

# Read 'awl' about it

The Lockdown Newsletter from the  
**Cannock Chase Shed**

ISSUE No. 11



## This week...

- Les T up the loft
- Retro Rubic
- Barry adventures of messrs h &R
- So how do you cut a perfect circle?
- Copper forming experiment – The H & R Water Feature
- Cool Tools - The Kreg Jig
- Beatles quiz
- humour
- Ditloids answers & Caption Comp



Interested in coming to an open air,  
socially distanced gathering? Watch your  
email for further details...

Submissions and suggestions to:

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# Looking in the loft

by Les T

Keeping myself busy during the current restrictions, I thought I would sort out the loft and get rid of all the stuff that gets under my feet when I am up there trying to find something or other.

I spent an age ferreting about, opening various boxes, declaring the contents as junk, not needed in the last 5 years - so it's going! Etc.

However, one box contained an old friend and I wondered if any other Sheddners had kept any of their childhood toys. I had found my old Cherokee Indian, which was an Action Man sized figure and came with a vast array of kit - bow, arrows, tomahawk, rifle, kit bag etc etc (all made of a brown rubbery material, and all lost except for his Chief's head-dress).

I must have had six or seven Action Men over the years, all eventually mutilated (war injuries!) and sent to meet their maker (bin), but somehow my Red Indian was saved and is intact.

See photo of this noble warrior! Boxed examples with all the kit are worth quite a bit on eBay. Mine isn't coz it hasn't. Anyway he's not for sale - and he's back in the loft!



Some of the accessories that came with the original Cherokee Chief

Do you still have any of your childhood toys? We'd love to hear about them...

# Retro Rubic

by Anne

The only childhood toy I have held onto is my original Rubic Cube - all the rage in the early eighties, we had no idea how iconic they would become. I bought mine long before the cheaper copies came on the market. Stocks were very limited and they were hard to get because they were so popular, but my friend and I scoured the shops until we found somewhere that was taking orders.

I remember we had to wait nearly four weeks for them to come, which felt like a lifetime, and they cost £4.99, which was a whole month's pocket money, but it was worth the wait. I have to admit that I didn't manage to figure out how to solve the cube by myself - my friend gave me a few tips, but I can still remember how to do it. I quickly joined the ranks of competitive cubers - speed was everything. I learned how to take it apart, clean and polish it to make it move more quickly.

I also remember regular arguments over the brown side of the cube, which everyone insisted was red. It wasn't until twenty odd years later, when I discovered I was colour blind, that it suddenly made sense.

As I've got older, it has come into use again as a therapeutic tool for maintaining the dexterity in my hands.



Do you still have any of your childhood toys?  
Are there any stories that you'd be willing to share with  
other Shed members?

Have you found any other treasures in the depths of  
your loft, or cupboard?

**All submissions welcome**, in any form at all –  
written, email, a few scribbled notes, or a short  
telephone interview

**...and a big thank you to all previous contributors, I  
am sincerely grateful for the photos, articles and  
anecdotes that have kept us all smiling.**

# Need to cut a perfect circle? ...here's a few ways to do it.

## JIGSAW

First you need to draw your circle (or arc)...  
...here are some jigs to help with that.



Then you can either use a bought jig, make your own, or just go free hand.

## DRILL PRESS/PILLAR DRILL

I haven't found any DIY devices, but you can buy an adjustable hole cutter.

## HAND DRILL

If your hole is fairly small you may find a hole cutter that's big enough.



## TABLE SAW

## ROUTER

A simple beam jig will do the job.



A simple DIY jig where the piece spins on a spindle makes this job easy. Just keep rotating your piece and taking off corners, until the remaining corners are so small you can just turn the circle to clean up the cut.

## BAND SAW



Again, a home made jig makes it easy. The wood sits on a spindle, the jig slides in to the saw until it hits a stop, then the wood just turns against the blade.

If you would like to see further details for any of these jigs, please ask, and I'll include it in the next newsletter.  
(contact details on page 1).

# Copper forming experiment – The H & R Water Feature

By Barry

I'm sure you will all be thrilled to hear that Messrs Heath and Robinson have been hard at work once again. They were delighted when Anne featured formed copper leaf water falls in a previous newsletter, so they both decided to have a crack at making 10 leaves supported on copper tubing. No prizes for the outcome though.



So, the leaf design was to be based on a maple leaf from the garden, with a card template used to draw on the copper sheet, 0.5mm thick. The fold lines all met roughly in the centre to allow for a copper pipe to be soldered into a hole.

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Cutting out was a bit more fraught with the use of a specially made H&R contraption as in the photo, using a vise mounted drill and nibbler tool. H&R had previously used a metal nibbler for restoring a bubblecar, but as they needed more hands than available, the nibbler was held in between two wooden chocks, otherwise it would spin furiously out of control. Photo shows the nibbled leaf.



The next stage was to create creases along the leaf veins marked with the lines to each point of the leaf. H&R once again improvised for a creasing tool by rounding off a masonry chisel and using a circular leather sandbag. The sandbag supports the copper, but allows some give which produces a “ship’s hull” shape with each vein. An alternative is a groove in some flat timber, or even using a neoprene pad. All were tried and worked, but the sandbag gave reasonable results. The photos show the leaf with all the creases completed and the chisel technique.



Although the leaf was now dished by the creases, H&R thought they would need the corners forming downwards, so that any pumped water would run off well. Using the sandbag once again, this time supported on top of a dome shape to make it more curved, the sharp corners were formed into downward curves using a plastic headed hammer. The whole formed leaf is shown in the photo.



Now it just needs a larger centre hole drilling for the 10mm tubing to be soldered on, and loads more making.

As H&R really hadn't got a clue what they were doing for the construction process, and just making it all up as they went along, they had to take a lie down in a darkened room for a while after all the excitement. So don't miss the next thrilling instalment of the water feature.

**Happy bending, H&R.**

# Your story here...

## How have you been keeping busy?

## We'd love to hear all about it!

# How well do you know your Beatles Songs?

Can you fill in the missing letters?

1. A\_l \_y \_o\_i\_g.
2. A\_l \_o\_e\_h\_r \_o\_.
3. A\_l \_o\_.
4. A\_d \_ L\_v \_ H\_r.
5. C\_n' \_ B\_y \_e \_o\_e.
6. D\_y \_r\_p\_e\_.
7. D\_a \_ P\_u\_e\_c\_.
8. D\_l\_e \_y \_a\_.
9. 8 \_a\_s \_ W\_e\_.
10. E\_e\_n\_r \_l\_b\_.
11. G\_t \_a\_k.
12. A\_a\_d \_a's \_i\_h\_.
13. H\_y \_u\_e.
14. I \_m \_h\_ W\_l\_u\_.
15. L\_d \_ M\_a\_o\_n\_
16. I . I W\_n\_a H\_d \_o\_r \_a\_d.
17. L\_c \_l\_ T\_e S\_y \_i\_h \_i\_m\_n\_s.
18. M\_g\_c\_l \_y\_t\_r\_ T\_u\_.
19. S\_t. \_e\_p\_r' \_ L\_n\_l\_ H\_a\_t\_ C\_u\_ B\_n\_.
20. S\_r\_w\_e\_r\_ F\_e\_d\_ F\_r\_v\_r.
21. T\_e \_o\_g \_n\_ W\_n\_l\_g \_o\_d.
22. W\_i\_e \_y \_u\_t\_r \_e\_t\_y \_e\_p\_.
23. L\_t \_t \_e.
24. L\_n\_ T\_l\_ S\_l\_y.
25. L\_v\_ M\_ D\_.
26. M\_c\_e\_l\_.
27. N\_w\_e\_e \_a\_.
28. P\_p\_r\_a\_k \_r\_t\_r.
29. P\_n\_y \_a\_e.
30. P\_e\_s\_ P\_e\_s\_ M\_.
31. P\_l\_t\_e\_e \_a\_.
32. R\_v\_l\_t\_o\_.
33. W\_e\_ l' \_S\_x\_y \_o\_r
34. T\_c\_e\_ T\_ R\_d\_.
35. Y\_s\_e\_d\_y.

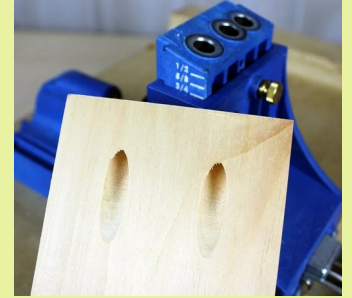


# Cool Tools... The Kreg Pocket Hole Jig

by Anne



When attaching two pieces of wood, the Kreg jig enables you to drill angled holes into one of the boards. The angled screw produces a huge clamping pressure, which when coupled with glue, creates an exceptionally strong joint.

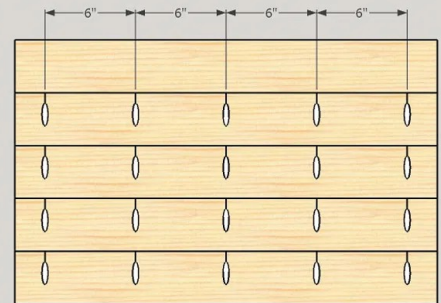
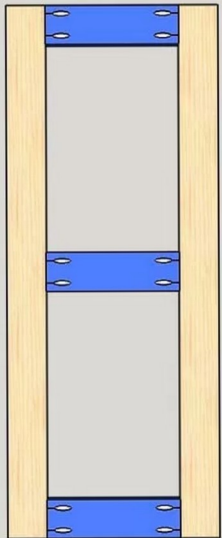


The use of pocket holes makes the aligning of the two pieces of timber really easy, just clamp the joint before driving in the screws.



You can use ordinary screws, but for the best results, you can use special pocket hole screws.

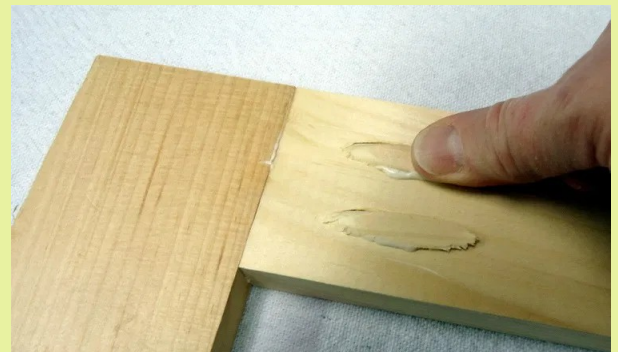
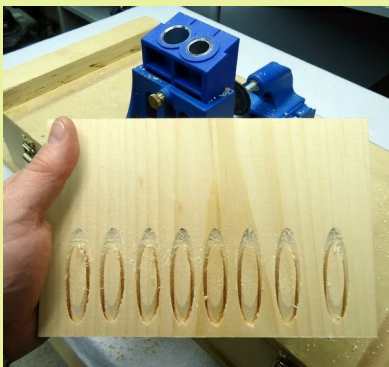
The holes need to be drilled along the grain of the wood whenever possible, as drilling across the grain will result in a much weaker joint.



Pocket holes can be used to join a series of narrow boards, to create a table top, for example.



A pocket hole plug cutter is also available. The plugs can be cut from leftover bits of the timber you are using, so when they are glued in place, they are almost invisible.



I have one of these, and find it pretty straightforward to use. If you'd like to borrow it for a specific job, or just to have a play, you are most welcome, Anne.

(contact details on page one)



# HUMOUR

This bloke said to me "I'm going to smack you with the neck of this guitar"

Keep Calm And Oh, Fret It Enjoy Some Cuck

I said to him, "Is that a fret"

The fastest land mammal is a toddler who's been asked what's in their mouth.

I have a fear of speed bumps. I'm slowly getting over it.

I also have a fear of elevators, but I've started taking steps to avoid it.



THE GOVERNMENT IN EGYPT HAS INSTRUCTED THE CITIES TAXI DRIVERS TO DRIVE AROUND CAIRO SOUNDING THEIR CAR HORNS. IT'S HOPED THAT A RETURN TO FAMILIAR CITY SOUNDS WILL HELP RESTORE CALM FOLLOWING THE PANDEMIC. OPERATION TOOT N CALM EM WILL LAST FOR A WEEK.

I was with an old friend when I noticed two men across the room. "That's us in 10 years time," I said. "That's a mirror," he said.

Swimming pools will be reopening shortly. Due to social distancing there will be no water in lanes 1, 3 and 5.



**BREAKING NEWS:**  
Insurance companies are warning campers... if your tent is stolen during the night you won't be covered....



A man walks into a zoo. The only animal in the entire zoo is a dog. It's a shitzu.

**Sherlock Holmes** and Dr Watson were going camping. They pitched their tent under the stars and went to sleep. Sometime in the middle of the night Holmes woke Watson up and said: "Watson, look up at the sky, and tell me what you see." Watson replied: "I see millions and millions of stars." Holmes said: "And what do you deduce from that?" Watson replied: "Well, if there are millions of stars, and if even a few of those have planets, it's quite likely there are some planets like Earth out there. And if there are a few planets like Earth out there, there might also be life." And Holmes said: "Watson, you idiot, it means that somebody stole our tent."

# Caption Competition



MFI taught me everything I know about DIY

Bob was immensely proud of the fact that his new shed hadn't cost him a penny.

Can you think of something funnier?  
We'd love to share it...

## DITLOIDS ANSWERS

0	B L S B	NO BUSINESS LIKE SHOW BUSINESS
3	S to the W	3 SHEETS TO THE WIND
5	R on the OF	5 RINGS ON THE OLYMPIC FLAG
7	P of E	7 PLAGUES OF EGYPT
8	N in an O	8 NOTES IN AN OCTAVE
9	L of a C	9 LIVES OF A CAT
11	P in a C T	11 PLAYERS IN A CRICKET TEAM
12	S of the Z	12 SIGNS OF THE ZODIAC
16	P in C	16 PAWNS IN CHESS
21	S in a G	21 SHILLINGS IN A GUINEA
21	S on a D	21 SPOTS ON A DICE
24	B B in a P	24 BLACKBIRDS BAKED IN A PIE
50	B in D	50 = BULLSEYE IN DARTS
63	Y in Q V R	63 YEARS IN QUEEN VICTORIA'S REIGN
70	S L on a M	70 = SPEED LIMIT ON A MOTORWAY
80	D A the W	80 DAYS AROUND THE WORLD
90	D in a R A	90 DEGREES IN A RIGHT ANGLE
100	P in a P	100 Pence in a Pound
147	M B in S	147 = MAXIMUM BREAK IN SNOOKER
180	D in a T	180 DEGREES IN A TRIANGLE