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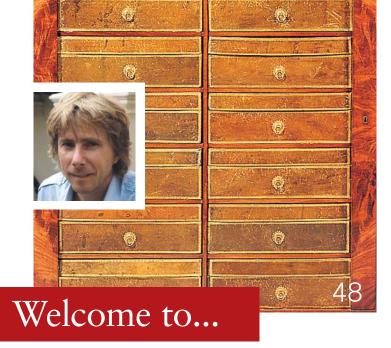
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# ...diversity

ast year I was fortunate to get a behind-the-scenes peek at some incredible items of furniture as they neared the end of years' worth of conservation work. The items, both from the 18th century, weren't really my taste but left a lasting impression nonetheless. Both pieces were built to impress and featured all the whistles and bells you'd expect to find on pieces from this period; gilded bronze, Japanese lacquer, engraved inlay, marquetry, etc. It sounds over the top I know, and by today's standards perhaps it is, but that's only because we've been desensitised by decades of below average workmanship and lacklustre design from mass-produced goods. I don't consider myself the controversial type or indeed over critical of others' work so in a polite 'note to self' kind of way, I'm going to see if I can use 2019 to expand my repertoire of skills and inject a little diversity into my work every now and then.

If you're thinking along the same lines you could do a lot worse than brush up on your restoration skills. Last year the auction houses noticed an increase in the demand for brown furniture as the millennial generation turn their back on the stack 'em high and sell 'em low culture to go in search of something unique instead. It's a trend that could rejuvenate interest in all manner of hand crafts.

We're not without our own influence in this small matter either here at  $F \not \subset C$ , with projects like Israel Martin's wall-hung tool cabinet or Kieran Binnie's tips for getting the most out of low angle planes. Add to this a straight-up review of the latest extraction system from Festool and a look at a new finishing oil from Skelton Saws, and you could say we've got your back once again.

**Derek Jones** derekj@thegmcgroup.com

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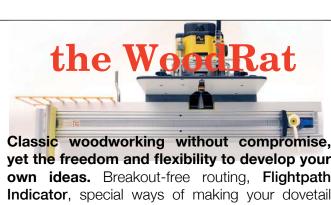
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# Meet the contributors



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David is a fine contemporary furniture maker and the producer of a popular range of hand tools. He also regularly teaches woodworking courses at West Dean College, produces DVDs and uploads videos to his YouTube channel.

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Kieran's passion for woodwork started at the end of law school when he enrolled at the Totnes School of Guitarmaking. His focus has since expanded to include furniture making as well as lutherie. Kieran writes a regular blog at www.overthewireless.com, and is currently researching and writing a book for Lost Art Press about Welsh Stick Chairmaker John Brown.

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#### **Israel Martin**

Israel graduated as a forestry engineer in Madrid in 2000, before deciding to change career. At first he was self-taught but then took some classes about hand tools with a Spanish artisan and with master craftsman Garrett Hack to improve his furniture-making skills. He makes every piece of furniture using hand tools exclusively and also makes tools for his work or for other artisans. Together with other Spanish craftsmen he has been organising the Spanish woodworking event, LIGNORUM, for the past three years.

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# Making a wall-hanging tool cabinet

Israel Martin makes a tool cabinet for his hand-tools-only workshop



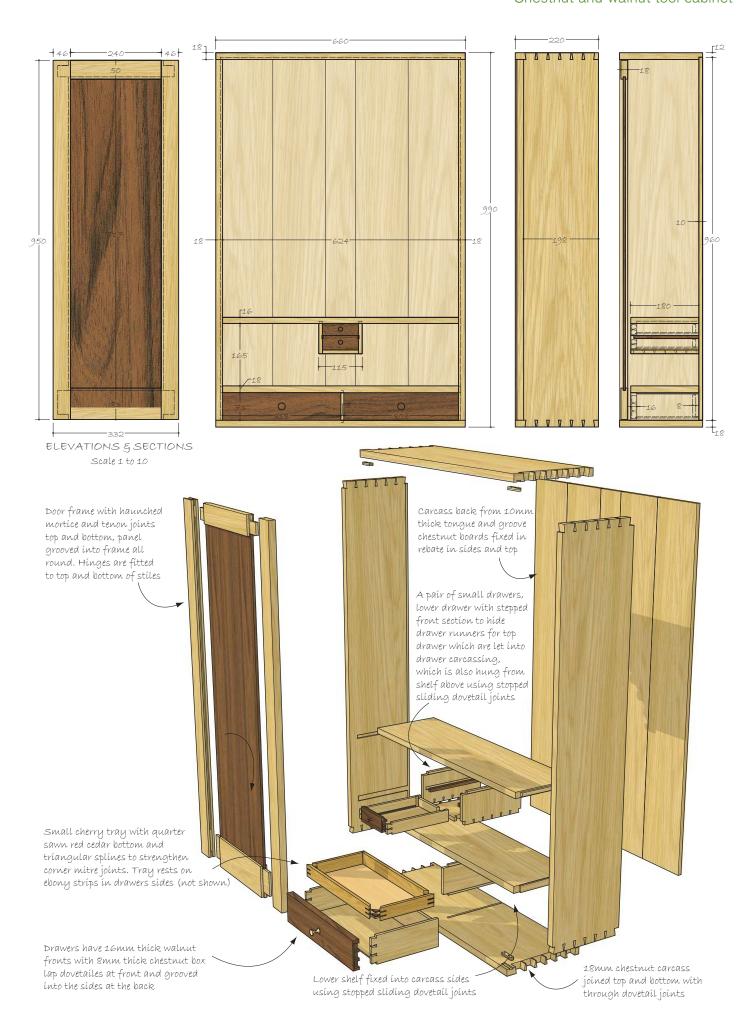
n order to keep my tools at hand, protected and well ordered, I decided to make a tool cabinet to hold most of my collection. Thinking about the design of the cabinet, I knew the tools would need to be accessible (at least the ones I use the most), and they would need to be arranged so that I could see where they were with just a quick glance. A tool cabinet is the best way to protect tools from dust, rust and disorder. Given that it will hold a great weight, the timber needed to be strong yet light weight, and also refined but not too expensive. I decided to use some chestnut that I cut and air-dried several years ago as the main wood, with some walnut to add a contrast. I used through dovetails for the carcass and sliding dovetails for the main shelves, thus making a 'bomb proof' cabinet. Because I needed a place for smaller items, such as my marking and measuring tools, I made four drawers. The big drawers are for less used items and the small ones for the smaller marking tools. I used the small drawers as a division for the two spaces on the main shelves. I think a tool cabinet should be dynamic and able to adapt to new tools and needs, so I used simple brass screws with rounded heads to hang some of the tools.



The cabinet keeps the tools accessible and orderly

### **PROJECTS & TECHNIQUES**

Chestnut and walnut tool cabinet



www.woodworkersinstitute.com F&C280 **13** 

Spanish chestnut
When working with hand tools only, the choice of timber is somewhat crucial, and a hand-tools-friendly wood is the best way of not getting frustrated. Spanish chestnut has a nice grain, is lightweight, is very easy to plane by hand and it is soft on the chisels, meaning it doesn't wear the tools so quickly and reduces the need for sharpening. It

also doesn't chip easily when working with chisels, and it is easy to get a mirror finish with the planes. It is like working with pine but it looks more refined. Chestnut was commonly used in the north of Spain for almost everything from beams for houses, to doors, windows and furniture.







The chestnut hoards The chestnut carcass

Close-up of the chestnut grain

# Making the small hanging drawers To store the small measuring tools that I do not use very often – a

small combination square, dovetail markers, etc. - I decided to make two hanging drawers that will also make a division in the first shelf. I made this with through dovetails to join the two sides with the bottom and then sliding dovetails to join the sides to the upper shelf. I then made two walnut runners for the upper drawer that are joined to the

sides in a groove. The lower drawer has a rebate to fit the space of the runners. The drawer fronts were made in walnut to combine with the door panels and the other drawers. In small and narrow drawers like these ones I oriented the grain of the drawer bottoms parallel to the sides because it is much easier, the seasonal movement won't be too big and this way I can use scraps from other bigger drawers.



Pins in the carcass bottom

Detail of the hanging drawers





**Runner details** 



Gluing the hanging drawers in the carcass





**Bottom grain direction detail** 

Lower drawer rebate detail

**14** F&C280 www.woodworkersinstitute.com

### Chestnut and walnut tool cabinet

### Making drawers for the tools

I made four drawers for this cabinet, two small ones and two bigger ones. I always start by making the drawer fronts, adjusting their width and then cutting to length. Once they are made I prepare the drawer sides, normally with maple, and I try to use quartersawn wood as much as I can. I cut the tails, then mark and make the pins. Combining a dark wood for the front and a light wood for the sides makes any possible gap almost invisible. I use sliding dovetails instead of through dovetails for the backs, I find it easier to make

them just with chisels because they are usually very small and short. I also leave the sides a bit longer just to be able to pull the drawer all the way and see the inside and to allow for seasonal movement. Sliding dovetails help keep everything together and square even without glue. Most of my drawer bottoms are made of soft wood but since I had some thin boards of ash left over from another project, I decided to use them instead. I used holly for the pulls to add more contrast.







The maple drawer sides being test fit



Making the tails on the drawer sides



Making the pins on the drawer fronts



The finished drawers

### Making through dovetails

There are lots of ways of making dovetails. I've tried severalmethods and this is what I commonly do. Starting from the tails, I mark them with a knife and saw to the line from the outside of the board, trying to make the tails just a bit narrower to the inside, so when I mark the pins, I always mark them a bit narrower than the top of the tails. I then saw outside the pin lines and adjust them with chisels. This way I have enough wood to adjust the pins with no risk of gaps between pins and tails; this is also faster than adjusting the tails and pins.



Sawing the dovetails



Checking the dovetails



Marking the pins



The dry fit RIGHT: Assembly

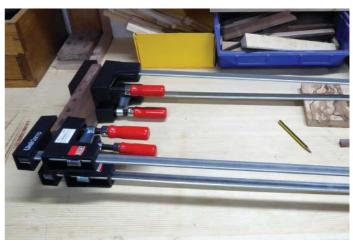


Making a removable chisel rack

One thing I don't usually like about tool cabinets is that every tool has its own place. I consider my chisel set as one tool, so I need to be able to get to all the chisels at one time. I made two chisel racks by sawing one walnut board in two, making the grooves for the chisels and then gluing the two halves together again. I then added a half dovetail on the back of the rack and the other half dovetail on the cabinet doors. This way I can put the entire chisel set on the bench and work with it - easy and effective.



Two racks for two types of chisel



Gluing the two parts of the rack together



A dovetail shaped cleat holds the rack in place



The racks also prevent the chisels from rolling around the bench

## Organising the tool cabinet



Tools that are used most often are stored on the lower shelves RIGHT: Rare earth magnets keep the planes in place

There needed to be enough space between the cabinet and the workbench underneath it. However, this meant that most parts of the cabinet would be too high to reach comfortably. So I placed the most-used tools in the more reachable zone and in the top of the drawers, making small trays for the inside of the drawers. I did the same with the doors. As you can see, the plane handles are just reachable on the upper shelf. I used rare earth magnets to keep the planes in place.

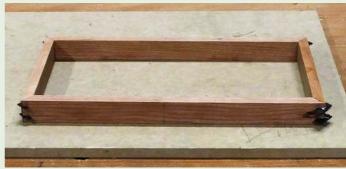


### Making small trays for tools

One way of getting your tools in better order in the drawers is to make small trays that lie on ebony strips inside the drawer. I made this one with some scrap cherry. The fastest way was by making mitres, gluing them and then adding some splines to add strength to the set. Making the bottom couldn't be more easy; as I was looking at an old tools catalogue, I noticed that small boxes for measuring tools used to have thin quartersawn wood bottoms just glued at the box bottom, so I tried this with quartersawn red cedar. It couldn't have worked better.



Marking and layout tools share the same drawer



Splines are cut into the corners of the tray after the initial assembly



Splines add strength as well as a little detail



Small trays are a great way of organising smaller tools

# Installing the door hinges Probably the biggest challenge of making the cabinet, at least for

Probably the biggest challenge of making the cabinet, at least for me, was that I needed to make the doors and add the hinges to the carcass before the carcass was glued up. This meant it was going to be difficult to make further adjustments on these big doors in

order to fit them perfectly. I marked the hinges in place on the dry fit, placing the doors to test their places, and then made the mortises for them. I then assembled the carcass again and marked on the doors. I tested them before gluing everything together. FALL



Checking the doors for size before fitting the hinges



Use a small router plane to let the hinge into the ends  $% \left( \mathbf{r}\right) =\mathbf{r}^{\prime }$ 



Set the hinge parts flush with the surface of the door  $\label{eq:continuous} % \begin{center} \begin{centaring} \begin{center} \begin{center} \begin{center} \begin{cente$ 



Just the knuckle is exposed at the side of the cabinet

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# News& Events

# Contribute to these pages by telling us about matters of interest to furniture makers. Call Derek Jones on 01 273 402 843 or email derekj@thegmcgroup.com

Please accompany information with relevant, hi-res images wherever it is possible







LEFT TO RIGHT: April Wilkerson, Frank Kreuger and Matt Cremona are the new Triton Tools ambassadors

# Triton Tools trio to champion woodworking

hree of the world's most popular woodworkers have been unveiled as Triton Tools ambassadors. YouTube sensations April Wilkerson and fellow American Matt Cremona will continue to promote the Yeovil-based company, while up-and-coming German YouTube superstar Frank Kreuger is a new addition to the team. All three will appear at key worldwide events with Triton over the next 12 months, as well as contributing regular social media content.

Mark Pearson, Global Brand Manager at Triton Tools, said: 'We are very proud

of our latest ambassador line-up. As a company, we pride ourselves on precision, expertise and engaging with the worldwide community of woodworkers; those qualities shine through with all three individuals in abundance.' He believes Triton's customers will gain a unique insight into how to make the most of woodworking from the trio. 'All three draw huge crowds at shows and are always only too happy to accommodate every single person that wants to meet them and tap into their knowledge', he said.

April has been making woodworking tutorial videos for more than four years

and has a phenomenal 823,600 subscribers on YouTube. Matt's woodworking styles range from modern to classic reproductions and fans love watching him turn self-harvested trees into fine furniture. Frank, meanwhile, is fast becoming a recognisable face amongst the global woodworking community as he shares his bold wood projects, from flamboyant treehouses to stylish poker tables, with informative videos shot in both German and English.

Contact: Triton Tools
Web: www.tritontools.com

# Bamboo house wins sustainable architecture prize

arl Patrick Forlales, a 23-year-old from Manila, has won the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Cities For Our Future competition with an idea that will help solve Manila's slum housing crisis. CUBO – a project to build new, low-cost and environmentally friendly housing units – will now receive the £50,000 prize money to start work next year.

Earl was inspired to use bamboo for CUBO's construction by his grandparents' rural house. Bamboo is locally abundant and environmentally friendly, with the waste used as a resource. The bamboo used in CUBO is treated and laminated, meaning its lifecycle is 10 times longer than normal bamboo. CUBO is also affordable and quick to build.

Earl will now work with RICS experts and industry professionals to begin work on the project. He has already identified a suitable plot of land to begin construction, with the hope that it will be used in other cities facing similar crises.

Contact: RICS Web: www.rics.org/uk/



The sustainable, affordable CUBO house could be the answer to Manila's housing crisis

# Millennials make antiques cool again

There is a growing fashion for buying antique furniture among younger generations, according to the international search engine Barnebys.

Anecdotal evidence indicates that a new generation of homemakers is buying antiques due to concerns about sustainability and re-use, as well as a desire for uniqueness. The Barnebys search engine monitors 2000 auction houses on its website, which hosts more than one million items daily. It is evident that, after years of a slump in brown furniture, there are signs of new interest in antique furniture.

Contact: Barnebys Web: www.barnebys.co.uk



Items such as this 300-year-old mahogany desk are again becoming popular with consumers

### Victorian crafts revived

new BBC series will see traditional crafts being re-created by modern craftspeople. The Victorian House of Arts & Crafts on BBC 2 in January will transport six modern-day craftspeople back in time to live and experience first-hand the ideas and practices of Arts & Crafts visionaries William Morris, John Ruskin and Gertrude Jekyll. Cut off from 21st-century life, the group of six artisans must live and work in a Victorian Arts & Crafts bubble where they will breathe life back into an original Arts & Crafts property.

Contact: BBC Arts Web: www.bbc.co.uk/arts

# BFM helps companies support disabled workers

ogether with its EU partners, the British Furniture Manufacturers (BFM) is engaging in the SupportAbility project, an initiative to train managers and provide them with the knowledge of adaptations that may be needed when supporting an employee with a form of disability.

After two years of research, SupportAbility has created a course of activities that lead to the inclusion of people living with physical disability, learning difficulties and people with a history of

mental illness. A pilot version of this course was tested in November by six British employees from companies in the furniture industry, along with six carpentry/furniture students from Spain. Further tests will be conducted in 2019. An e-learning course has also been created.

Contact: BFM & SupportAbility Web: www.bfm.org.uk & www.supportability.eu

# Events

Information correct at time of publication, check websites before planning your visit

## **FFX Tool Show**

The UK's favourite tool show is back! FFX have brought together all the biggest manufacturers to give you the best hands-on tool show for the professional and DIYer. Building on the success of last year's show at the Kent Event Centre, 2010 is set to be the biggest and best so far. Set in approximately 50,000ft² of first-rate indoor exhibition space, you'll be able to enjoy live tool demonstrations from industry experts, see new product releases and have a chance to compete in exclusive competitions from powerhouse brands.

When: 1-3 March

Where: Kent Event Centre, Detling, Maidstone ME14 3JF

Web: www.ffx.co.uk/tools/toolshow/



The FFX Tool Show returns to Kent this March

### Northpoint

The furniture and interiors exhibition for northern UK returns with over 80 exhibitors covering upholstery, living room, occasional, dining, lighting, accessories, bedrooms, beds, floor coverings and more.

When: 27–29 January Where: Highland Hall, Ingliston, Edinburgh EH28 8AU Web: www.thenorthpointshow.co.uk

### Irish Interiors Showcase

The Irish Interiors Showcase holds two shows promoting quality Irish furnishings.

When: 4-5 March in Ballyclare; 6-7 March in Dublin

Where: Hilton Templepatrick, Castle Upton, Paradise Walk, Templepatrick, Ballyclare BT39 0DD; and at the Talbot hotel, Stillorgan, Dublin Web: irishinteriorshowcase.com

# The Midlands Woodworking and Powertool Show

The Midlands Woodworking and Powertool Show will include demonstrations, workshops and advice from top power tool brands.

When: 22–23 March Where: Newark Showground, Notts NG24 2NY Web: www.nelton.co.uk/midlandswoodworking-power-tool-show.html

### Designers in Residence: Dwelling

The Designers in Residence programme at the Design Museum provides emerging designers, from any discipline, with time and space to reflect, research and consider new ways of developing their practice. The theme of this year's programme is 'dwelling' and explores social housing, craft, smart home devices and concepts of time. The designers' collective work will be showcased in an exhibition.

When: until 24 March Where: Design Museum, 224–238 Kensington High Street, Kensington, London W8 6AG Web: designmuseum.org

# Inspire a young designer this winter - sponsor a School Design Prize



Matthew Pembery, 2018 School Design Prize winner, with his Multi-Functional Cabinet

he Furniture Makers' Company has launched a winter fundraising campaign and is asking for the entire furnishing industry to sponsor a School Design Prize, giving the gift of inspiration to a design student this festive season.

The School Design Prize was launched in 2014 to raise awareness of the furnishing industry among school children. Every year The Furniture Makers' Company asks companies and individuals to sponsor copies of school curriculum textbook Design of the 20th Century by Charlotte and Peter Fiell.

The prizes are posted to schools around the country with a certificate for design and technology teachers to present to their most outstanding student.

All of the winners of the School Design Prize are then put forward to a national competition and invited to exhibit at the annual Young Furniture Makers exhibition in October.

This year the charity has a target to give

The Furniture Makers' Company the furnishing industry's charity

The Furniture Makers' Company is a City of London livery company and the furnishing industry's charity. www.furnituremakers.org.uk

700 prizes to 350 schools around the UK. For a donation of just £50 (+VAT) the charity will send a school two prizes to reward an outstanding male and female.

Hayden Davies, Master of The Furniture Makers' Company, said: 'The government's focus on growing the economy and raising productivity by increasing the number of people studying Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) has

meant a reduction in funding for the arts and fewer students being directed toward designs and technology.

'For less than [the cost of an] evening out, you can help young people learn more about our dynamic industry by sponsoring a School Design Prize.'

Matthew Pembery, 2018 School Design Prize winner, said: 'It was a great honour to receive the School Design Prize and as a result I was invited to the Young Furniture Makers exhibition in London. At the exhibition I was able to talk to other students about their designs, which was both educational and inspiring given the standard of work on display. The advice which I obtained from design professionals and other students at the event will be greatly beneficial to my progression as a designer.'

Emaline Hamnett, 2018 School Design Prize winner, said: 'From the very beginning I knew how important and competitive this award was which only boosted my determination to work as hard as I could. The hard work paid off and I got an amazing opportunity to display my work and meet the most incredible people. It was a truly amazing day and I would like to thank The Furniture Makers' Company for the experience.'

To sponsor a School Design Prize today, go to http://bit.ly/SchoolDesignPrize2019. Alternatively, call Laura Garnett, head of fundraising on 020 7562 8527 or email laura@furnituremakers.org.uk.



The Radioactive Bench by Brodie Haward won the 2018 National School Prize



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# Wood Awards winners 2018

### Here we showcase the award-winning work from this year's competition

he Wood Awards is the UK's premier competition for excellence in architecture and product design in the world's only naturally sustainable material. The Awards aim to recognise, encourage and promote outstanding design, craftsmanship and installation using wood. The 2018 winners were announced at a ceremony held on 20 November at Carpenters' Hall in London hosted by David Hopkins, Director of the Timber Trade Federation.

For more information about the Wood Awards, including details of the 2019 competition, visit: woodawards.com

# Mears Group Gold Award Winner and Commercial & Leisure Winner: Storey's Field Centre & Eddington Nursery

The judges selected Storey's Field Centre & Eddington Nursery in Cambridge as this year's Mears Group Gold Award and Commercial & Leisure winner. The Mears Group Gold Award is given to the 'winner of winners'. Stephen Corbett, chair of this year's buildings judging panel, praised the project's 'winning combination of architectural merit, structural ingenuity and flawless execution'. The principle rooms are lined in oak panelling. The main hall, influenced by the dining halls and chapels of Cambridge colleges, uses an exposed, articulated timber structure. The hall provides a venue for a range of activities and its acoustics can be adjusted to suit.

Architect: MUMA

Client/owner: University of Cambridge

Structural engineer: Aecom

Main contractor: Farrans Construction Ltd Joinery: C W Fields, M Borley & Sons Joinery Ltd

Glulam structure: n'H International Ltd

Spiral stair: Spiral UK Ltd, David Gilbert Joinery Ltd

Cedar shingle supplier: Marley Eternit

Wood supplier: Brooks Bros, D F Richards, James Latham Wood species: American white ash, Canadian western red cedar,

European oak, spruce





Storey's Field Centre & Eddington Nursery

FIGRAPHS CHIRTESY OF THE WOOD AWARDS

## Bespoke Furniture Winner: CLEFT

CLEFT is a series of cabinets made from different Japanese tree species. Designer Peter Marigold worked closely with Tadanori Tozawa of woodworking manufacturer Hinoki Kogei. The wood chosen for each cabinet was selected carefully according to how it would split and work in relation to the overall cabinet dimensions. The pieces are inspired by the notion of splitting one thing into two and creating bi-symmetrical objects.

Designer: Peter Marigold/Tadanori Tozawa

Maker: Hinoki Kougei

Represented by: Sarah Myerscough Gallery Wood species: Smoked oak, oak, cherry, jindai sugi, ash, kenponashi, conker, kihada, sen (all Japanese)



**CLEFT** cabinets

### Production Furniture Winner: Ballot Chair

The Ballot Chair is a handcrafted, solid oak design. The most significant challenge was to produce a chair that efficiently stacks while retaining an elegant form. The sections of oak that make up the chair are thin but extremely strong, enabling the back to be narrower at the top. The chair is a simple, tactile and versatile design that is a seamless addition to the collection.

**Designer:** Barber & Osgerby **Manufacturer:** Isokon Plus

Wood supplier: Timber Link International Wood species: European oak (from Germany)





Ballot Chair

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# Student Designer Winner: Objekt Bord

Objekt Bord by Building Crafts College student Ellen Svenningsen is an assembly of two components - an upright curve and a circle. The project was driven by a curiosity to learn and understand the process of laminating and bending plywood, the birch ply offers strong structural integrities yet is flexible enough to smoothly bend. Ellen received a £1000 prize as the winner of this category.

Designer: Ellen Svenningsen College: Building Crafts College Wood supplier: Slecuk







Objekt Bord

# Student Designer People's Choice Award Winner: Super Desk

Super Desk, inspired by Gio Ponti's SuperLeggera chair, is designed to create a sense of space and openness in small domestic settings. Ben Smith received £500 for winning the Student Designer People's Choice Award. Voting took place at the London Design Fair.

Designer: Ben Smith

College: Building Crafts College Wood supplier: Tyler Hardwoods Wood species: British olive ash



Super Desk

### Education & Public Sector Winner: Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre

The Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre in Worcester College, Oxford houses a large lecture theatre, a student learning space, seminar rooms and a dance studio. The building is raised on a podium and has been designed as a theatre within a garden. A curved, stone auditorium opens directly onto an oakceilinged foyer that extends out to pergolas and terraces.

Architect: Niall McLaughlin Architects Client/owner: Worcester College Structural engineer: Price & Myers Main contractor: Beard Construction

Joinery: Barn 6

Furniture: Benchmark, David Colwell Design

Timber flooring: Junckers

Wood supplier: Inwood Developments,

**Brooks Brothers** 

Wood species: European oak, Siberian larch





# Interiors Winner: Royal Academy of Music Theatre & New Recital Hall

The 309-seat cherry-lined Susie Sainsbury Theatre now forms the heart of London's Royal Academy of Music. Inspired by the curved shapes of string instruments, it has been acoustically refined to deliver excellent sound qualities. Above the Theatre, the 100-seat Angela Burgess Recital Hall provides additional space for student rehearsal, public performance and recording. The Recital Hall is entirely lined in pale, lime-washed European oak.

Architect: Ian Ritchie Architects Ltd
Client/owner: Royal Academy of Music
Cost consultant: Equals Consulting
Structural engineer: WSP
Building services: Atelier Ten
Acoustic engineer: Arup
Main contractor: Geoffrey Osborne Ltd
Joinery: James Johnson & Co. Ltd
Specialist theatre electrics & lighting:
Push The Button

Wood supplier: Hardwood Sales Ltd,

Brooks Bros Ltd, Lathams

Wood species: North American cherry,

European oak





Royal Academy of Music Theatre & New Recital Hall

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UI

# Private Building Winner: Old Shed New House

Old Shed New House is a timber framed and clad home in North Yorkshire. The steel portal frame and ground-slab have been enlarged and infilled with a new timber frame clad in varied widths of shot-blasted timber and galvanised steel. The rhythmic façade reads like the bark of silver birch trees found on the site. A tall south-facing library evokes a forest clearing in the heart of the house. The environmental approach was to create a highly insulated and airtight building that follows the passivhaus strategy. Timber solar louvres were integrated into the cladding system to limit solar gain.

Architect: Tonkin Liu

Structural engineer: Rodrigues Associates Main contractor: Vine House Construction Joinery: Image Developments Northern Ltd

Wood supplier: Arnold Laver

Wood species: Siberian larch, Latvian birch,

Scandinavian spruce

### Small Building Winner: Look! Look! Look!

Look! Look! Look! is a pavilion within an 18th-century walled garden originally designed by landscape designer Lancelot 'Capability' Brown in the grounds of Berrington Hall, Leominster. The birch ply and fabric structure is a contemporary version of the 'follies' featured in 18th- and 19th-century landscaping. The sculptural form is based on a rectangle of paper that has been folded in a way that gives it structural stability and creates a sense of shelter. The artists used engineered ply, cut using a five axis CNC, to create the individual components later to be assembled in the workshop.

Architect: Studio Morison Artists: Ivan Morison, Heather Peak Client/owner: The National Trust Structural Engineer: Artura Wood supplier/CNC cutting: WUP Doodle

Wood species: Birch ply, Douglas fir



Look! Look! Look!

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# Structural Award Winner: The Macallan Distillery & Visitor Experience

The Macallan is built on a Scottish estate that has been creating single malt whisky since 1824. The scheme's five domes mirror the surrounding landscape but also allow height for the stratification and exhaust of hot air. The timber is reinforced with steel to act compositely where needed. All the timber elements were fabricated in Austria using advanced CNC machinery.

Architect: Rogers Stirk Harbour +

**Partners** 

Client/owner: Edrington Structural engineer: Arup Main contractor: Robertson Installation: L&S Baucon GmbH Joinery/wood supplier: Wiehag Wood species: Norway spruce



The Macallan Distillery & Visitor Experience

# Judges' Special Award Winner: Woodland Classrooms, Belvue School

The Judges' Special Award is discretionary. Woodland Classrooms, Belvue School in Northolt stood out on the strength of its achievement for the schoolchildren who have been rewarded with an unforgettable, life-changing learning environment. Belvue School is a secondary school for students with moderate to severe learning difficulties and a range of other needs. The Woodland Classrooms provide space for calm, extracurricular activities such as learning about nature.

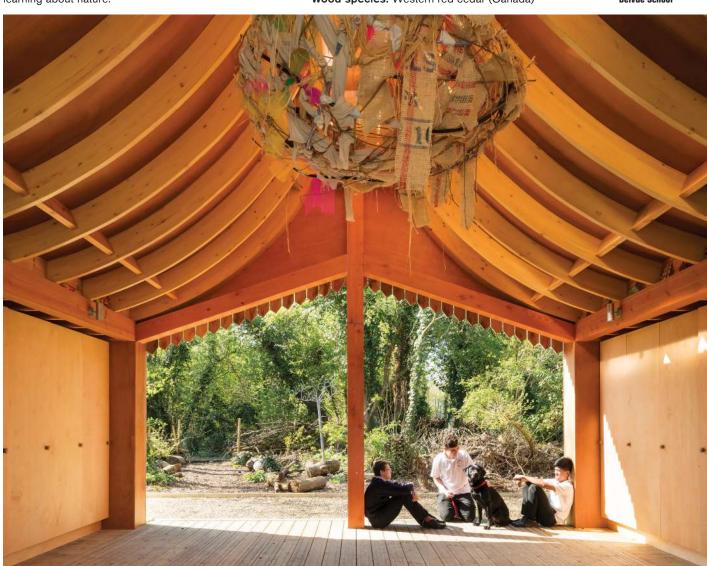
Architect: Studio Weave
Client/owner: Belvue School
Structural engineer: Timberwright
Main contractor: IMS Building Solutions

M&E consultant: Arup

Project managers: Jackson Coles Roofing sub-contractor: VMZinc Wood supplier: T. Brewer

Wood species: Western red cedar (Canada)

Woodland Classrooms, Belvue School





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# Straightforward joinery for curved work

In an extract from Joinery, Jeff Miller describes three techniques for joinery on curves



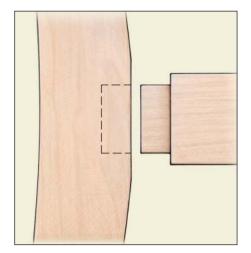
What stops most people, however, is the prospect of cutting and fitting joinery on these curved parts. I'll show you three techniques that I've used over the years with great success. There's nothing exotic or difficult about them, and once you see them in action, you'll soon be adding graceful curves to your own work.

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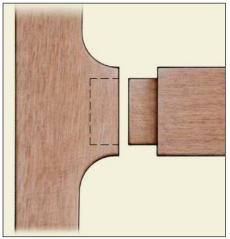
published by The Taunton Press,

£21.99. Available from www.thegmcgroup.com

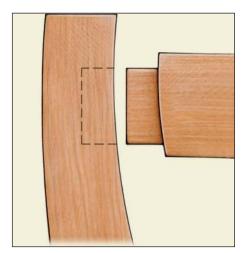
### **Three Joinery Options**



1. Create a subtle flat as an easier landing spot



2. Make the flat stand out for a curved transition



3. For inside curves, scribe the tenon shoulders

### Creating a flat spot on the curve

The simplest way to join two pieces when one of them is curved is by leaving or creating a flat area on the curved work where the mortise is to be cut.

If you are cutting the curved piece out of square stock, it's easiest to locate and cut the mortise while the workpiece is still square. Then you can leave the area around the joint flat when cutting the curve. The tenon on the mating rail can then be cut and fitted just as for any other mortise-andtenon joint. When creating the flat, be sure to extend it ½in or so beyond the rail both above and below the joint to accommodate any expansion across the width of the rail. When the piece is glued up, you can sand lightly to ease the transition from flat to curve, leaving about ½in flat.

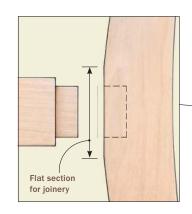
Things get more challenging if you're cutting several identical parts from square stock. If you want to minimize waste, you'll need to "nest" the layout of the parts and cut them all out before doing anything else. This means you'll then have to create the flat—and cut the mortise—in an already curved part. To do this, I make a simple jig that holds the work while I create the flat spot and then cut the mortise.

Clamp the curved piece into the jig so that the area to be flattened projects above the jig's fence. Now you can create the flat spot, using a handplane to remove the projecting material and bring the part flush with the top of the fence. To use the jig with a router, screw on a top plate to support the router. Use a spiral up-cut bit or a straight bit, set to cut flush with the top of the jig's fence. The first cut should be a clockwise pass around the area to be flattened; this is a climb cut to avoid tearout.

To mortise with the same setup, equip a plunge router with a fence that will ride along the back of the jig. Adjust the fence to locate the mortise on the thickness of the workpiece. Rout between the layout lines in shallow passes (perhaps 1/32 in of added depth per pass) until you reach the desired depth.

### Option 1: For Shallow, Outside Curves, Create a Flat

This works best with shallow curves so the flat spot won't stand out. It's good for joining straight rails to curved posts on a chair or bed, or straight aprons to curved legs on a table.







Leave a section of the stock's square edge intact when cutting the workpiece to shape. Mark the flat's boundaries on the pattern and let that section hang over the stock's edge when tracing the layout.



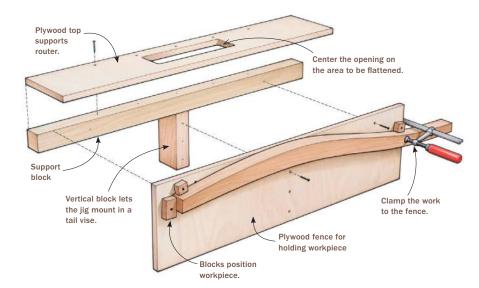
Saw the piece to shape. But before bringing the work to the bandsaw, go ahead and cut the mortise–a task that's much easier while the stock is still square.

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Or rout a flat on nested parts. "Nesting" curved parts saves material. However, it also makes it impossible to leave a precise flat when sawing each part. So Miller uses a simple jig to shape the flat afterward.

### **Simple Jig Can Flatten and Mortise**

The assembly is based on a piece of thick, wide stock screwed to a vertical plywood fence so the mating edges are flush.



### Create a flat that stands proud

Some designs call for seamless curves that flow from one part to the next, regardless of whether the parts themselves are curved.

In these cases, don't shape the curve, or much of it anyway, on the end of the tenoned piece. The outer tips of the curved ends will consist of very fragile short-grained stock. Instead, leave a raised area on the mortised part, and form the transitional curves there. Just rough them in, and then refine the transitions after gluing the joint together. A well-known example of this technique can be

seen on the leg-to-rocker joints of a Sam Maloof rocking chair.

Here's a final point to consider when using this type of joinery: It makes a lot of sense to use quartersawn wood for the rail. This is because after the joint has been smoothed to seamlessly flow together, seasonal expansion and contraction of the rail across its width could create minor misalignment between the parts. Quartersawn stock, which moves less across its width than flatsawn material, will minimize this problem.

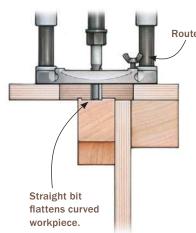


Hold the jig in a bench vise. The workpiece clamps to the jig's fence. Three hardwood stops locate the workpiece so that the section to be milled protrudes above the fence.



Add a top plate to support the router. Use %in plywood and make the plate opening larger than the desired flat by 1%in in each direction.

### 1. Rout the Flat

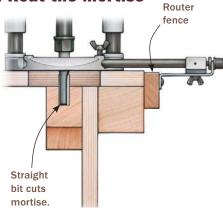




Rout the workpiece flush. Set the bit depth even with the top of the jig's fence.

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### 2. Rout the Mortise





The same jig lets you mortise, too! Attach the router's fence to guide it and locate the mortise.

### Match the shoulders to the curve

When you're joining a tenoned part like a chair's crest rail or a table apron to a concave section of curve, it won't work to create a flat spot on the curve. The simplest approach is to scribe the tenon shoulders on one piece to exactly match the curve of the adjoining piece. By the way, this is another instance where a quartersawn rail is a good idea. Excessive wood movement can cause gaps to appear in a scribed joint, because expansion or contraction will actually change the curvature of the shoulder.

The task of cutting the mortise and tenon is roughly the same as before. You can use the jig again to cut the mortise, although you may need to use a curved offcut as a brace between the jig and the workpiece to help hold the work squarely when clamping.

The real trick in this technique lies in shaping the tenon shoulders to tightly hug the curve of the mating part and create a gap-free joint. This process will be simpler if, when cutting the tenon, you angle the tenon shoulder so that it generally follows the direction of the curve to which you'll be scribing. You can do this with a tablesaw tenoning jig, clamping the workpiece in the jig against a precut wedge. Cut the tenon to normal length to fit in the mortise.

Start the scribing process by inserting the tenon fully into the mortise. Next, use a marking knife to ride along the curved workpiece and scribe a line into the shoulder of the mating part. It's ideal if the scribed line is made with a single-bevel knife so that the straight side of the cut is toward the shoulder—this will leave a very crisp edge to pare toward. Facing the knife that way often will create the offset you need to transfer the full curve to the shoulder, while ultimately shortening the tenoned part as little as possible. But you can use a shim of some kind (an automotive feeler gauge or a small scrap of wood) to increase

the scribing offset for deeper curves.

The paring requires a very sharp chisel with a flat back. Nibble a little bit away at a time, until you are just one or two paring cuts away from the scribe line. Now put the chisel's edge right in the scribed line and pare down. The easiest way to keep the cut perfectly on your line is to make each cut after the first one with only the leading quarter of the chisel, registering the rest of the chisel against the existing shoulder. A gentle twist of the chisel, applying a little extra force against the existing shoulder, should keep you from inadvertently crossing the line. It also helps to undercut the shoulder a little. Just be careful not to do that at the corners, where undercutting from one side will leave unsightly gaps on the adjacent face.

As you trim back the shoulders, you might also need to trim the tenon length back so the final depth is about ½2in less than the depth of the mortise. This leaves room for excess glue.

### **Option 2: For Flowing Curves, Add a Pad**

For curves that flow into each other, there is a right way and a wrong way. This table by Chicago furniture maker Chris Bach shows how it should be done.







Cut the joint while the stock is square. Then saw the shape as shown, making sure that the flat surface is 1/8 in or so wider than the rail.

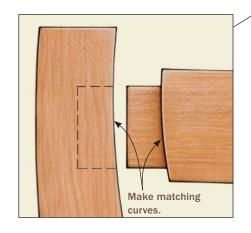




Finish by hand. After the joint is glued, remove the excess material and create a smooth transition using a round or half-round wood rasp (left), followed by a card scraper (right).

## Option 3: Inside Curve? Scribe a Shoulder

This technique creates tight joints between two pieces when one of them is a concave curve.





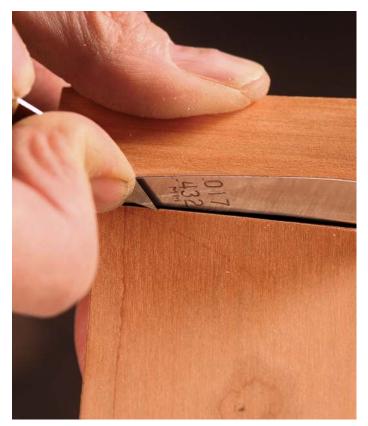
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A curved shoulder starts on an angle. When cutting the tenon, angle the shoulders to follow the arc of the curved mating piece. Aim for a close fit to minimize the paring.



Pare to the scribe line. Nibble away most of the waste, then seat the chisel in the scribe line and pare straight down. Use overlapping cuts, advancing only a quarter of the blade with each new stroke.

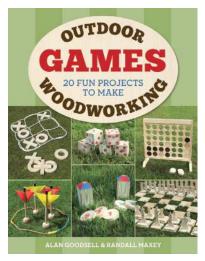


Mark the shoulder. An automotive feeler gauge hugs the curve when transferring the layout to the shoulder. Use a wood scrap for a wider gap.

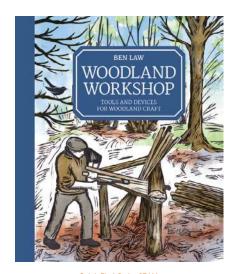


Bring the joint home. You may need to shorten the tenon slightly to allow the shoulder to seat completely. With the shoulder pared carefully, the joint should come together with no gaps.

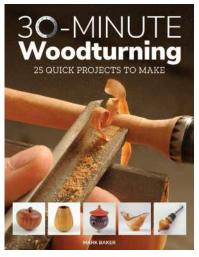
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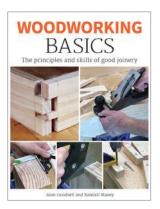
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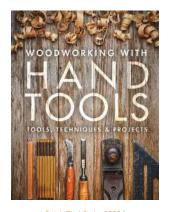
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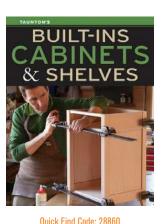
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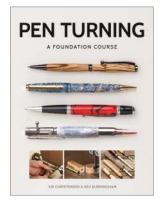
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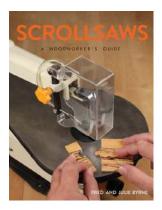
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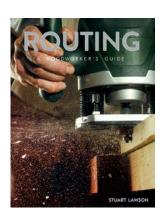
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### **UNDER THE HAMMER:**

## Private Collections

### We take a closer look at some of the best lots sold at the Bonhams auction

he Private Collections auction brought together items from four private estates. The first lots came from the Belgravia home of Veronica, Dowager Countess of Lucan. Lady Lucan's infamous husband, the 7th Earl of Lucan, was officially declared dead in 2016. The proceeds from the sale of Lady Lucan's estate were donated to the charity Shelter. Next under the hammer were the selected contents of a Swedish Lake House. The owner of this house has spent over 30 years building up a collection of 18th-century furniture and art. The remaining lots came from the contents of Beverston Castle in Gloucestershire, and the estate of the late Victor, 3rd Viscount Churchill. The auction was held at Bonhams' London salesroom in October 2018.



### £16,875

A French 19th-century walnut and cut pewter inlaid 'Boule' bureau Mazarin, in the Louis XIV style, from Beverston Castle. It is profusely inlaid throughout with scrolling foliage, and has seven drawers enclosing the kneehole and a central cupboard door.

### £10.000

An early George III carved mahogany sofa in the manner of Thomas Chippendale, from the Swedish Lake House. The serpentine back is carved with scrolled acanthus leaves and C-scrolls above scrolled arms and an undulating apron on cabriole legs. There are two 'cramp' marks to the underside of the back rail, a feature found in furniture made by top London cabinetmakers, including Thomas Chippendale. The design and shape of this sofa, especially the use of scrolled acanthus leaves, is similar to one of Chippendale's designs published in The Gentleman & Cabinet Makers Director.



### **DESIGN & INSPIRATION**

Under the hammer



### £2000

Two from a set of four Regency rosewood grained and gilt decorated chairs, from the estate of Lady Lucan. The top rails are centred by lion masks above trompe l'oeil swags. The front of the chairs features simulated bamboo. The legs are tapered and splayed.





### £5250

A George II mahogany side table, from the Swedish Lake House. The table has a rectangular top above a frieze drawer. The chamfered legs are flanked by open fretwork sides.



### £525

A mahogany and gilt brass-mounted commode, from the Swedish Lake House. The commode was made in the 18th-century style, the grey marble top sits above three drawers, which are flanked by fluted tapering corners.

### **DESIGN & INSPIRATION**

Under the hammer



### £1125

A George III fiddleback mahogany and rosewood-banded side cabinet, from the Swedish Lake House. The cabinet features a frieze drawer above a pair of pleated silk panelled doors, flanked by reeded tapering pilasters.



### £1875

A George III mahogany secretaire bookcase, from the Swedish Lake House. The ogee moulded cornice sits above a pair of astragal-glazed panelled doors enclosing glass shelves, which were added later.



### £4000

A George II walnut chest on chest, from Beverston Castle. The ogee-moulded cornice sits above two short and three long drawers, which are flanked by reeded canted corners above three further drawers.



### £687

A near pair of George I walnut dining chairs, from the estate of Victor, 3rd Viscount Churchill. The chairs have pierced solid vertical splats and drop-in seats. The cabriole legs on both chairs are joined by shaped and turned stretchers.

# The Festool CT-VA Pre-Separator Cyclone

### Geoffrey Laycock tries out the new pre-separator in his workshop

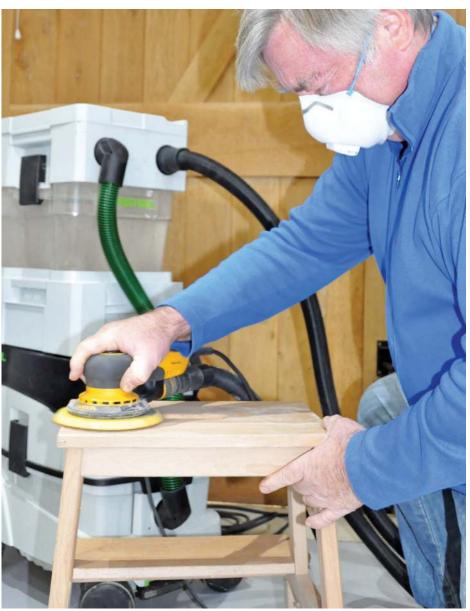
here has been a certain amount of hype about the appearance of the CT-VA Pre-Separator and there have been mixed reactions to it but I purchased one as a means to hopefully make life easier in my new workshop. I will primarily use it with a Festool CTL26 extractor and for collection of waste from routing, sawing and sanding. It is quoted as being compatible with CT L- and M-rated extractors. It definitely will not fit the CT17 but it does sit nicely on the CT MIDI; unfortunately the manual states it is not suitable for this extractor – possibly due to flow rates? I tried mine anyway.

### Setting up

The CT-VA is well made with the main section looking like a conventional Systainer. On opening, you find the connection hose inside and that the base section is very substantial. This base will fit older extractors with slide clips or the newer ones with T-LOC fixing. The separate clear plastic bin is also substantial and built to last – a good thing as a replacement or extra is £61!

Setting up is simple with the base sitting on the extractor, the bin in the base and Systainer top containing the separator 'cyclone' on top of the bin. The supplied hose links the extractor to the separator and the extractor hose then plugs into the separator. All the 'cyclone' components can be easily removed for cleaning. Once set up it does look a bit of a 'Heath Robinson' arrangement - why wasn't the bin designed with Systainer fixings moulded on the bottom and do away with the supplied base? The connection hose can make using the on-board power socket slightly awkward and the manual shows there is provision in the top Systainer to add a socket which then connects to the extractor socket, making access easy and a convenient height. The only problem at the moment is no one stocks it and it does not even appear on the Festool

The user manual is the expected collection of diagrams and written instructions, which are mostly straightforward. The section on fitting the plastic bag into the bin has defied my understanding as it says to install the bag and press out air, fit the bin lid, pull up the bag edge, then remove the lid and fit the separator. No reason for or proper explanation of how. It did not help that I was told to see the diagram on the – one only supplied – plastic bin bag, which had no



The Festool CT-VA in use with the CTL26 extractor

diagrams printed on it. Another omission: an explanation of using the extractor hose to extract air from the plastic bag before sealing – a great idea to reduce its size and stop dust bellowing out when trying to seal. Shame they don't point out that you have to reconnect the extractor hose to the CTL26 first otherwise it won't work, it's obvious common sense but judging by some online comments that isn't always used. While on the user manual, it says the CT-VA can be

used for collection of liquids but there is no explanation or instruction at all on this use, nor any information on the website.

### **Testing**

Now bear in mind this was a crude workshop test and definitely what I would describe as 'quick and dirty'. It is possibly accurate within 10% but without repeating and more carefully controlled procedures, that's about as confident as I could be. I had a mixture

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The base unit will store the connection hose



First attempt at installing a plastic collection bag



The separator unit locked onto the bin



The collection bin and the lid, which is used to fit the bag and for secure closure when full



There is no storage provision for the bin lid but I found with the workshop handle fitted to the CTL26 it would happily sit here. Otherwise it's another bit of kit floating around to get lost



The separator cyclone components. Note on the end there is a removable panel between the two hose connections to allow fitting of a mains socket which plugs into the extractor outlet, purely for convenience of the height

of wood debris but started with a box of reasonable size softwood chips from routing.

Using the CTL26, with a new filter bag, collecting the chips I measured what was in the bin and the filter and it worked out that just over 50% was collected in the preseparator. Rather disappointing but see later!

I started again and this was more representative of a good day in the workshop with very fine dust – probably down to 240 grit – some fine, narrow plane shavings, some larger chips. This time collection in

the pre-separator bin was about 89% and I was rather more happy about that. The strange thing is these two results seemed the reverse of what Festool suggest.

The third test was using my MIDI and for this I had mixed all the previous material together and the result was about a MIDI filter bag sized volume so I really wanted to see how that would work out. The end result was around 74% in the pre-separator bin and 26% in the MIDI filter bag. The MIDI has a smaller diameter hose and an extra 90°

### Filter bags

The cost of Festool filter bags does defy belief at around £5 for the MIDI and £6.50 for the CTL26 although some other manufacturers make this look reasonable. Some users decide the long-life reusable bag is worthwhile, even though £130 is a ridiculous price, but a word of caution to anyone thinking of buying. Read the Festool information carefully - it is not for use with any dust that may be hazardous to health. So that rules out woodworkers using it, and anyone preparing substrates, or just about anything else! Why Festool say this I do not know but suspect it's because there is the possibility of failure of the end closure of the bag, or wrong closing, both of which could result in dust escaping. If you are in a work situation using this bag, or modify a standard one to re-use, you would not be in compliance with the Control of Substances (Hazardous to Health) Regulations.

bend at the end so the lower airflow may play a part and Festool do say it isn't compatible. If you are thinking it would team up with the CT-SYS, then don't.

I should point out that one dealer in the USA has a video online that demonstrates almost 100% collection of material that is a mixture of sizes from planing through sanding. Particle size will affect separation and so will humidity but I still couldn't understand how my results with a brand new system could be so at variance. So I started again.

One thing I noticed with the video was no plastic bag used in the collection bin – apparently they were not available at the time. So I decided to use the CTL26 with new filter bag and no plastic collection bag. I had a large box of mixed wood debris, very representative of workshop dust, shavings and chips.

I began with 3.7kg in a box and vacuumed this up as slowly as I could tolerate. In real use the volume of air versus debris would be many factors greater than in an artificial test such as this. Revelation, after that exercise I had 92% in the collection bin, only 8% passing into the CTL filter bag. Next I repeated the exercise but with the plastic bag in place - this time being far more careful to get it smoothed to the sides of the bin. I had noticed in my first test the bag was pulled by suction towards the centre of the bin and I think this was preventing debris being able to fall into the bottom. After this repeat exercise, with exactly the same debris sucked up the same way I had 72% in the plastic bag and 28% in the CTL filter bag, better but still not good. It appears that how the collection bag is fitted is crucial to performance and I don't seem able to get it quite right yet. Without the bag I get repeatable good results.

The plastic bags are described as the ideal shape for the CT-VA collector bin but

they look like other mass-produced bags and at around £1.90 each, they are not cheap. At the time of writing I could only find one distributor stocking the bags. The unit can be used without the collector bin – with the two Systainer components locked together and waste collecting in the base unit but this does have a very small capacity and you cannot see how much is in there without removing the top section.

### Overall performance This unit will never reach the performance

and collection levels of conventional design cyclones, which have a similar top section with tangential airflow in, but then have a long cone which is the vital bit for slowing down and collecting small particles. Festool quote up to 95% of coarse materials and 80% of mineral dust can be separated. The important little words here are 'up to'. A properly designed and built cyclone will achieve much closer to 100% and can be designed for specific dust particle sizes. Having written that, it is intended to reduce the filling and extend the life of the CT filter bags and that also means that as the bag does approach full capacity it will have operated more efficiently for longer so overall dust collection is to a higher level. It worries me that correct bag fitting seems to be so critical for it to work properly, I will continue to experiment with bags to see if I can get it right. I can't see any reason why other substantial plastic bags should not be used in the pre-separator, or none at all if like me you have a very large compost heap the wood waste can be added to. The longer fill time for the filter bags will reduce costs if you always fit a new replacement when full.

### F&C verdict

It works as suggested and performance should be around that quoted by Festool but it does seem overly sensitive to incorrect collection bag fitting. It will save money on replacement filter bags and it should save time if you can afford the eye-watering £61 for a second bin so you have one prepared in readiness. It is nicely made but does look a bit 'cobbled' together and once set up, the assembly on top of the CTL is not rigid enough to push or pull as the bin only sits in its base, it tips forward too easily if you pull on the hose but does not fall off.

This unit is expensive and you need to be a sustained user to justify its high price, you would have to use over 40 filter bags to equal the purchase price and you then still need further bags anyway. Confirmed Festool enthusiasts will find it helpful and possibly a 'must-have' and those wanting to maintain top professional appearances will not be disappointed. In the hobby workshop however, there are numerous cheap conventional design cyclones available online and one of these with a bit of thought and playtime are likely to produce a similarly efficient collector for a fraction of the price and 40 filter bags may last you a long, long time.

Price: From £269.95 F&C



The disassembled cyclone, no tools required



The complete assembly as tested with Mirka hose



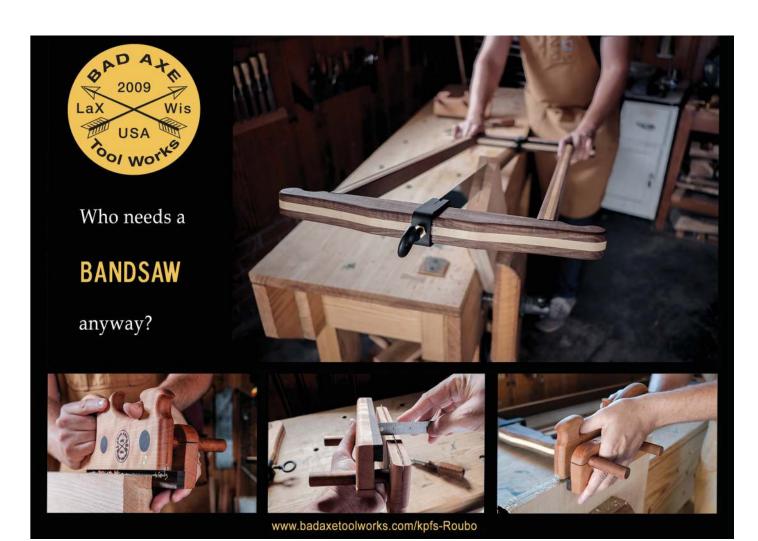
The type of shavings and dust used to test



The Pre-Separator installed on the Festool MIDI



The difference to the CTL26 - the hose inlet is in the storage area





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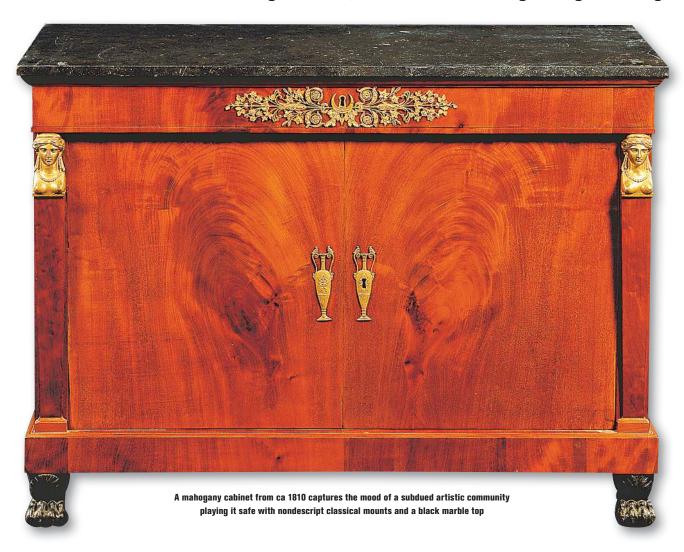


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# Telling tales

In the evolution of furniture design, nothing ever really happens by accident. Derek Jones looks back at a time when putting on the style also meant sending the right message



n many ways reading a piece of furniture is not that different to reading a book. And just as there's a story behind every picture, if you take the time to learn the language of furniture design you'll often discover a plot with all the twists and turns of a bestseller. There's no guarantee, of course, that you'll arrive at a happy ending every time – upcycling has a lot to answer for in my opinion – but there's always the chance you can have the last word and restore justice where needed.

### On the campaign trail

At a recent sale I came across a campaign chest (see photos top right) made out of teak in what you might describe as being in a dilapidated condition. Covered in bird poo and other nasty stuff, it had obviously been kept in a barn or loft for some time without much protection. It's not often good pieces like this turn up but when they do I'm often

tempted to rescue them. The single top drawer was fitted out as a writing desk with pigeon-holes and drawers; in other words a typical example. On close inspection, however, there was something definitely not quite right about the piece.

Old furniture has a feel about it that comes from being used. The corners and edges have always been softened through decades of handling and then there's the usual battle scars, like ink or water stains and scratches. Less obvious but equally telling are the hidden surfaces that wear through use such as drawer runners, knuckle joints, pivots and slides. While it's desirable to find pieces with as few miles on the clock as possible, it's also important to make sure the signs of wear and tear are consistent throughout and for this chest that wasn't the case.

Although the main drawers weren't running smoothly, it wasn't because of wear. The small desk drawers were similarly difficult

to open and close and again not because of excessive use but rather the opposite; they'd never been used and I doubt they'd ever been truly fitted to their openings. There were a couple of other tell-tale signs that led me to this conclusion. The front vertical faces were in a much better condition comparatively than the horizontal surfaces and the writing surface, although prepared for leather, was missing its skiver.

My hunch, and without further investigation it can only be a hunch, is that this piece was never entirely finished before being mothballed. On the plus side, teak is quite able to withstand damp conditions so I doubt there's much wrong that couldn't be sorted out with a few strategically placed shavings. In fact you could almost carry on where the last chap downed his tools and hung up his apron.

The question we should be asking is, is that the right course of action?

#### Empire-style furniture



A fairly typical campaign chest from the outside...



... the inside, however, tells a different story

### The age of Empire

In the few decades preceding the construction of this campaign chest, the future was uncertain for furniture designers and makers throughout Europe. The continent was at war, with French cabinetmakers in particular finding themselves in an uncomfortable position with their clientele either stripped of their wealth, or worse. The guilds that had once imposed and enforced the rules about who was allowed to make furniture in France had been abolished as part of the revolution. Though it was no longer necessary to train as an apprentice and be elected maître before selling one's work, proceeding without a structure wasn't that straightforward either. To avoid persecution, furniture designers took their lead from their new leader. Napoleon was a military man who was in awe of the past empires of Rome, Greece and Egypt, and he promoted his agenda by aligning his tastes with these ancient civilisations. In support of the new order, some makers created pieces with spear and laurel leaf motifs that celebrated the revolution. Others took a more subtle and holistic approach to avoid any risk of association with the aristocracy and shifted away from using motifs and materials made popular during the Ancién Régime altogether. Walnut and mahogany were replaced with light woods such as elm, cherry, birch, satinwood and maple and the copious amount of Rococo swags and ornaments were exchanged for tasteful but more importantly neutral reproductions of classic forms. As Napoleon's grip on the continent loosened, so did the restraints within the artistic community as a whole and a gentle revolt against the influences of Empire began to take place. With a king back on the throne in France in 1814, the style shifted once again towards motifs celebrating triumph and victory but this time with depictions of classical figures such as Nike, the Greek goddess of victory, telling the story. The laurel leaf was replaced with an olive branch in a gesture of peace and scales were used as a symbol of justice and fair play. These symbols, albeit with less potency, influenced



The leather skiver or baize has never been fitted and the vertical surfaces are not in keeping with the amount of dirt that's accumulated on the horizontal ones



The handles have good patina but the surrounding areas don't appear to have had much human contact



Could this mahogany and burr walnut bureau cabinet in the French Empire style ca 1810 be the forerunner to Art Deco?

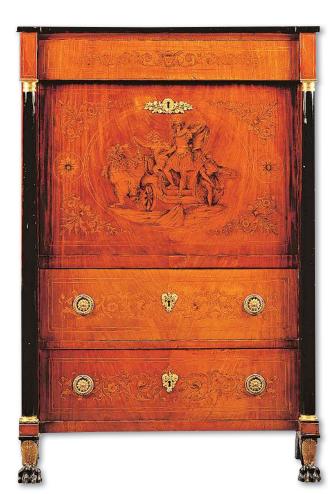
the style of Regency furniture in England and resurfaced again almost a hundred years later in the form of Art Deco as decorative icons.

By the time our chest was made, around 1840, the new middle class was well established in most parts of Europe and the demand for stylish furniture began to grow. Makers looked towards mechanisation to solve their problems and for the first time we start to see machine processes dictating the style of furniture. Exhibitions were more about displaying the technical advancement of the day such as carving and veneer slicing machines, than adhering to a political ideal.

After the turbulent years of the early 19th century, perhaps the biggest change in the way furniture was styled was that rules were open to interpretation. In the century before, proportion and design were both calculable and followed a logical progression based on classical architecture. Design was a way of advertising one's intellect and was only accessible to the enlightened and privileged. By the middle of the 19th century, however, things had changed and what the public wanted was furniture that was not only easy on the eye but also easy on the intellect and even more easy on the pocket. 186



A mahogany cupboard ca 1820 shows the signs of artistic freedom returning to France. The gilt bronze figure is of Nike, Greek goddess of victory, and the sides are adorned with laurel leaves, another symbol of victory



A walnut secrétaire from Austria ca 1820, clearly influenced by the French Empire style

A Charles X burr walnut and gilt-mounted dressing table from ca 1830 demonstrates a return to more curvaceous forms but minus the Rococo decoration associated with the previous kings of France



A cherry pedestal desk from Italy ca 1820, which mimics the French Empire style albeit with English influences; the shield escutcheons are a late 18th-century feature from England





A mahogany chest of drawers from the Restoration period with lockable side columns without gilt mounts. The drawers are faced with green leather



This centre table from ca 1830 is one of a pair made for a German palace in the High German Greek revival style. It signals the end of purity of style and the beginning of a period where anything and everything goes



Another item from the Restoration period ca 1830 in the Empire style with figured mahogany and meagre gilt mounts

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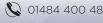
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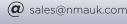


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# One bench plane to rule them all?

Kieran Binnie investigates whether a low angle plane really is all you need



hen it was first unveiled in 1905, Stanley's No. 62 bench plane must have caused quite a commotion. Looking like nothing else in production, the No. 62 married the bevel-up blade orientation of a block or mitre plane to a bench plane sized body, measuring 14in long by 2in wide. While Stanley ceased manufacturing the No. 62 in 1942, bevel-up bench planes have enjoyed something of a modern revival, thanks in large part to Karl Holtey's revolutionary No. 98 smoothing plane, which prompted a reconsideration of bevel-up designs as being highly practical instead of an evolutionary dead end. So popular has the bevel-up concept become that premium plane manufacturers Veritas and Lie-Nielsen now manufacture a whole

Processing oak for a chair crest rail using the toothed blade

range of bevel-up smoothing, jack and jointer planes. Returning to the plane that started it all, there are woodworkers who claim that the No. 62 is so versatile that it can replace the full set of traditional bevel-down planes. Never one to shy away from a challenge, I decided to test this claim by putting away my usual set of planes and spend several months using just a No. 62.



Jointing oak for a chair crest-rail

### An introduction to blade geometry Before we delve into the test, it is worth the bed angle to the angle of the bevel.

explaining blade geometry, and the claimed benefits of a bevel-up bench plane. Traditional bench planes orientate the iron so that the bevel is facing downwards towards the bed of the plane, and the back surface of the iron is facing to the front of the plane. In this arrangement the cutting angle of the iron is determined by the angle of the frog of the plane, rather than the angle of the bevel honed on the iron. In contrast, a bevel-up orientation places the back of the iron against the bed of the plane, and the cutting angle is derived from adding

Blade orientation itself does not affect the performance of the plane - the wood does not care whether your plane is bevel-up or down, all it sees is the cutting angle. But different cutting angles will have different effects on the planed surface, and this is where the benefits of a bevel-up plane become apparent. A low cutting angle of

37° is effective for cutting end grain, while a high cutting angle of 62° will help to smooth difficult interlocked or figured grain. Because the cutting angle of bevel-down planes is determined by the frog angle, changing the

cutting angle requires fitting a new frog, or honing a back-bevel to the plane's iron. In contrast, the cutting angle of a bevel-up plane can be adjusted by honing a different bevel angle to the iron, or keeping a set of irons with different bevels for different tasks. Woodworkers enamoured with bevel-up planes suggest that having a single plane and collection of irons to achieve different cutting angles saves both space and cost when compared to a set of traditional bench planes, and by swapping out the irons, can achieve the same level of utility as a set of three bevel-down planes.



The No. 62 can be used as a very effective shooting board plane



Flattening the seat blank



The challenge

My usual stable of planes consists of a No. 3 smoother, No. 5 jack and No. 8 jointer - see 'Curing Plane Addiction' in F&C 250 for a detailed explanation of how to select a set of bench planes, and the purposes each one fulfils. Replacing those planes was a Lie-Nielsen No. 62 kindly loaned to me by Classic Hand Tools. The Lie-Nielsen plane is of comparable dimensions to the Stanley plane on which it is based, and the same size as a No. 5 bench plane - 14in long with a 2in wide iron. The mouth aperture is easily adjustable by twisting the front knob to allow the front plate to be slid forward or back for a tighter or more open mouth. The bed angle is 12°, which means that honing a



Jointing the maple seat blank



With a 25° bevel, the No. 62 is perfect for trimming end grain

35° bevel (as I do for most of my planes and chisels) achieves a 47° cutting angle very close to the 'common pitch' cutting angle of most bevel-down planes 45°. This low bed angle also explains why bevel-up planes are also commonly referred to as 'low-angle planes'. Honing a primary bevel of 25° results in a cutting angle of 37°, which gives excellent results on end grain, and a 50° bevel results in a 62° angle for smoothing tasks. A 90° bevel effectively converts the plane into a large scraper.

So much for the theory, but what I wanted to know was would the No. 62 be able to discharge all of the tasks I used my familiar set of planes for?

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### In use

Broadly speaking, bench plane work falls into three categories – coarse, medium and fine work such as flattening rough stock, jointing edges for gluing, and smoothing surfaces for finishing (see 'Coarse, Medium & Fine' in F&C 252 for more detail). In order to give the plane a thorough test I needed to press it into service on all three categories of work. Fortunately, I was about to start building a child-sized stick chair in hard maple, as well as preparing larger sized stock for a pine cabinet, and a bookcase in maple. Between these projects, and working on an oak chair I was finishing off, the No. 62 would get plenty of use across a number of different operations.

#### **Coarse work**

First up were the coarse operations flattening hard maple for the seat blank, and the larger pine and maple boards. Opening the mouth wide and setting the iron (honed with a 35° bevel) to a rank cut, I found that the No. 62 works as a respectable jack plane to hog off material and flatten rough stock. As with a bevel-down jack plane, a cambered blade makes processing rough stock a more efficient experience. The toothed blade definitely helps tame difficult grain at a 'common pitch' cutting angle, and would be invaluable if rosewoods or heavily figured maple were part of your daily workflow. As it was, flattening stock was a straightforward process for both maple and pine, and I didn't miss my usual Clifton No. 5 jack plane in the slightest.

#### **Medium work**

Next came the 'medium' work. Jointing the maple seat blank was also straightforward. closing the mouth and using the same 'common pitch' cutting angle iron made short work of getting a square and straight joint on 2in wide, 17in long boards. At 14in long, I found the No. 62 a bit too short to use as a dedicated jointer plane on larger stock - the bookcase required 42in long edge joints to glue up panels, and while it is certainly possible to do this with a shorter plane, I did long for my 24in long No. 8 jointer for this work. One advantage of the No. 62 over my usual planes was the centre of gravity. The lower angle of the iron together with the lack of frog, means that the centre of gravity of the No. 62 is lower than for a bevel-down plane. While not critical for many operations, this lower centre of gravity was a real boon when planing 45° chamfers around the perimeter of the chair seat - a task I find can be awkward with a bevel-down jack plane.

#### Fine work

Finally, there was the 'fine' work, and it was when shaping the chair seat and legs that the No. 62 really came into its own. The seat is trapezoidal in shape, with nearly 12in of end grain on each side to plane. I smoothed the top of the seat with an iron honed to 50°, and quickly achieved that familiar glassy surface that can only be the product of a really sharp smoother on hard maple. Switching to a 25° bevel angle rapidly cleaned up the large expanse of end grain and left a very clean surface behind. The lower centre of gravity was also really beneficial when shaping the legs into tapered octagons, as it was easier to balance the plane on the narrow faces of the workpiece and plane at a consistent angle. Smoothing the larger pine and maple panels was an equally satisfying experience, and the No. 62 worked really well as a large smoother.



The low centre of gravity makes for a very comfortable experience when planing chamfers



Levelling chair legs with the No. 62 held in my bench vice



Shaping chair legs into tapered octagons



The finished leg

### The only bench plane you need?

So, is the No. 62 truly the only plane you need? To be honest, given the variety of approaches to woodwork, this is an almost impossible question to answer. But here is what I found during my two months spent using only the No. 62. It performs well as a jack plane, and excels at planing end grain and working as a large smoother. The ability to swap out blades to make an immediate change to cutting angle is very effective, and certainly represents a cost-effective way of adding smoothing and jack planes to your tool chest. The No. 62 does handle a little differently to bevel-down planes, particularly the tote angle and the location of the adjuster (which I found less intuitive). If unsure which you prefer, I would recommend testing a No. 62 before purchasing. Once I had got used to the feel of the plane compared to my regular jack plane, I enjoyed working with it and found it very easy to use.

At 14in long, the No. 62 is larger than I would really want for a smoother to follow my hand-planed surfaces, and a bit too short to serve as a dedicated jointer for furniture casework. Ideally a smoother should be small enough to reach any subtle hollows in a hand-planed surface, and a long smoothing plane will remove the top of any undulations, requiring more passes before it can reach the low spots. This is less of an issue for stock that has been machined straight and flat, but makes the No. 62 a little less efficient as a smoothing plane for a woodworker who wants to do all of their own planing. The toothed blade was very helpful for dealing with truculent interlocked grain, and would be invaluable if working difficult exotics was a daily part of your workflow (I have a toothed blade for my No. 5 for exactly this purpose).

In short, if I had a machine shop to flatten, thickness and joint rough stock, then I could easily see the No. 62 being my most used plane. Similarly, if most of my work was building chairs or musical instruments, then the No. 62's ability to handle both end and difficult grain would make it a key tool. I would not want to be without a full-sized jointer plane for jointing long pieces, but again, if you had access to a jointer machine this would be less of a drawback.

As it is, the No. 62 has definitely earned a place in my tool chest (particularly for chair making where it really excelled) but wouldn't tempt me to sell my existing smoothing, jack or jointer planes. For the machine-based woodworker who is looking to add a quality hand plane to their set-up, a No. 62 would be just the ticket. FAC



The mouth aperture can be adjusted by twisting the front knob and sliding the mouth plate



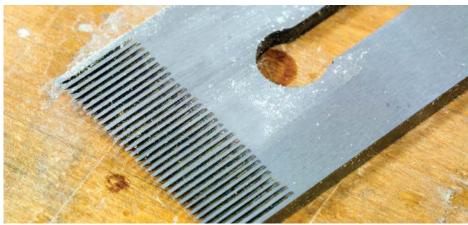
Twisting the front knob unlocks the mouth plate



The iron is orientated with the bevel facing up, and held in place with a large cap iron



The knurled adjuster changes the depth of cut



A toothed blade helps to tame difficult grain

# The next generation mechanical opening and closing system by Blum

Steve Coonick reviews Blum's new drawer systems



ou may have seen, fitted or used previous iterations of Blum's opening and closure systems, known as TIP-ON and BLUMOTION. The TIP-ON title is used for Blum's mechanical push to open system and BLUMOTION for their soft close products. These two systems are well established and have been used independently in many products that will be familiar to many makers. It is worth clarifying at this stage, that Blum have two variations for

essentially the same technology. One system, known as LEGRABOX, is a family of products designed to be used with their in-house metal drawers. The other system, known as MOVENTO, is Blum's premium runner designed to work with wooden drawer boxes. The MOVENTO S-Runner is a highly adjustable drawer runner, which offers cabinetmakers four-dimensional adjustment to help achieve a perfect fit and is the subject of this article.

### Features of the new systems

Previously you may have seen, or used, the older version of the TIP-ON system, which could be used in conjunction with a standard runner but had no soft close functionality. Even though the system was innovative, it was not easy to fit or adjust.

In general terms the main issue with these types of systems (from any manufacturer) is that push to open and soft close mechanisms will invariably try to work against each other. The two mechanical forces of the closure system technologies oppose each other when they try to perform their independent primary function. What Blum has achieved with this 'next generation' product is to have these two functions working in unison. The result is a well-balanced and easily adjustable system.

Blum have also taken a huge step forward with respect to the simplification of installation. This next generation product fits to their new MOVENTO S-Runner. This runner has been designed as a universal product incorporating the function of BLUMOTION technology. If you require the additional mechanical one-touch opening of TIP-ON, then these parts simply 'click on' to the runner. This is a 'tool free' upgrade and the components can be fitted in well under a minute. If you are familiar with the existing MOVENTO runner you will also be pleased to hear that all new accessories still fit in a void under the base of a drawer box, neatly out of view.

Several other features will also be of benefit to the traditional cabinetmaker. These runners have high stability and sag values. Drawers can be 254–1400mm wide with a runner length of 250-750mm. Side stabilisation is available as an accessory to ensure a smooth straight drawer opening. The biggest step forward is that one runner (the S-runner) now covers all motion technologies (760Hxxx0S 40KG capacity and 766HxxxoS for 60Kg capacity), this helps the smaller workshop with stock ordering and storing.

For wider drawers, a synchronisation rod can be fitted, which is simply cut to length and fitted between the two runners. The purpose of the rod is to transfer any 'pushing' force through both runners, providing a balanced drawer closure from any point on its face. Asking a client to only close a drawer from its middle is a futile request – this synchronisation negates the need for this conversation.

A few last things to note are that all these next generation products come with Blum's lifetime warranty, which does not just cover the primary owner. Blum are so confident about their products, that even if a piece of furniture is passed on to secondary, or even tertiary owners, they will still stand by their warranty. Also, I have found that Blum's UK-based technical team are excellent. Makers cannot be experts in everything, so it's great to be able to pick up the phone and talk to people who know these products inside out, some of whom are former cabinetmakers themselves.



The push to open accessory



Push to open adjustment



How the latch set attaches to the runner

### Conclusion

This is a premium mechanical push to open and soft close system. The performance, adjustment and fittings have all been simplified and improved. The MOVENTO S-runner with incorporated BLUMOTION works seamlessly with the TIP-ON system and other accessories. The system does not interfere with any of the standard adjustment features of the already excellent MOVENTO runner. If you're looking for a versatile push to open system, then this runner will not disappoint. FAEF

### **Blum systems**

For more information about BLUMOTION and MOVENTO, visit: www.blum.com





Only a small grey adjustment tab is visible in the installed Blum runners

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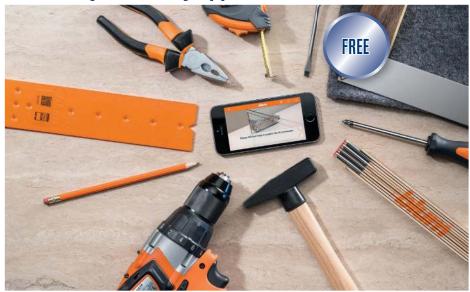
## MINI TEST Axminster Trade Clamps HD Parallel Jaw Clamp

hat's that they say about clamps? You can never have too many. Even though I've got my reservations about that statement, as regular readers will know. I have no problem relating to the sentiment. In case you've missed it in the past my take on that idea is that if you've run out of clamps halfway through a glue-up either your parts don't fit together that well or you need to get better at thinking through the entire build process. And before we get into the whole pots and kettles debate, yes I've also been there. Quite a few times as it happens. So in a guest for a little clarity let's revisit that mantra to see if we can make it make a little more sense.

In preparation for a class this month I happened upon some new clamps in the rack that I haven't used before, the Axminster Trade Clamps HD Parallel Jaw Clamp to be precise. Yes, I know it's a bit of a mouthful, but stay with me. There are times when, quite frankly, any clamp will do and then there are times when the right clamp makes the job so much easier to do and you wonder why all clamps aren't made the same way. The Axminster HD Parallel Jaw Clamps are designed to fit that brief. Not dissimilar to the Bessey K body clamps, they have a zinc-plated and profiled bar designed to resist bending under strain and maintain parallel clamping faces between jaws. The moveable head has a patented non-slip mechanism and can be removed and rotated to turn the clamp into a spreader. The large heads are encased in a glue-resistant moulding designed to minimise marring of the work - all good and useful features. The best bit though, and once again it couldn't be simpler, is the introduction of a rotatable/flipover grip so that you can get some real purchase on the business end. The pros and cons in that order are as follows. You're less likely to blister your hands on multiple glue-ups, able to release a tight clamp much easier after the event and position clamps closer together and be able to tighten them up. The only downside, more like a note to self really, is to go easy on the tightening. All that extra leverage means greater clamping force and the risk of dents on thin edges. Do it once and you'll have learned your lesson. The range consists of 600mm, 1000mm and 1500mm so perfect for most carcass assembly.

From: www.axminster.co.uk

### **Blum Easy Assembly app**



Fittings supplier Blum has implemented a variety of services for fitters, designers and manufacturers over the last few years, with the most recent being the EASY ASSEMBLY app. An essential digital tool for anyone working with Blum components, the app provides information on how to install fittings safely, how to quickly locate fixing positions and how to set the fittings precisely. The app also has an offline mode meaning that relevant assembly information is immediately to hand and always up to date. The app is available for both iOS and Android.

From: www.blum.com/eaapp or search on your phone's app store



### Makita expands its 18V LXT range

Makita has added two new products to 18V LXT range: the DTW180 Brushless LXT Impact Wrench and the DCL181FZW Vacuum Cleaner. The Impact Wrench will drive home M8-M16 standard bolts and M6-M12 high tensile bolts. It can deliver 180Nm of tightening torque and 310Nm of nut busting torque while the two-stage impact power selection delivers up to 3600ipm in hard mode, 2000ipm in soft, with a no load speed of 2400rpm in hard mode and 1300rpm in soft mode. It has a brushless motor allowing double the run time compared to a standard brushed motor, less friction and more power. It also benefits from an electric brake, variable speed trigger, forward/reverse rotation and a handy LED job light.

The new Vacuum Cleaner is bagless and features a capsule that's efficient and easy to empty. Producing 30 watts of suction power in Hi mode and 11 watts in Lo mode, with a maximum airflow of 1.4m³/min, the DCL181F has a maximum sealed suction of 4.2kPa. The rubberised ergonomic soft grip handle features a touch button switch where high/low suction power settings can be easily selected. It has a run time of 40 minutes when used in Lo mode with a 3.0Ah Lithium-

Ion battery, and 20 minutes in Hi mode. The efficient collection filter will allow a dust capacity of 0.65 litres and also featured on this vacuum is a convenient LED job light for those dark corners. It is available as body only to utilise existing Makita 18V batteries. It comes with floor and sash nozzles for a variety of applications.

From: www.makitauk.com



## Skelton Saws Peacock Oil

### David Barron tests the finishing oils developed by Shane Skelton



f you've ever seen and felt the finish on the handles of Shane Skelton's wonderful saws then, like me, you'd be be dying to try some. Using his background in gunstocks, Shane has produced a range of three traditional oils, blending oils, resins and waxes to give a finish that is breathable, water repellent and figure enhancing.

The three finishes are Clear Honey, which maintains the wood's natural colour; Antique Amber, which produces a deeper colour; and Regal Red, which elevates the veins and highlights the grain in darker woods.

### On test

For my test I used the Clear Honey on some rippled ash, Antique Amber on some Cuban mahogany and oak, and Regal Red on some beautiful English walnut. The preparation involves hand sanding through to 600 grit and then raising the grain and sanding again with 800 grit.

The first coat of oil is applied liberally and left to soak in for 15 minutes. This is repeated every 15 minutes until four coats have been applied and the wood can absorb no more (the walnut took six coats). Leave to stand for an hour before removing all the excess oil with a paper towel and buff dry. This is then left for 48 hours to fully dry (I left mine four days to be sure), then de-nib with 0000 wire wool before applying another very thin coat. After an hour, remove any excess with a paper towel and leave for 24 hours. This is repeated twice more (I applied four more for the walnut) and then it's left for 1–2 weeks to harden.

The results were very impressive providing protection for the wood, a silky natural feel and really popping the grain. The colour of the mahogany and the contrast in the figured walnut (a typical gunstock wood) were my favourites.

### Conclusion

A combination of the intensive preparation and the price makes these oils more suitable for smaller items such as boxes, turned goods and carvings and of course tool handles and gunstocks. If you want the best oil finish you can buy, then this is it. FAE



Clockwise from top left: Antique Amber on Cuban mahogany and oak, Clear Honey on rippled ash, Regal Red on English walnut

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# Tenon saws

There's no denying it, there's no greater pleasure known to man than having the right tool for the job. Or at least that's what we've gotten used. It's a concept no doubt formed many decades ago by toolmakers for which we should at times be grateful but not quite so duplicitous in its application. Depending on your line of work, you may consider a tenon saw to be an essential item, in which case this little round-up should prove invaluable. Whether it's a dedicated rip and cross cut you're after or a hybrid suitable for both tasks, we've tracked down something to suit every budget.



This back saw from Lie-Nielsen features a slight tapering of the blade from toe to heel, which gives the user better control over precise cuts. When you reach the gauge line on the front of your timber, the blade is slightly above the line on the back side, which reduces the risk of sawing past your line. You may find that when holding the saw back parallel to the bench the teeth will give an upward angled cut enabling faster cuts with less effort. With less material at the toe of the blade the point of balance is moved back, improving the handling of the saw.

The Tapered Tenon Saw is similar to the standard 16in tenon saw but with a ½in taper along the length of the blade. The cutting depth is 3in at the toe and 3½in at the heel. The saw plate is 0.020in thick. Teeth are filed rip cut, 10tpi, set at 0.004in per side. The overall length, including handle, is 21¼in, with a blade length of 16in, and the overall height is 7in.

From: www.axminster.co.uk



#### Victor Tenon Saw

The Victor Tenon Saw's high quality alloy steel blade is clenched into a heavy brass backing and screwed onto the varnished hardwood coloured handle, which should ensure that this saw will maintain its accuracy over many years of faithful service. The three screw fixings on the handle allow for re-tightening over the years, and the generous depth of the blade will guarantee an accurate cut. The blade length is 12in, and with a 15tpi cross cut pattern.

From: www.axminster.co.uk



### **Dorchester 14in 13tpi Tenon Saw**

Roberts & Lee Dorchester backsaws are a pleasure to work with, the teeth are set and sharpened by hand and cut smoothly with very little effort. This saw is a new and improved version with a walnut handle finished with Danish oil.

This 13tpi saw is designed for ripping along the grain to cut the cheeks of tenons and bridle joints. If you do have to dovetail thicker boards for chests, benches or tables it's nice to be able to bring out something with a bit more power than a fine delicate dovetail saw. The 14in blade gives a long, efficient stroke and is supported by a folded brass spine. It is best used on material up to an inch in thickness but will cope with occasional thicker material.

Backsaws use gravity and the weight of the spine to perform efficiently, they are far more accurate and easier to use if the wood is oriented and the saw kept vertical.

From: www.workshopheaven.com

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### Pax 1776 14in 13tpi Heavy Tenon Saw

Commissioned by Workshop Heaven and intended specifically for the cabinetmaking market, the new Pax 1776 heavy tenon saws are toothed for working in hardwoods. The blade is a full 14in long for smooth, flowing strokes and has a generous 3 1/2in depth. The heavy, hand polished, folded brass back gives the saw its power – once the kerf is established you can allow the full weight of the saw to rest on the timber and just let it purr through the cut.

The maple handles are CNC cut, then hand carved and sanded before being finished with Danish oil; if you want to adjust the shape slightly, just re-coat with oil and the alterations will blend in invisibly. An occasional wipe over with oil will help the handle to develop an even harder surface and eventually form a beautiful rich patina.

The blades are 3 1/2in deep with hand filed and correctly set teeth (please don't stone the set off, it is necessary on this type of saw to ensure a free and smooth cutting action) the teeth should be re-set every other time you sharpen the saw.



### **Bad Axe 16in Hybrid Tenon Saw**

Tom Fidgen of The Unplugged Workshop calls this best-selling saw from Bad Axe his 'Jack Saw'. This saw features a 4in deep by 16in long premium-grade Swedish spring steel sawplate, a firearms-grade, hot-blued carbon steel. It has a black walnut handle.

The team at Bad Axe advise new users to start out with this saw in 11 or 12 ppi filed x-cut or hybrid cut, then when you're ready to purchase a dedicated ripping saw, consider the Jack saw in 11 ppi rip or the 18in Beast in 10 ppi rip.

From: www.classichandtools.com

### **Veritas Tenon Saws**

The unique designs of the Veritas carcass saws and dovetail saws have proved to be extremely popular and Veritas have now introduced two superb tenon saws to complement their range. They combine the best characteristics of this fine classic joinery saw with those of state-of-the-art materials and construction methods.

The tooth pattern on the thin high-carbon steel blade provides a good balance between cutting action and surface finish. The design of the bubinga wooden handle has been developed to give good power transfer while still allowing a three or four finger grip for precise control.

The crosscut version is excellent for trimming parts to length or for use with a mitre box, while the rip saw is optimised for the fast accurate cutting of tenon cheeks and similar cutting operations with the grain. The crosscut saw has 12tpi with a 15° rake and an included angle of 60°, set is 0.06720mm per side. The teeth are filed at an alternating 75° angle to the blade, which creates a 15° bevel on each tooth. The rip saw has 9tpi with a 14° rake using the typical 60° included angle, set is the same as on the crosscut saw.

From: www.classichandtools.com





### London Long Stroke 181/4in Lightweight Fine Tenon Saw

Featuring a closed handle and elegantly formed traditional tongue, the London Long Stroke from Skelton Saws is lightweight and gives a very long stroke of cut. Although 18¾in long, in the hand it balances the same as a standard carcass saw. With its longer length and thin plate you can make a deeper cut and gang up multiple tenon shoulders.

It features a uniquely tapered and shaped brass back. The closed handle can be made in a range of timbers and, while it's available in sizes medium to large, other sizes can be custom made.

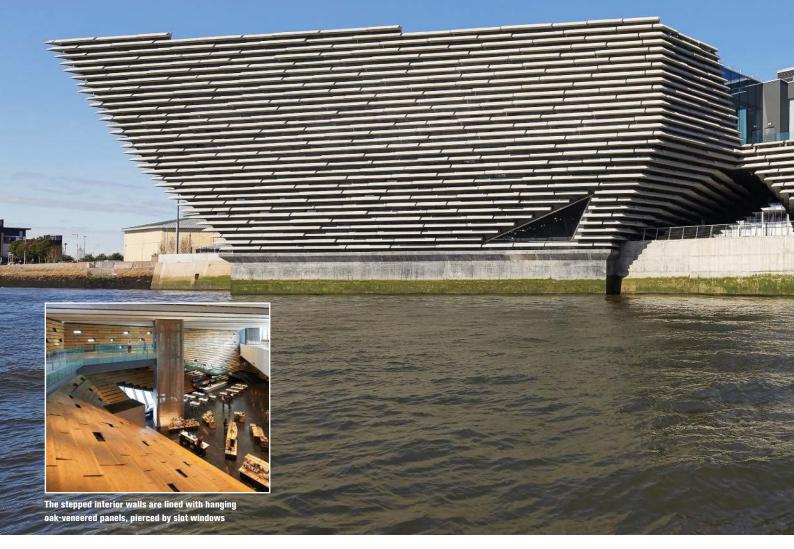
From: www.skeltonsaws.co.uk



# Out & about: V&A Dundee

This month we visit Scotland's first museum dedicated to design

&A Dundee opened to the public on 15 September 2018. It is the first dedicated design museum in Scotland and the first V&A museum outside of London. As well as celebrating the past and present of Scottish design, it also showcases the best of design from around the world. The museum is part of a £1 billion transformation of Dundee City Waterfront, which stretches 8km alongside the River Tay and its estuary over an area of 240 hectares, in a 30-year development that began in 2001.



### History

In 2007 Professor Georgina Follett, Dean of Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, suggested bringing a branch of the V&A to Dundee to Sir Alan Langlands, Principal of the University of Dundee. A pitch was made to the V&A in London, making the case that the museum could help regenerate the waterfront area in Dundee. In 2010 an international architectural competition was

held for the building design and, after a public display of the shortlisted designs, the unanimous winner was Japanese architect Kengo Kuma. Taking inspiration from the waterfront location, Kuma's museum is designed to be 'a connector between the river and the city'. Its form is inspired by the cliffs on Scotland's north-eastern coastline, with the cast concrete cladding creating patterns of shadows which change with the

weather and the time of day. V&A Dundee's appearance is of two inverted pyramids which are separate at ground floor level, and then twist to connect at the upper galleries floor. This creates an open archway through the centre of the museum, reconnecting the city with the river and framing the view of the River Tay.

In the run-up to the museum opening, V&A Dundee organised a series of events and

#### **DESIGN & INSPIRATION**

V&A Dundee



The Scottish Design Galleries were designed by architectural and exhibition design practice ZMMA



PHOTOGRAPH BY VICTORIA AND ALBERT

ud-din Haidar of Oudh (now Awadh). As part of his duties he also designed barges, carriages, howdahs and other court trappings, such as furniture.



Bookcase designed by George Logan for the 1901 Glasgow Exhibition. It is an example of the Glasgow Style, the most significant modern design movement to have originated in Scotland.

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exhibitions in schools and communities, aimed at introducing people to design. This included the Scottish Design Relay, a national project featuring objects that would later form part of the museum's permanent collection, one of which was a 100-yearold hooded Orkney chair. The opening weekend in September 2018 was marked by a two-day festival celebrating design, music and performance.

Chest-on-chest attributed to Thomas Affleck. Born in Aberdeen, Thomas Affleck worked in Edinburgh and London before emigrating to Philadelphia in 1763 and establishing a shop. He became known as one of the state's finest craftsmen, benefitting from commissions secured through his Scottish emigrant and Quaker networks. This mahogany Chippendale-style chest-onchest is on loan to the V&A Dundee from the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

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#### What to see

V&A Dundee has 1,650m² of gallery space and hosts regular temporary exhibitions, workshops, talks and courses. The Scottish Design Galleries form the heart of V&A Dundee's permanent collection. The galleries display around 300 objects representing a wide range of design disciplines, from the decorative arts – including furniture, textiles, metalwork and ceramics – to fashion, architecture, engineering and digital design.

The first section of the Scottish Design Galleries, The Story of Scottish Design, looks at design as a collaborative process. It also shows how Scotland's design reflects its history, politics and geography, and explores how trade, fashion and migration have helped it achieve international impact. It looks at the rise of influential movements such as the Glasgow Style.

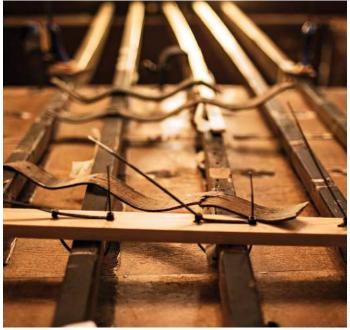
The second section, Design and Society, focuses on how design influences and shapes the places we live and the way we do things. It looks at how designers aim to create solutions to problems and highlights how design can transform communities, organisations, businesses and services.

The final section, Design and the Imagination, explores how design can be used to tell stories and spark the imagination. It also shows how it makes the world more beautiful and fun.

At the centre of the galleries stands Charles Rennie Mackintosh's magnificent Oak Room, designed for Miss Cranston's Ingram Street tearooms in Glasgow, which has been in storage since it was salvaged from its original location almost 50 years ago. The tearoom has been restored, conserved and reconstructed in a major partnership with Glasgow Museums and Dundee City Council.



The reconstruction of Charles Rennie Mackintosh's Oak Room is one of the museum's highlights



Inherently fragile, much of the wavy lathe of the Oak Room had been damaged. Some parts could be conserved, others were beyond repair but provided enough information for the creation of replacement sections.



Detail of the Oak Room's stair balusters

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#### WHERE ELSE TO SEE... V&A Museums

V&A at Design Society, Shekou Shenzhen, China

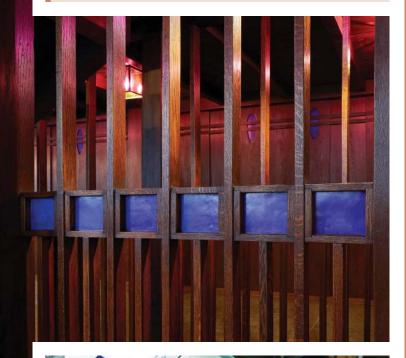
www.vam.ac.uk/info/va-at-design-society-shekou

#### **V&A Museum of Childhood**

London, UK www.vam.ac.uk/moc/

#### **V&A South Kensington**

London, UK www.vam.ac.uk





The Oak Room conservation work included the inspection and repair of the enamelled and coloured glass inserts from the wall panelling. Each piece was individually numbered to correlate with its partner panel.

#### **V&A East**

The V&A East project will create two interconnected sites in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London – a brand new museum at Stratford Waterfront, and a new collection and research centre at Here East. Scheduled to open in 2023, V&A East will also host a partnership between the V&A and the USA's Smithsonian Institution.

The new museum at Stratford Waterfront, designed by Dublin-based architects O'Donnell + Tuomey, will provide a panoramic view of the designed world, and offer contemporary and cross-cultural perspectives through its diverse programming. A programme of major exhibitions will sit alongside new commissions, installations and interdisciplinary collaborations and projects.

At Here East, visitors will be shown how and why objects are collected, how they are cared for, conserved, researched and displayed, and how they help make sense of our past, present and future. The centre will be a purpose-built home for 250,000 objects and an additional 917 archives spanning the breadth of the V&A's collections. Highlights of the collection will include Frank Lloyd Wright's 1930s office design for Edgar J. Kaufmann – a unique and complete 20th-century plywood interior – and a 15th-century marquetry ceiling from the now-destroyed Altamira Palace near Toledo, Spain. Here East will be designed by New York-based practice Diller Scofidio + Renfro (supported by Austin-Smith:Lord).

#### For more information, visit: www.vam.ac.uk/info/the-va-east-project



Artist's renderings of the exterior and interiors of V&A East

#### Information for visiting

Address: 1 Riverside Esplanade, Dundee, DD1 4EZ

Website: www.vam.ac.uk/dundee

Opening hours: Open 10am-5pm every day except

25 and 26 December

Charges: Free entry, some exhibitions carry a separate charge

Information correct at time of publication, check the museum's website before making your visit

## Social media dashboard

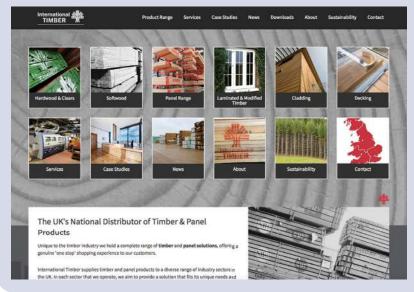
#### Bringing you a round-up of the best from the online world, plus a selection of the latest projects that have caught our eye

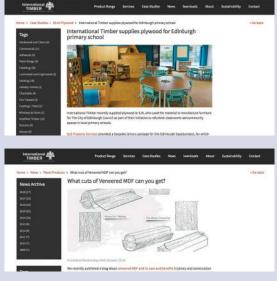
In this section of the magazine we bring together the best furniture and woodworking related content from social media. Here we'll recommend who to follow, where to comment and which online communities to join. We also feature projects we love, readers' letters, comments from the Woodworkers Institute forum and pictures of readers' work. If you'd like to see your furniture on these pages, email derekj@thegmcgroup.com

#### Website: International Timber

International Timber is the largest supplier and distributor of timber and panel products in the UK. Its website is a great hub for information about different types of wood and wood products such as veneers and mouldings. You can also find the latest news about the industry, useful downloads, sustainability information and there's plenty of inspiration to be found in the website's extensive case studies section.

Address: www.internationaltimber.com





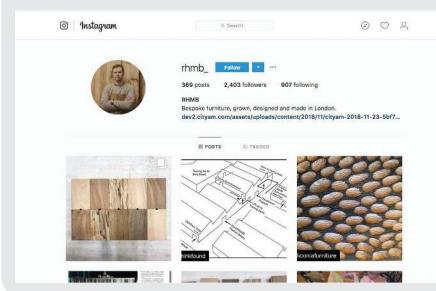
#### Instagram: RHMB

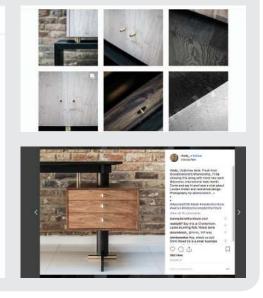
furniture using timber from London trees. This means he can be incredibly specific about the provenance of his work - each piece of furniture can be traced back to a particular London

Rob Brain, the man behind RHMB, designs and makes bespoke street or park where the tree once stood. You can discover his work and find out more about his design and making processes on his Instagram feed.



Address: @rhmb



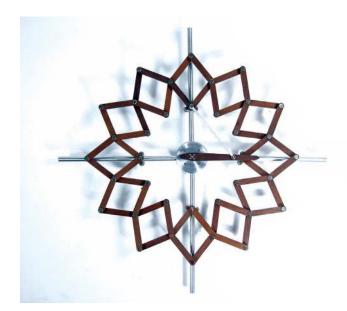


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#### **Projects we love**

Here we highlight the latest furniture and woodworking projects from around the world that we think deserve to be shared with our readers. If you're a member of a collective or a student group and would like to see your work here, then submit a story to: **derekj@thegmcgroup.com** 



#### **Animaro kinetic furniture**

Animaro was founded in London in 2016 by Matt Gilbert. Matt's aim was to create beautifully made kinetic furniture for the home. His background is in architecture and design from which he draws much of his inspiration. Animaro combines art and engineering to make furniture that can move and change shape.

The Crane Lamp (shown here in oak) is a movable desk lamp handcrafted from solid hardwood and brass. The body of the lamp continuously changes shape when the lamp is moving, creating limitless patterns of structure and shape. It is inspired by the shape of the crane bird extending its neck to catch prey.

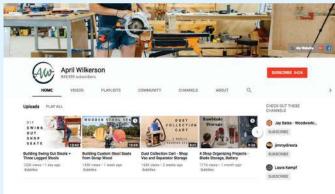
The Solstice Clock, currently raising funds on Kickstarter, is a moving clock that changes shape throughout the day, when the sun is higher in the sky (midday) the clockface is at its biggest. In the evening (6pm) the clock is at its smallest.

You can find out more about Animaro on their website or look out for their products at the marketplace of one of the Modern Shows.

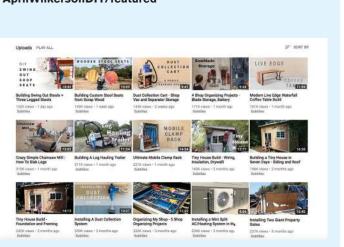
#### www.animarodesign.com



# YouTube: April Wilkerson One of Triton Tools' ambassadors, April Wilkerson is a self-confessed 'obessive DIYer and woodworker'. Her videos cover a range of DIY projects from milling logs and learning to weld, to making three-legged stools from scrap wood.



Address: www.youtube.com/user/ AprilWilkersonDIY/featured



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IMAGE BY IAN HALL/MIKE COWIE/GMC PUBLICATIONS

# An airbrush with the past

### This month we're going back to March 1998 and issue 14 for another look at Mike Cowie's Arts and Crafts-style writing desk

art bureau, part bookcase, this style of desk was a popular design in homes of all shapes and sizes from the beginning of the 20th century. Although not an original concept (escritoires and similar drop-leaf designs were around much earlier), the form was given a modern twist by makers following the Arts & Crafts movement, often combining exposed joinery and handmade ironmongery. Influenced by the honest construction and decorative details, Mike Cowie, a City & Guilds trained cabinetmaker, made his version while channelling the leading exponent of the American Craftsmen style, Gustav Stickley. Throughout this series I've enjoyed looking back at the original articles and noticing how some of the descriptions regarding methods

of construction and techniques for layout are simpler than you'd find today. Either we've gotten into the habit of overcomplicating things or maybe life was indeed much simpler back then. Take Mike's approach to finding the perfect curve for example, 'The semi-circular cut-out on the sides is achieved with the aid of a suitable-sized dinner plate and bandsaw!', or his admitting to using a plastic pepper pot from the supermarket to mark out the inlay design.

Beneath all that however, is a design that's full of subtle details. Take, for example, the number of wedged through tenons that appear on the sides of the cabinet or the raised ones that pierce the top. Make a mess of these and it will be on display for eternity. A detail that's not apparent from lan

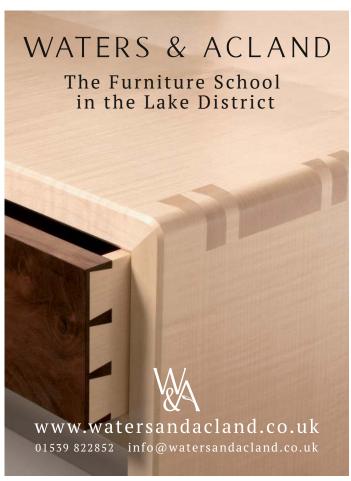
Hall's drawing is that the cabinet interior is dovetailed together as a separate carcass and features sloping sides that match the front edge of the cabinet sides. The drawers also have sloped fronts that match the incline.

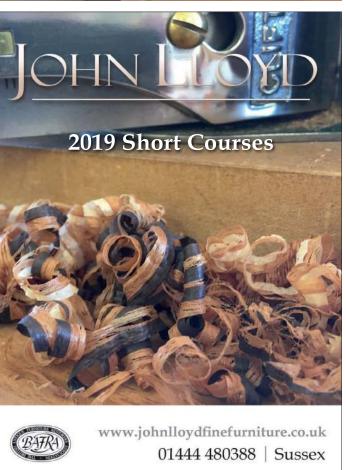
The cabinet is made from wide boards of quartersawn English oak and chestnut for the back and interior components with padauk for the inlay and wedges. With a limited amount of timber at his disposal, Mike decided to harvest veneers from the best board of solid oak to make up the centre panel in the drop-down lid. The core is MDF making the component more stable than one made entirely out of solid timber.

Were I in need of a desk at home I'd be happy to follow Mike and channel my inner Stickley.

# Next month Next month we're heading back to March 1999 and issue 26 for another look at David Gregson's expanding dining table.

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#### **Next month in**

# Furniture & cabinet making





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The Collector's Guide to dividers

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An introduction to Welsh Stick Chairs by John Brown

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