

Wood News

A Journal to Serve Woodworkers
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Number 8, Winter 1982

SEMINARS

Bob Kelley has been busy arranging a winter-spring schedule of educational activities at Highland Hardware with something for everybody.

Of particular interest to artists and designers is the lecture by Wendell Castle on Friday evening, April 23, followed by his seminar on stack lamination and design April 24 and 25.

Ian Kirby returns for a seminar on traditional drawermaking March 6, 5, 7, 6 and 8, 7 which also includes a Friday night lecture.

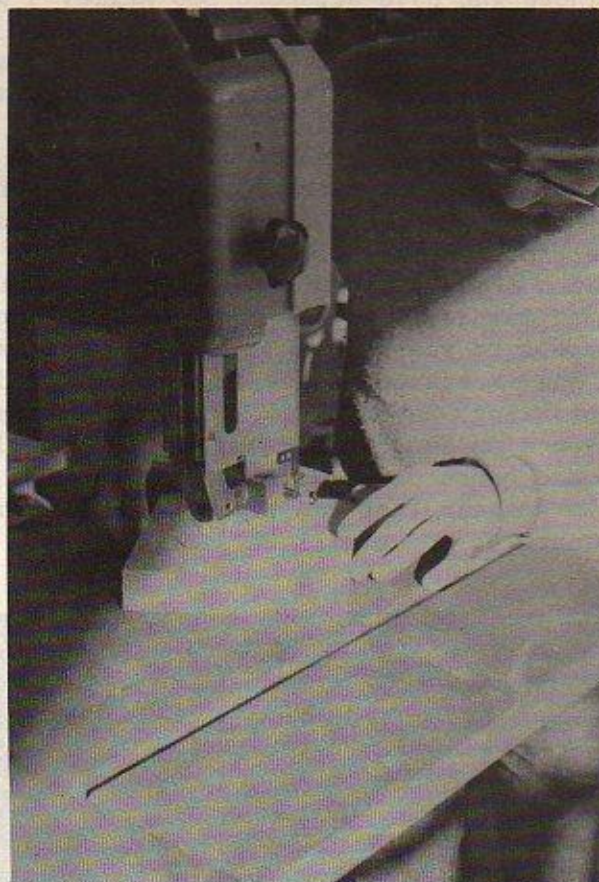
John Wermescher repeats his seminar on marquetry March 13, 14, and 15 at Highland Hardware. 12 13 14

And Bob Kelley, responding to popular demand, will teach seminars himself on bench tools February 6, finishing techniques and wood characteristics February 13, turning and lathe work March 27, shop jigs and routers April 10, and jointmaking May 8 and 9.

See inside pages for details along with illustrated coverage of seminars from last fall.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

You can have Wood News mailed to your home for just \$3.00 a year. Published in Atlanta, this quarterly journal contains information on tools, seminars, and other events of interest to woodworkers. Subscribe by sending \$3.00 to Highland Hardware, 1034 N. Highland Avenue, NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30306.



Fine fretwork possible with Inca's new 20" bandsaw is demonstrated here by Zach Etheridge. Turn to page 10 for a comparison of the large bandsaws now available to woodworkers from Inca and Makita.

INCA TOOLS DAY February 27

Saturday, February 27 is Inca Tools Day at Highland Hardware with free demonstrations of the Inca planers, jointers, tablesaws, and bandsaws in the morning and afternoon. Special limited offers on Inca tools will be available to those in attendance at Inca Day.

Morning session begins at 10 AM, with the demonstration being repeated in the afternoon beginning at 2 PM. Set up, maintenance, and achieving the best results safely will be stressed by Bob Kelley during these demonstrations.

Admission is free, but seating is limited, so give us a call at 872-4466 to reserve a space for you.

Those who have attended Bob Kelley's previous seminars or who have benefitted from his personal attention at Highland Hardware in the past will be happy to learn of this schedule of seminars taught by him this winter and spring.

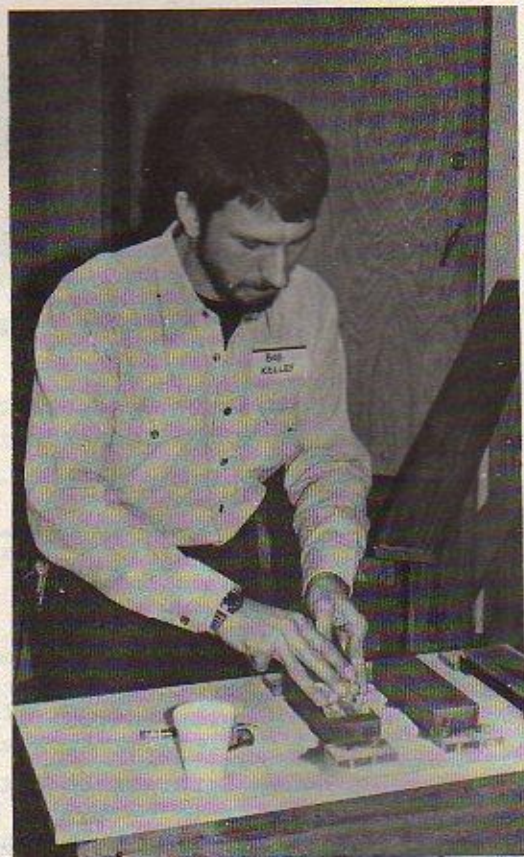
Responding to feedback from people in past seminars, Bob has expanded the offering to include the subjects most often requested but heretofore unavailable.

Each seminar is an individual unit unto itself, so you may register for one or two sessions of interest to you without a problem of continuity. The one exception to this may be the seminar on Jointmaking, May 8 and 9, in which previous experience in the correct use of the chisel, back saw and bench plane will enhance greater progress.

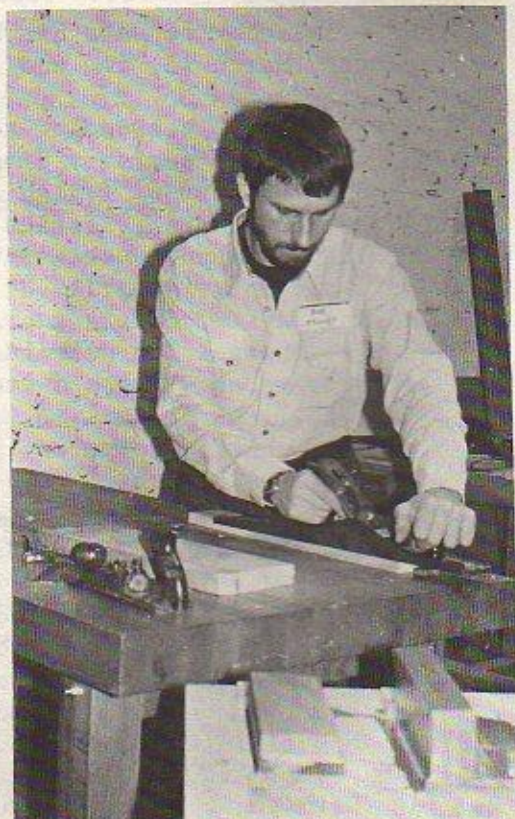
We suggest that you register early for these seminars as space will be limited.



Jointers do not automatically make straight edges. Above, Bob demonstrates the importance of the outfeed table. Below, Bob uses winding strips as he demonstrates preparation of stock.



Bob Kelley demonstrates sharpening and planing techniques during his last seminar on woodworking skills Dec. 5.



BOB KELLEY SEMINAR SERIES

Woodworking Skills and Techniques

BASIC BENCH AND BENCH TOOL COURSE

Saturday, February 6

9 AM - 5 PM

\$30.00

Bob Kelley will once again conduct an introductory level course on the tuning, sharpening and use of bench saws, chisels, hand planes, workbench and bench accessories. The first half of the program will be a lecture/demonstration on the procedures and appropriateness of hand tool work with the second half devoted to supervised hands on work by all participants, so plan to bring your tools and problems.

This course is a basic, indepth introduction to the skills necessary to easy mastery of such things as joinery and drawermaking.

A copy of Charles Hayward's Tools for Woodwork will be provided for each participant.

FINISHING AND WOOD SPECIES

Saturday, February 13

9 AM - 5 PM

Bob Kelley

\$25.00

In this seminar, finishing techniques which don't require an air compressor will be covered, including staining, wax, shellac, varnish, lacquer, oils, fillers, and troubleshooting.

Procedures for minimizing time and problems will be presented, along with selecting the appropriate finish for the job.

The second part of the seminar will deal with the identifying, working and finishing characteristics of the various species of domestic cabinetmaking lumber.

INTRODUCTION TO THE LATHE

Saturday, March 27

9 AM - 5 PM

Bob Kelley

\$25.00

This introductory course will cover lathe work, both inboard and outboard; turning chisels: their types, sharpening and use; patterns and duplication jigs.

Demonstrations will be done on the English Arundel lathe.

SHOP JIGS AND ROUTERS

Saturday, April 10

9 AM - 5 PM

Bob Kelley

\$25.00

Shop jigs are simply tools an individual builds to increase speed and accuracy. Jigs for a variety of tools and uses will be presented during the first portion of the seminar in order to demonstrate the basic principles of design and construction.

The second part will zero in on the router to show how the full versatility of a tool can only be realized with the use of accurate accessories. Featured here will be Makita 3600B Plunge Router, potentially one of the most versatile of all routers.

Construction drawings for each jig demonstrated will be provided for each participant.

SEMINAR ON JOINTMAKING

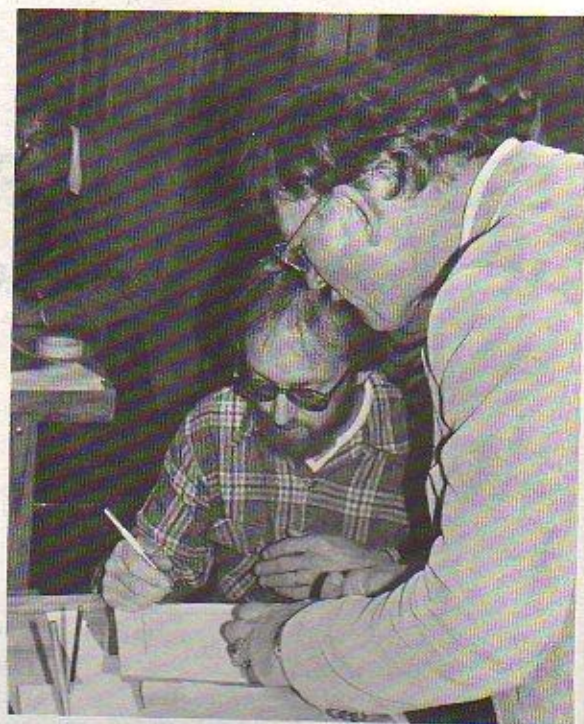
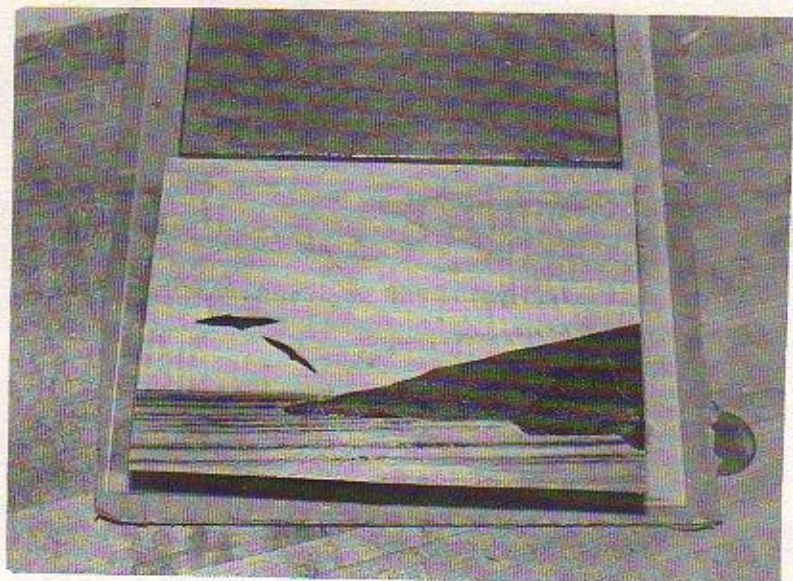
Saturday and Sunday, May 8 and 9

9 AM - 5 PM

Bob Kelley

\$50.00

Cutting superb and accurate joints using hand tools will be the topic of this two day hands on seminar. Dovetail, mortise and tenon, and other joints will be considered. Participants are encouraged to bring a back saw, bench plane, and chisel as opportunities will be given for each person to acquire some practice at the bench under the supervision of Bob Kelley.



MARQUETRY Seminar

MARCH ~~13-15~~

12-14

Marquetry is the art of cutting thin wood veneers into shapes and assembling them to form pictures or designs for mounting on or inlaying into wood.

By popular demand, John Wermescher returns to Highland Hardware March 13, 14, and 15 with his practical and stimulating seminar on marquetry and veneering.

The seminar will be open to beginners as well as those with marquetry experience. Beginners will attend an opening session Friday night from 7:00-9:30 PM for an introduction to the subject, and Saturday morning will be spent preparing the beginning members of the class to start their first marquetry projects. Those who already have some basic marquetry experience will join the class Saturday afternoon as projects are begun, allowing participants to choose one to challenge their present level of ability. Everyone will have an opportunity to produce a piece of marquetry during the seminar, as well as developing important skills for future projects.

Cost of the seminar for beginners is \$60. For advanced students who start on Saturday afternoon, the cost is \$40. This includes use of all necessary tools and materials.

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WENDELL CASTLE SEMINAR April 23-25

Wendell Castle will be in Atlanta for a seminar April 23-25 for a seminar on stack lamination and design.

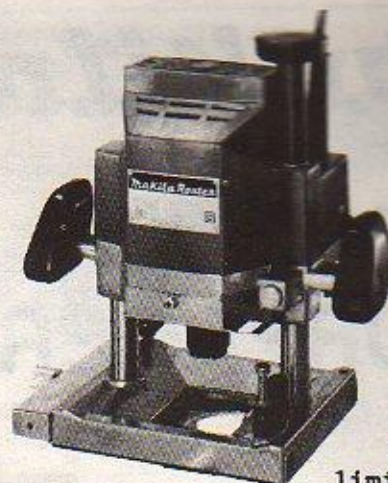
Mr. Castle is an internationally known woodworker, designer and teacher. In his studio and school in Scotsdale, New York, Mr. Castle creates furniture uniquely organic in form, utilizing the freedom from traditional lines made possible by the stacked lamination method of construction. This three day seminar will be of interest to serious woodworkers and sculptors concerned about broadening their ability to execute designs that are difficult or impossible with traditional methods.

The seminar will run Friday 8-10 PM, Saturday 9-5 PM and Sunday 9-4 PM. Cost of the seminar is \$90.00. Space is limited so please register early.

Those of you unable to attend the entire seminar are invited to join us Friday evening for a slideshow and lecture given by Mr. Castle and view an example of his work made available to us by Mr. Robert Farrar of the American Art Gallery, Atlanta. Cost is five dollars for those not registered in the seminar, and reservations can be made by mail or in person at Highland Hardware. Seating is limited.

MARQUETRY CONTINUED

At the seminar November 20-22, thirteen students produced their first pieces of marquetry under John's instruction. Each person chose a design, simplified it into a pattern workable by marquetry, and then traced the pattern onto a background material using carbon paper. Employing the window method, each of the shapes comprising the picture were then cut from the background, creating a template. At each step, a contrasting piece of veneer was cut to fill the space in the background, and edge glued into place. The completed picture was mounted to a fiber board base, sanded and finished.



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The router holds 1/4", 3/8", and 1/2" router bits. A heavy duty 5-1/4" by 6-5/8" rectangular base accepts optional guides.

The unit weighs 11 pounds.

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Carlton McLendon of Carlton's Rare Woods and Veneers at 1130 Hemphill Ave in Atlanta donated a nice selection of veneer to the seminar for the students to use in their marquetry projects.

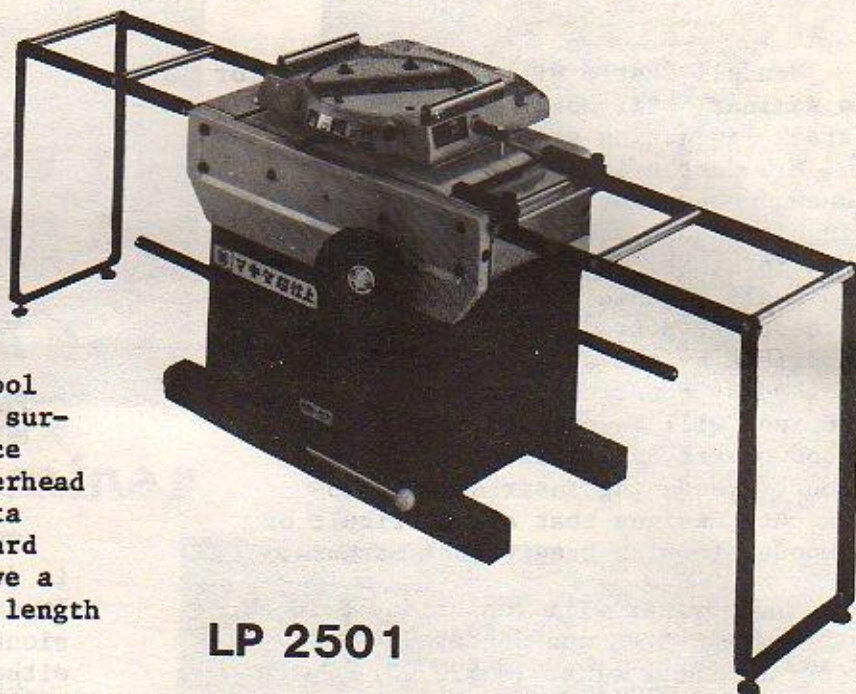
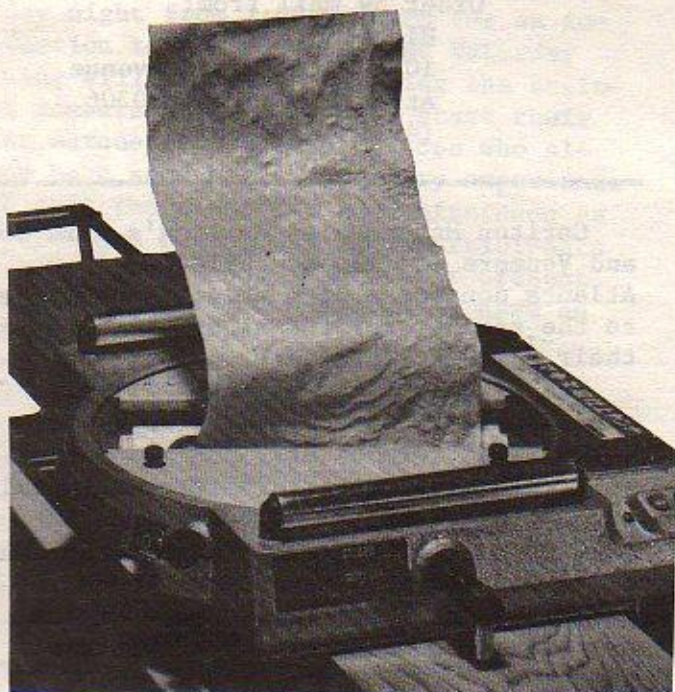
The Marquetry Society of America is a national organization devoted to fostering this form of art, and its ranks were enlarged by thirteen after the seminar as John enrolled the students who participated. After the seminar, many of the class members used their newly acquired marquetry skills to create more of the art pieces, some to give as Christmas gifts.

Makita

WOOD SURFACER

Brand new on the woodworking tool market is the Makita LP 2501 wood sur-facer. Unlike conventional surface planers which use a rotating cutterhead to remove shavings, the new Makita surfacer automatically feeds a board past a fixed knife which can remove a single thin shaving the width and length of the board.

The resulting smooth surface exceeds the quality produced even by hours of sanding with the finest sandpaper. No dust is left in the wood's pores. The finish is what could only have been achieved by hand planing with a finely tuned and honed hand plane. The main difference however, is its speed. The continuous belt advances the wood at 180 feet per minute.



LP 2501

Cutting width of the blade is 9-3/4", a dimension achieved on softwood when the blade is aimed at right angles to the work being fed. For irregular grain and hardwoods, the blade can be skewed up to 60° to produce less resistance to the cut. At the maximum skew of 60°, the cutting width decreases to 5".

Because the Makita surfacer takes such a light cut (on the order of .003"), the change in dimensions of the workpiece during surfacing is negligible, so furniture parts can be cut to size, assembled dry, and then precisely smoothed just prior to glueing.

The machine comes equipped with roller table at each end for easy handling of long stock. Very short pieces are also easily fed through the surfacer.

The tool is powered by a 2 HP 115volt motor rated at 13 amps. Maximum thickness is 7 1/4". Weight of machine is 275 pounds.

The Makita LP2501 Wood Surfacers is available from Highland Hardware for \$2330. Visit Highland Hardware for a look at this machine in action.

IAN KIRBY SEMINAR on Drawermaking MARCH 6-8

5-7

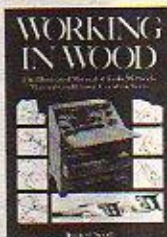
The most difficult element of cabinetmaking is drawermaking. The most difficult drawer to build is the classic drawer. For the professional or amateur craftsman interested in quality workmanship, Ian Kirby's seminar March 6, 7, and 8 will be a unique opportunity to learn time tested procedures and techniques without having to re-invent them from scratch.

The seminar will center on traditional hand made high quality drawermaking employing solid wood construction. Participants will have the opportunity to observe a classic drawer being made from start to finish. The requirements of a carcass will also be considered in practical terms, and the design of the drawer itself as a part of the larger unit also will be dealt with.

As in previous visits, Ian Kirby's opening lecture Friday evening will be open to those not enrolled in the full seminar (admission Friday night only will be \$5.00), and his talk this time will deal with the uniqueness of the handmade drawer as a furniture system, especially as it applies to the work of a small cabinetshop and the one of a kind woodworker.

The seminar will begin at 7:30 PM Friday evening March 6, and will run from 9-5 on Saturday and 9-4 on Sunday. Cost of the entire weekend is \$90.00 per person.

Register by filling out the enclosed registration form or in person at Highland Hardware.



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THE ILLUSTRATED MANUAL OF TOOLS, METHODS, MATERIALS AND CLASSIC CONSTRUCTIONS

Written by Ernest Scott, English master furniture maker and teacher with over 50 years experience as a craftsman. Broad in its coverage of every aspect of wood-working, precise

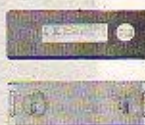
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Makita

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SPECIAL HIGHLAND HARDWARE OFFER. 3/8" diameter fluted dowels, 1 1/2" long. 1000 for \$17.50 postpaid. Include payment with order.



Ian Kirby is pictured demonstrating the cutting of dovetail joints at Highland Hardware's booth at the Excellence in Woodworking Show at Madison Square Garden in New York September 12.

JAPANESE TOOL SEMINAR

Reported by Zach Etheridge

When Toshio Odate politely refused to let me carry his suitcase full of tools from the airport baggage claim area to the parking lot, I began to realize that he felt something more than simple respect for those tools—but I still had no idea of what was really going on. Later, during the weekend seminar, he said "Each tool is made from someone's soul—and it should be used from the bottom of your heart." That may not sound exactly appropriate for your Surform rasp or your Sears router; it's hard to feel the soul in a cheap, mass-produced tool. But when you hold in your hands a saw or chisel or plane iron on which is etched the name of the individual craftsman whose lifetime of care and experience has gone into the making of that tool, you can indeed begin to understand the reverence with which such a thing should be owned and used. Here in the States we do experience pride in ownership and respect for good tools, but humility and reverence are as foreign to us as Zen or the Samurai tradition.



The weekend with Toshio Odate exposed everyone involved to a radically different and fascinating approach to the whole business of tools and their use, and in fact to a whole cultural matrix that most of us have never really understood. Toshio told of his years of traditional, strict apprenticeship in Japan under a



master craftsman: "He was a very kind master, except when working. He had not a speck of patience, but everybody forgave him. In spite of hitting the apprentices and throwing things at them, there were no broken necks, no cripples...maybe he knew how to hit." And a proverb: "He who takes long in the toilet makes a slow worker." The emphasis placed on speed as well as good craftsmanship was central to the ethic of the shokunin—one could not be really good without also being very swift. Toshio proved that his apprenticeship was successful by producing an example of a traditional shoji screen in under six hours during the final day of his visit—and demonstrated the pride of a master craftsman when, upon completion of the screen, he promptly knocked the frame apart and ordered it destroyed because "it wasn't good enough".

During the Friday night lecture Mr. Odate promised us that the rest of the weekend would be non-stop hard work, and it was, though there was no hands-on work at all for the students. On Saturday we were introduced to an immense array of tools, each with its history, a demonstration of techniques for use, and usually an instructive anecdote from personal experience. We witnessed the construction and use of the Japanese craftsman's workbench, consisting of an eight-foot 4x4 beam with one end supported by a lightweight triangle of small sticks—"it takes three nails to make the Japanese workbench". This unusual but highly useful device was used almost exclusively for planing operations, with other functions such as measuring, sawing, chiseling, and sharpening being performed on a tatami mat on the floor. Though I've not yet

removed the bench from my shop, I was quite impressed with the advantages of working on the floor: one's working surface is as large as the room, and has no edges for things to fall off of; one is working "in the round", with room for practically every necessary tool and material within arm's reach; and body position over the work can be superb. Incidentally, the floor makes the least expensive work surface I've heard of yet.

Of the tools, Mr. Odate advised: "First get modest tools and learn to use them properly. Buying the finest tools first leads to frustration, damage, and discontent." Having already broken off three teeth from my professional quality (and quite expensive) Dozuki, I agree wholeheartedly with this advice. Most Japanese edged tools are two-steel laminates: an extremely hard steel at the cutting edge, backed by a milder steel bulk to absorb impact and cushion against cracking of the brittle edge. In the case of saws, the whole blade is hardened, and depending on the intended purpose of the tool, its hardness (hence brittleness and fragility) increases in direct proportion to quality. Therefore the best tools, such as Mr. Odate's \$500 plane irons, require the utmost skill and delicacy in handling--they are supremely durable and precise only if not ruined by one careless or untrained move.

There is one species of Japanese tools, however, which is more forgiving in nature and in which good quality is both accessible and reasonable for the neophyte as well as the master: the water-lubricated sharpening stone. These stone were originally cut



from solid blocks, like our familiar Arkansas stones, but due to the increasing rarity of large, sound blocks the waterstones available in this country now consist of powdered stone which has been fused with heat and pressure into uniform blocks. According to Mr. Odate the resulting waterstone is at least as good as all but the finest of the old natural stones. He certainly proved the worth of the man-made stones with his own tools, moving quickly from very coarse to very fine stones and achieving a razor edge in minutes. He agreed with the opinion held by many of us who have lately begun using these waterstones: they cut much faster and produce a better edge than is possible with Arkansas oilstones.

In summary, Toshio Odate's seminar on Japanese woodworking was one of the most successful and certainly one of the most challenging educational experiences we've had here at the store. The participants learned at least as much about cultural relativity as about woodworking techniques; the most valuable new ideas might have been about learning through careful observation rather than about building shoji screens in a day. One familiar and extremely valuable impression all the participants took home with them was the sense of having been in the presence of a master, a man whose dignity and energy and skill are as fine as any of us could hope to achieve.

Toshio Odate will probably be back for another weekend visit sometime early this summer--details are still to be worked out. Look for information in the next Wood News. I for one have already reserved a seat.



BANDSAW COMPARISON

Introduced to the American market in 1980 at the World Woodworking Expo in Atlanta, the Makita 2116 resawing bandsaw was the first practical machine for heavy duty resawing available in the \$1500-\$1600 price range. In the summer of 1981, Injecta Inca of Switzerland supplied to the US its new 20" bandsaw, the Inca 710. Its price with motor and stand is under \$1400.

If you are in the market for a large capacity professional bandsaw capable of heavy duty resawing and other bandsaw work, your choice may well lie between these two machines. We have tried them both, and offer these observations.



INCA

For most overall bandsaw work, including scroll sawing and joint cutting, the Inca machine's superior blade guide system gives finer accuracy and better control during cuts. In fact, the blade's roller guides are designed to give good support to an incredibly thin 1/16" blade.

Its size range of blades—1/16", 1/8", 1/4", 3/8", 1/2", 3/4" and 1"—is unique among bandsaws available today, and permits scrollwork to rival the finest jigsaw. The intermediate size blades are useful for general cut-off work, joinery, and scroll cutting of various radii. The machine is a three wheel bandsaw giving an extremely large throat capacity of 20".

The 1/2", 3/4" and 1" blades permit resawing of large timbers into thinner pieces. Maximum depth of cut while resawing is 8". We have observed and heard noted by others that perhaps the Inca 710's best resawing is done using the 1/2" 3 tpi blade. Although the 3/4" and 1" blades are available for your most rugged work, an extremely smooth and well controlled resawing cut is achieved when the 1/2" blade is used. Slices less than 1/8" thick from large pieces are possible with the 710. A 3 step pulley connects the motor to the drive wheel, permitting a range of speeds including 900, 1800, and 2700 RPM. A belt tension adjustment makes speed changing fast and convenient.



INCA 710 BANDSAW

Depth of cut: 8" maximum

Depth of throat: 20"

Table: 20½" x 20½" ribbed cast aluminum with hard anodized surface, structural extrusion fence rails. Size can be expanded to 20½" x 40" with optional table extension.

Motor: 1 HP or 1½ HP 115/230 Volt

No. of wheels: 3

RPM: 900, 1800, or 2700 RPM

Frame: Heavily ribbed die cast aluminum alloy

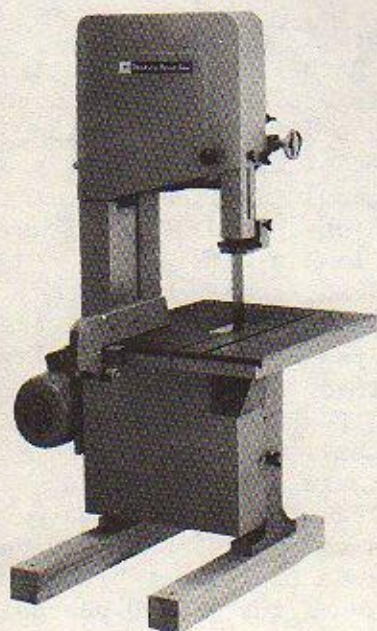
Total weight: 220 lbs.

Makita

The Makita machine's main advantage lies primarily in its massive design and its ability to use very wide resawing blades. The 2-3/8" wide Stellite tipped blade with 2 teeth per inch almost resembles the blades you would see in a large sawmill. As it begins its cut, the register created in the kerf against the wide blade enables a consistent straight cut while resawing. Blades as narrow as 1/4" can also be used, although the guide system is not as sophisticated as on the Inca 710. Where the Inca saw uses roller guides on either side of and behind the blade, the Makita saw uses a flat phenolic guide on each side (with roller bearing behind), which was obviously designed with the larger blades in mind. It does however permit large scroll work quite well with the 1/4" and 1/2" blades.

One independent company has produced a triple ball bearing guide system for use on the Makita 2116 bandsaw claiming successful control of blades down to 1/8". While this does extend the range of blade sizes that could be used, its \$275 price tag causes most Makita bandsaw owners to be satisfied with the 1/4" blade capacity which requires no modification.

Maximum depth of cut on the Makita is 12-3/8", and it resaws hardwood of this dimension without difficulty. Depth of throat is 13", sufficient for most any resawing but a limitation for scroll sawing.



MAKITA 2116 BANDSAW

Depth of cut: 12-3/8" maximum
Depth of throat: 13 "
Table: 21 1/2" x 20 1/2" Cast iron
Motor: 2 HP 115 V 13.0 Amp
No. of wheels: 2
RPM: 1150 RPM
Frame: Heavy cast iron
Total weight: 297 lbs.

11

After seeing them operate and comparing the specs, it seems clear that the Makita 2116 is a super resaw which also has somewhat limited scroll sawing capabilities while the Inca 710 is a super scroll cutting bandsaw which enjoys good resawing capabilities within its size limits. The choice is yours.

We invite you to visit Highland Hardware for a personal look at these two machines, along with our other Inca and Makita tools.

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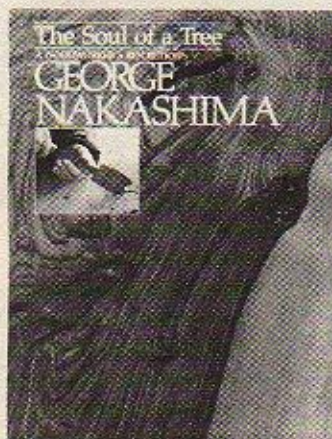
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TAGE FRID TEACHES WOODWORKING--Shaping, Veneering, Finishing
Written by Tage Frid

While Tage Frid has been recognized as one of the world's great wood-working teachers by many individuals, it is his productivity as an author that has enabled thousands of woodworkers to profit from his skill and experience. Readers of his first book on joinery have long awaited the arrival of his new book on woodworking techniques.

Writing in a crisp clear style with illustrations keyed to his text, the venerable Mr. Frid covers in step by step detail the essentials of wood bending, bowl turning, spindle turning, and finishing. Also included are use of the scraper, carving, working plywood and veneer, as well as a section on inlaying using the Makita plunge router. In the final forty pages of the book, Frid deals with finishing, including a thorough coverage of french polishing as well as use of oil, shellac, lacquer, varnish, stains, and fillers.

Beginners will use this book as a delightful learning text. Professionals will find it to be a valuable reference book. It can be ordered by mail from Highland Hardware for \$17.95 plus \$1.50 postage.



THE SOUL OF A TREE, A Woodworker's Reflections.
Written by George Nakashima Reviewed by Bob Kelley

As the title suggests, this is not another "everything you wanted to know about woodworking" book. Rather, it is an intimate look at an American pioneer, his work, his attitudes, and how both developed. The story of George Nakashima's life and education that led to his decision to become a maker of wooden objects reads like an adventure. To give it away here would spoil a good story. But it is central to understanding the unique blend of American, European and Asian influences so evident in his work.

In the early forties Mr. Nakashima and his family moved to Bucks County, Pennsylvania to establish a workstead. In the tradition of the pioneers who first settled the area the family lived in a tent and built the workshop first, then the house.

From this humble beginning developed a craftsman and architect whose ability in design and workmanship is internationally admired. Mr. Nakashima's Conoid chair has become recognized as a classic of the woodworker's art. Examples of this art are well presented throughout the book in beautiful photographs and sketches that eloquently detail and complement the text. This is not a "how to" book. Rather, it is a "why to" book, to be used during those periods of befuddlement when what one needs is not the proper bit size, but a little inspiration. It can be ordered from Highland Hardware for \$52.00 postpaid.