Quilted Maple Projects Part 1
Featured Piece of the Month – December 2022
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The quilted maple figure is beautiful and my task as a woodworker was to select, design, and build furniture pieces which would show off the natural beauty of the wood.

In late 2021 I saw a photo of a quilted maple and walnut table on Pinterest. I never worked with quilted maple. I made a trip to Highland Hardwood to replenish my wood stock. Highland recently began stocking quilted maple. I went through all the boards of quilted maple and picked out a half dozen boards with some nice figure. My first project was a knock off of the piece I had seen on Pinterest. If you zoom in on the tabletop you will see the beautiful figure of the maple.

The walnut table legs are tapered. Traditional mortise and tenon construction was used for the apron to leg joints. The tops of the legs are shaped and protrude through the table top as shown in the photo to the right. The dark walnut provides a nice contrast to the maple.

After going through the thickness planer with 1/64” final passes, the boards at the maple quilts are still rough as shown in the photo to the right. I used sharp card scrapers and sanding to prevent further tear-out and to smooth out the boards.
The next quilted maple project I built has quilted maple drawers and doors. The outside walnut frame is free standing with the inside case anchored to the frames base. The legs have a slight curvature on the outside face as shown in the figure below.

The photo below shows the hand cut dovetails, and a view of the detail on the outside frame.
I made this marquetry piece with a quilted maple back and walnut and cherry pieces for the tree trunk, branches, nuts, and leaves. I started with a full scale pencil drawing on thick paper, then cut out the individual pieces and used them to layout the walnut and cherry pieces. I cut out the pieces with a combination of a scroll saw and sharp exacto knife. I traced the pieces on the maple, then used a combination of small diameter router bits, chisels and carving tools to fit the individual pieces. The pieces were slightly proud which allowed me to sand the overall piece flat. The outside frame is made of walnut. The piece is hanging on a wall in the first floor of our house.

My next project and last piece in Part 1 was a curly walnut coffee table with quilted maple drawers. The drawers extend through the full width of the piece and can be pushed from either side. The three drawers are made from a single piece of quilted maple on each table side. The outside of the legs are slightly curved and the drawers are curved to match the curvature of the top.