



West Michigan Woodworkers Guild

October 2022

Newsletter

President's Message

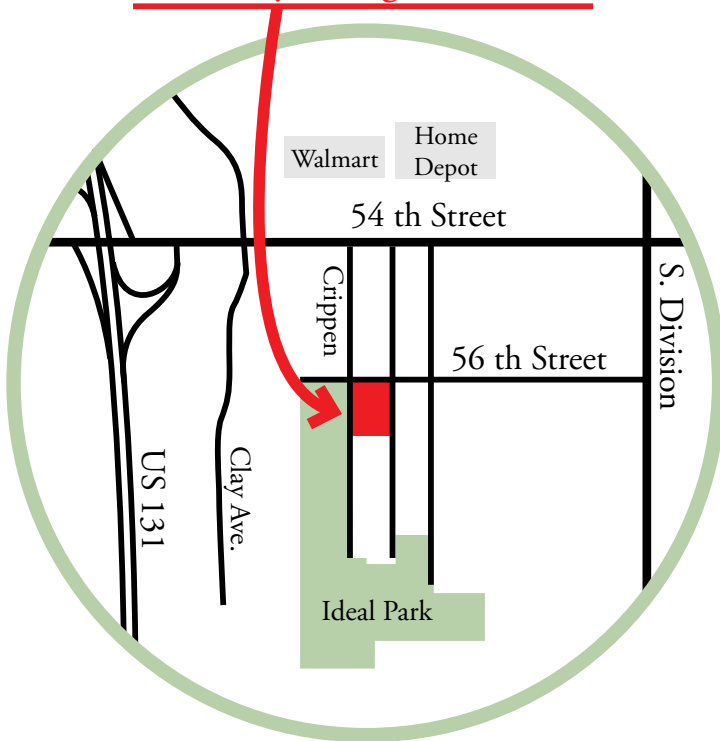
By Les Derusha

Upcoming meeting

Tuesday, October 11, 2022

7:00 PM to 9:30 PM

**Ideal Park Christian Reformed Church
Activity Center
320 56th Street SW,
Wyoming, MI**



The West Michigan Woodworkers Guild will be meeting on Tuesday October 11th at 7:00PM. We will be meeting at Ideal Park Christian Reformed Church Activity Center, 320 56th St SW, Grand Rapids.

Christmas is Coming! To help you round out that list for Santa Claus, for our October meeting we will be having Jeff Covey the Regional Sales Manager from Festool. He will have a selection of Festool items like the MFT Table, Festool Track Saw, Sanders, Dust Extractors and more.

Things will start with our Show & Tell, bring the fruits of your craft to share with the rest of your peers.

We will have the election of our Guild Board members. We are currently in need of a Guild Secretary, mainly to keep minutes of our meetings. We also have a Member At Large position open. We will be open to nominations for any of these positions.

We also need a cameraman, mainly push the camera around on the tripod (on wheels). See me at the meeting.

Since we have not had Dues since the 2020 season we will be asking for \$10.00 for the remainder of 2022. Case our Treasurer will accept cash or checks made out to West Michigan Woodworkers Guild.

See you in October. **WORK SAFE!**

Current Board Members :

Les Derusha - President

Case VanderMaas - Treasurer

Steve DeVries - Newsletter

Open - Secretary

Open - Member at Large

Steve Babcock - Member at Large

Jim Jakosh - Member at Large

Don Stump - Member at Large

Dale Smith - Vice President

John Pflug - Program Director

Tom McDonald - Guild Contact

As a reminder : "Member at Large" means member of the board with no specific duties.

LEADERSHIP OPENINGS!

There are a number of Guild Leadership Openings within the West Michigan Woodworkers Guild due to changes in Career & Family demands, Relocations and Personal Health Issues for the 2022-2023 meeting period.

Below are the current Guild Board Members and possible Board Member openings:

President - Les Derusha

Vice-President - Dale Smith

Treasurer - Case Vander Maas

Program Director - John Pflug

Newsletter Editor - Steve DeVries

Guild Contact - Tom McDonald

Secretary 'Open'

Board Members at Large

Steve Babcock

Jim Jakosh

Don Stump

3 Possible Additional Openings

All positions are subject to October Elections.

The Guild needs Leaders who are woodworkers who are ready, willing and available to lead and grow the Guild as we move into the future. We need Leaders who understand the needs of both new woodworkers and those experienced and/or technically advanced woodworkers.

Our Leaders collectively need to have a knowledge of computer use, the Internet and have the ability and knowledge on how to use digital communications (ZOOM). Don't worry if you do not have all the skills.

This is an opportunity for you to share your woodworking, computer skills and management training and experience you have acquired during your career and doing your own woodworking.

If being a Leader in the Guild sounds interesting to you, please contact our President, Les Derusha at les@derursha.org or call 616-455-5036 for more information.

Call me if I help you in any way with the Newsletter or the revamping of the Guild's brochure.

Happy and Safe Woodworking!

Rotary tool round-up

By Steve DeVries

Recently I found myself needing to do a large amount of power carving/sanding and knew that the current rotary tools that I owned would not be able to handle the job. I did quite a bit of research on different styles of tools and thought I'd share what I learned. This article is not an endorsement or a slam on any brand or style of rotary tool. There are many styles and they each have their uses. There are also many brands of each of these styles of tools.

I mention the ones shown here because I have personally owned every one of these tools either currently or in the past and feel I can give an objective review. My comments are merely my opinion based on many years of use, and I am sure others will have had different experiences.



The Old School Rotary Tool.

My first rotary tool was an old Craftsman brand tool from the mid 1990's. There weren't near as many options back then as there are now. It had a 5,000-25,000 RPM slider switch and ran very smooth. The weight was pretty light and the motor was quiet. The large diameter body was good for rough work, but got heavy when trying to hold it like a pencil for more detailed work. I burned the motor out in 2008 and mourned its passing. I used that thing for a lot of projects. I would soon find out that in the 15 years since I bought it, things had changed a lot.

Uses 1/16", 3/32" or 1/8" collets. I have an adjustable, chuck-style attachment, but find that it wobbles slightly so I don't use it.

What you plan on using it for greatly determines what type of rotary tool to buy. In 1994 I didn't know any better and didn't have many options anyway, so I bought the Craftsman to use on a couple of model ships I was building.



Larger rotary tools (Dremel 4000 shown).

Bigger motor means more torque. While having enough power to handle larger jobs, there is a distinct downside to these bigger models, and that is they are unwieldy. Holding it in one hand like a pencil (like shown below) is almost impossible for more than a minute or so. The amount of finger strength needed to hold the weight and accurately steer the bit will soon tire your hand out. It can be done, just not for any length of time.

Where these larger tools really shine is when using them for larger jobs where you can use two hands to hold it. They also work exceptionally well for mounting up-side down and using as a miniature router (where mine spends most of its time). If you use a rotary tool a lot, but not for long stretches of time, this style will work for you.



Uses 1/16", 3/32" or 1/8" collets. There are multiple attachments.



I have a love/hate relationship with my Dremel 4000. Purchased after my Craftsman died in 2008, the motor on my Dremel 4000 runs extremely rough, almost jerky until you get the speed up over 15,000 RPM (which I almost never do with woodworking). Perhaps I got a dud. I have used it a lot, but never enjoyed it. While it does have enough power for larger jobs, this thing is heavy, really heavy. Like carrying a brick heavy. It works great for things like metal cut-off wheels or grinding off glue residue when I can hold the thing with two hands. I have four rotary tools, and my Dremel 4000 is the last one I will use.

Smaller hand-held stylus type tools :

If you do very delicate detail work where control is key, these small tools excel. The lower weight and slim profile makes them easy to hold. They aren't meant for taking off large amounts of material. The downside is that the motors are very small and will overheat quite easily. They also don't have a lot of torque, but they aren't meant to. These are great for short, detailed use, but don't expect one to be the work-horse of your shop.



Uses 1/16", 3/32" or 1/8" collets. No attachments can be used on these small machines.



I personally own the smaller rechargeable tool on the right. At the time it was the cheapest rotary tool I could find at Menards and is so generic I don't even know the brand. I detest buying bargain tools, but at the time I needed something small and cheap. Much to my delight, this thing is surprisingly useful and has held up for years. Easy on-off button and speed change buttons make it simple to use, and it is very light. The portability is a real bonus and the battery lasts for hours. If I have a quick sanding or grinding that I need to do, this is my first choice.

**If there is an
pinnacle of
rotary tool
excellence,
in my opinion,
Foredom is it.**



Collets up to 1/4"
Interchangeable hand-pieces
Forward and reverse switch

Suspended motor flex shafts.

Foredom is the Jello or Frisbee of rotary tools. Not in that they are jiggy or made of cheap plastic, but that the brand name has become so indicative of the product itself that the two can hardly be separated. I have seen other brands calling themselves a "Foredom tool" rather than a rotary tool.



I purchased a
second hand-piece
with a drill-chuck.
0"-5/32"

If Dremel is the name brand for the casual weekend garage warrior, Foredom is the name for the people who do serious carving or spend hours a day using a rotary tool. The competition isn't even close.

By far the most expensive of the bunch, it is also by far the most versatile tool. In fact, a tool like this can replace every other machine previously mentioned for both detail and rough work, power and durability, ergonomics and ease of use. You can use this machine 8 hours a day, week after week. The ONLY way a machine like this is inferior to the others is the portability aspect. You can't just grab one of these and quick take it to the garage for something.

All flex-shafts are not the same. If you get a flex-shaft attachment for your hand-held rotary tool, you are still limited by the size of the motor. Maybe that is fine for what you are doing, but don't think the two are interchangeable.

Be warned!

Online marketplaces are riddled with knock-offs and cheap facsimiles. I concluded that I should save up and buy the real deal, and that the only way I could make sure I got the real deal (and not a knock-off) was to buy directly from the manufacturer.



I built a sanding cabinet for my Foredom. I use a foot pedal on/off switch, with a hand-dial speed control.

Show -n- Tell

I apologize for the lack of information on these projects. I usually include names, wood types, construction methods. I was unable to attend the previous meeting but managed to at least get these photos from others. If you catch me at the next meeting, I will happily add some information after-the-fact about any of these projects. They all deserve more - Steve DeVries.



Hexagon gameboards



Carved wood cover journal

Floating tabletop table



Jewelry box





Sam Lacina's magnificent chair.



Jim Jakosh with his scissor lift table.

Wood toboggan by Kyle Underwood



Bird condo



Toy car



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Times.

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FREE Guild Membership!

Join the West Michigan Woodworkers Guild for FREE!.

To join the WM Woodworkers Guild and to receive our monthly Newsletters and to post to our Facebook Page, all you have to do is send us the following information:

Your Full Name
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Your Phone Number
Your Favorite Type of Woodworking

Send your contact information to:

Information@westmichiganwoodworkers.org



How Woodworkers Keep in Touch.

There are three ways Woodworkers can keep in touch with one another during this time of pandemic meeting restrictions:

One: Join the West Michigan Woodworkers Guild

Two: Receive our Monthly Newsletter (FREE from September through June, annually)
(Send us your contact information, Name, e-mail address, mailing address and phone number to: information@westmichiganwoodworkers.org)

Three: View and post questions, projects, items for sale or desired or general woodworking information to our Facebook Page regularly.

www.facebook.com/groups/wmiwwguild



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Web information

The Guild's Facebook page :
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The Guild's website :
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