

The



Club

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An Elite Club Open To Anyone Interested In Making Their Homes Better And Having More Fun Doing It



DECK COVER

By Joe Prin

Here is a cool Summer project for you. This is a 100% redwood shade cover. 2x12 beams, 2x6 and 2x2 on top. The ends of the boards were cut with a jig saw and then routed with a round over bit. The posts are 4x4's and pass through the deck to footings below. Dry redwood is a pleasure to work with and is very light. Left unprotected, this cover will weather to a soft gray in a couple of years



By no means, was this an inexpensive job. The redwood alone was almost \$2000. Adjusted to today's lumber cost and availability, it would be about \$2800. My thanks to the homeowners for letting me build such an interesting and cozy deck and cover. The Deck is Trex Woodland Brown with a massive bench and built in step lights.

SPRING FEVER

By Joe Prin

This has got to be my most absolute favorite time of year. Anticipation blooms as much as the flowers. Everything becomes new again, and starts over. It is like hitting the “reset” button. Optimism. Hope. Excitement. Faith.

My Spring is filled with the pent up Winter thoughts and desires of projects and home repairs and improvements. All Winter long I have been telling myself “As soon as the weather gets nicer I am going to...”. Well, here it is! I like doing this stuff. I enjoy this type of work. I made my hobby a career. I like to sweat, and I like to have my muscles hurt the next day.

This is the year to fix the north fence line. This is the year to kick our kitchen remodel into gear. This is the year to get the sprinkler system in the front yard. This is the year my garden will be fantastic.

I can hardly stand it. A few weeks back, it was pretty nice outside. Being the Garage Guy that I am, I felt that I had better straighten up a few piles, organize a few things, and generally bond with my workbench again. It has been several months without any quality garage time. So at about 11 AM I said those five magic words to my wife: “I’ll be in the garage”.

At 6 PM I returned to the real world. I have to tell you, it was great. I got more stuff done in those seven hours than I would have ever thought. I cleaned out cabinets. I straightened shelves. I got 5 boxes of junk ready for a yard sale. I fixed a belt sander and my radial arm saw. I cleaned out my truck and tool trailer, I put new ends on 5 air hoses, replaced two broken hammer handles, over filled our Recycle Bin, cleaned out the gardening bench and painted some door trim. I even built a Harvest table out of an old door and some ratty peeled paint table legs I salvaged on a dump run.

What is significant about all of this is that none of it was planned. A lead to B to C and to D. None of these things were “On the list”. None were urgent. They were just there.

Now either you get this, or you don’t. It is a behavioral understanding. Sympathy or Empathy. Ying and Yang. Almond Joy or Mounds.

The desire to get things done is what makes us get out of bed. It sets off a chain reaction and with that comes an attitude shift. I feel this is very healthy. When you desire, but feel you can’t do anything about it, frustration sets in and negative things happen. When you desire and feel you can do something about it, and do, positive things happen.

Spring is here! It’s going to be a great day! Hit the reset button! Find the motivation and the desire to get some things done. Big things, little things, perhaps even some things that you might forget about in a day or two, but know this; it is still a move forward and with that comes progress and good things will happen. Just take the time to enjoy it, and look forward to the next challenge.



BENCHES? WE DON'T NEED NO STINKIN BENCHES!

Check with your Building Department or Inspector about any deck benches you are planning on building. There have been several code changes recently that will effect the height and design of your benches . Also, what is considered “Attached” and what is not is also newly defined and could effect your design. Done in the interest of safety, which is understandable, designs are different now than what was allowed even a few years ago like the design shown above. Today, this will not pass the inspection.

670 KBOI

The HomeFix™



Show

**Saturdays
8-10 AM
With
Joe
Prin**

Hopefully you have noticed the recent change back to the future! The HomeFix Show is back to its original two hour format!

And it feels good. Not so rushed. anymore. Several of you have asked why we didn't just stay at two hours when the show moved from KIDO to KBOI. The answer is Inventory.

Radio stations have a limited amount of air time. 24 hours in the day. They can't make any more. And when the show moved to KBOI, they only had one hour available. I also hope you have noticed the FEWER COMMERCIALS per hour now. There used to be four, 4 minute breaks in the one hour show. Now there are only three breaks in each of the hours. So, there is actually four minutes or more of show topic and listener calls in each hour.

September 2011 will mark the start of the 25th year the HomeFix show, or it's previous incarnations (The Home Improvement Show) on the air. 25 YEARS! In an industry that has trouble keeping a show on for 25 months, to me this is amazing. And I have you thank first and foremost. Without you listening to the show, there is no reason for me to be on the microphone. My sincere appreciation and gratitude goes out to you for being there. Keep up the good job!

LEFTOVER CAN BE DANGEROUS

By Joe Prin

Almost every remodel has leftovers.

We hope there are not too many, or too much because that means wasted money for someone. However, there are some items that it is inevitable that there will be leftovers.

Tile- Many special order tiles are available in only box quantities. You might only need 38 square feet, but you have to buy 46. The result, left over tile.

Wood flooring is another example, Paint, trim molding, carpet, and other items can all create leftovers.

Now if you know me, I try not to throw anything that is usable away. Not that I keep everything (leftovers), but I do save some of the more interesting or unique items in my shop for future projects yet to be determined.

I also find other peoples leftovers and snag them for myself. For example.: A couple of years back, I was unloading at the dump and a kid in a pickup pulls up beside me and starts to unload. What he was tossing out was bundles of new, unused, hardwood flooring! Two bundles of this, a bundle of that.... "Whoa!" I said to him, "Let's not let that go to waste, hand it over here." He was told to clean out the warehouse and any odd, small bundles needed to be trashed. So several of them ended up on a shelf rack in my garage. For a couple of years.

Until last weekend.



Continued...

CRAIGSLIST?

The Table you see on the previous page was built on a whim. Actually it was built on saw horses, but I digress.

I was looking for something to do one day and I took a set of legs I salvaged off an old table at one time, combined them with some farm weathered 1x6, some hardwood blocks and reinforcements, and an old door and made a Shabby Chic harvest table. I thought I could sell it and make a few bucks.

Wrong. My wife saw it and liked it too much to let me sell it. But the door did not make a usable table top.

Remember the hardwood flooring? One of those bundles had 11 pieces of 4" Hickory, 7 feet long. Perfect for a new table top. I dusted off the boards, set up the tools and laminated 9 pieces of the flooring together with Gorilla Glue and bar clamps to make a new table top. I used a biscuit joiner on one end for the picture frame wrap where there were no T&G connections. Pretty simple and it worked well.



The top when cured, was sanded and then three coats of Minwax Wipe On Ply applied for the final finish.

Total cost? Zero. Time invested? 7 hours. Now I need to figure out something to do with the remaining two pieces of Hickory flooring I have left over....



Do you ever sell stuff on Craigslist? Below are some things I have sold through there. People tell me that it is too much trouble and not

Worth the effort. I also hear that some have had bad experiences with the buyers who have shown up at their homes. Personally, I have had zero problems. What have you had happen? Good or bad? I'd like to share your advice in a future radio show or column. Please email me with your thoughts.

Joe@JoePrin.com. Thanks!



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Get an eco-friendly Toto Drake toilet for the same price as a generic brand toilet!
We normally Install this toilet for \$625.91 plus seat. For this month only we are installing it for \$499.95 plus we are throwing in a softclose seat For free.
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ENGINEERING MARVELS



Power windows and a cup holder! Actually, the cup holder is quite creative.



That should keep it cool!



There are some serious issues here. Sure, the guy is trimming his hedge with a riding lawn mower. He is for sure crazy, but remember, someone else is maneuvering the crane! And having fun doing it too!

MEN DO NOT TELL THE TRUTH TO WOMEN

By Joe Prin



I can tell you that we NEVER get over it. I am talking about us males of the species and the past. Particularly when it comes to our toys. Ladies, you might not want to keep reading because you have been fed a load of crap by us, your loving companions.

Us guys are simple, basic, and not as deep as you may be lead to believe. Or maybe you already know this. It does not take much to keep us happy. We are cleaned up cavemen. Hunt. Gather. Eat. Sleep. Scratch.

I was going through some files that my Dad kept in a cabinet at his house. He passed away a few years back and I saved some paperwork to look more into later. In one of the files, I found a sales brochure for a 1957 MGA. My Dad had one of these cars... Until I was born in 1959. Then it was sold for practical reasons and the better good of the new family. From there on out, it was Oldsmobiles. He never really talked about the MGA, and there are only a few photos of him and the car. A black hardtop. But he sure looked happy with that car.

Seeing this fold out, full color, option laden, horsepower and handling stuffed printed literature made me think. He never got over it. He told us he was OK with getting rid of it. I now know by the fact that this well cared for sheet, carefully filed away, was still a thread for him to hang onto. If only I would have known sooner. Wouldn't it be fun to present Dad with one of those as a surprise? "Here you go! It's from us kids. Have fun with it!" He would have loved it.

I think back to my early family years and the things I no longer do or have. I have told myself it is OK, that that was then and this is now. But I still have a hard time letting go of the good time memories. It is a different time, and I am different. I also realize that the good times are probably not as good as I remember. But, and this is what feeds the thoughts of us guys who can remember, we always have a hope and desire to recreate, this time just a little better.

I'd like to have my 1968 El Camino back. I'd like to live in our first house again and fix it up the way we always dreamed of. Heck, I'd even like to set up the sound equipment and DJ some dances like I did in College in the 70's. Man, what I could do with a couple of i-pods instead of lugging all those crates of albums around. If only.

So is it bad to have these thoughts of people, places, or things long gone? I am not so sure that it is. Talk to someone, find out a past passion in their life. Watch the discussion come to life with animation and enthusiasm. If it is a guy, he will probably go home after that conversation and think about a way to make it happen for him again.

So to the Females out there, a word of caution. Do not tell us to grow up and get over it. We never will. We may never act on it or recreate it ever again, but the spark and dream will always be there. And besides, if we grew up, we wouldn't be a person you would want to be around. I know those guys, and they are miserable.

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