

100% HANDMADE PRODUCTS



ClimaCab

Batch #104

UPDATE #1: JULY 2021

HandCrafted

IN SMALL BATCHES

Batch Building Concept

At Acoustic Remedy (AR) and Hickory Ridge Woodworking (HRW), we divide the ClimaCab production runs into small batches of six to eight. There are major efficiency gains by cutting similar pieces for multiple ClimaCabs at the beginning of the production run. A typical production run may include up to twenty ClimaCabs, all of which are made-to-order, customized creations. Once the component pieces are cut, milled, and joined for the production run, the division of ClimaCabs into batches begins. All of the batches are developed based on the down payment date, so we operate with a first in, first out policy. Your ClimaCab is in Batch #104, which includes seven ClimaCabs.

The reason behind splitting the production run into batches is because Enos and his team at HRW, as well as our finisher at Southside Finishing who applies the stain (if applicable) and the triple coat of lacquer, work most efficiently in the space they have with six to eight ClimaCabs in their shops.

There are many things happening simultaneously in the beginning stages of the build and eventually the individual components begin to be assembled and resemble a cabinet. There are over 75 different pieces that combine to form a ClimaCab, all of which are handmade with the greatest of precision and care! Coordination in the shop is very important, as are a great labeling system and accurate build notes.

Progress Report and Timelines

We have progressed through the first several steps of the build for your ClimaCab. In the next update email, we will show you the major steps of a ClimaCab build in a timeline format. This will give you a general idea of how we are advancing on the build and see what's yet to come.

We are expecting your ClimaCab to be headed to the finisher around late summer to early fall, which means we are about eight weeks off our original estimate of a six month build cycle for some in Batch #104, while being right on track for others.

Rest assured, we will provide you with updates along the way. If you have specific questions about your order, please email us directly or call from either Ryan or Adam, the two owners of Acoustic Remedy. Our contact information is listed at end of this document, although you likely already have it. We are happy to personally address any questions you may have.

Lastly, we may reach out to you regarding any missing information about your order, which is typically minor and doesn't effect the build process or timeline. These items may include hardware color, glass type, lock color, etc.





Reasons

WHY WE'RE BEHIND

Fast Growth & Backlog

In 2020, and into the first half of 2021, unprecedented growth occurred for both AR and HRW. Therefore, we've been chasing our tails for a little longer than we care to admit. This is stressful and culminates in disappointment for us and ultimately our customers. We understand how this can be frustrating and are working our best to get through the backlog and communicate with our customers effectively.

Necessary Expansion of HRW Team/Shop Delayed

A portion of the original HRW shop is shown in the photo to the left. It's been in constant use for Acoustic Remedy's handmade products since 2011 and has been moved three times total, including the last move to its current location. Sometimes shops can remain the same size and continue to handle the workload, while other times the writing is on the wall and it's time to expand. The latter was true at HRW and they've been debating (with input from AR) when to finally buckle down and expand. We all knew this would assist with making our way through some of the aforementioned backlog, but that it would temporarily put us a little behind.. We also knew that continually delaying the expansion could ultimately result in extending our backlog for the foreseeable future.

Over the last couple of weeks, some of the middle steps of the ClimaCab build process were delayed as Enos has worked long days setting up a new shop in a former tobacco drying barn that is connected to the primary shop. This area is easily five times the size of the current shop and has potential to really make a positive impact on order completion. As one might expect, when an Amish shop expands it is not the same as shops in the modernized world. With no electricity to power their equipment, the process becomes much more involved and elaborate. Procuring equipment, prepping the space, and most importantly modifying the woodworking machinery to run on belt/shaft driven mechanisms instead of electrical outlets is a huge undertaking!

As this process took shape, a large trench was cut in the concrete floor of the new space to house the main shaft line running off the diesel engine. The John Deere 115 HP engine and associated support structures, which are located just outside the exterior wall of the shop, turn the main shaft via a series of 10-20 heavy duty rubber belts.. This engine is approximately three times larger than the current engine employed, meaning it has the capacity to power a lot more equipment. Powered from the main shaft are many smaller auxiliary shafts which are turned via belts and pulleys. These auxiliary shafts eventually spin the motors of the equipment. This new engine is slated to power fans on a new bag house, blades on a new table saw, drums on a new sander, and bits on a new router. When we say "new", we mean it's new to the shop. All Amish equipment is bought and sold via community auctions, which can bring as many as 500-1,000 Amish looking to buy anything from woodworking equipment, farm machinery, and household items.

Enos is really excited about the new bag house because it will serve as the primary ventilation system for the expanded shop, removing dust from the shop that can wreak havoc on the lungs. It also has an air return loop that will reduce the loss of heated air, from the wood fired stove located in the shop, during the winter months and to a lesser degree, the cooler air in the summer months.

Like many projects, this expansion started out with an expected timeline and ended up taking longer than anticipated. As many people know, this can and will happen when completing a large project like this.

Supply Chain Issues

Many components we use to build the ClimaCabs are sourced locally, including much of the lumber. As the pandemic took hold and continued into 2021, many people were staying at home and ordering household furniture products, including our humidors for their instruments. This put a strain on the lumber supply and has both driven up prices as well as delivery timelines. The supply/demand issues cascaded from the forest to the sawmill to the kiln to the shop and has really provided some challenges for us along the way. Luckily, we have some good suppliers that came through in the end and we secured the high quality hardwoods needed for Batch #104 and beyond.

In similar fashion, other items have experienced some supply chain strain. We won't get into too many details, but would like to stress that we don't see any further delays due to components needed for your ClimaCab.

Batch Pics



Stacks of Blanks



Components of the Display Options



Panel Example



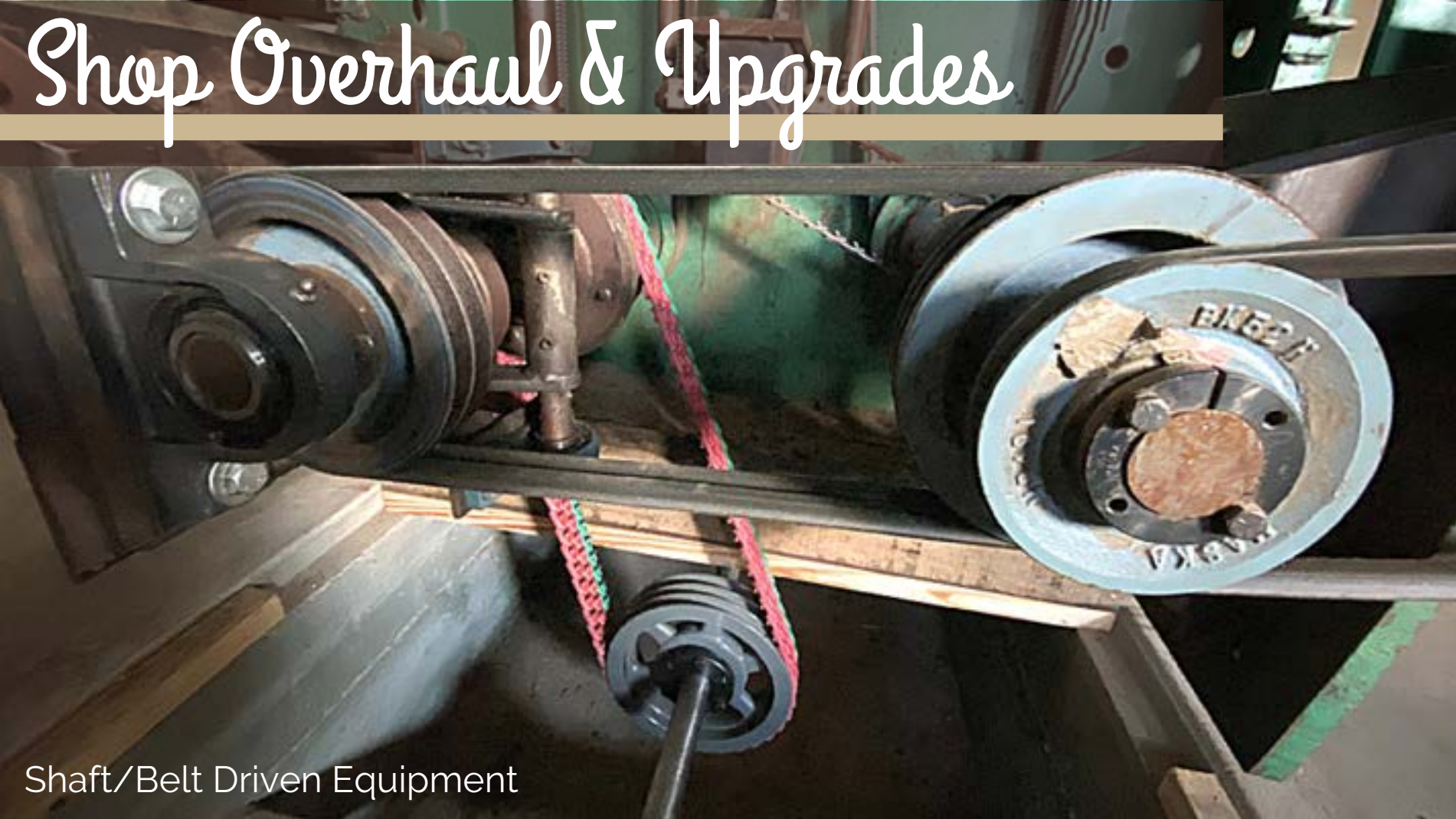
Neck Wedge



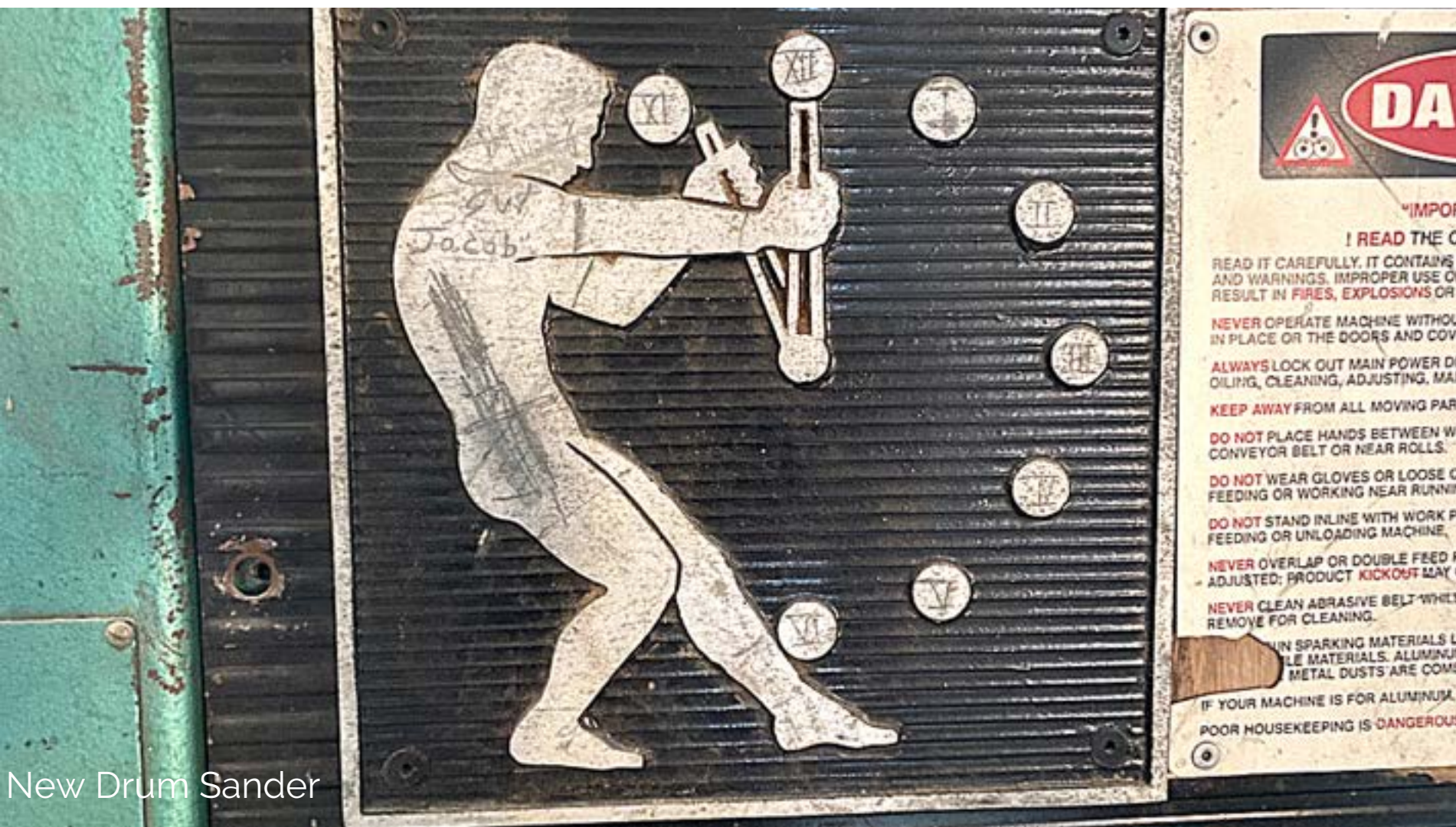
Handmade Begins with These Hands



Glue Ups



Shaft/Belt Driven Equipment



New Drum Sander

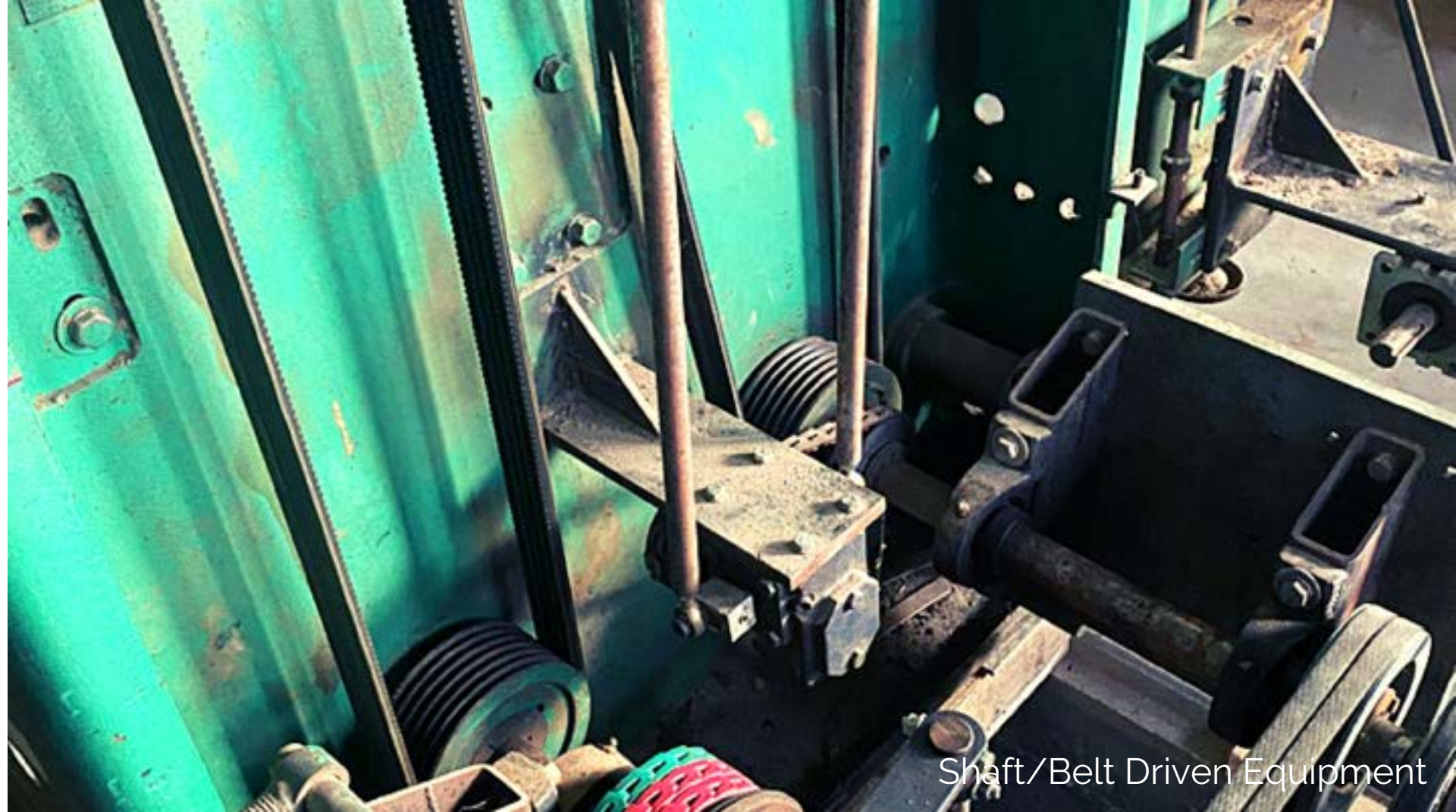


Main Shaft to Drive Equipment

Shop Overhaul & Upgrades



Steel and Concrete Supports



Shaft/Belt Driven Equipment



New Router



New Chop Saw

Shop Overhaul & Upgrades



Return Loop & Fan



Baghouse & Piping



New Ventilation System

Shop Overhaul & Upgrades



Making Sawdust w/New Planer



New John Deere
115HP Engine



Dust Collection System

Upcoming Updates

Videos

We will send you a link to our YouTube channel where you can watch various stages of the ClimaCab build process captured on film and stitched together in short videos

More Shop Updates & Improvements

We're probably more excited than anyone else (aside from Enos), but we think you'll like to see the new equipment sanding, routing, and cutting. We'll get you in on the action!

Photography

We'll be getting you more collages, especially of the various stages of the build process.

Showing You the Major Steps of Building A ClimaCab

You will see the 23 major steps and a brief description of what each step entails.

Defining Key Terms Used in the Furniture World

Hint - HRW does all of them and then some!

Contact Us

Phone Calls/Emails

Feel free to email us at acousticremedycases@gmail.com . We typically reply to all emails within 12 hours.

If you'd like to call/text, please use one of the numbers below. If we miss your call, leave a message and we'll be back in touch with you.

Adam - 608-406-9860

Ryan - 651-341-9955

