



# Monthly Messenger

Central Minnesota Woodworker's Association

Volume 4 Issue 7  
July 2004

## Fractional Dial Caliper

An end to converting decimals to fractions

by Roland Johnson

A dial caliper is a great tool to have close at hand in the shop. Capable of taking inside, outside and depth measurements I use my caliper for measuring the thickness of boards, especially when thickness sanding thin stock, measuring diameters of round tenons and depth of mortises to name just a few uses. The only drawback to most dial calipers is that they were designed with the machinist in mind and are calibrated in decimals. It is easy to remember that an eighth of an inch is .125 and that .5 is a half-inch but I usually have to stop and think a second or two to remember that 3/32 of an inch is .09375. Actually I usually have to refer to a chart that I have hanging on the wall of my shop to figure out what most of the fractional equivalents are. This is a hassle, slows my work and leaves me vulnerable to easy mistakes.

I recently purchased a dial caliper that reads in fractions of an inch and it is wonderful. The caliper has two scales with the large outer scale reading in fractions and the inner scale reading in decimals, the best of both worlds. Fractions for woodworking, decimals for machining, this tool is one of those really great ideas. The dial is calibrated in 64ths, which is usually accurate enough for the work I do, but the dial is large enough to easily extrapolate 128ths if a person needs that level of accuracy.

The caliper is constructed of stainless steel and while the quality may not rival high dollar machinists' calipers I am impressed by how nicely finished the tool is and how smoothly it works. The dial has a white background for the fractional readings and a bright green background for the inner decimal scale. The plastic cover on the dial seems a bit frail but I haven't encountered any problems with it, although I am careful with my tools.

The fractional caliper is available from Highland Hardware for \$36.99 plus shipping. Highland Hardware's toll free number is 800/241-6748 and the caliper is item number 065008.

## May CMWA Meeting Recap

Sauk Rapids Middle School June 16th, 2004 at 7PM  
Recap taken from secretary's meeting minutes

- **Trimpac, Inc. Tour:** Our June tour was hosted by Trimpac Inc, Millwork and Hardware Specialists. Trimpac was established in 1983, currently employing about 70 people, and offers a wide variety of millwork, doors and hardware for Central Minnesota builders and sells mainly in the Twin Cities area. They sell to the general public as well, for those of you interested. Thanks for the tour. See **Trimpac, Inc.** Page 3 >

### • Items for Sale:

- Scott Gustavson has a Jet wood shaper model JWS for sale. He's also offering for sale a CMT 1-3/8" rabbeting bit including 6 bearings. Scott can be reached at 320-251-8751

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday July 21st, 7 PM AT  
Midwest Motor Sports

## Suggestions for the CMWA

We are always looking for ways to improve the CMWA. Our monthly meetings are a time for woodworkers to get together, have fun, and possibly learn about woodworking.

If you have an idea of a future topic you would like to see covered or are willing to help out with any future meetings, please let us know by dropping a note in the Name Tag Bucket at any meeting or emailing us at [newsletter@thecmwa.com](mailto:newsletter@thecmwa.com). You can leave your suggestion anonymous or include your name and phone number.

## July 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 CMWA	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**Next Meeting:** July 21st at 7:00 PM at Midwest Motor Sports, 26 1<sup>st</sup> St S, Sauk Rapids (Behind Checker Auto)

**Board Meeting:** July 21st at 6:00 PM at Coborn's in SR

### July Meeting

Roland Johnson will be demonstrating tuning a band saw. Dan Iburg, owner of Midwest Motor Sports, has graciously allowed the CMWA to meet in his shop for the demonstration. Midwest Motor Sports is located behind Checker Auto Parts in Sauk Rapids, which is between the railroad tracks and the Mississippi River Bridge. (26 1<sup>st</sup> St. South, Sauk Rapids)

### Our Permanent Home

The CMWA board of directors is still looking for a permanent home for meetings. With the renovation of the Mississippi Heights Middle School, we will need to find a new location to hold meetings. If you know of a suitable location, please contact any board member or Ron McKeever.

Thank you.

### Central Minnesota Woodworker's Association

**President** Ron McKeever  
**Vice President** Roland Johnson  
**Treasurer** Dan Iburg  
**Secretary** John Wilson

**Board of Directors** Cindy Johnson, John Kirchoff, Marty Mahowald, Darren McKeever, Scott Schroeder

**Newsletter** Darren McKeever  
newsletter@thecmwa.com



**MATHEW HALL**  
**LUMBER COMPANY**

127 6th Ave. N., St. Cloud, MN 56303 320.252.1920 www.mathewhall.com

# THANK YOU!

Mathew Hall supports the Central Minnesota Woodworker's Association. Thank you for your business and input on new products. In order to keep up with your needs, please inform us of new products and services you would like to see us provide.

# Central Minnesota Woodworker's Association

## Trimpac, Inc.

by Darren McKeever

The CMWA toured Trimpac, Inc. in Sauk Rapids, MN. Started in 1983 with roughly 18 employees, Trimpac currently has 70 employees in two locations. They have focused on being millwork and hardware specialists working primarily within the Twin Cities Metro area. Roughly 80% of their business is for residential, single family homes. They distribute a wide range of windows, doors, hardware, mouldings, and stair parts. Their facilities also do some assembly.

The CMWA would like to give a big Thank You to Trimpac.



This machine pieces together the door jamb parts.



Pre-hung, 6-panel double doors ready for delivery.



A cart full of preassembled door casings.



Pre-hung doors are mechanically assembled using the Norfield 5000.



www.thecmwa.com  
 320-968-8859  
 newsletter@thecmwa.com

Inside This Issue

Fractional Dial Caliper	1
Meeting Recap	1
Calendar of Events	2
Our Permanent Home	2
Trimpac, Inc.	3
Map	4

Midwest Motor Sports



**Next Meeting:**  
**Wednesday, July 21st at 7:00 PM**  
**at Midwest Motor Sports, Sauk Rapids**

Choose from the largest in-house selection of cabinet and furniture hardware in the industry. Over 8000 items in stock.

Toll Free: 1-800-383-0130  
 24 hr. Fax: 1-888-811-9850  
 Web: www.wwhardware.com  
 Email: info@wwhardware.com

Call for our FREE 316 page specification catalog

**Woodworker's Hardware**  
 PO Box 180, Sauk Rapids, MN 56379  
 NOTE: All orders will be shipped Speedee or UPS