



The Original “Tool Guys”

Monthly Newsletter

Well, another month has passed here at Montana Tool. Steve is getting ready to mill some wood this spring and summer; Bob is recovering from his fall, and I'm pretty much the same as I was last month (only I'm a month older now!). This issue we're going to talk about some of our new machines and accessories, continue developing our “Words to the *Whys*” article and introduce a new article called “What *Wood* we use” this article will feature a different type of wood every edition. we'll talk about different characteristics and different common uses for that particular species. Hope you enjoy, let us know if you have any suggestions for any of our articles... Thanks!

NEW PRODUCTS

This month we are featuring a line of jigs and fixtures that many of you might be familiar with... WOODPECKERS. WOODPECKERS jigs, Router tables, and layout tools are all made right here in the USA. For 30 years WOODPECKERS has been making top of the line tooling. You can't find a better line!

ROUTER TABLE

Their router tables are how they built their name. The kit includes a table, a steel stand, a fence, a set of casters and a lift... Everything a guy would need to start making raised panels or any of the other many things one can do with a router. All of the parts are sold separately as well...

The tables are offered in 2 different sizes 24x32 and 27x43. The WOODPECKERS tables are offered in 2

different materials, 1 3/8 laminated MDF or 3/4 phenolic plastic. They're wear resistant and engineered to reduce friction. We'll start with the MDF table. One unique feature of these tables is WOODPECKERS take the time and money to balance identical laminate on both sides making the table stiffer and more stable than other tables on the market. The various strata of the table are chemically welded together using a material with the viscosity of water, pressed in a 50 ton press and heated to around 300 degrees. That means that your table is FLAT no glue bumps! The phenolic tables are made with the same quality standards. Although the phenolic tables are a bit more expensive they will never be affected by moisture, heat or even water (in the event of a leak in the roof or an unexpected spill!). Both table tops are made with an embedded fence, T-miter and T-lock tracks. The steel stand, high quality casters, fence and lift can be purchased as a kit or independently.

THE LIFT

The WOODPECKERS Router lift makes using a router table much quicker and easier. By allowing you to change your bits above the table it saves a lot of time and energy. The WOODPECKERS lift allows you to micro-adjust the height of the bit for precise cuts and allows for coarse adjustments quickly w/o having to touch the router. With several different sizes the WOODPECKERS lift can be adapted to almost any regular sized router.

LAYOUT TOOLS

WOODPECKERS is manufacturing some of the industry's best layout tools. This month we'll talk about their woodworking squares and their carpenter's square.

We'll start with the smallest we carry in store and move up from there. The smallest square we carry is the MINISQUARE, this 2" square is excellent for truing up your machines and small joinery work, you'd be amazed how often one of these pocket-sized squares comes in handy.

Moving up the line we have 6", 8", and 12" Woodworkers layout squares. These squares are guaranteed for life to be within .001" along the full length of the blade (not if you drop it!) These squares are a one piece blade and handle that is machined from high quality aluminum. The handles are all shouldered so they rest hands free on your work piece. The signature white on red scales are easy to read and are set up in 16ths on both sides of the blade. All of the WOODPECKERS layout tools have custom machined cases that will protect and safeguard your measuring tool.

The CARPENTERS SQUARE is great for the furniture maker. It's perfectly machined form cast and ground aluminum tool plate. Because its Cut from one piece the 45 and 90 degree angles are more precise than other stamped or molded carpenter squares. This tool is also ideal for setting saw blade and router height. WOODPECKERS has many other layout, jigs and fixtures. If there is something specific that you are wanting us to get in, give us a call!

Words to the "whys"

Why is it important to set my blade on the table saw 1/4 " higher than my material?

The short answer is one word- Safety. The reason you're shop teacher, your Dad, your Grandpa, and the first guy you worked for all told

you to set the blade that way is because it *reduces* the likelihood of an accident that ends with you missing an appendage.

Here's the rest of the story. If you are adept at using a table saw (or you have a saw stop) raising the blade to as high as you can will actually give you a cleaner, and quicker cut. You may have experienced this yourself... Imagine a time that you changed from ripping down taller stock to shorter stock, but you forgot to lower the blade. You may remember saying to yourself "*Wow, this seems to be going pretty smooth*" then never thought another thing about it. When you set the blade to the 1/4 inch above your material more of the teeth are buried in the wood at any given time. This makes your feed rate slower and builds up more heat and friction dulling the blade faster. When you set the blade higher the teeth are at a better relative angle to the material because they are cutting from the top of the blade. So, everyone was right when they told you how to set the table saw blade, but that isn't the whole story. If you want a cleaner and quicker cut and you want your blade to stay sharper longer, set that blade higher.

Featured Line

We've been talking about LAGUNA a lot lately. That's because we have been very happy with everything we've seen from them. That's one of the advantages of coming to a tool store, if a specific tool or brand isn't passing the test we find out about it pretty quick. Everything that we've seen from LAGUNA has been great. We have sold several of the Revo 18|36 lathes a bunch of their band saws, some joiners and some big boy planers.

LAGUNA built their name on band saws but they are proving to be an excellent manufacturer of table saws and all of the other stationary tools that become essential to the fine and the not so fine woodworkers.

What WOOD we use

Sorry about the excessive puns! I can't really help myself... This new article is to impart the slivers of knowledge about wood species that we have acquired either through experience, through our local woodworkers, or through research. This month we are going to feature a species common here in Montana, Siberian Elm (*ulmus pumila*). How it got here is a mystery to me as it is native to central Asia and Siberia. It's really good for all sorts of things. One of its most distinctive properties is that if it stays wet it will never rot. In the medieval times it was used for aqueducts because of this very quality. What that means for us is Elm makes great outdoor furniture. It grows cross grain which makes it a bit difficult to work. This also means it's not the best wood to split for firewood although you can use it for that purpose. In the past it was also used for wheels and coffins, so if you ever need to build a wagon wheel outdoor furniture or even a seat for a chair, go with Elm.

Just a quick reminder that SAWSTOP is currently offering a free mobile base OR overarm dust collection with the purchase of any pro cabinet saw. That is not offered by our store...when you buy one you can get a rebate for either of those upgrades by registering it with SAWSTOP.

Thanks for reading!

We appreciate you taking the time. Stay tuned for any upcoming manufacturer specials or in-store deals... again, thanks for reading and let us know if you have any suggestions...Until next month!

If you have a question comment call us a 406-721-6425.