



Ooops!

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DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES—HOW DID YOU FIX THAT?

The late, great guitarist Chet Atkins rarely hit a bad note. But if he did, he would joke, “All mistakes are intentional.”

Even the most skilled among us mess things up now and then. The question is whether it’s possible to recover from that measuring error or slip of a chisel. Can you make a repair, or re-design the piece to make it look as if your mistake was intentional? In that case, maybe it’s not an error at all, but a “design opportunity.” Or as carver Mary May calls them, “opportunities for creative adjustment.”¹

I enjoyed reading the Ohio River Valley Chapter report in the Summer 2017 edition of *Pins & Tales*. At their spring meeting, they held a discussion on “How Did You Fix That?” A “disastrous” routing error, a glue gap, damage from a wandering Dremel—all problems that the members overcame.

I read that section with intense interest because fixing mistakes is a critical skill in my shop.

Sometimes, there’s nothing to do but start over. But if you’ve successfully pulled off a rescue effort, *Pins & Tales* would like to hear about it. Send us a few lines about the mistake, the corrective surgery, and a picture or two. Send this either to me at woodworker@rogers.com or Bob Van Dyke at bob@schoolofwoodworking.com and we’ll take it from there.

How did you fix that? Your fellow SAPFM members want to know.

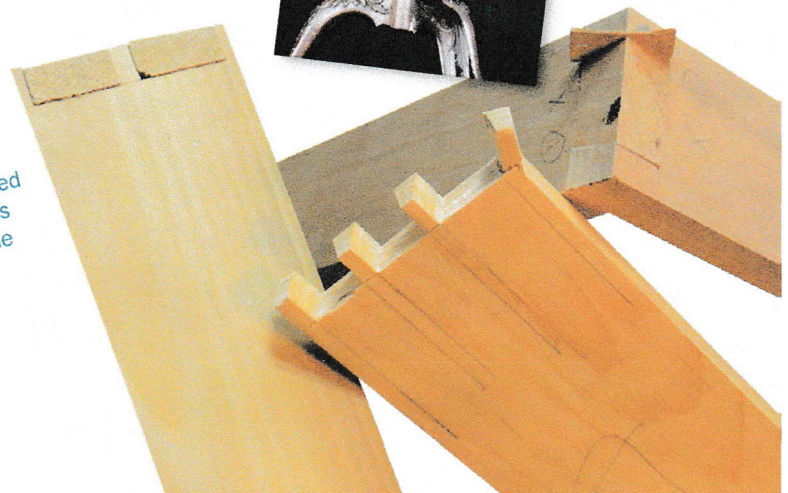
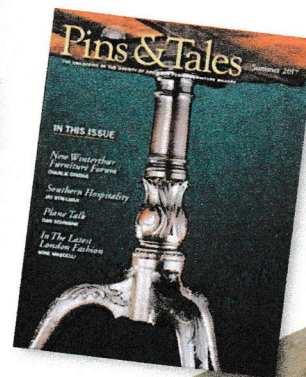
From P&T Summer17, Ohio Chapter—

... Following lunch, the discussion turned to “How did you fix that?,” a discussion on repair of common woodworking errors and mishaps. David Conley started this round of discussion by relating a disastrous routing error while inlaying a complex tapered leg for the Federal table he’s building. After having spent many hours inlaying and banding the leg, he had a micro router get away from him to cut a big scar in the surface between two inlaid design elements. His fix was to rout off the area of the injury, extending across the entire width of the leg and between the edges of the two design elements. This enabled him to glue on a new surface area across the leg. Since the seams of the repaired area butt up to other design areas, they appear normal, and the seams are essentially invisible. David also reported on a situation in which he lowered a molding ¼ of an inch below the lowest drawer of a chest of drawers. This exposed the full dovetails on the sides. His solution was to hide it with a strip of inlay.

Next, Charlie Watson related some needed repair to his first Chippendale corner chair as described above. After finishing that chair he noticed a glue gap...



David Conley explaining the inlays on his Federal table leg. (Photo by Dale Ausherman)



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1. SAPFM. *American Period Furniture*. 2016; 90.