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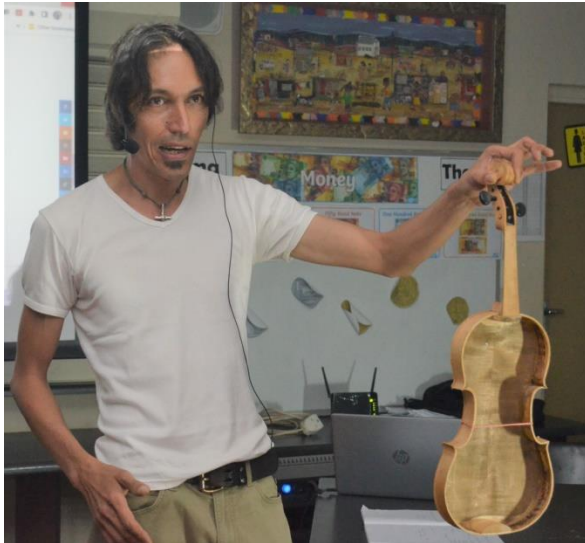
Februarie 2023

Association's Monthly Meeting: 22 February 2023

By Paul Roberts

The meeting was held at the New Hope School during a period of load shedding. Luckily we had a generator to power the video projector. The Guest Speaker was Svend Christensen who is a Luthier. See Svend's website www.svencino.co.za for detail about his organisation and activities. The meeting was very well attended by some 38 persons including a number of guests and new members.

Svend gave a most interesting talk which was supported by various components of stringed instruments. He was clearly passionate about the subject and an expert!



Svend explaining the components of a violin.

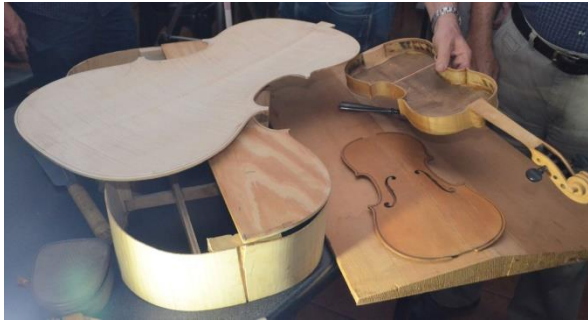
Interesting issues raised by Svend during the presentation are:

- European maple generally used for some components;
- The back is usually spruce and is glued from book matching parts which are quarter-sawn;
- Hide glue is always used as it is then easy to open joints for repairs;
- Jointing must be done carefully and surfaces must be flush;
- Mostly hand tools are used;
- Sharpening of tools is essential;
- The design and layout of the instruments have been developed over many years and much is based on the Golden Ratio;

At the end of the presentation, Chairman Corneel du Toit handed over a hand-made pen to Svend.



Attendees examining the various components.



Violin and cello components.

After the break, Braam Burger gave a talk on the Workshop project which is located at the New Hope School. Funding had been raised for rubber-tiled interlocking flooring. Members of WAP will be able to use the Workshop at a small daily fee on a Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. For safety reasons at least two persons should always be present. Various projects to assist with fund-raising were mentioned such as toys, pens and two workbenches. We already have an investment of some R200 000 in equipment of the Workshop. Members were encouraged to participate in the matter and there will be opportunity to offer remunerated woodworking courses.

Cabinet Makers and Restorers:

11 February 2023

By Paul Roberts

The meeting was held in Dylan van Graan's workshop and was attended by 15 persons on a rather wet and rainy day. The topic for the day was **sharpening** of scrapers, plane irons and chisels. Dylan first dealt with scrapers which are not generally used by members, but which is a cheap and effective tool in finishing one's work. Dylan stressed the important principle that a sharp edge consists of the intersection of two polished surfaces. The sharpening demonstration is illustrated below in a series of photographs. Dylan uses diamond stones (coarse (300 grit), medium and fine) with a window wash containing alcohol as a lubricant to prevent rust. He also has a leather strop with TorkCraft polishing compound #5 (white) for the final polish and honing.



The two side faces of the scraper are first prepared. Only about 3-5 mm width needs attention.



The edge is then filed down using a 2nd cut file mounted squarely in a wooden block. The scraper is clamped in a vice and the filing continues until there is equal resistance along the full length. Remove the burr on the sides on the fine stone.



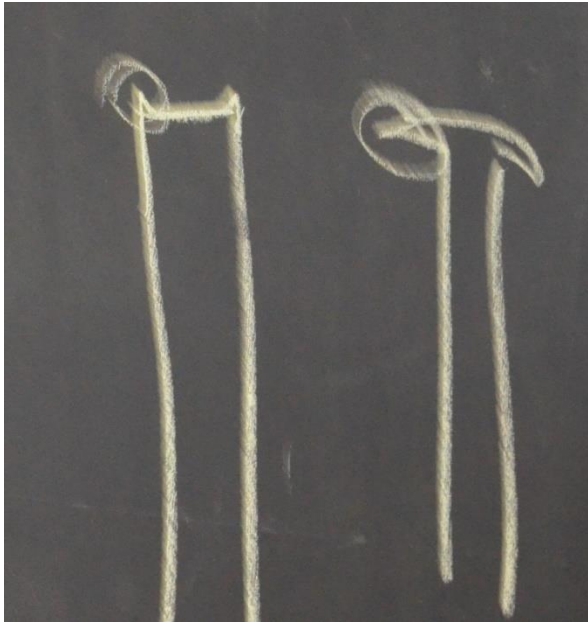
Remove the file scratch marks on the edges by successive use of the various stones. The wooden block acts as a guide to hold the scraper vertical. Remove burrs on the flat sides. We now should have 90° corners.



Stage 1 Hook Formation: Scraper lies flat on the bench and light (about 5) strokes to form the vertical projection. The burnisher is about 5° from the horizontal. Do on all 4 faces.



Stage 2 Hook Formation: Roll the hook 50 on both sides again with light strokes. Note that the hook is very sharp and do not run your fingers along it!



Two processes are needed to form the hook which is done using light strokes with a lightly oiled burnisher. The burnisher can be shop-made or purchased and needs to be harder than the scraper.



Alternative way of rolling the hook with a Veritas Variable Burnisher.



**Testing the newly sharpened scraper on kiaat.
Note the fine shavings.**



**Demonstrating the use of a Stanley Scrapper Plane
which has many advantages for large surfaces.**

Andy Sutton showed a split block he uses to hold the scraper in a vise. A 10x magnifying glass is a useful aid for close inspection of the sharpening process.

After this Dylan turned his attention to the sharpening of plane irons and chisels. Dylan uses a Veritas sharpening jig for the plane irons to get repeatable angles. Cheaper jigs are also available in the market. Regarding chisels he uses a freehand approach as the angles are not too critical. He first showed how to regrind the bevel to 25° and then the edge to about 30°.



Grinding the bevel.



**Grinding the edge by hand using figure of 8
motions.**

After this most illuminating demonstration we discussed potential topics for future meetings. Attending this demonstration again highlighted the value as one could hear and see the sharpening process and interact directly with the presenter.

Turners meeting – 25 February 2023 By Alan Crawford

The February Turners meeting was held at the New Hope School, in the workshop area, for the purpose of having a demonstration on pepper-mill turning. The attendance was well above average which resulted in a rather tight squeeze in the available space, a total of 42 members attended. The cameras, projector and sound system had been setup temporarily, but even so, it worked out fine, with the exception of the sound system that was drowned out, towards the back of the room, due to the generator that was running courtesy of the load shedding.

Braam Burger opened the meeting welcoming everyone and inviting all to a wors roll after the meeting subject to helping with the laying of the rubber floor tiles, he then introduced Lou Coetzer who immediately started with a very detailed demonstration on the making of a pepper mill. Lou described the various options one can follow to make a mill, then proceeded to show the method he follows, detailing every step of the way, showing us all the tools and jigs he uses to finish the process. A big thanks to Lou for sharing all his tips and techniques.

This being the very first demonstration held in the workshop it was treated as a trial and error run and the result was better than expected, although there are improvements that can be made, these will be ongoing. Braam then spoke about the finances for the workshop upgrade, thanking all those that had contributed to an amount way more expected. This has allowed the purchase of all the flooring tiles needed and allows for the purchase of additional tools and equipment. Well done to Braam for his effort in raising these funds.

The meeting closed shortly after 11h00 with the next meeting to be held at Leon's small holding on 25 March.

A number of members stayed behind to help with the floor tilling and managed to use up all the available tiles, resulting in about a third on the area being covered. Refreshments and wors rolls were then enjoyed before heading off home.

Editorial

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