

Blue Book of Pool Cues

By Brad Simpson

Page 270, Pictures Page 71

Second Edition, 1999

Cue-Maker Discovery: Keith Josey of *Josey Custom Cues*

Keith Josey's father was a machinist for 17-1/2 years, before he went into the custom home building business. He earned a reputation as a perfectionist at custom woodworking. Keith grew up in his father's wood shop, and began helping out as a kid. When they were done working, Keith, his father, and four brothers would often go play pool at a local room.

Keith had his own cue, and one day he had to have a ferrule replaced. He was very disappointed with the job that was done for him. It was nowhere near the quality of work that he was used to in his father's custom woodworking business. So, Keith set out to do cue repairs to the standard of work to which he was accustomed. With the help of his father-in-law, he bought the

necessary equipment and was working on cues in 1988.

Local players were so impressed with the quality of his work that they urged him to make his own cues. In 1992, Keith started making Josey cues. He has since continued making cues one at a time, by hand, in his one-man shop. All of Keith's cues have been hand -signed "Josey," sometimes followed by the year, for easy identification.

Keith went to a slimmer joint and butt diameter in 1994, to improve playability, which is the most important aspect of his cues. Keith makes every component of his cues except for the tips, bumpers, and screws. Inlays were done on a small pantograph, until late 1998 when he got a C. N.C. machine. He likes to

use exotic woods and stones such as turquoise and malachite for inlays. Keith used to cut up phenolic resin cue balls to make his capped ferrules, then he bought the same raw material in rods. He liked phenolic resin because of the hit, and because chalk stains wiped away easily. Keith now prefers to use linen phenolic instead. Ferrules, collars, and butt caps all thread on for more secure construction. Keith likes a forward balanced cue, with a solid stiff hit. He turns his shafts six different times over a six-month period, dipping them in a wood stabilizer after each turning. Spliced cues often sit for a month or more, to ensure against warpage.

Keith is close to

several military bases in Georgia, and Josey cues have become popular with local servicemen. They have taken cues with them on different tours, generating orders for Josey cues from around the world. Keith currently specializes in one-of-a-kind custom cues, and will make cues based on customers' specifications.

Josey cues are guaranteed against construction defects that are not the result of warpage or abuse. If you have a Josey cue that needs further identification or repair, or would like to talk to Keith about ordering a new Josey cue, contact Josey Custom Cues, listed in the trademark index.

