, in the end I plumped for the Makita as with the folding base it would be more versatile for my needs.

So I didn't buy the SDS drill but spent over three times as much on a saw.

At the time of writing I'm still waiting for delivery of the saw. Apparently the saw is in stock but they are waiting for the delivery of the folding base.

Next year I think I will go with the intension of buying a sliding mitre saw and hopefully I may just come away with a £10 clamp.

What did you buy at the D&M show. Send me a write up.

Roger Hardwick

Techniques

I've collected a number of articles on various techniques in woodworking. I know there is the issue of copywrite but I won't tell it you don't. I also know that to some of you this is like teaching granny to suck eggs but many members are not so well experienced so may find them helpful. Please also remember that the information in these articles is definitive and you should always do plenty of research yourself.

The first one is on Stains and Dyes

After you have properly prepared the surface of the wood to accept a finish, the next step is to determine if you wish to change the wood's colour... and if so, which product to use.

Stain is essentially coloured dirt ground up into small particles and dissolved into an appropriate medium.

Dyes work best with dense figured wood. They are made of soluble salts in their proper solvent.

Adding Colour To Wood With Stain and Dye

Although colour change is its primary function, stain can also intensify or diminish the grain of the wood, depending on the type of wood and the type of stain you use. Therefore, it is important to understand how different types of stains work. The two most common colouring agents in stain are pigment and dye, and they behave quite differently.

In simple terms, pigment is coloured dirt ground up into small particles. Dyes are typically soluble salts. Once mixed with their proper solvent, dye crystals dissociate into individual molecules, which are vastly smaller than ground up pigment particles. Thus, dye can get into spaces where pigment can not.

Apply a typical pigment stain to dense, figured maple and most of it will wipe right off with little colour change. Use dye and you get both more intense coloration and grain contrast. With oak, just the opposite is true. Pigment lodges in the large pores of oak, creating contrast, while dye colours it with boring uniformity. Thus, dye is best for adding intense colour to dense wood, whether for grain enhancement or simple color change, but pigment does a better job of bringing out the grain pattern in large pore woods.

One Step Stain and Finish

Lately, companies have been offering tinted finishes with names like "One Step Stain and Polyurethane" in both oil-



and water-based modes. A similar material, coloured Danish oil, has been around for years.

The idea is that you can apply both stain and finish in one step.

Most work great on the first coat; you flood it on, wipe it off, and it acts like stain. Do it again and you have something akin to double staining, but the real advantage is that unlike stain, you can add as many coats of tinted topcoat as you like. Hence, you can keep making the colour more intense, and more opaque as well.

Although tinted topcoat on wood looks slightly different than stain, applying multiple coats is an easy way to creep up on just the colour you want, especially with darker colours. However, each coat adds colour. That means if you do not apply it very uniformly, you will get uneven coloration. It's best to practice with these materials first.

Also, don't be afraid to use these tinted materials for one or two coats until the colour is just right, then switch to the clear version of the same finish for the remaining coats.

Make sure you've checked out our other Finishing Techniques:

Smoothing Out the Surface

Finishing is sometimes considered the red-headed stepchild of woodworking. Some woodworkers, but not all by any means, think of finishing as a necessary evil that is tangentially associated with real woodworking. Which is understandable, but problematic, because finishing is so critical to how attractive your project becomes. If you take short cuts during finishing, your project's appearance can really suffer.



Professional finishers will tell you that the single most important component to achieving a superior finish has nothing to do with the product being applied to the wood. It has to do with how well the surface of the wood is prepared to accept the finish that will be applied later.

The most common method of smoothing out wood is sanding, which although it can be a bit tedious, if it is done correctly, it will yield excellent and predictable results. But there is an important step to take before you get out the sandpaper — checking for glue spots.

The Dovetail Joint

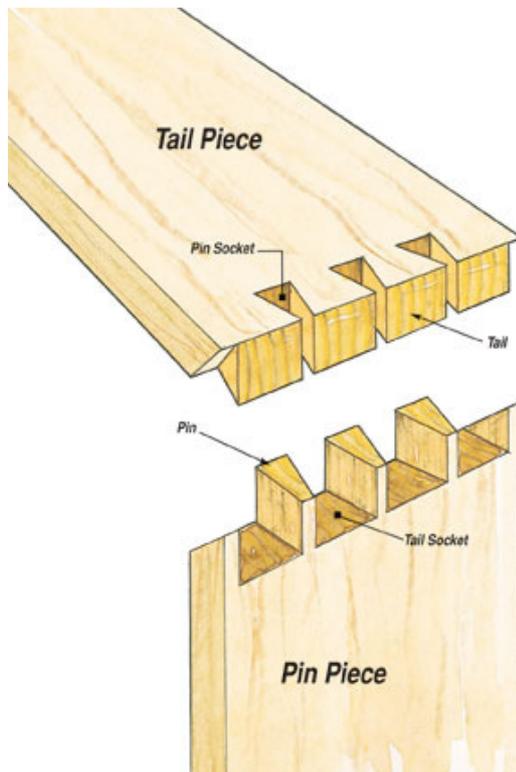
Dovetails are simple in theory, but when you look at them more closely, they are a strong mechanical system.

Dovetails evoke woodworking as does no other system of joinery. This system of joinery, while not as old as the mortise and tenon is still ancient. The reasons that it has remained popular are several. First and foremost is that dovetails are a solid and reliable woodworking joint. If they are well-made, the combination of a large area for glue coverage associated with the mechanical quality of the joinery provides a durable and long-lasting joint. Most of us have opened drawers on an antique piece of furniture

and have seen dovetails where it is clear that the glue has broken down ... but the joint is still holding together. A butt joint or dowel joint would have fallen apart, but not the dovetail joint. Another reason is that they are attractive. The visual rhythm of the repeating tails and pins are simply pleasing to look at. If you are making dovetails by hand (or with a more sophisticated jig system like Leigh's D4), the pattern can be varied to accentuate the beauty of the joint. The third reason that dovetails remain highly popular is that the complexity of the joint, not easily mastered by novice woodworkers, implies quality. For many woodworkers, mastering the construction of a hand-cut dovetail is a goal that seems out of reach. For that reason, jig-guided dovetails are very much in the sweet spot of home shop woodworkers.

The Basics of the Dovetail Joint

Dovetail joints consist of an interlocking and snugly fitted series of pins and tails. All the tails are cut into one piece of wood, called here the tail piece. Typically, the completed tail piece then serves as a template for marking and cutting the pins in the pin piece.



The joint at the left is a variation of a typical through - dovetail, in this case dressed up with a mitred corner. (See the photo.) This joint is best achieved in a hand-cut dovetail.

While there are many subtle variations of the dovetail joint, an example of which is the mitred corner, the two main categories are through dovetails — where, as their name implies, the pins and tails extend all the way through the work pieces. The other main category is the "half blind" or "single lap" dovetail. It is called that because the drawer front overlaps the tail ends on the drawer side.

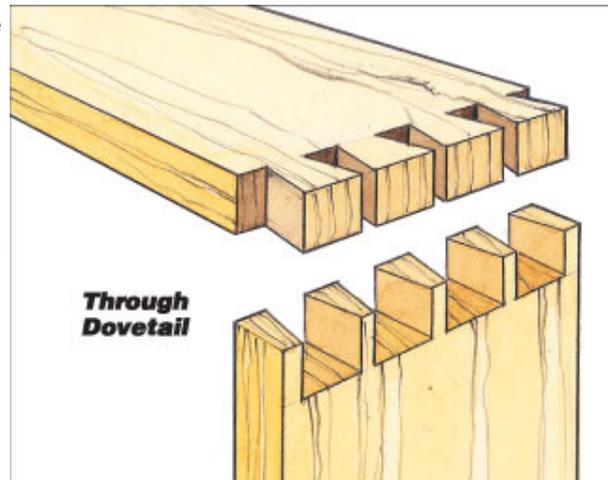
It is common for both types of dovetails to be used in a drawer. Through dovetails on the back corners and the single lap on the front corners.

As with so many woodworking joints, the basic dovetail has seen several variations. They all join two pieces of wood together, but they have different characteristics that enhance specific

designs. Here are four types of dovetails for your evaluation.

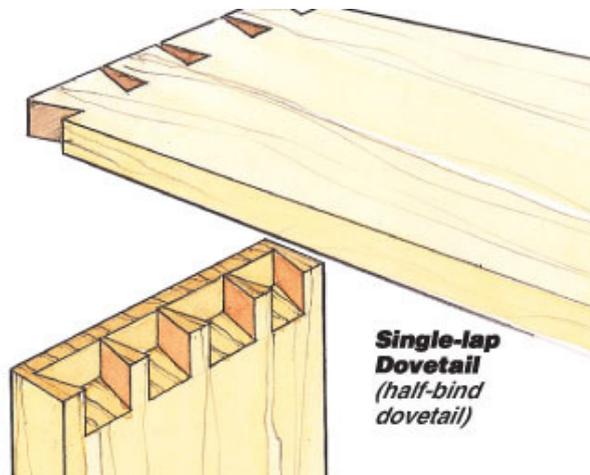
Through Dovetail

More than any other joint, the through dovetail leaves nothing unsaid. The interfaces between the long grains and end grains demonstrate the hand skill of the maker, and the layout demonstrates the design skill. It's usually the first dovetail joint you learn to make, but it should be viewed as just one of the family — no more or less a star than the other three.

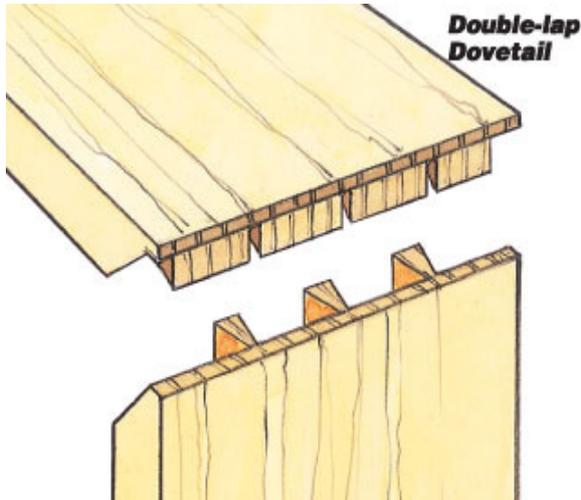


Single lap or half blind Dovetail

The single-lap (known to many folks as a half-blind dovetail) is the best known of the dovetails since it's used to join the front to the sides of a drawer. Whether the drawer is housed in a veneered or solid wood case, opening it reveals the pedigree of the piece. At its best, if it's a handmade drawer, the feel and sound of its opening is the prelude to enjoying the refinement of the thin drawer sides, the choice of wood, and the elegance of the single-lap dovetail joints. It's an experience no longer available from the furniture industry, being too expensive for all but the few of discerning taste and limitless budget, but it is fully within the bailiwick of amateur woodworkers with the will to make it. Whether cut and chopped by hand, or made using a good quality dovetail jig, amateurs can produce heirloom quality furniture and include this elegant joint as evidence.



Double lap Dovetail



Only a thin strip of end grain announces that the double-lap dovetail is hidden inside. It's a bit easier and quicker to make than the secret mitre dovetail (shown below). Again, this handmade marvel has left the vocabulary of industrial builders. It was mostly used on larger cases, such as sideboards or chests, rather than smaller cases, such as jewellery boxes and knee desks. When the end grain is moulded with a scratch stock along with the long grain edges, the resulting shadow lines subtly define the architecture of the piece.

Secret Mitre Dovetail

Why use a secret mitre dovetail? To preserve the quality of the joinery, without the visual impact of the pins and tails. Some woods to which hand-makers are privy are simply so beautiful or so striking that a visible row of through dovetails, no matter how elegantly made, would detract from the piece rather than enhance it. Similarly, some cases can be made so refined in their proportions that their quiet sophistication would be interrupted or even destroyed by a through joint. Additionally, in some cases the wood may be so dark that the pattern value of pins and tails is scarcely visible.



CD Towers Become Dust-free Tape Storage

If you buy blank CDs or DVDs in bulk, don't throw away those empty plastic spindle towers. They're the perfect size for storing all sorts of shop tape so it stays clean and ready for use. Keep this storage box on your bench, or drive a couple of screws through the top cover to mount it under a cabinet.



Public Events with Furniture and Woodworking Interest

October 31st Surrey Association of Woodturner's Show

The Mychett Centre

The Fellowship has a stand at this show and needs members to man it.

Get Woodworking Live

Alexandra Palace

March 11th and 12th 2011

Yandles Spring Show 2011

Fri 8th & Sat 9th April 2011 (10am-4pm)

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

Winter Programme 2010/2011

Speakers are yet to be confirmed but the dates for your diaries are as follows:

2010

October 28th

Tony Chalk, as representative of Trend will be demonstrating Trend equipment but mainly some of their amazing range of Jigs.

November 25th **AGM**

2011

January 27th

Members evening. Neil Hiscox to talk on Box making and David Hallaway on making a Pembroke table

February 24th

Jason Moore of Cameron Theodore – cabinet makers and restorers
<http://camerontheodore.com/>

March 24th

Charles Wheeler of Rupert Senior and Charles Wheeler-Carmichael furniture design and makers.
<http://www.seniorandcarmichael.co.uk/>

April 28th

Members Evening

Volunteer members still required to speak.

All meetings are on Thursday evenings and start at 7:30pm