



HELPFUL HINTS. We start this issue with good stuff from Al Bond who spent some of the winter in California (warmer!) and with his family. (Al actually titled this column "Helpful Hints - maybe", but there's no maybe about it!

"Use a hand vac near drilling, skiving, every minute or so to clean up.

Use an electric pencil sharpener near marking operations (one hand can be kept on ruler).

Apartment binding - for a press, use a hydraulic jack with press boards - place under frame of car to get one or more tons of pressure. Be Sure To Tie A Ribbon On Steering Wheel.

Use a fondue set up to melt hide glue - low heat setting will give 140°F to 150°F - 60°C to 65°C - (check out first time) which is ideal (Goodwill stores, 3-4 Bucks). Must watch water level but beats the price of one of the waterless glue pots - especially if one uses it only now and then. I only use it 3-4 times a week. In a larger bindery it pays to have the waterless pots. I trained under Charles Collings at "The Bindery" in Los Angeles and the pot was turned on in the morning so as to be ready any time. I use small glass food jars (8 oz) to melt glue - use for a couple of weeks, then discard rather than taking the time to clean the jar.

Use a piece of man made marble for skiving. I got a broken piece free and cut square - can be cut with a hack saw and file off the sharp corners. Also, Tandy Leather Co. sells a 1 X 12 X 12" (25 X 300 X 300 mm) marble (\$15.00).

Sharpening knives - At first used the old oil and stone, but, I don't like oil in the bindery - it is like Axiom #3:

AL'S AXIOM #3
GLUE WILL ALWAYS
GET ON PLACES
WHERE YOU DON'T
WANT IT,

Which goes along with Axiom #4: