



Newsletter

<http://www.midwestwoodworkers.org>

President's Letter

Midwest Woodworkers Association March 2023 Newsletter –

Sometimes I wonder how I get myself into some challenging situations, but I have no one to blame but myself. In my effort to get a little cash flow to support my woodworking tool habit I took on two projects that have their own unique challenges.

The first project was an oak piano bench that did not match the ebony baby grand piano it was paired with, and the owners requested that I ebonize the bench. I decided to take on the project because I have been playing around with ebonizing in some of my projects and wanted to see if I could do it to the bench. The issue was I had forgotten how much I dislike stripping furniture, which was required in this project in order to get to the raw wood. Fortunately, the bench could be totally disassembled into each individual part to apply lots of stripper and then lots of sanding. After all of this I was finally able to apply the ebonizing to the bench.



Figure 1: Ebonized piano bench.

My intent was to use a vinegar and iron solution, but I was worried about the level of tannins in the stripped wood, and sometimes the vinegar solution can have a blue tint. So, I opted to increase the tannic acid content by using a formula of strong tea, which is a solution of hot water and a tree bark called “quebracho”. If anyone needs some quebracho please let me know, I have a half pound and it will last me five lifetimes, but please do not drink this tea. I then cleaned some #0000 steel wool in soap and hot water to remove any oils and after shredding the steel wool I shoved it into a quart bottle of white vinegar for a week, I then filtered out the undissolved particles. It is crazy how fast this process works to ebonize your wood project. I needed this bench dark, so I repeated the process a second time.

I was able to deliver the finished bench to the client and she was overjoyed with how well it matches the piano she has had since she was 12. Even though my payment equates to about \$10 per hour I learned a lot in the process and look forward to putting this newfound knowledge to use in a future project.



The second project is a marble topped three drawer dresser I purchased for \$22 from an online auction. If I had seen the dresser before bidding, I would never have



Figure 2: Fresh from the auction.

bought it, but the thing I wanted most was the marble top to eventually turn into a whiskey bar. Since I had the base, I thought I might as well repurpose it into a bench and flip it for some cash. However, this small project has spiraled out of control, and I have way more money in it than I may ever be able to sell it for. To add insult to injury, when I was stripping the multiple layers of paint and finish off the dresser, what I thought was going to be beautiful walnut piece of furniture turned out to be the greenest poplar I have ever seen. Needless to say, it is now going to be a painted bench.

The funds, for what my wife refers to as my “tool habit”, are also getting a boost from the classes I teach every month at **Sawdust Studios**. If you are interested, this month’s class, on March 29th, will be on traditional mortise and tenon joinery, and April will be a two-class session on building traditional shaker boxes. If you are interested, please sign up at www.sawdust247.com/classes.

The March meeting will be on Monday, March 27th, at **Sawdust Studios**, at 6:30 PM. This month’s presentation will be from James O’Neal on how to use a 3-D printer to build jigs, tools and replacement parts for your shop. I find this topic very interesting and I hope you will too. James will be bringing samples of items he has created for his own shop and will discuss the different types of printers, including their pros and cons. If given enough time I might also give a brief overview of how I ebonized the piano bench I discussed above.

Figure 3: The dresser becoming a bench.

I look forward to seeing everyone on the 27th, and please don’t come empty handed. If possible, bring any of your projects that you have been working on, even if they are in the build stage, and any ideas for presentations for future meetings.

Not to sound like a broken record, but I want to remind everyone that my time as club president will end in June and we are looking for someone that is willing to take on the position. I promise to assist in any way I can with the transition and with ongoing support.

Kindest regards,



Dean Gregory,
President, Midwest Woodworkers Association

MWA Christmas Toy Project

On those days when you are between projects or need a break from your current project it is a good time to make some car bodies for the MWA Christmas Toy Project. We will need car bodies for the club's fund raiser at the Pumpkin Festival in October and completed cars for distribution to children's service agencies at Christmas. When it gets warm this spring we can get together to paint car bodies and wheels. Make your own designs from scrap 2x material or get molded car stock from Terry Selby. Just remember to drill holes for the axel pegs with 7/32" or 15/64" bits so the 1/4" pegs are a snug fit.



Woodworking Resources

Cardwell Lumber

5927 Business 50 West
Jefferson City, MO 65109
573-893-2836
retailsales@cardwelllumber.com
<http://cardwellhardwoods.com/>
Domestic and exotic hardwoods, sheet goods, power
and hand tools, woodworking supplies

Taylor Toolworks

<https://www.taytools.com>
610 Big Bear Blvd., Suite 431
Columbia, MO 65202-3737
573-397-6432

Resource Tree & Land

Matt Tiemann
1446 Jade Road
Columbia, MO 65201

Midwest Woodworkers' Association

c/o Bob Youngquist
4435 Highway PP
Columbia, MO 65202
youngquistr@missouri.edu

Resource@ResourceTreeAndLand.com
resourcetreeandland.com
573-825-0515
Tree Service/Logs

Dungarees

10% off orders under \$200
15% off orders over \$200
Free shipping on orders over \$55
Discount code: MWAMMWT used in the last
page of checkout
<https://dungarees.com>

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