

Fine Woodworking

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Writing an article

Fine Woodworking is a reader-written magazine. We welcome proposals, manuscripts, photographs and ideas from our readers, amateur or professional. We'll acknowledge all submissions and return those we can't publish. Send your contributions to *Fine Woodworking*, P.O. Box 5506, Newtown, CT 06470-5506.

than, the Delta model #36-755. The JET JCS-10 has an extra 5-in. rip to the right of the blade, a double V-belt drive instead of a single belt and weighs 65 lbs. more. Also, the saw pictured has an aftermarket fence and is missing the left extension wing, which is standard on the stock JET model. We fail to see the compromises.

The caption under the contractor-type table saw shown at the bottom of p. 76 is also very misleading. "This saw was not designed for 'occasional woodworkers.'" It has enjoyed critical acclaim from several other notable woodworking magazines.

Parts and service are a function of our company's commitment to its customers, not the country of origin. JET has more than 24,000 parts in stock and maintains a better than 97% fill rate on parts. In addition, all our tools are supported by a network of more than 800 authorized service centers. The JET Equipment & Tools products represented in this article are not representative of the shortcomings exhibited by "some" imported saws.

We might suggest that Mr. Vaughan take a closer look at the current models of table saws on the market and draw his conclusions only after some real tests.

—Robert R. Skummer, president and CEO, JET Equipment & Tools

Revisiting tests on joinery strength—

John Wagner's article on joint strength in (*FWW* #111, pp. 58-61) confirmed what I have suspected for some time: the biscuit joint is at least as strong as those made with a mortise and tenon or loose tenon. Nevertheless, Brungaber and Taylor conclude that the biscuit joint is inferior. I found some of their reasons puzzling.

In analyzing the two-biscuit joint failure, they speculate that the biscuits failed well before the glue in the end-grain-to-edge-grain butt joint. This is very hard for me to swallow. Without a control joint (glued butt joint without biscuits) to support their

assertion, I can't buy it. They also surmise that freeze-thaw or wet-dry cycles will diminish the biscuit joint's strength. This argument is contingent upon their previous assertion that the glue in the end-grain butt joint is largely responsible for the biscuit joint's strength. Though yellow glue is pretty good stuff, few conscientious users would depend on it alone for a butt joint.

I agree with Brungaber that the tenacity of the mortise and tenon makes it the most appropriate joint for timber framing. A door, however, is a horse of another color, and I can't agree with the objection to biscuit joinery. Surely, normal use, or even abuse, would not stress a door to such a point. Reading between the lines, I suspect that Brungaber and Taylor are traditionalists loath to concede the empirical super-

Another look at choosing table saws—

It was with much dismay that I read Robert Vaughan's article "Choosing a Table Saw" (*FWW* #112, pp. 74-77). Although the article was very biased toward the saws that cost over \$1,500 (classified as "class A" saws), we take particular exception with his comments about buying via mail order. The article says that "a mail-order house will sell you a machine, but the company sure can't service it." This, probably, was the most uneducated of the comments in the article. Where has Mr. Vaughan been for the last 10 years? We are a mail-order house, and we can provide service faster and better than just about any local dealer in the country.

We have parts in stock and can ship them the same day. If a motor burns out, we can rewind a replacement motor in a day in our own shop. If the casting turns out to be warped, we can regrind it in house on our large surface grinder. We also have trained servicemen who know our machines inside and out. How many local dealers and home centers are able to provide service like that?

Fine Woodworking magazine, in our opinion, probably has more experienced readers in terms of woodworking and machine usage than other similar magazines. Insulting this audience by making comments like "imported copies... appeal to occasional woodworkers" only validates the fact that Mr. Vaughan has emerged from a bomb shelter after an absence of 10 years and is oblivious to the changes in our industry.

The objective of "Choosing a Table Saw" is unclear to those of us at JET Equipment & Tools. Rather than providing factual data, the article is a collection of sweeping statements that are inaccurate and misleading. Statements such as the following are all too general to make any clear point, but are obviously intended to damage the reputation of all importers: "expect some compromises in quality," "the problems usually start with the motor or motor controls" and "parts and service records are spotty, with some importers better than others." Last, but not least, we are concerned about the statement that implies importers are liars in advertising: "many of the motors are advertised as totally enclosed, fan cooled (TEFC), but they aren't." The first reference made to the JET JCS-10 saw (shown in the top photo on p. 76) tells the readers to look for compromises in the quality of this saw. However, this saw was not developed to compete with Delta's Unisaw, as stated by the author, but rather the Delta model #36-755 saw. The specifications and quality of the JET JCS-10 saw are equal to, and in many cases better