

Jeffrey Cooper

Art Furnishings For Artful Living

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Art Furnishings for Artful Living Newsletter

Finishing up the chair set, and a new strange project.

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Gosh it's been a long time since I wrote last. I'm to deliver the chairs and table to Barry and Alice tomorrow. I'll take some on site photos and share them later. Meanwhile, I thought you'd be interested in how I made the oval frame for the table top, and I have a photo of the chairs almost done.



Routing the oval

In the last newsletter I was assembling the oval frame for the table top. This I admit is a re-enactment of routing the ovals. I've attached my router to an oval cutting jig with two pivot points that slide on tracks on the x and y axes. However, when I opened the package I discovered that the maximum difference between the length and width this jig could handle was only 8 inches, not enough. I had to make the track extensions you see, and all the other assemblage in the center of the oval is just to hold the template in place. It all gets cut off during the routing process. I cut it most of the way through with the router, and removes the last bits by hand.

These two photos show the bluebird chair ready for finishing, and the base of the table. You remember that one chair had a bluebird theme, with one heron on it, and the other a heron theme with one bluebird. The table base also combines the bluebird and heron motif.



Look forward to the photos of the set where it is going next time.

Meanwhile, here is an interesting project. A while ago a cherry tree came down in my sister in law's yard. I didn't have a chainsaw mill to cut it into boards, so she cut it up for firewood. The next Thanksgiving I went out to help split it, and discovered that it was all curly cherry. Oops, but I did salvage a few larger pieces, one was very interesting where two trunks had grown apart then crossed and grafted themselves into one trunk with a natural eyehole. So I saved it. Now I have an idea to make it into a table which I have mocked up here with some pieces of marble. I've shown it to Teresa Taylor, Salty Dog Pottery in Barnstead for a collaboration. She's a ceramicist who also does some very sculptural tile work. It's sort of a Jon Brooks inspired thing, letting the tree tell me what it wants to be, whereas in the past I've always built from dimension lumber. You can

follow along and see how it progresses, and we are planning to show it in the Living with Crafts at the League of NH Craftsmen Fair next August.



That's it for now. My next newsletter should follow along pretty soon, as I have been working on a six legged dining table with two 27 inch leaves. I'll show you about the veneer work on the table top, and the progress on the table base.

Till next time,
Be well

Jeffrey

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