

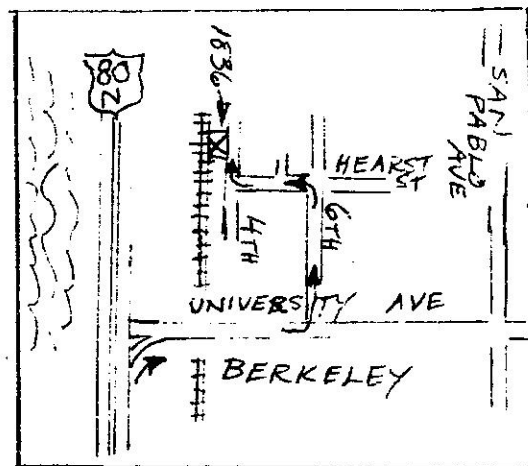
BAY AREA WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

August, 1984 - Issue 8, Volume 3 . PO Box 421195 . San Francisco, CA 84142

THIRD THURSDAY PREVIEW

The General Meeting for August will be on the 16th at 7:30 PM. It will be hosted by BAWA member Tad Laird, who is also opening his Rosewood Tool Supply (on August 1st) where The Cutting Edge used to be (directions follow). There will be two presentations and a demonstration. Donald M. Stoner of the deYoung Art Museum, San Francisco, will speak on, and show slides of, "Furniture Construction in early America." We are also lucky to have Ann Morales of the Oakland Art Museum speak on, and show slides from the Museum's review of the culture and its products of the Alaskan people involved in the fur trade, "Soft Gold." Some of us may recall the kerf-bent boxes shown in Fine Woodworking. Once more, we are planning, if time permits, a demonstration of the three joining machines that use beechwood wafers to lock panels together. If you have an Elu DS-140, could you bring it to the meeting?

DIRECTIONS: Rosewood Tool Supply is located at the former site of the Cutting Edge, 1836 Fourth Street, Berkeley. It is a few blocks west of San Pablo Avenue, just north of University Avenue. For drivers from the West Bay, take 80 North; exit at University Avenue. Make the first left turn possible—on Sixth Street. Turn left again to Fourth; 1836 is immediately to your right. You will be circling Spenger's (where I heard Edward Teller explain world politics to a dinner party 25 years ago). The phone is 540-6247.



NOTES ON JULY'S GENERAL MEETING: Thanks to Michael Sasnet of Los Altos, who brought slides and samples of laser-cutting applied to woodwork. He showed what is done and answered many questions about techniques. To me, he seemed most gracious to explain why the costs of the machinery are so great (computers, traveling tables, as well as the very large tool that a laser-source can be) and the market fairly specialized (engraving and die-board cutting).

Special thanks also to David Cobb, now a carpenter in Oakland but once an employee of Friends of the Earth. David filled in for another speaker and presented the sorry tale of the loss of the tropical rain forests of the earth in such a way that I didn't feel guilty as a woodworker; more saddened as a person in the modern world. Harold Waldron agreed to don the unhappy role of "devil's advocate" for the hardwood importing industry. He recounted his lengthy efforts to preserve and wisely manage some of the riches of Brazil, and the frustration at learning of the failures of his plans.

In effect, he confirmed the image that David Cobb presented of a world of greed, short-sightedness, and selfishness. He ended more hopefully with a note of faith in large corporations as tree-harvesters and asset-managers. There was a brief wrangle about the politics involved; whether corporations or workers' cooperatives were the more likely agents of preservation. Powerful social groupings suddenly appeared behind blocks of wood in the bins, and I felt that I'd like to keep them at once present and also make them go away. Consciousness-denying.

A brief statistic: 70% of the hardwoods of Central America have been clearcut without replacement since World War II.

--B.G.

SELLING FURNITURE: Neiman-Marcus is making a major commitment to American Arts and Crafts. What follows below is a sample of the strong, "hyped" advertising mailing that they write for their clientel. In San Francisco Larry Ewing is the capable director of the Continuum Gallery, which last year showed Scott Page's work.

Neiman-Marcus

THE CONTINUUM GALLERY IS PLEASED TO PRESENT ...

AUGUST 2 - AUGUST 22 — RUNSTADLER GLASS SCULPTURE / GREW-SHERIDAN FURNITURE

Premiering with our gallery are two couples who are deeply committed to artistic expression in two very different mediums: wood and glass.

Marsha and Kurt Runstadler are glass sculptors. Rather than blow or melt glass they have chosen a constructive approach. Their limited edition sculptures interact dramatically with light and appear to have a fluidity that surpasses description. As artists, their works have received national recognition. We are proud to be the first retail organization to exhibit their extraordinary works.

John and Carolyn Grew-Sheridan are artisans of one of a kind furniture sculpted in exotic woods. Their analytical approach to the problem of otherwise conventional pieces of furniture was resolved by unusually beautiful works of utilitarian sculpture. You will not merely find four legs for a table. The subtlety of their design, their use of fine woods, and their superb finishes produce a wonderfully tactile and visually satisfying work of art. They have honored us with the first public unveiling of a most beautifully graceful prototype of a chair that will clearly be an investment in timeless aesthetics.

AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 12 — AMERICAN ARTFORMS

Continuing Neiman-Marcus' commitment to the support of arts and crafts in America, we are proud to highlight our American Artforms Department. Our buyer, Lynne Sisson, has arranged for our most successful artists in this department to produce for us, exclusively definitive examples of their craft. The exhibit will be timed to coincide with the annual Pacific Craft Fair and the American Council of Crafts meeting. This is our contribution to their efforts and a confirmation of our commitment to their goals. Personal appearances will be made by Dorothy Hafner to discuss her superb line of ceramics.

Continuum exhibits on the Fourth Floor. Should you have any questions or requests, please phone us at (415) 362-3900.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOTES: Dick Taylor, our new Chairperson, is working to implement a number of ideas that have value. First, he is making up a questionnaire for distribution at two meetings, at least, for members to fill in and return during the meeting. In addition, there will be a box with blanks for members to write down any matters they'd like to get opinions on or ask about to other members during our "open time" — that part of the meeting where we socialize and greet one another.

--Bob Greenberg

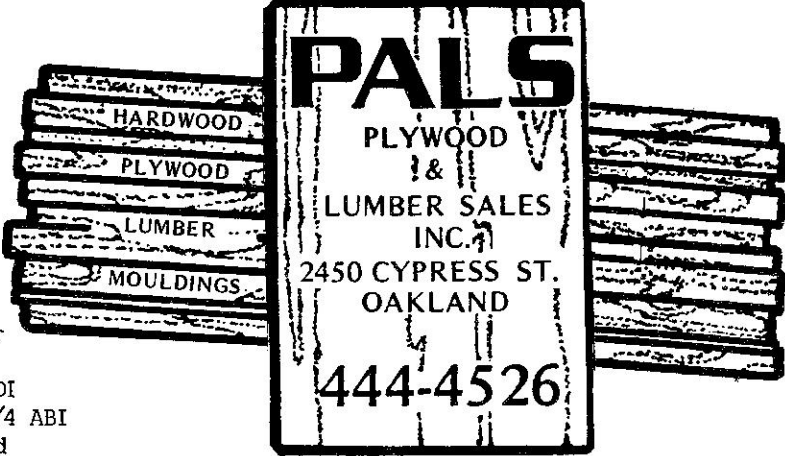
NEW GALLERY

The Downey/Wheat Gallery will be opening soon in Santa Cruz. The focus of the gallery will be fine woodworking. For more information contact Bill Downey, 115 Clark Ave., Santa Cruz 95060, (408) 426-8777.

BOOKCASE RULE OF THUMB

Chris Broadwell of the Santa Cruz Woodworkers Association and a bookstore owner - client of his came up with the following "optimum" dimensions for bookcases: --

	<u>Shelf Depth</u>	<u>Height of Opening</u>
Paperbacks	5½"	8"
Hardbound	7¼"	10¼"
Oversize	9¼"	13½"



<p><u>PLYWOOD</u> Red Oak White Oak Birch Ash Mahog. Finn Birch Italian Poplar Shop Maple 1/4 + 3/4 ADI 1/2, 5/8, 3/4 ABI Particle Board Medite Kortron Hardboard Teak E.I. Rosewood Walnut Brazilian Mahog. Cherry</p>	<p>Jeff Hunt Manuel (MG) Gutierrez</p>	<p>Patrick Kozisek Armand Mazie</p>
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SPECIALS

3/4 4x8 MERSAWA LC A-2	24.00 sheet 300 pcs.
3/4 4x8 Hawaiian KOA A-2 VC	100.00 sheet 14 pcs.
1/4 4x8 P.S. Red Oak A-3	14.96sheet 700 pcs.
3/4 4x8 P.S. Red Oak A-2 (Import) Thick Veneer	11 ply \$45.00 sheet
1/4 4x8 Ribbon Mahog. Shop A-3	\$12.80 ea.

--Also in stock RED OAK MOULDINGS--

FRAM:

NEWSLETTER OF
THE PENNSYLVANIA WOODWORKERS, INC.

FEATURE ARTICLE: PATENT LAW AND
THE CRAFTSMAN - J. Stewart Brams

Patent Agent

Patents and inventions are a subject of considerable curiosity and interest among artisans and craftsmen. This brief article will focus on patents as one available vehicle for proprietary protection of innovations. Due to space limitations, in-depth analysis of the subject is impossible. The following, therefore, is not intended to substitute for legal advice from a competent patent practitioner.

The individual artisan and the giant corporation alike have access to several modes of proprietary protection for their work products and business interests. Among these are patents, copyright, trademarks, trade secrets, and state proscriptions against unfair competition. Each of these vehicles is unique from the others with respect to the interests protected and the mechanism of protection afforded.

A patent is a grant from the federal government under the patent statute as authorized by the Constitution, Article 1, Section 8. It grants to the inventor, for a limited period of 17 years, the right to exclude others from making, using and selling the invention within the United States in return for the inventor's public disclosure of his invention. It is, in effect, a license to bring suit for infringement.

A copyright protects the originator or author of a work (including works of art such as sculpture) against copying of the work for the duration of the creator's life, plus 75 years. It does not protect against independent creation of an identical or similar work by another.

Trademarks are marks in the form of words, slogans, designs, logos, and other devices that are adopted by business concerns for use on their products. Trademarks serve to distinguish one business entity from another thereby promoting the business identity and

preventing public confusion as to what goods come from which suppliers. Thus, one paramount criterion of successful trademark adoption is that the adopted mark will not be confusingly similar to the mark of another who is dealing in the same or similar goods.

Trade secrets are data and information generally unknown to others and maintained in secrecy by the proprietor, and by which the proprietor gains a competitive business advantage over those not having access to the secret information. The trade secret is protected in perpetuity so long as not publicly exposed and not independently discovered by others in the field.

Patents are perhaps the best known, and most commonly used mode of proprietary protection for technical innovations. Several types of patents are available. The most common by far is the utility patent, which commonly protects utilitarian features of a mechanical or electrical apparatus, a chemical composition, or a process or method (e.g. a manufacturing method). Other types of patents include design patents, which protect ornamental designs (two well known patented designs are the Raggedy Ann Doll, No. 47,789, and the Statue of Liberty, No. 11,023), and plant patents which protect certain novel varieties of plant life.

The following brief overview is intended to address some of the more common misconceptions concerning our patent system.

An application for a patent does not ensure that a patent will be granted. Prosecution of the application is conducted before an examiner in the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and the examiner may ultimately conclude that the invention is not patentable for any of a number of reasons. Therefore, one does not know in advance whether his invention will be found to be patentable. A preliminary novelty search can be conducted and will usually shed considerable light on the prospects

for patent protection. Such a search is of nominal cost compared to the cost of filing and prosecuting an application. When a patent examiner rejects an application, his determination is not final as the applicant always has an opportunity through reponse to the examiner's arguments, amendment of his application, filing of an appeal or a continuing application, and other avenues, to challenge the examiner's determination.

A patent does not ensure or permit secrecy of the invention. All issued patents are public information and each patent describes the invention in detail. This is required by the Constitutional Mandate that Congress would have the power to "promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries" (Article I, Section 8). In return for the exclusive right in the invention, the inventor must disclose the invention to the public in his patent. The public disclosure promotes science and the useful arts by allowing others access to the advances in technology, and provides public notice of just what the patent covers. This is essential as one cannot assert exclusive rights against others while at the same time refusing to disclose the limits of those rights.

A patent is not renewable nor is it generally extendable. The life of a utility patent is seventeen years from the date of issue. Only an act of Congress can extend the life of a patent.

A patent does not guarantee that a product incorporating the patented invention will not infringe any other patent. In many cases the patented invention is only a small part of the overall structure. Other inventors may well have patents covering other aspects of the structure and copying of those other aspects would be infringement of those other inventors' patent rights. Also, a patent covering a broad concept will often dominate later improvements and refinements in the concept. As a hypothetical example, one could not avoid infringement of a basic patent covering the wheel by patenting the refinement of a wheel

having a rubber tire. The improved wheel with rubber tire is still a wheel and , therefore infringes the basic patent covering the wheel. Just as a novelty search can be conducted, so too can an infringement search be conducted to determine if a product, whether or not patentable, would infringe the patent rights of any other inventor.

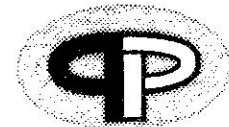
A patent does not ensure that no one will copy the patented invention. A successful product, whether patented or not, is likely to be copied by many. What the patent does do is give to the patent holder the right to exclude others from making, using and selling the invention in the United States. The patent is, in effect, a license to bring suit for infringement against copiers and, if the suit is successful, to receive compensation for such infringement from the infringer. Patent litigation, like other litigation, can become quite expensive. A patent also provides for the owner a vehicle for licensing of his exclusive rights to others. The offer of a license to an infringer in return for royalties may permit easy resolution of infringement issues without litigation and the attendant costs.

CONT'D

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PATENT LAW AND THE CRAFTSMAN

J. Stewart Brams (concluded)

A patent does not signify that the covered invention is in any sense better than the available alternatives. The standards of patentability under the law are novelty and utility. An invention which is new, useful and not obvious in light of what was already known before the invention thereof is patentable. A device which merely works better or more efficiently in some sense than the alternatives, but which is structurally identical to or obvious in view of the previously known alternatives will not be found patentable. There is no universal consensus on what qualities make a given product better than the alternatives, and the patent office therefore does not concern itself with such issues, leaving them instead to resolution by the marketplace where each buyer purchases what best suits his particular needs.

A patent does not ensure that any manufacturer will be interested in the invention. Many companies will not consider "outside" inventions or deal with outside inventors. However, if a patented product is commercially attractive and appears to offer viable market prospects, a company which is interested in developing the market will have a genuine incentive to negotiate with the patent owner.

^A A patent does not guarantee great commercial success. The marketplace and the law of supply and demand are the factors which determine commercial success, although a patent may give the patentee a degree of control over commercial development. A patent does not necessarily make an invention more easily marketable. Selling of a patented invention in mass markets requires the same effort, the same attendance at trade shows and equally as much leg work and knocking on doors as does the selling of an unpatented product. However, by marking the invention "patented" (if it is patented) or "patent pending" (if a patent application is on file) the market appeal of an invention may be enhanced.

A number of publications on patents, including the following, are available from the

Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402. Write to this address for current price information.

Patent Official Gazette. Issued each Tuesday, simultaneously with the weekly issuance of patents, it contains a selected drawing and an abstract of each patent granted.

Guide for Patent Draftsmen. Patent and Trademark Office requirements for patent drawings with illustrations.

Patents and Inventions: An Information Aid To Inventors. The purpose of this publication is to aid inventors in deciding whether to apply for patents, in obtaining patent protection, and in promoting their inventions.

Patents: Spur to American Progress. Focuses on the patent system, outlining its purpose and practices. It illustrates how the system nurtures discovery of data and devices, ^{and how} on which the American partnership of inventor, industry, and the public builds prosperity.

The Story of the United States Patent Office. Cites important events in the development of the United States patent system and lists chronologically inventions having important effects on the economy.

Patent Laws. Compilation of patent laws in force.

Patent Attorneys and Agents Registered to Practice Before the U. S. Patent Office. An alphabetically and a geographically arranged listing of patent attorneys and agents registered to practice before the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office.

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BAWA DATA

The Bay Area Woodworkers' Association is an organization of woodworkers who have banded together to promote woodworking in both technical and aesthetic directions. This newsletter is a monthly publication intended to serve as a communications vehicle and a source directory for the membership of this Association.

Membership dues are \$20/year, for which any member may participate fully in the Association, in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the By-Laws. This includes voting power on any issue brought before the membership for a vote, notification of the monthly shop talks and demonstrations put on by the Association, receipt of this newsletter each month, and privilege of participation in any special discount programs sponsored by local businesses in conjunction with this Association.

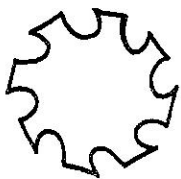
Checks for membership dues may be made out to the Bay Area Woodworkers' Association and sent to P.O. Box 421195, San Francisco, CA 94142. Membership cards will be issued to all members in good standing.

Copies of the By-Laws are available at all monthly meetings, or can be requested by mail.

The monthly shop talks and demonstrations are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m., at a location announced both in the newsletter and at the previous meeting.

The monthly executive committee meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of every month, and are open to any interested members. To arrange attendance, contact any member of the executive committee by telephone or the address given above.

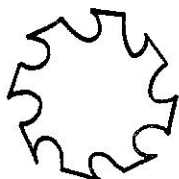
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4/4	Australian Lacewood S2S	3.75
7/16	Unidirectional Phillipine Mahogany Ply	17.99 ea.

Domestics

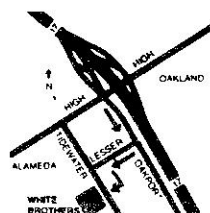
1 × 12	Laminated T.A. Cedar	\$1.30 lf.
2 × 6	VG Fir	1.30 lf.
4/4	Cal Walnut Shorts S2S	1.29 bf

Announcements:

Makassar Ebony as Arrived!

We will be open Saturdays

8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED -

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CLASSIFIED ADS: These will be run free for paid-up members of BAWA and cost other people \$5.
Brevity counts.

---Tad Laird of Rosewood Tool Supply, Berkeley, is looking for part-time sales and teaching staff:
540-6247.

- Rockwell Unisaw 10", 3 HP, 1PH, 1 year old, stored in garage, little use, 6' Biesemeyer fence mounted, 10" Carb. Combin. Blade, 12' of back work bench, \$1,800, (707)938-2686, Jose.
- Woodworking Machinery: 2-12x36 Lathes, 8" Jointer, Bench Drill Press, Miter Trimmer, Shapers (1" & 5/8") & 30" Bandsaw; Best Offer, 626-9040, San Francisco.

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