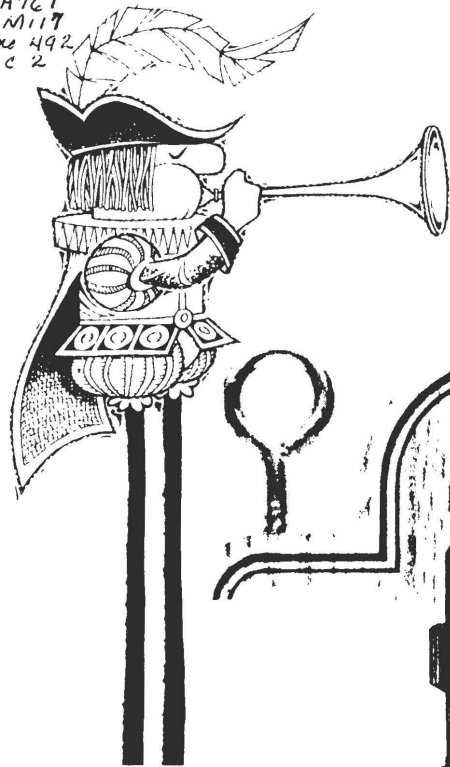


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# Cue Sheet

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Wobbly chair or table? Sticking drawer? Loose veneer? If these are problems around your home, a good wood glue, a few specialized tools, and some know-how can remedy them.

**WOBBLY CHAIR OR TABLE:** Wobbliness is usually caused by a loose rung in the legs, or a frame that has loosened around the bottom of the chair seat or tabletop.

*To reglue a chair rung:* It's easily accomplished if you can remove the rung. But don't remove the rung unless you can do so without damaging the piece. Scrape off old glue from end of rung and around rung hole. (Scrape the hole carefully so it doesn't become enlarged.) Apply wood glue generously to end of rung and also into the hole, and reassemble by forcing rung back into place. Wipe off excess glue.

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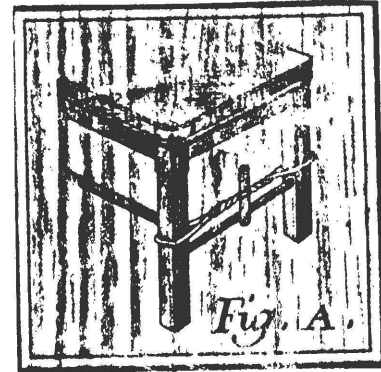
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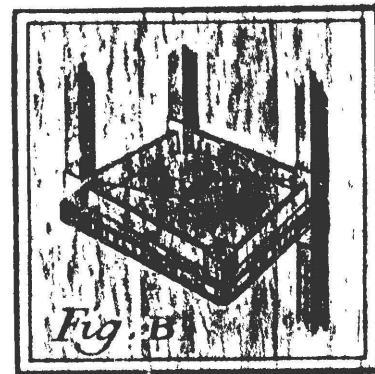
Another way to tighten loose joints is to coat fine thread with glue and wrap it around end of the rung; then apply more glue to the thread, and push rung back into its hole. There is a special glue injector sold for this purpose. Or you can use an oiler, a gadget that works like a hypodermic needle but is filled with glue rather than oil. Use a wood putty of matching color to cover the hole in the chair leg.

After regluing, pressure should be applied with any of several tools: cabinetmaker's clamps, long bar clamps, belt-type webbing clamps, or a plain rope tourniquet (see figure A). Tie the rope loosely around the outside of the legs, placing wads of paper as cushioning where the rope touches the legs. Use a small stick to twist the rope tightly (tourniquet fashion), and tie after sufficient pressure has been applied.



To repair loose joints at frame area of chairs and tables, install corner braces on the underside. Cut triangular wood blocks to fit the four corners; then glue and screw into each corner. If there are braces already in place, fresh glue and larger screws will strengthen them.

Problems with creaky chair frames can also be solved with heavy picture wire and screw eyes (see figure B). Screw one eye into the top of the leg in each corner. Cut two pieces of picture wire. Fasten the end of one to an eye, thread it through a turnbuckle (purchased from a hardware store), and fasten it to the eye on the same side of the frame. Repeat with second strand on the opposite side. Glue the corner joints of the chair, and then use turnbuckle to draw the wires into a tight position. It also serves as a brace for the framework.



*\*See gluing techniques at the end of information page.*

**STICKING DRAWERS:** In damp weather, drawers stick because of temporary swelling of the wood; simple lubrication with paraffin, candle wax, or special silicone lubricants may take care of this. Remove the drawer, wipe dust from edges and guide strips on which the drawer rides. Apply lubricants to guides and to edges.

If a drawer opens only partially, put a trouble light (in a wire cage), screwed into an extension-cord socket, in the drawer. This should dry the wood out sufficiently to release the drawer.

Sanding may be required to shave down the edges. Find out where the drawer is sticking. Inspect the drawer and the guides. Points of contact usually show as dark, polished areas along the edges. Sand down these spots with medium-grade sandpaper. Try the drawer frequently; remove only as much

wood as necessary. If the drawer sides are too high, sand on the top edge rather than the bottom.

Sticking drawers might possibly be the fault of an uneven floor. This can be checked out with a carpenter's level; the chest top should be absolutely level and the sides vertical. If not level, use thick strips of wood or cardboard as wedges under the low side. As you add wedges, check the level to make sure the chest is balanced from side to side, back to front.

**LOOSE VENEER SECTIONS:** Edges around tabletops, desks, etc., that have split loose can easily be glued back together again. Wedge the split open just enough to work glue into the crevice and on both edges of split portion. Press sections together; apply pressure with clamps or by wrapping tightly with heavy tape. If using clamps, protect wood finish by padding with cardboard.

**WHITE RINGS AND WATER MARKS:** These can be easily removed by rubbing lightly with a piece of 0000 steel wool and then waxing. An abrasive paste can be made by mixing the burned ash of a cigar with a few drops of water. Toothpaste is also a fine abrasive. Rub the water mark with either of these; let dry, and then wax. Removing water marks takes time and much rubbing.

**DEEP GOUGES AND BURNS:** These are best left alone unless you mind the piece having a very distressed appearance. Burned wood must be scraped smooth with the edge of a knife and then refinished. Deep gouges must either be filled or left as is and refinished. Steam works like magic in raising the wood grain to fill in small dents. Cover the dent with a heavy bath towel and hold a steam iron close to the towel; be sure not to touch the wood with the iron.

**DRAWERS OR OTHER PARTS MISSING:** Matching the wood can be almost impossible unless you make the new parts out of old wood.

**TERMITE DAMAGE:** The presence of tiny holes is a danger signal because the piece of wood may still be infested with the insects. Once termites get in, they can rapidly destroy the whole piece of furniture. Look for tiny mounds of wood dust beneath the furniture. This will indicate that the insects are still active. If you suspect that furniture may be infested with insects, do not bring it inside the house until the piece has been sprayed with insecticide. Be sure and spray the inside of trunks and close up tight for 24 to 48 hours.

#### BEWARE OF THESE DEFECTS

Bad Design -- There is nothing you can do about a badly designed piece of furniture. Sometimes you can camouflage it with a painted finish or a bright lacquer, but don't plan on being able to rescue a really terrible design.

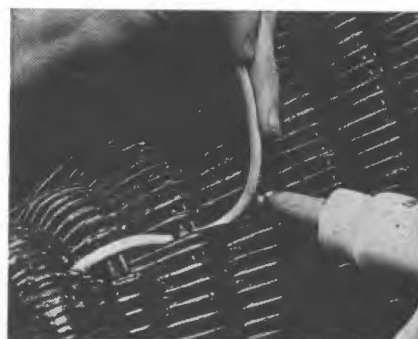
#### HELP FOR WORN WICKER, THREE SIMPLE REPAIR JOBS

Wicker furniture is durable, but after years of use it may need some repairs. Small holes can quickly become big so make repairs right away.

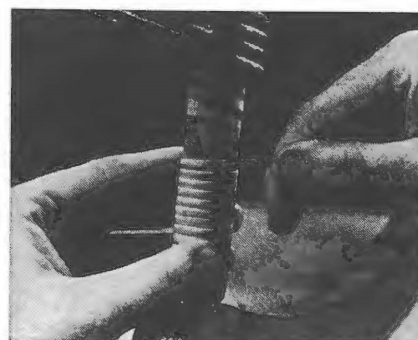
*Replacing a broken reed spoke* (top photograph) involves snipping off the old vertical spoke behind the third or fourth row of cross-weaves above and below the break. Then, after soaking the new reed in warm water for 15 minutes, weave it in place, trimming it to fit. It should spring into place, so no glue is necessary.



*Reweaving a broken horizontal reed* (middle photograph) is like repairing a spoke, except you need to clamp and glue the reed in place.



*Rewinding cane* (bottom photograph) is done by tacking down one end of a strip of flat cane, then wrapping it tightly and evenly. Where the wrapping ends, use another small brad to secure it; always nail on the back of the legs so brads will be less visible.



The only equipment needed for most jobs is a hammer, pair of cutters, some small brads, white glue, and a hank of the proper size reed (\$3 to \$5). For suppliers, check craft shops.

#### GLUING TECHNIQUES

Glue is the most durable and reliable fastener for mending some furniture. It bonds wood to wood without introducing hardware that might weaken the construction. A nail - and sometimes a screw may cause splits that later develop into major breaks. But glue, used in combination with clamps, produces strong long-lasting repairs.

Today, the glues most widely used are white polyvinyl resin types and aliphatic resin types. These glues, made especially for furniture, have superior bonding qualities. They are also water soluble so that excess glue can easily be wiped off the work with a damp cloth before the unwanted glue dries into a hard crust. For repairing outdoor furniture, use epoxy compound or some other waterproof glue.

## REMOVING OLD GLUE

Old glue has a shiny, impervious surface that prevents new glue from penetrating the wood and forming a strong bond. It must be scraped away before new glue is applied. Use a screwdriver blade or an old chisel and work with caution to avoid gouging the wood. Sand away any glue that remains. Make sure that the parts to be glued are as free of old glue as possible.

Always apply more glue than is needed. Any excess will ooze out of the joint as clamps are tightened, and should be wiped away immediately with a damp cloth. Be sure to coat both elements being joined - the dowel and its socket or both edges of a break or split.

White glue sets in as little as 20 minutes, when the humidity is low. But to ensure a strong repair, keep a glued piece clamped at least over night before returning it to use or moving on to the next repair step.

*For Reference*

*Review:* MK-430 *How to Glue Furniture*  
 Pub. 204 *Decorating Discoveries*  
 Pub. 291 *Finishing Wood Furniture*  
*Better Homes and Gardens Handyman's Book*  
*Easy Guide to Home Maintenance*  
*1000 Jobs You Can Do Yourself*  
*Fix It Yourself Manual*  
*Readers Digest - How to Repair, Clean, and Maintain Anything*  
*and Everything In and Around Your Home*

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