

Crafting Compassion

"Covenant House serves street kids in the DC area ... who don't have a caring adult to help them transition from youth to adults," said Matt Barnholtz, of Covenant House D.C.

Covenant House was founded in 1995 as a nationwide program offering hope to at-risk youth through shelter and vocational training. A central theme of the Washington D.C. center is the Artisans program.

"The Artisan program offers fundamental training [of a] middle school, high school shop class. We take youth with special needs; many are homeless or severely neglected and abused. Most are poorly educated," said Matt. Barnholtz, of Covenant House D.C.

At the center of the Artisan program is a ShopBot. The Artisan program was able to purchase a ShopBot thanks to the generous support of the D.C. Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation, the primary funding partner of the Covenant House D.C.

"We are prototyping and developing kids furniture for our child care centers. We use the ShopBot to cut out the product and the students put them together and detail them. ShopBot [is becoming] a central part of our training."

Matt has been very touched by the caring community of ShopBot owners.

"We're just a beginner program! I'd love to see a running line on the forum devoted to educational uses of the ShopBot," he said. "We're looking for ShopBotters in the greater D.C. area that would like to visit us and help us further the program."

ShopBots combine technology and time management training in a way that enables students to produce immediate results for their labor.

"ShopBots offer such reliable, consistent production-on-demand! [The tool] is a means to an end that

brings satisfaction to someone who would otherwise never have the vocational skill level to have it. For a youth with a troubled background that satisfaction is invaluable."

Matt is particularly proud of student (pictured bottom right) Kendall Mack.

"Kendall Mack is a founding member of the Covenant House Artisans Program," said Matt. "Kendall came to the Artisans program with no prior trade skills training ... [but now] has demonstrated proven skills in facility maintenance, shop safety and fundamental [CNC operation]. Kendall has risen above hardships that many feel are insurmountable."



Thanks to the Covenant House program, Kendall is ready to make the transition from learning to employment. Matt is eager to give ShopBot a piece of the credit.

"ShopBot is so unique! Unless you are willing to spend \$80K... there's nothing else out there like it. For education, small shops and charity organizations there is nothing there that we can afford. I'm so glad ShopBot is available to us."

For more information on Covenant House visit their website www.covenanthousedc.org or contact Matt Barinholtz at: mbarin-holtz@chdc.org.

ShopBotters in the News...

DON'T MISS!

Randall Ouellette, of R&K Woodworking, in the May Issue of **Custom Woodworking Business** (CWB) Magazine

Chip and Gene Marshall of Marshall Mill Works, in the Woodmall.com online newsletter: <http://www.woodmagazine.com/newsletter/6-1-03.html>

Jamboree 2003

From Washington to Florida, Canada to Venezuela, more than 150 ShopBotters from North and South America gathered May 1-3 at the ShopBot Tools headquarters for the second annual ShopBot Jamboree in Durham, N.C. They learned new ideas, new applications and explored the creative potential of their ShopBots.

"ShopBotters at the Jamboree really all benefit from the interaction with each other," said Ted Hall, CEO of ShopBot Tools Inc.

Jim Littiken from Demotte, Indiana agreed. He was attending his second Jamboree with his eight-year-old son, Joe.



"[Jamborees] are great! This morning in the hall way [at the Hilton] I learned enough [from other ShopBotters] to make it worth the drive," said Jim pointing out that his drive was almost 15 hours. "We're talking to boat builders

and guitar builders and everybody else... seeing who is making money."

His son Joe, officially the youngest ShopBotter participating in the Jamboree, also helps out in the family business.

"I run the ShopBot and I run the com-

puter," said Joe.

Included in the three day event were Level I and II training sessions, software presentations, industry workshops, guest speakers from Onsrud and DelCAM, door prizes, good food and many tables of "show and tell" items that ShopBotters brought to demonstrate the capabilities of their tool and their own ingenuity.

"Anyone who doesn't come to [the Jamboree] is crazy because you are going to pick something up," said David Cannon of Hawkinsville, GA. He was attending his first Jamboree after recently purchasing a machine to make money during his retirement.

"I'm thrilled and excited! I can't wait to get back and use some of the things I've learned! Another two or three months I'll be making money with [my ShopBot]. I plan to make more money than when I was working."

"Our second Jamboree was a great success," said Martha Barbour, ShopBot Tools business manager. "We enjoyed discussing our customer's needs face to face, and seeing the products they make with our tools. We look forward to seeing them next year!"

"HOW TO?" ... Inlay a World Map

By Jeremy Gwaltney, editor of
The Edge
(Excerpts from online article)

Recently my mother began collecting souvenir silver spoons from around the world. So once I started working for ShopBot my mom began hinting for a custom made spoon holder.

There is only one problem; I'm ShopBot's PR guy – a word crafter not a woodcrafter. But the company liked the idea as well, so Mom's spoon holder became a "How To" article.

Finding a Map: I wanted the spoon holder to be an inlay of a world map. So I pulled a free, GIF file from www.worldatlas.com/clipart.htm.

Formatting the File: I used ArtCAM Insignia to create my project. I imported the GIF file and began doing some serious editing of the outlines. I wanted to use different woods to visually separate each continent.

Generating the Cutting File: Generate the cutting files by using the inlay function of Insignia. I generating the female pockets for a 1/8" bit edge

cut and a 1/4" bit for the rest of the pocket. Insignia will automatically compensate for your router bit size. If you have the female cuts formatted correctly and are using the same router bit, Insignia will generate the male cuts automatically. Insignia also allows you to put an "allowance" in the pockets to ensure a tight fit.

Cutting: Cut the male pieces and fit them over the female pocket to ensure the fit. Cut the final female pockets. Figured walnut was used as the base wood.

Finishing: Apply a little glue to the backs and sides of both the male and female pockets, and gently hammer it into place using a board. The ShopBot cut so accurately that many of the pieces slid into place with just a light tap. I then sanded the final piece down and applied four coats of a tung oil finish.

So now my mom will have a spoon holder, and this word crafter became a woodcrafter.

For the full article on how I did this inlay – including details and tips on how long it took, cutting speeds, bit sizes, routers, hold-down technique and tuning the Y axis – or to download the cutting files, go to

<http://www.shopbottools.com/spoonholder.htm>.



PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

ShopBot CNC Plasma Cutter

Released in February, the ShopBot CNC Plasma Cutter is enhanced with electrical and mechanical features to offer greater efficiency and power. The PRT Plasma Cutter is mounted on a steel cutting table built to hold heavy metal sheets. Standard plasma cutters are fitted with a Hypertherm PowerMax 1250, 80-amp torch. ShopBot's integrated automatic touch-off and automatic torch height control features maximize consumable life and produce efficient production cutting, especially on uneven surfaces.

The standard plasma cutter torch will cut mild steel thicknesses from 1/16" to 1/2". Other torches are available with cutting capacities of up to 3/4".

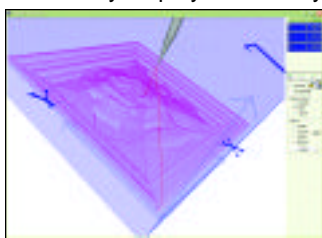
Cutting paths for the plasma cutter are created with a new version of ShopBot's Part Wizard. Included with each tool, this design and CAM software has extensive import, drawing and cut-pathing capabilities – including the addition of lead-ins for the initial pierce at the start of each cut, either inside or outside of the part.

The standard Plasma Cutter PRT96 (4'x8' plasma cutting table and support grid with 80-amp torch) is priced at under \$19K. Sizes are available up to 20 feet long.



ShopBot Control System version 3 Now Available

ShopBot has released ShopBot Control System version 3, an extension of ShopBot's PC-oriented robotics control systems. It supports three to five axis CNC tools, features a high-resolution 3D pre-view/verify display and is fully compatible with all Microsoft Windows operating systems from Windows 98 to Windows XP.



New features also include: an expanded "typesetter" tool to easily v-carve any text font on the computer; cut-

ting time estimator with minimum and maximum locations for each axis; part file information logging; ability to use mouse as a remote control pendant; supports for eight inputs and eight outputs for accessories; context sensitive help; and intuitive interface design.

Commands and part files are fully compatible with all previous versions of ShopBot software and this new version smoothly integrates with Part Wizard. A full version of this software is available on our website for free download by the time you receive this edition of "The Edge" at: www.shopbottools.com/download.htm.

PR to PRT Upgrade

Trade in your old PR control box for new PRT control box – just like the ones being shipped with a new tool.

PR to PRT Control Box Upgrade with Part Wizard v1.02 **\$795.00 + shipping**
\$995.00 + shipping

- Compatible with the new ShopBot Control System Version 3 software for Windows.
- Full one-year warranty.
- Illustrated instructions on connecting to your ShopBot included (some modification of cables is required).
- Add Part Wizard design/tool pathing software for just \$200 (a savings of \$295!).

How it works

1. You place the order. Using a credit card makes it easier (see step four).
2. We'll calculate shipping charges and notify you.
3. You'll receive the control box, installation instructions and a box in which to return your old control board.
4. Just pull the control board from the old box and return it to us at our expense.
5. This is a trade-in offer. If the old board isn't returned within four weeks, you will be charged an additional \$500.

Set of four new cables for your tool **\$180.00**

As long as you are rewiring, check your cables for wear and think about replacing them. This is not necessary for the upgrade.

Extended warranty **\$395.00**

You may purchase the two-year extended warranty for electrical components at this time.

Project Wizard

How many times have you needed cutting files for a custom sized box, set of shelves or other project? You have to start from scratch – deciding things like the size of each piece, how they should fit together and how to nest the material. Ever feel like you are constantly re-inventing the wheel?

Project Wizard, ShopBots' new internet-enabled project designer, solves this problem. Instead of having to start from scratch with every project, you select the type of project you want to make and on the screen you'll see a default version of that project. The neat part is that you're able to customize that generic version by changing settings or adding features so that it gradually becomes "yours." When you're satisfied, Project Wizard will connect to the Internet and download cutting files for your custom project for a small fee. The fee is designed to help us support and reward the creativity of designers and encourage more projects.

A beta version of Project Wizard, is available at www.shopbottools.com/projectwizard.htm that includes our first project...a box designer with an innovative new interlocking corner joint. You'll be able to download files for your own personal use for free during the beta test period.

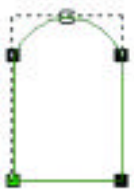
Tip of the Quarter

PartWizard

...the right click

There is a wealth of information and capabilities with Part Wizard hiding under the right mouse button. For example, to change the top span of a box from a straight line to an arc, put the cursor on the span and "right click". This brings up a menu of options...along with the single key strokes that you can use as a shortcut.

In the example below...



When you put the cursor on the top span of the rectangle (crosshair icon), and right click, the menu comes up. Choose Convert span to arc to get the result here.

The radius of the arc can now be modified by dragging the control box to the right angle.

Here's something else to refine your cut...



On your own...select a point and right click...choose Properties for the X and Y location of that point. You can copy the location of one point and paste it into another point to fine tune drawings and designs.

Congress Passes 50% Expensing Allowance

Congress has passed, and President Bush has signed into law, a \$350 billion ten-year jobs and economic growth tax cut that includes a 50% expensing allowance through 2004. This quadruples the \$25K small business expensing allowance (Sec. 179) through 2005. You may be able to write off as much as 100 percent of the purchase cost of a ShopBot PRT in one year. Ask your accountant if this would work for you!

Have ideas for a "How To" article, or general comments and suggestions for "The Edge"? Email the editor, Jeremy, at: jeremy@shopbottools.com.

2003

Upcoming ShopBot Events:

August 22-24
Team Canada Camp ShopBot, Ottawa, CA

September 5 & 6
Level I, Level II Training at ShopBot Headquarters in Durham, N.C.

September 7-9
ArtCam Pro training at ShopBot headquarters in Durham, N.C.

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