UPCYCLING, RECYCLING & RESTORATION SPECIAL

Issue 18 Autumn 2016 ON ONE & GREEN WOODWORKING • TURNING • RESTORATION • DIY RESTORATI

Make a 'shabby chic' wall cabinet



- Create surface effects with paint finishes
- Garage door stile repair
- Ladderback chair restoration





PROJECT: 'Wormy' maple side table

FEATURE: Woodturner Jason Townsend





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Woodwork on the web

To find more great projects, tests and techniques like these, visit our fantastic website at: www.woodworkersinstitute.com





Welcome

to the Autumn issue of Woodworking Crafts



Painting over the cracks

Hello Everyone. We bring you the mid-autumn issue of Woodworking Crafts. This month, the theme is upcycling. The idea of taking old materials and remaking them in a new form is nothing new - if you'll excuse the pun. I have come across so many bits of old furniture and piles of boards that could be turned into something better, but I simply don't have enough space. It is such a pity that we are so wasteful and don't make best use of what we've got. Anyway, we show you how easy it is to refinish wood and create a new, or a new 'old', look for your furniture. One advantage is that in a world of rather impersonal, or perhaps more accurately, unipersonal gadgets and gizmos like smartphones and cars, you can at least personalise something to make it your own and unique. Better still, these activities don't rely on training, tools or a workshop, which many of us have to do without nowadays. DIY stores usually stock an ever-expanding range of effect paints and finishing materials. Maybe now is the time to experiment and see what you can do!

Anthony Bailey, Editor Email: anthonyb@thegmcgroup.com



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MODERN-STYLE BED

In this abridged extract from *Pocket Hole Joinery*, **Mark Edmundson** offers two methods with one result – to make a stylish bed

They pull a joint together and hold it tight. Dowels can align a joint perfectly with little to no movement in any direction. Dowel holes run parallel to pocket holes, thus they can fit onto narrow stock and won't sacrifice the strength of the wood.

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

The mattress height and bed location play a big role in our bed's dimensions. While the back of the headboard is

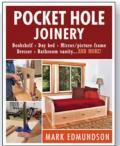
Pocket Hole Joinery

by Mark Edmundson, published by The Taunton

Press in 2014 ISBN: 9781621136743

Price: £16.99

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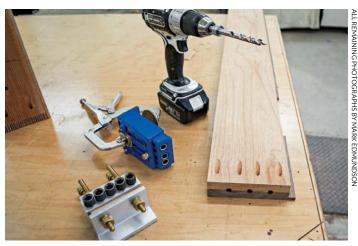
completely hidden from view, the back of the footboard is not. I'm no less fond of plugged holes than I am of open holes, so I always try to keep them out of view.

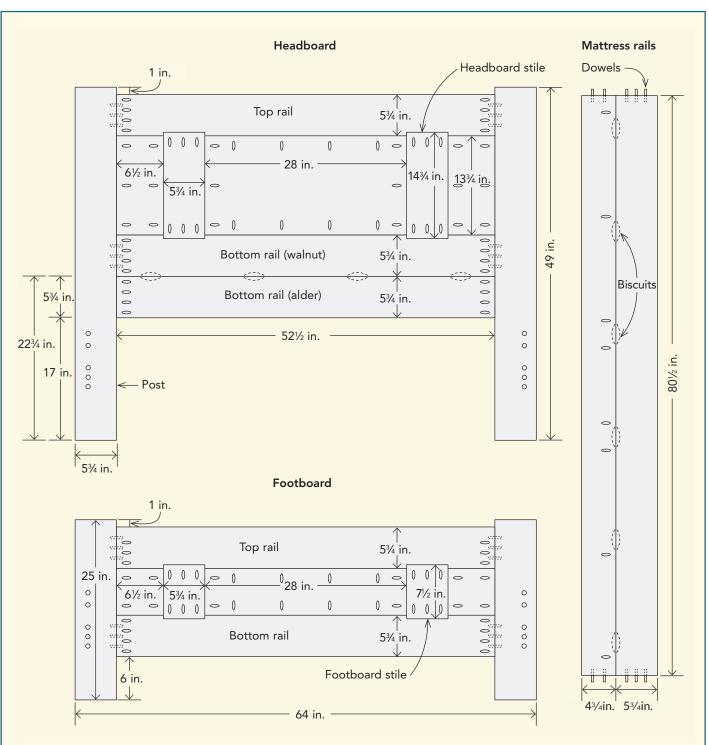
To determine the height of the footboard, I measure our mattress and box spring at a combined height of 18in. The mattress has a pillow top that slopes down at the edges; the height at which the pillow top meets the mattress sides is 15½in. This last measurement determines the highest desirable location of a pocket screw hole on the footboard. To allow a little more room, I have used three pocket holes

instead of four on the top footboard rail (*see drawing below*). The top pocket screw hole is 15in. above the mattress supports.

I am using 8/4 black walnut for the posts and rails, quartersawn white oak plywood for the panels, 4/4 black walnut for the mattress rails and 4/4 alder for the mattress supports. Clear black walnut is really expensive and I'm not particularly impressed with the lot of wood that I am choosing from. To stretch my dollar and the clear material, I have 'faced' some of the stock, meaning I have glued 4/4 black walnut to 4/4 alder to make boards that look like 8/4 black walnut.

Right: Dowels and pocket hole joinery work together to create strong, precise joints





FACING THE STOCK

To face the stock, mill the boards longer and wider than needed. For the lower rails and stiles, boards 6in. wide with about 2in. of extra length will be oversize enough to yield 5¾-in.-wide stock. The extra length allows a ¼-in. or ¾-in. dowel through either end to keep the stock aligned perfectly during glue-up. To index the mating pieces, clamp them together and drill for a dowel hole at each end. The dowel location is not critical, so there's no need to use a doweling jig here. Using a foam roller, coat one of the surfaces with a generous amount of wood glue. Sandwich the pieces together and push the dowels in at both ends. Clamp around the perimeter of the piece.

MILLING THE STOCK TO DIMENSION

The posts, rails and stiles are all 5¾in. wide. Their thicknesses differ at each juncture to create a step. Between each post and rail there's a 6-in. step on the front and back. The short stiles protrude ¾in. past the face of the rails in front to match the step of the post but are flush in back. Mill the stock for the headboard and footboard to dimension. Cut the posts and rails to length, but leave the short stiles long. Separate out the rails for the headboard and footboard to notch for the short stiles.

Cutting notches

Cutting the notches in the rails can be done by lying each component down on the router table, with start and stop marks on the fence. After using a straight cutter, square the ends with a tenon saw and chisel.

Stepping the rails

This can be done on the router table using either rebate cutter or a tenoning cutter in several passes to full width. Use the same procedure on the plywood panels. Do test cuts using offcuts, to ensure both halves of frame and panel fit together correctly.



Making the notches is very quick on a router table



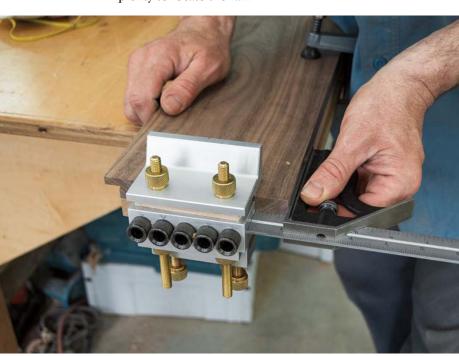
The panels are rebated to sit in the bed frames



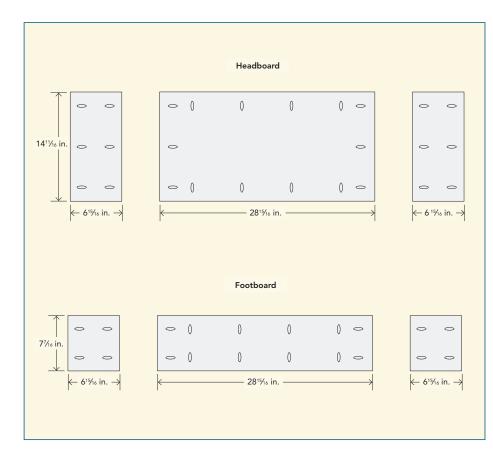
When facing the wood for the stiles, drill for $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. dowels through each end to help keep the material from slipping during glue-up. Apply several clamps around the perimeter for plenty of holding strength as the glue dries

ADDING THE DOWELS

The next step is to dowel the posts and rails. This allows the headboard and footboard to be assembled in order to measure for the stile length. A Dowelmax jig uses spacers between the fence and the bushing jig to allow for offsets between parts. There are spacers included with the Dowelmax, but it's simple to cut your own spacers to give you a wider range of options. Centre the dowel holes roughly in the middle of the rail with a doweling jig spacer and then add a ¾6-in. clamping shim between the fence and spacer to allow the ¾6-in. step between the rail and the post. The top edge of the rail is 1in. below the top of the post. Set your doweling jig 1in. below the top edge of the rail and 2in. below the top of the post. Three dowel holes are plenty to locate the rail.



Use a try square to set the doweling jig position on the rail. After drilling the first hole in the end of the rail, insert the dowel pin to make sure the jig does not shift. To make sure that both posts are doweled identically, cut a 23%-in. scrap and clamp it to the post, flushing up the bottom edge with the bottoms to guarantee matching settings





Joinery mock-ups with scrap play a vital role in pre-project planning and visual design. Mocking up the pocket hole locations helps to ensure that the holes won't collide



Dry-fit the headboard so you can measure the stile lengths and panel sizes. Then cut a scrap of wood to the stile measurement and test the fit

DRY-FITTING THE HEADBOARD AND FOOTBOARD

Assemble the footboard first with dowels. Measure the length of the short stiles. Use a scrap of wood to test your measurement. Cut the stiles to length and reassemble the footboard face down to measure for the white oak panel sizes. Cut the panels to the measured size. Repeat this procedure with the headboard. Drill three pocket holes for 1½-in. pocket screws on the back of the stiles. The rails for the headboard and the lower rail on the footboard get four pocket holes for 1½-in. screws on the back side. The top rail on the footboard gets three holes; leave out the fourth top hole to ensure that it won't be visible.

For the narrow panels, two pocket holes on the footboard panels and three on the headboard panels are plenty. On the larger centre panel, drill pocket holes on all four sides, spaced evenly throughout.

Cut the stiles to length and check their fit. Then measure the panel dimensions from the back side of the headboard. Use a portable pocket hole jig to drill the pocket holes in the rails. The stiles are short, so it's easier to use the benchtop jig

ASSEMBLING THE MATTRESS RAILS

Biscuits and pocket screws work together effectively when joining the two mattress support rails. There's no need to clamp the rails when driving the pocket screws because the biscuits will hold the boards in place.

The mattress rails are made up of two boards on each side. I drilled one hole before the first and second biscuit and one hole after the fifth and sixth biscuit. For the third and fourth centre biscuits, I drilled a pocket hole on each side of the biscuit. Before joining the pairs of boards, finish-sand the outside surfaces.

Now join the mattress rails with pocket screws. Use the right-angle jig to hold the lower rail upright. Slip in the biscuits and tap the rails together, making sure the ends are flush. After they are joined, cut the mattress rails at 80½in., being careful to check that you won't hit a pocket screw when cutting. With the doweling jig fence referencing



Use the benchtop jig to drill holes in the plywood panels



With the index pin set in the first pin of the doweling jig, drill for dowels in the third and fifth hole in the mattress rail



Use the portable jig to drill the pocket holes in the end of the mattress rails. Dowels and four pocket holes will ensure a strong fit between the rails and the headboard and footboard



When drilling the post for the dowels, use a 1-in. spacer in the doweling jig to align the mattress support rail location onto the post. Cut biscuits in the bottom headboard rail and the alder rail. Pocket holes, biscuits and dowels work together to ensure an accurate fit

the inside face of the rail, set the jig 1in. up from the bottom. Drill three ³/₈-in. dowel holes, leaving a space in between them for pocket holes.

To reset the doweling jig on the upper $4\frac{3}{4}$ -in. portion of the mattress rail, push the index pin through the first hole of the jig into the last hole drilled on the support rail. This will ensure that the doweling jig is moved up the same amount on all four ends of the rails. Three dowels in the lower rail and two dowels in the upper plus four pocket holes spaced around the dowel holes will do the job.

The inside of the mattress rail is 1¾in. from the outside edge of the bedpost. Reassemble the doweling jig to facedrill the post and use a 1-in. spacer between the jig and the fence. Set the doweling jig 7in. up from the bottom of the post and drill holes.

A SECOND BOTTOM RAIL FOR THE HEADBOARD

On the headboard underneath the bottom rail, install an alder board with dark Danish oil stain applied. Adding the alder board ensures that there isn't a gap behind the mattress and it's cheaper than using walnut in a hard-to-see area. Biscuit the alder board and bottom rail, measuring at 5in. and 18in. from both ends. The face of the lower walnut rail and the face of the alder rail will be flush. Drill pocket holes to the side of each biscuit slot on the alder rail and four pocket holes on each end. With all the bed parts cut to length and drilled for dowels and pocket holes, you can now finish-sand all the parts and apply coats of oil.

ASSEMBLING THE BED

Set the top rail into position, with the ³/₁₆-in. shim in place. Attach the face clamp and drive pocket screws through the stile into the rail. Use the right-angle jig to hold the assembly upright as you drive pocket screws through the stiles into the rails.

Clamp the lower rail to the right-angle jig, taping a $\frac{3}{16}$ -in. shim just below the dado notch so that the backs of the stile and rail are flush. Locate one of the stiles and hold with the

face clamp. Drive a pocket screw under the clamp. Move the clamp to the other side and repeat. Finish attaching the stile by driving the middle screw. Repeat with the other stile. Then place the top rail on top of the stiles. Use the shim and face clamp to hold the top rail in place while you drive a screw. Continue clamping and screwing until the rail is secured. Lay the rail assembly face down on a protective blanket, insert the dowels, and slide the post into place.

Use hand pressure to keep the first screw from pushing the joint apart then drive the remaining screws. Now it's time to install the white oak panels in the footboard. Begin with one of the side panels. Because the seam between the bedpost and the small panel is not hidden by a rabbet, screw into the stile next, then repeat on the opposite side. Finish off by screwing the centre panel into place.



Slide the post into position on the rails, pushing the dowels into the holes. Using hand pressure against the post, drive the pocket screws

Assembling the headboard

Assembling the headboard rails and stiles is almost the same as the footboard apart from having the additional lower alder rail to install. Installing the plywood panels on the headboard is the same as on the footboard.

Adding the mattress support strips

On the inside face of the mattress rails, flush with the bottom edge, is a $\frac{7}{6}$ -in. by $\frac{3}{4}$ -in. alder strip. This strip supports the alder boards that hold up the box spring. Cut the narrow alder strip $80\frac{3}{6}$ in. long.

Final assembly

Lean the headboard against the wall. With the dowels in the end of the mattress rail, slide it into place on the headboard. Set the opposite end on a scrap of wood and drive one pocket screw in the middle to hold it in place. Repeat with the other mattress rail. Place dowels in the ends of both rails and slide the footboard into place. Remove the scraps and drive all pocket screws into the posts. Place the mattress supports on the thin alder strips and the bed is done.



Drive the pocket screws from the centre panel into the stiles and rails. When installing the white oak plywood panels, drive the pocket screws between the panel and post first to ensure a tight joint. Then screw the pocket screws from the panel into the stile



Slide the lower alder rail into place before attaching the second post and then attach the second post to the headboard assembly, starting at the top. Then drive pocket screws from the alder rail into the bottom headboard rail. Use shims and a face clamp to position the alder rail onto the posts; drive the pocket screws



Add the support strips to the inside of the mattress rails with countersunk pocket screws. A block of wood helps to support the mattress rail as you attach the other end to the headboard



Supporting the mattress rails with a pair of wood blocks makes it possible to assemble the footboard solo



The finished bed... and not a pocket hole visible!







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BOOK OFFERS

This month, in our upcycling and restoration special, we have some great book offers for you!

Refinishing Furniture Made Simple by Jeff Jewitt

Old furniture, whether a treasured heirloom or consignment shop find, is often better made than anything that can be bought today. So, why let damaged finishes detract from a beautiful piece when you can repair or refinish it in a way that preserves the piece and makes it look as good as new? Author Jeff Jewitt, a professional refinisher with over 30 years' experience, shares his tricks, shortcuts and tools of the trade in *Refinishing Furniture Made Simple*, an easy-to-follow book/DVD set that is sure to fly off the shelves. Weekend refinishers and professional woodworkers will benefit from the insider tips on how to evaluate the condition of a piece to decide the best strategy for rejuvenating it, repair and revive finishes to enhance their beauty while preserving their patina and match an old finish for a seamless look.

Wood Pallet Projects by Chris Gleason

Lumber prices are soaring and deforestation is a rising concern. Yet millions of pounds of perfectly usable wood are dumped in landfills every year. Wood Pallet Projects shows how anyone can upcycle salvaged pallet wood to create truly one-of-a-kind projects. Maverick craftsman Chris Gleason combines sound woodworking techniques with a hip designer's sensibility to unleash the limitless possibilities of the common skid. Inside you'll find 15 of his inspired projects for rescuing and repurposing pallets. Some of his pieces celebrate the rough, edgy character of the material, while others are crafted as fine furniture. He shows how to construct both indoor and outdoor furniture in a variety of styles, along with other useful items such as a birdhouse, a toolbox and even a ukulele. There's plenty of nitty gritty here on working with pallets, including where to find them, how to process them into usable lumber, fasteners, sanding and the best finishes (if any) to use. The author provides important advice on how to make sure that your pallets are safe and not sprayed with harmful chemicals. A colourful gallery of finished work provides further inspiration for green crafting.

Upholstery: A Complete Course (2nd revised edition) by David James

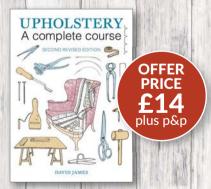
In this second revised edition, David James provides an encyclopaedic guide to the techniques and materials involved in upholstery. The book covers everything from traditional handwork to the latest industrial techniques, giving a complete overview of the upholstery trade. Five step-by-step projects follow, to enable readers to put some of the techniques explained into practice. Almost 500 detailed line drawings created by the author illustrate every aspect covered in the text. The book also includes detailed advice on costing for materials for the budding professional. The restorer will find a wealth of material on historical styles and techniques. This new edition includes an updated bibliography and contacts section to ensure its relevance and UK and US upholstery terms have been added.



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From plain shabby to 'shabby chic' - that's the Editor alright...

had the offer of some free-to-use pine tongue and groove bead board, in the form of a large, lumpy, indescribable piece of furniture. I love re-using wood and this was a perfect excuse. Date-wise, it was probably from about 35 years ago, when it would have been fashionable. Right now, it looked ugly; it was held together with old-fashioned cut nails, wire nails with narrow heads and plenty of old screws with narrow slotted heads. Once I started to cut it apart and de-nail it, the hidden surfaces looked quite 'bright', it was a slow operation as I wanted to avoid major damage. My best guess was that it had been made from old 'wainscotting', used to clad the walls of an old school or village hall, hence one face being relatively clean.



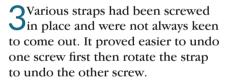






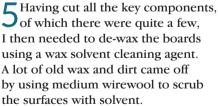
This monstrosity wasn't going to give up in a hurry but I didn't want to tear the pine TGV (tongue, groove and vee) to pieces and render it unusable. It was essential to lever it apart carefully as it was held tight with rusted nails.

2 A couple of quick cuts helped separate the main carcass sections while avoiding blade-wrecking nails. After that, I managed to force the boards apart and then knock out all the nails.



4 I started cutting paired boards to length as a plan developed in my mind. It was to be a wall cupboard whose width was determined by the width of the original drawers.

Having cut all the key components, of which there were quite a few, I then needed to de-wax the boards using a wax solvent cleaning agent. A lot of old wax and dirt came off by using medium wirewool to scrub



I dragged a chisel along all the Ogaps to remove yet more wax and dirt. It was worth it because I wanted a painted finish which had to stick properly, so a bare surface was essential.

Wirebrushing helped clean the last of the aged accretions that lurked in the bead profiles. The effort would be repaid by more reliable finishing later on.











Basic carcass

Where the broken tongues existed, these were soon trimmed off with a Japanese pullsaw and the edge flatted with a hand plane.

Most boards could still fit together but those that had 'lost their tongue' needed slotting for a loose tongue instead. The rubber facing was removed from the jointer so I could do a plunge-and-pull cut.

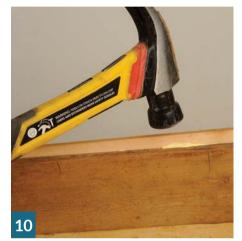
The loose tongues had glue added and then tapped into the slots. Modern aliphatic resin glue was suitable as this wasn't an antique piece.

1 1 Where two blank edges met, I opted instead to use 'dry' biscuit jointing. This would allow free movement, although the pine was very dry and stable, unlikely to shrink further.

12 The carcass top had a batten glued on at the back and ends so the sides and back panel could fix to it. The lower boards would be screwed in the ends so there was no interference with the drawers caused by battens.

13 First the bottom board and then the centre boards were screwed through using twinfast screws. The heads wouldn't show after filling and painting. I used a steel rule to give an adequate gap spacing so the drawers would run easily.

14 The back panel consisted of boards fitted together and trimmed to width and length for a tight fit. Then they were all securely screwed in place, taking care to avoid breakout where they were run into the edges of the thin pine boards.



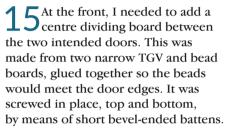












Glazed doors

16 I wanted to be able to see the contents on display, so a simple grooved frame would suffice. I did this with a plunge-and-pull cut with the jointer again; the 4mm slot would match the thickness of standard window glass exactly. The ends needed tongues to be machined on the router table.

17 The difficulty was that the boards weren't of even thickness, so some careful readjustment of the cutter height was necessary to get tight joints all round. The frames were assembled dry, ready for painting.

18 I wasn't convinced all waxiness had been removed, so I used STIX primer from General Finishes. This claims to cling well to anything, so I felt it would be a good basecoat.

1 Next, I chose what looked like a very lurid colour combination from the ECOS environmentally friendly paint range. I added a complete coat of Magenta, then a random coat of Ocean Drive, concentrating on the beading particularly.

20 Once each coat had dried in turn, I then did an all over coat of Dewberry. This might all seem rather weird but it was the end result that interested me, not how I got there!























Now for the rough stuff -**1**80 grit aluminium oxide on a delta-headed sander. The idea was to break through the paint layers in a rather random fashion so the colours underneath would appear as if worn away. Even going back to the bare pine on edges wasn't out of the question either.

could be done together and give a stable surface for the router to rest on. I machined up to the drawn lines and then chiselled the recesses neatly until each hinge fitted.

The carcass still looked very pink, which wasn't what I was after, so I daubed dark oak hardening wax on in sections at a time and immediately wiped off evenly.

Adding the glass

☐ I measured up for the glass to fit the already dry assembled frames and got two pieces cut by a glazier. Then the frame pieces were glued and assembled around the glass and checked for overall size and squareness. Pre-painting meant the surfaces were done so no scraping

of paint off glass would be needed. Once both doors were trimmed

to fit their openings, the steel hinges then needed to be let into the doors only, so I placed a hinge midway across the 'leaf' underneath the height adjuster on my router, once the mortise cutter was resting on the door edge.

Both doors were clamped together in the vice so they

Each door was rested on the blade of a try square to give a gap underneath and a marking knife used to locate where to drill and screw each hinge in the carcass.

The result is quite a complex **L** surface effect, looking like an old, distressed finish, which was what I was after. Now it just needs to be put to good use and shown off!









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READER GROUP TEST

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ANTEX PYRO MASTER

Antex describe the Pyro Master as 'an entry level dual temperature pyrography tool, ideal for simple designs on wood or leather'. The kit has 19 tips, a wooden keyring and a leather fridge magnet to get you started.

Technical specifications

- Two heat settings,
 15 and 30 watts
- 10 stamping/branding bits
- Nine drawing tips
- Safety stand

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Testers

David Gorman Colin Graham John Lorimer Ian Wilson



e asked the testers a range of questions, some of which were graded, others needed more articulated answers rather than just scoring. We found out about their experience using the product and if they had any problems using it.

David Gorman:

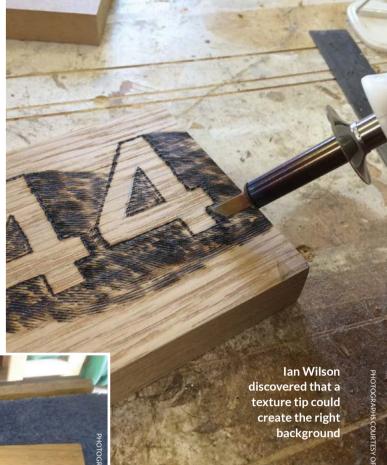
I thought the variety of branding tips was good and there were enough flats and round tips to get started. On the whole, I thoroughly enjoyed using it, although the handle did get quite hot which meant the holding position was a little awkward at first. I think it's a great starter pack for the hobbyist or serious pyrographer and fantastic value for money; the various tips and the projects are brilliant.

Colin Graham:

From a novice point of view, I found the simplicity and completeness of the package very good. Having never used a pyrography tool before, I found the instructions easy to follow and had a very good experience with it; the only concern I had was that the circumference of the handle was a little big for my smallish hand. Having never used such a tool before, I had such an

decoration







enjoyable time with it that I would like to continue to use it and learn how to do it better.

John Lorimer:

As I am a first time user of a dedicated pyrography tool, I have previously attempted to use soldering irons to produce designs, but due to the shape of the tip, have had limited success. The facility to use the alternative shaped tips and branding irons allows for much better control of the line quality and shading, than when using a fixed tip tool.

Multiple tips allow you to create different grades of shading and toning, allowing a much finer control. Thickness and definition of line can be altered to add far greater visual interest to design work. Holding the tool for a length of time, I noticed the handle becoming hot especially

towards the bevel where my fingertips were located when moving and manipulating the tool. The stand does not appear to be sturdy enough and due to the lack of flex in the power cable, the tool was frequently twisted out of the metal holder and posed a safety risk at times. Yes, it is good value for money – allowing the user to create quite finely detailed work with skill and practice.

Ian Wilson:

I'm a first time user but the instructions were really easy to follow. There were definitely plenty of tips to choose from and being able to change the heat control between tips was great. I found the overall comfort of the Pyro Master very good and having a long power lead definitely useful. I would have no problem in recommending this product.

How our testers rated the product

How would you rate the product performance?

8.5/10

How would you rate the product ease of use?

8.5/10

How would you rate the product overall?

8.75/10

Editor's comment:

It's interesting how many people, including our panel, have never tried pyrography before, and yet the basics are fun and easy to pick up.



The Pyro Master is the perfect way to kick off this aspect of woodworking. All our respondents have obviously enjoyed experimenting and want to take it further. If you do get the 'bug', then a more comprehensive tool would be better later on, but this model shows just how easy the art of burning really can be!

If you would like to be part of our panel of product testers, please go to our website www.woodworkersinsitute.com – and **SIGN UP NOW!**



Tools and equipment

- Electric lathe
- Chuck
- Turning tools
- Scraper
- Abrasive
- Ball bearing
- Raw linseed oil
- Plane
- 12mm and 25mm auger bits and drill
- Masking tape
- 12mm spanner
- Soft-faced hammer
- Cyanoacrylate and hot melt glue
- PPE dust mask

bit of a break from the norm for me, but a good excuse to fire up the electric lathe for an interesting project for you to try. I adapted a French design for a porte cuillère, which would traditionally have hung above the dining table on a pulley, with a counterbalance weight to allow it to be pulled down to select spoons at meal times. I've designed this one to stand on the table, making a nice centrepiece which can be rotated to select your favourite spoon. Being a spoon carver, I've always got a good selection of wooden eating spoons to populate the stand and really enjoy using them. If carved spoons aren't your thing, you could adapt the design to hold cooking utensils or cutlery.

1 I've chosen to use brown burr oak, laburnum and rippled ash for this project, which complement each other well. I harvested and processed these some time ago so they are all well seasoned, hence the need for power turning. Greener timber could of course be turned on a pole lathe, but some of the smaller parts would present an interesting challenge.

Base

2 First up for turning is the base of brown oak. Starting with a blank around 220mm diameter by 45mm thick, rough turn a domed shape and cut a mortise to accept the ball bearing that will give a smooth rotary action.

Check the bearing fit then finish the base with a scraper and a light sanding. Apply a generous coat of raw linseed oil to bring out the colour of the grain. Wipe off any excess oil then burnish with a handful of shavings.







Centre column and finial

Prepare the ash blank for turning by planing to around 55mm square then remove the corners to produce an octagonal blank. Mount between centres and turn a tenon on each end: one should be 25mm and the other to fit tightly into the inner race of the bearing, any access length on the tenon can be trimmed after test fitting.

5 Turn the detail for the column, then re-cut the facets on the narrow end to maintain the octagonal detail. Column length (excluding tenons) is 150mm to accommodate eating

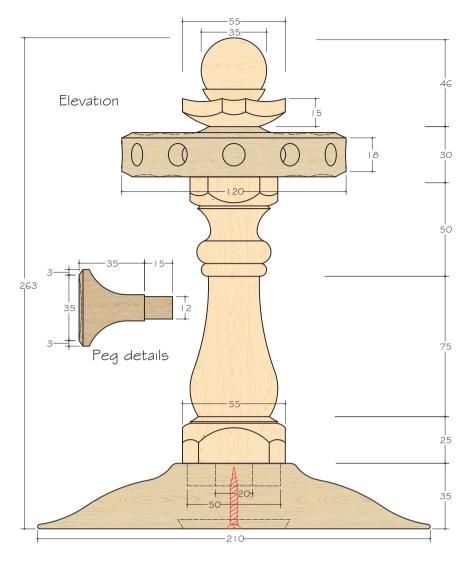






spoons, but may be varied to suit other sizes. Turn a 25mm diameter section between the column and what will become the finial. Make it long enough to part off, leaving a 15mm long tenon on each piece. Sand and oil the column taking care not to oil the tenons.

After parting off the column, you should be left with a short blank for the finial, with a 25mm tenon on each end. Chuck mount the tenon and round off the back of the octagonal shape back to the opposite tenon. Invert the blank in the chuck then turn the ball detail, sand and oil.





Now turn the top hub, from a 130 x 35mm blank of the brown burr oak. This is where the holding pegs will be mounted. Start by boring a 25mm hole through the blank that will accept the tenons from the column and finial; use this as the chuck mounting. Leave at least 18mm of flat area in the centre of the circumference to accommodate the mortises for the pegs and mark a centre line. Divide the circumference into 12 equal sections and mark the centre line on each of these sections to give drilling positions for the peg mortises. If your lathe has an indexing function, this will be easy. I lined up a reference point marked on the lathe, with the index marks on the back of a chuck by eye, using the toolrest set on centre to guide the pencil mark.

With the positions marked, 12mm holes can be drilled to accept the peg tenons. Hold the hub in a vice using a rag to prevent marking it with the jaws. Take care to ensure it is held vertically and that each hole is drilled in line with the centre of the hub.

Pegs

The trickiest bit comes next: the turning of 12 matching pegs from laburnum to fit into the hub. The contrast between the heartwood and sapwood looks good, so try to include a little bit of both in each piece. Three pegs can be turned from blanks roughed out at around 40 x 180mm. Allow a length of 50mm for each peg plus spare for parting and holding. Make sure you wear a good dust mask when working with laburnum as it contains nasty toxins that could cause serious health issues.

Draw the profile onto some masking tape which has been applied to the toolrest. This acts as a guide to help maintain consistency.

1 1 First, tackle the tenons, making them long enough to part off and leaving at least 12mm length on each. Use a 12mm spanner as a quick check for sizing.

12Next, cut the trumpet horn shape into the blanks, keeping









the end with the widest diameter at 35mm, with 5mm of thickness then tapering to leave a 1mm step down to the tenon.

13 It's prudent to turn a couple of extra pegs so the best matching set can be selected. After the initial shaping, mount each peg individually to cut a nice concave profile into the face and bevel the front edge. Sand and oil at this stage; the tenon being in the chuck helps keep the oil from contaminating it for gluing later.

Final assembly

14 When the oil is finally dry, the completed parts will be ready for assembly.

15 Set the bearing first with light taps from a soft-faced hammer, then tap the column into place and add the hub, ready to receive the pegs.

16 Use a set screw through a hole in the base, which is drilled on the lathe to ensure centre alignment. This screw keeps the column in place and makes it possible to service the bearing if necessary.

17Add a drop of thin cyanoacrylate (CA) glue to each peg before setting them into the hub.

18 Finally, glue the hub and finial in place. Hot melt adhesive works well as a gap filler if the fit isn't tight enough for the thin CA glue to secure the joint. Epoxy resin or PVA could be substituted if you prefer.

1 9 The finished article, pictured with a taller version utilising the same timber combination. This project provides plenty of elegant storage for your favourite spoons.























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Forsa 4.1 - P2	Professional	Inc Professional STC + TWE + TLE + Scorer	6.5 / 1.0 / 415v	107 mm x 2.1 m	£3,500.00	£4,200.00
Forsa 8.0 - P3	Professional	As Illustrated above	6.5 / 1.0 / 415v	107 mm x 2.6 m	£4,650.00	£5,580.00
Forsa 9.0 - P3	Professional	As Illustrated above	6.5 / 1.0 / 415v	107 mm x 3.2 m	£4,895.00	£5,874.00

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Bad weather can occur at any time of the year and it takes different forms – high winds, heavy rainfall and sub-zero temperatures being the most obvious conditions. In Norway, it is a legal civil contingency requirement that homeowners have an alternative form of energy available. In practice, this means a woodburning stove. In the UK, such stoves have become a major growth area as energy prices soar and we feel the need to have a degree of independence from a weakening energy chain as well as the pleasure of a glowing fire radiating its heat throughout the home. Here is some useful advice for getting the best from owning a woodburning stove.

OUTDOORS

- Buy or collect wood for burning well before you need it. A woodburning stove, unlike an open fire, is not fussy about what sort of wood you use because of its efficiency. Look around for the best 'quality for price' from a reputable supplier. Word of mouth is useful here. If you use a stove regularly, you will need far more wood than you might imagine!
- I'm lucky; I never ever have to buy wood, which makes running costs negligible. As a woodworker, I often acquire chunks of waste wood. I also belong to a volunteer footpath group which sometimes gives us access to felled trees already cut to log length. There is both satisfaction and recompense in this activity for helping the community.
- Split your logs on a thick, flat slice of log, resting firmly on solid ground. A piece of a mature tree is ideal; surfaces prepared with a chainsaw give smooth faces top and bottom on which to work. Don't have your block too high this might seem to protect your back, but you do need the extra swing distance for the axe or maul to do its work. Logs need to be split correctly, so they can dry ready for burning. The bark provides protection to the the trunk while the tree is growing, but this slows drying considerably, hence the need for splitting logs while still 'green'.



Proper safetywear, a sizeable splitting axe and a good working stance are essential when preparing logs



Left to right: Small axe for splitting and chopping: (behind) froe and club for separating larger sections; splitting axe with spread head profile; (on ground) log grenade for parting using a maul or sledgehammer; maul (note hook tip for separating partly-split logs); heavy sledgehammer for driving in wedges; wedges, used as a pair, one to split and the second to increase a split and release the first wedge



An alternative for some splitting tasks is to use a 'log grenade', bungee and sledgehammer



Well stacked, stable log storage, with plenty of air gaps and a drop-down tarpaulin

- Make sure the logs will fit your wood stove lengthwise. You need convenient sizes for burning. The diameter can be dealt with using a splitting axe or maul, or a heavy hammer and wedges. The choice depends on how big the task is. Use a froe to reduce the logs further in size. The bigger each piece is, the slower it will burn, but too big and it won't fit in your firebox.
- A car tyre or bungees can be used to hold a log together while splitting it into pieces. Once the log starts to split, it can be reduced still further with a froe and club.
- You will need kindling to get a fire started. Don't buy this; instead, use slim pieces of dry waste wood from the workshop and dry twigs. You can also take thin log sections and split them with a hatchet or hand axe. To avoid hand injury, hold the section upright with another slim piece and bring the axe down smartly.
- Split logs and kindling must sit on a dry surface. Pallets are good as they allow airflow underneath. Stack your logs between uprights of some sort to get a high, stable pile. The stack needs airflow all around, with a weighted rain cover or roof and drop-down tarpaulin to cover the front.
- Logs must lose most of their moisture before you burn them or you will be simply boiling water in the form of sap, which wastes energy and can cause flue corrosion. A moisture level of 10–15% is acceptable. A cheap moisture meter can help you keep a check on drying, but you should expect the process to take some months.

Further reading

More information can be found in these past articles from Woodworking Crafts:

- Issue 7, November 2015 Wood storage shed part one
- Issue 8, December 2015 Wood storage shed part two
- Issue 9, January 2016 Chopping wood
- Issue 11, March 2016 Make a froe handle and club

INDOORS



Scrunched-up newspaper and kindling built in a pyramid to start combustion

- When you have the woodburner going, you will need to keep some logs and kindling nearby for convenience and to allow final drying in the atmosphere of the house.
- On your woodburner, replace cracked firebricks, door glass and door rope (if it is frayed). You should only use a woodburner with a proper flue lining. This will get coated in tarry, not sooty, deposits, so get the chimney flue swept regularly.
- To light a woodburner, use scrunched-up newspaper to line the grate and then pile kindling in a pyramid shape, before applying a lit match in several places. Leave the door slightly ajar for five minutes and keep the vents open. Leaving the door open creates a 'Venturi effect', which causes air to speed up and helps conflagration. Close the door and leave for a few more minutes, then add some small log sections carefully. Close the upper and lower vents midway as the fire settles. After a while, you can add a larger log section and start to adjust the vents as necessary. Once the fire is burning well, do not close the vents completely as this restricts airflow too much.
- A wood fire needs to be on a bed of ash and this takes times to build up. When the fire is out and the stove is cold, press the ash into a firm bed all over the grate. After a number of burning sessions, the ash will rise too high, so scrape some off the top, place it in an ash can and dispose of it.
- Woodburners provide electromagnetic heat like the sun. The heat radiates, creating a buffer that spreads around, unlike dull radiators. With care, you can cook or boil on your woodburner, and you can string lines of laundry safely away from the stove for drying. Just take care, have a set of fire tools and armoured leather gloves at the ready, and keep a fireguard in front. Sit back and enjoy the heat; it's worth all the effort! ■



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Museum entry £6 (concession £5, £2 for the tool event only)









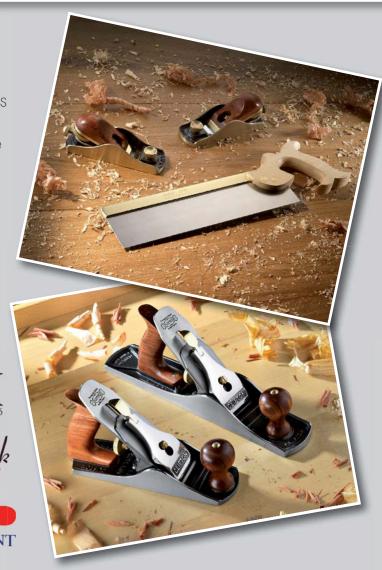




E.T. ROBERTS & LEE









he notion of saving and reusing things goes back to the dawn of time, but more recently human beings have become much more wasteful and created (if that's the right word) the 'throwaway culture' because we have too much of everything. The funny thing is, we often hark back to an earlier time, to the things we really value. This urge for the vintage or antique, the collectable and desirable, can only partly be met by what we find

or are given, possibly as keepsakes or heirloom items.

We can bolster these ambitions of a comforting past, by creating our own 'history' by the upcycling and recycling of things, but it is the finishing touches that make anything look 'right' or 'real'. Here are some examples of how different finishes can create loveliness from sometimes lacklustre, unfashionable worn-out objects.

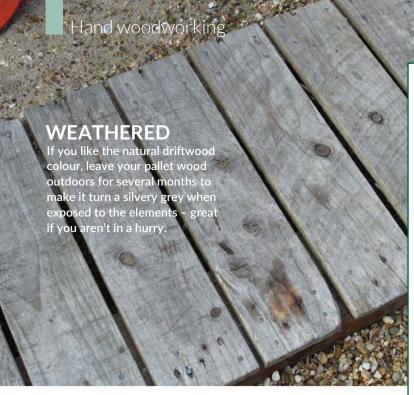
ABRASIVE 'RENEWAL'



Often just working over a surface can give it new life and a new appearance. Dirty, dusty pallet wood, used to create all kinds of upcycled projects, can be made to look clean and fresh just by using coarse abrasive fitted on a sander. This can give a nice effect on its own or it may benefit from a clear coat of varnish to improve the colour and protect the surface. Always use a good quality dust mask and goggles when doing this work.

COLOUR SANDED BACK





CLEAR FINISHES





It's much more likely that you will want to use a sealer coat between paint layers or a final top coat to finish a job off. For this, you can't beat quick drying, non-yellowing aqueous (water-based) varnish. It comes in matte, satin or gloss, is easy to apply and clean up afterwards and isn't expensive.

DYES



Wood dye is supposed to penetrate enough to give a colour layer while still allowing the wood grain to be visible. Spirit dye penetrates better than water-based dye and doesn't raise the grain, but isn't as lightfast.



Water-based wood dyes do raise the grain once the wood is wet and needs flattening with finishing paper abrasive between coats, before applying a finish coat.

PIGMENTS



Whereas dyes are soluble in the correct medium (spirit or water depending on type), pigments won't dissolve. They are good for adding to other materials like wax or woodfillers and obscure the wood more than dye does.

GRAIN FILLERS



Liming, the application of wax with white pigment added, is a traditional method of emphasising the grain in wood for effect.

Oak (*Quercus robur*) is the most obvious candidate for this because it has such open grain pores, but there are other timbers such as ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), that can be used too.



If white doesn't suit the job, then you can add a dye or a pigment to colour it to the right degree. Rub it into the wood on mutton cloth until the pores are full and then rub off the surplus completely.



As a complete contrast, you can spray aerosol paint on the wood to get a dark glossy finish. In this case black has been used and then a gilt cream rubbed into the pores for a striking effect. You can buy different shades of gold or silver creams.



Various and quite subtle colour shades are possible, as you can see from this sample board.

PAINT EFFECTS



The most dramatic differences can be created using standard or specialist paint finishes. Here, a strong colour is being overpainted with a cream paint, adding a sealer coat of aqueous varnish in between.



Rubbing back with abrasive by hand creates a deliberate worn effect that is more pleasing than just plain colour alone. Both of these colours are from the Milk Paint range by General Finishes.

PAINT TECHNIQUE





First, sanding back with an orbital sander and then applying a coat of varnish gives the initial finishing option – a 'tiger' effect.



The finished job couldn't look more different and here's how it was done...



The next possibility is to break the very harsh straight lines by applying glued-on mouldings, easily obtained from a DIY store. Compare the photos above to see how this can change the 'look'.



In this case, the client provided a vase from which to create a colour sample board for them to choose a wood finish from. That way, they could be sure the pair of units they were decorating would fit in with their room décor.



After applying paint and the sealing coat, a dark gel stain was wiped on and then heavily rubbed out using a piece of abrasive web, rather like a household scourer. Only a limited amount of the brown stain was left behind.

HARDWARE



Furniture wouldn't be complete without hardware – knobs, hinges, etc. Brass can be cleaned and then darkened with a patinating fluid.



It is then rubbed back with fine wirewool for an 'authentic' aged look, so it blends nicely.



By contrast, you can buy all manner of ceramic, glass and wood handles or knobs. These crystal knobs reflect rainbow colours for a striking effect.

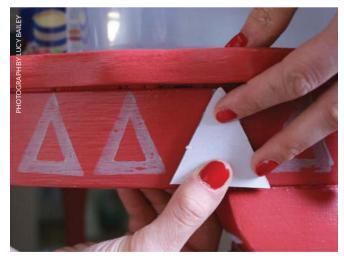
MAKEOVER EXAMPLES



Surely this has got to be a really desperate example of a table only fit for a bonfire...



... and yet, after a complete re-gluing, sanding and staining, it's almost unrecognisable!



You can either buy or make stencils to paint through, or make lino cuts. Adding shapes or letters by stencilling breaks up plain surfaces and adds an individual 'signature' to the appearance of a piece of furniture.



There are times when the genuinely old can be mixed with new. These old pine doors were cleaned; the top is a very worn scaffold board re-jointed with 'breadboard ends' and the carcass is painted using a Rust-Oleum chalk effect paint.

So you see, all of the possibilities for finishing your upcycled and recycled wood projects are out there...

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David's drawer

Peter Sefton helps 'long course' student David Partington learn the art of drawer making

ne of the first skills we teach our long course students is the art of dovetail cutting; it's such a fundamental skill that brings together accurate marking out, sawing to the line and precision chisel work. Making your first perfect dovetail joint is very satisfying. As the course has progressed, the students have learnt the art of drawer making and fitting. David Partington has incorporated a couple of drawers into his brown oak media unit.

A perfect piston-fit drawer is always considered a sign of quality making, but this relies just as much on the carcass as it does the drawer itself. David's carcass has been made square and true. The next stage is timber selection for the drawer.

Choice of timber

David has chosen some great brown oak for the drawer fronts, to match



The drawer's back corner has through dovetails

the cabinet and some highly figured quartersawn white oak for the drawer sides. The timber is left to settle and acclimatise to our dry workshop before the oak is 'deeped' (sawn through its width) to produce thin drawer sides.

Preparing the wood

In theory, deeping quartersawn boards should be straightforward, but timber doesn't read the same theory books that we do! An alternative option is to plane down thick boards to their finished thickness. This seems wasteful but does ensure that you will always finish at the correct thickness while removing any defects. Best practice is to remove equal amounts from both sides over two or three machining sessions, leaving adequate time between sessions to allow the timber to move.

The option chosen here, however, is to deep the 27mm thick boards on the bandsaw to produce two bookmatched drawer sides which then require planing to thickness. We usually 'face side' and skim thickness the boards prior to cutting in half. This ensures you are bandsawing from a flat and straight board rather than following a bent and twisted plank. The outer surface is exposed to fresh air which reduces the timber's shock when cut in half. Releasing stresses and seeing daylight for the first time can make the boards 'cup'. These boards



Cupped boards after deeping



Boards cut in half, edged and back in cramp gluing up

Wood

- Brown oak (Quercus robur)
- White oak (Quercus alba)

have cupped more than expected, so we need a backup plan!

A perfect solution

We have cut the boards in half widthways, edge planed them and glued them back together. This effectively reduces the cupping by half. After surface planing and thicknessing again, we end up with perfectly flat boards that you would never know had caused us problems.

Timber likes to throw curve balls on occasions; the name of the game is adapting your plan to overcome them.

Peter Sefton

Peter Sefton is a wellknown furniture maker who runs courses in fine woodworking, teaching



and mentoring students at the Peter Sefton Furniture School. He also owns Wood Workers Workshop and he is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers. Web:

www.peterseftonfurnitureschool.com

KITTED OUT

Take a look at the tools, gadgets and gizmos that we think you will enjoy using in your workshop

Bosch wireless charging

The prize-winning wireless charging system from Bosch has a new addition in the 10.8 V class: a compact yet powerful GBA 10.8 V 2.5 Ah OW-B professional battery. Enjoy the benefits of inductive charging in the 10.8 V class for the first time. Tools using these batteries are charged whenever they are in contact with the wireless charging station, ensuring that they are ready for use at all times.

The charging stations themselves are more robust than conventional chargers; since they no longer have any contact points, they are durable against water, dust and dirt. The range also features mobile solutions such as the Wireless Charging L-Boxx Bay which charges on the way to the job site.

Contact: Bosch **Tel:** 03447 360 109

Web: www.bosch-professional.com

MINI TEST

Trend seven piece flat bit set

This is part of Trend's vast Snappy range, encompassing drill and driver bits. It comes as a set of useful sizes – 10, 12, 16, 20, 22, 25 and 32mm. They can fit directly

into a drill chuck or via a Snappy hex adaptor. The case holds the bits with elastic and it has a hook-and-loop cover closure, fitting on to a belt, including Trend's own toolbelt.

Verdict

(pun unintended) but are nonetheless a decent set of workman-like flat bits for creating access to pipes, wires, etc. The long nose points mean you can't really create 'blind' holes. The case, with its belt loop feature, is actually a very useful way of carrying and storing them when working on site.

These bits are not revolutionary

Visit: www. trend-uk.com



Blåkläder workwear

This Swedish company has increased its focus on construction workwear, with a new range in the craftsman series of trousers. These are now available in a range of shorts, and in a smart new black version. The hardwearing trousers are lightweight, but still offer some great features, like triple-stitched seams, reinforced nail pockets, high breathability and Cordura on the knees and back pockets. Blåkläder look closely at how their clothes are worn in the real world so they can engineer them to suit the job in hand. They offer a lifetime seam guarantee.

Contact: Blåkläder Tel: 0800 028 8234 Web: www.blaklader.com



Charnwood heavy duty router table

The rigid steel floor stand provides a comfortable working height for handling large panels. The table top is hinged to this and can be raised up using lifting handles, making the router more accessible for adjustments. The table aperture is 100mm diameter with 60mm and 30mm insert rings. There are two fence-mounted feather boards and a front feather board for secure clamping of the workpiece. There is a table-mounted scale for setting the fence and a 68mm extraction outlet.

A centralising jig allows you to set your router accurately into the middle of the aperture. The newly-designed universal router clamps are ideal for removing and refitting the router without losing the settings, saving time and effort. A set of four outfeed fence shims allowing up to a 4.5mm step in 0.5mm increments can be added, providing support to the workpiece. The cast metal mitre fence runs in a T-slot and is particularly accurate. The guide swings from 90° to 30° each way, with locater stops at 45° and a further stop at 90° for accurate end grain work.



FAMAG carbide tipped woodworking drill bits and countersinks

The FAMAG 1593 series is a new carbide-tipped woodworking drill bit, specifically for drilling hardwood. The 'Type N' spirals are ground with a very steep slope. Twin flutes, without a back guide, provide minimal friction in the bore and considerably reduce heat generation in the drill bit and the release of resins from the timber. The steep helix ensures that hardwood chips are ejected quickly from the drill bit, preventing debris build up and eliminating a second potential source of friction.

The 1593 TCT wood drill bit is available in sizes from 3.0–12.0mm and can be ordered in sets or individually.

The VARIO-Countersink 2202 is the perfect partner for 1593 TCT drills. You can mount variable twist drills of 3–8mm diameter. The tool consists of two half shells which are fastened by means of two clamping screws on the drill. These high performance carbide-tipped tools can be purchased together, in a beautiful wooden boxed set.

MINITEST



Kirjes Orbicut

This rotary shaping tool comes in two sizes and fits into drill chucks and flexible drives. The larger version in particular looks a bit scary, but in fact both versions are limited to the 0.1 blade projection only, as the cutter body prevents deeper cuts. For shaping things like spoons, bowls, etc., they have plenty of potential uses. The cutters are made from HSS (high speed steel) and therefore last a long time. They allow the creation of awkward shapes that scorps and the like would be required for normally. Suitable for green or dry wood.

Verdict

Care is needed loading these cutters into a chuck; they should be tightened without your fingers in the way of the blades! The rate of attack on a block of hard, dry timber was slower than I expected and I needed to select the high drill speed to get a quicker result. It needs to cut on the 'down side', i.e. rotating into the material. It is quicker than using the equivalent hand tool and perversely, safer too. Not cheap but once bought, this equipment should last for a long time.

Prices:

- Small 20mm diameter / 6mm shank / 2 x HSS blades £54.94
- \bullet Large 40mm diameter / 11 shank / 2 x HSS blades £74.95

Visit: www.classichandtools.com



NEWS & EVENTS

All the latest events and news from the world of woodworking...

Trend provide Help to Heroes

Trend Routing Technology has donated over £700 to a wood workshop, funded and kitted out by donations from woodworkers all over the world, at the Help for Heroes northern Recovery Centre.

Wounded, injured and sick servicemen, women and veterans are being supported at Phoenix House in Catterick, have benefited from participating in weekly woodcraft sessions. The new workshop has a wide range of machinery, tools and wood. Woodworking crafts can be practised as therapy, to learn new skills, gain qualifications or even as the first steps into a new career, as part of Help for Heroes Career Recovery pathway.

Driven by Warrant Officer and Phoenix House volunteer, Chris Morgan, who heads the Woodwork Volunteers, the workshop was ready for use within 18 months of the start of fundraising. Luke Hulley, Trend's Head of Marketing, presented Chris with a cheque, raised from collections at recent woodworking shows. Luke commented:



Luke Hulley gives Help for Heroes donations to Chris Morgan

"After meeting Chris Morgan last year in Harrogate, we were keen to support the charity and Trend gave away rugby balls in return for small donations. I am delighted that so many of my colleagues and Trend customers donated to such a worthy cause."

Chris Morgan added: "Learning new skills is a key part of this support. The woodshed and all the tools in it enable us to expand the range of skills for visitors to Phoenix House Recovery Centre. Some arrive in a poor state, but leave feeling better, which benefits both them and their families at home too."

Contact: Help For Heroes Web: www.helpforheroes.org.uk

Demonstrations from a minimalist woodworker

Vic Tesolin from the Canadian tool company Veritas, will be giving demonstrations this November.

As author of *The Minimalist* Woodworker, published by Spring House Press, Vic says: "You don't need to have all the tools, hundreds of square feet of space or thousands of dollars worth of gear. What you need is the desire to make something with your own two hands."



Catch Vic's demonstrations at the following venues:

- 12–13 November: Axminster Cardiff store, Valegate Retail Park, Cardiff
- 18–20 November: North of England Woodworking & Power Tool Show, Harrogate

Contact: Axminster Tools & Machinery Web: www.axminster.co.uk

Transparent wood can trap light

Researchers at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Sweden are developing optically transparent wood that can be mass-produced and used in buildings in place of glass. The wood is a type of veneer developed using a nanoscale process where lignin is removed and a polymer is introduced.

Lars Berglund, a professor at Wallenberg Wood

Science Center at KTH, said: "By using this modification approach, we can preserve the attractive features of wood, such as low density and high strength, making wood a much more advanced building material."

Contact: Wallenberg Wood Science Center Web: www.wwsc.se



Revolution in apprenticeships

The National Association of Shopfitters (NAS), in collaboration with the British Woodworking Federation (BWF), has launched a new Centre of Excellence (CoE) network of colleges and training providers, ensuring the survival of quality apprenticeship training for the joinery and wood machine industry. This initiative comes in the wake of the government's decision to implement an apprenticeship levy and the industry's call for quality skills training.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by four Centres from across the UK: Building Crafts College (Stratford, London), Didac Limited (Bristol), Leeds College of Building (Leeds) and Neath Port Talbot College (South Wales). Centres have agreed to be audited by the NAS/BWF.

Robert Hudson, Director of NAS, explained: "The CoE concept gives the industry the opportunity to access high quality and flexible apprenticeship training that includes bench joinery and wood machining. These Centres were selected as part of the pilot as they have actively engaged with us and employers to ensure they offer the skills employers want and need." Each apprentice will be on



Dave Campbell (BWF Training Director), Cliff Thrumble (BWF President) and Bob Devine (Head of Curriculum Leeds College of Building)

a nationally recognised apprenticeship framework/standard and will have the option of adding extra modules needed for their training to meet employer needs.

Contact: National Association of Shopfitters Web: www.shopfitters.org

FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

• Into the Trees

Discover the amazing world of trees, woods and forests in the amazing natural location of the Ashdown Forest. Open your eyes to the ways in which we can play, work, learn and explore among leaves, branches and trunks.

When: 3-4 September, 2016

Where: Pippingford Park, East Sussex
Web: www.into-the-trees.co.uk

Fangfest Festival of Practical Arts

A celebration of traditional crafts, with rocking horse carving, pole lathe demonstrations, basket making, archery, wool spinning, pottery demonstrations, children's craft activities and much more. When: 3–4 September, 2016 Where: Fangfoss, near York Web: www.facebook.com/Fangfest

Weald of Kent Craft and Design Show

Handcrafted pieces for the home and garden, as well as workshops, cookery demonstrations and children's activities. Have a go at pencil making, woodturning, paper making and pyrography, all with guidance from the experts. When: 9–11 September, 2016 Where: Penshurst Place, near Tonbridge Web: www.ichfevents.co.uk

Bentley Woodfair

Discover woodlands, forestry, timber, trees woodcrafts and much more...
With two fields of stands, exhibits and displays, plus an amazing woodland full of demonstrations and activities.
The Woodfair supports local rural businesses and crafts while educating and entertaining families.
When: 23–25 September, 2016
Where: Bentley Wildfowl & Motor Museum, near Lewes
Web: www.bentley.org.uk/woodfair

Other events

• Surrey Hills Wood Fair

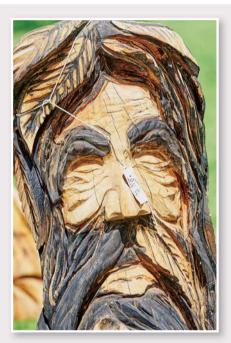
When: 1-2 October, 2016 Where: Birtley House Estate, Bramley Web: www.surreyhills.org/events/ the-surrey-hills-wood-fair

• Autumn Countryside Show

When: 8-9 October, 2016 Where: Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, near Chichester Web: www.wealddown.co.uk/events/ autumn-countryside-show

Tweed Valley Forest Festival

When: 21–30 October, 2016 Where: Tweed Valley Forest Park, Peebles Web: www.forest-festival.com



Weald of Kent Craft and Design Show

Handmade Edinburgh: The Contemporary Crafts Design Fair

When: 28–30 October, 2016 Where: The Hub, Edinburgh Web: www.handmadeinbritain.co.uk

Woodland Craft Show

When: 29–30 October, 2016 Where: Lancing College, West Sussex Web: www.woodlandcrafts.co.uk/ craft-shows-lancing-college in profile

We meet self-taught woodcarver

Jason Townsend

aving studied computer science at university, the question of how Jason Townsend got into woodcarving springs to mind. Having been carving for five years now, Jason was always fascinated by wood and woodcarving. However, while at school Jason and his fellow students weren't allowed access to real wood, only using MDF in their design and technology classes, so Jason had no experience in working with tools and how to use them properly. Even now, Jason explains: "Learning what tools to use and how to use them is a journey that will take me a while vet."

It was because of his girlfriend that Jason first looked into the craft of woodcarving; as he tells us, she often likes to wear her hair up, using hair sticks to hold her hair in place rather than clips and bands. This provided Jason's initial inspiration, with the idea of making a hair stick for his girlfriend, rather than having to buy Far-Eastern imports in Camden Market.

Not long after making his first hair sticks, Jason was invited to a friend's wedding. As a wedding gift to the couple, Jason took inspiration from some Welsh lovespoons he had seen near the time. Jason had now taken his first steps in woodcarving, but he tells us that his early attempts were 'crude'. After carving a few pieces and a few mishaps, he quickly found himself bitten by the woodcarving bug.

Jason Townsend Below: One of Jason's lovespoon designs – a wedding gift to his sister and her husband Jason's many varied hair fork carvings



Favourite carvings

"As an art-form, woodcarving can be quite daunting when you look at some of the incredible work done by the many talented woodcarvers out there," he tells us. Most of Jason's carvings are simple and a great many of them are hair sticks and hair forks, which he sells online and at craft fairs. Humble about his talent, Jason tells us it still surprises and delights him every time someone buys one of his items.

One of his favourite carvings thus far is a wavy hair stick, which he designed a few years ago. The design proved to be very popular and Jason has now carved the same design in at least 20 different types of wood. When looking at transferring his work to a larger scale, Jason explains: "I struggle when it comes to scaling up my carving, so I find it very challenging to make larger items, such as lovespoons." However, Jason was very happy with a lovespoon he carved for his sister's wedding last year. It was approximately 430mm long and "had quite a contemporary feel about it," as Jason describes it. To personalise the piece, he included in the design the first initial of his sister's name and her husband's name, a pair of martini glasses - "because they like drinking cocktails," he tells us - and a pair of palm trees, to represent their ceremony, which took place in Aruba. Jason also decided to include a pair of, what he had intended to be, swans. "Unfortunately, at some point when designing the spoon they got a little

mixed up with doves, so

their necks seemed too long to be doves and too short to be swans," he explains. Nevertheless, he was pleased with the result and felt the piece of silver birch (*Betula pendula*) he used to make the spoon looked great.

Awards

"My carvings are so small and simple - for the most part - that I'm not sure they are particularly suitable for competitions," he tells us. He did, however, win a blue ribbon in the 2014 International Woodcarvers' Congress in the 'Jewellery' category. Jason's winning piece was a necklace he had carved from a piece of plum (Prunus spp.) wood "that had some wonderful purple figuration in it." On paper, Jason thought his design looked quite interesting and had intended the necklace to look like a piece of crumpled and twisted metal. As with many of his projects, he found the translation of 2D design into 3D work rather difficult. "I often forget to think about the 'sides' of a carving or the 'back' and this leads to significant problems when working in-the-round," he comments. "In the end, the necklace looked OK and reminds me of a piece of Plasticine with different coloured

streaks running through it." As Jason learns to tackle larger and more complex projects, he hopes to enter more competitions.

Work ethos

Jason feels the design of a piece is the most important consideration when starting a project. He tells us: "I like my woodcarvings to have a contemporary feel to them and I try to avoid using other people's designs. There are so ➤



Coffee scoop



Above: 'Holly Oak' pendant in Holly. 1st place in Jewellery category, International Woodcarving Congress 2015.

Left: Jason in his workshop

many people who are much more talented at woodcarving than me, so I try to make my carvings a little different so that I might be in with a chance of standing out from the crowd."

Jason tells us he has come unstuck several times by not thinking the design through carefully enough before starting a project. Working out how the design will work in 3D is still a challenge for Jason.

A perfect example would be the palm trees on his sister's wedding spoon, which looked good on paper – the fronds were drawn at angles so that you could see they were palm trees. On the actual carving, though, he soon realised that the fronds ought to be

carved quite differently when in 3D. Having already used a scrollsaw to cut out the design, he had to cope with this mistake as best he could, but he points out that a bit more thought about the design "would have created a much better carving."

Jason is self-taught and is still learning all the time, subsequently his approach to carving is constantly evolving. He is fascinated by wood and trees and loves to try carving different types of wood. He admits that early on he didn't think too carefully about the properties of wood before trying to use it in a project, but this led to him spending a lot of time on carvings that did not turn out as planned, because of his choice of timber.

One piece of his work that Jason is pleased with is a 430mm lovespoon he carved from mahogany (*Khaya ivorensis*), that depicts the Guildhall in Thaxted, Essex. However, this wood – possibly sapele (*Entandrophragma cylindricum*) – couldn't hold the detail that he wanted to carve into it, so the result was therefore disappointing.

Pentagram hair fork in bog oak

He also tried carving a few lovespoons from a plank of elm (*Ulmus procera*). While the plank looked nice, Jason soon found that elm was not ideally suited to the carvings he was trying to do, as the grain of the elm and some punky areas from spalting meant that he couldn't get the detail he wanted or a nice finish, telling us: "They looked crude." Jason now makes sure to pay careful attention to the wood he chooses for a project, because each project is a significant investment in time.

Inspiration

"I admire the work of so many woodcarvers. The carvings that people are able to produce are a constant source of wonder and amazement to me," Jason tells us. Being a member of the British Woodcarvers Association has opened his eyes to the many possibilities out there, but also to the "staggering array of talent" that people have. Jason is a great fan of Dave Western's lovespoons, saying: "I really like his contemporary approach to the subject. If I could carve lovespoons half as well as that, I would be very happy!" Jason has found Dave Western's books on the subject to be quite inspirational.

Since school, Jason has been a big fan of Analytic Cubism from the early part of the 20th century, by the likes of Georges Braque and Pablo Picasso. He also mentions liking Andrew Thomas' carvings and is a particular fan of a series of cubist musical instrument carvings Andrew made. In another area of carving, Jason tells us: "I really admire carvings that are incredibly intricate or are on a very small scale, so I like a lot of Netsuke pieces."

Distinct carving

"I'm not sure that I have vet developed a distinctive approach to my carving," Jason wonders. Always experimenting with new design elements or techniques and trying to increase his woodcarving vocabulary, Jason tells us that he is still very much at the stage of 'finding' his technique and style in woodcarving. There are some distinctive elements to his carvings, though: "I use a lot of different woods and am always experimenting with different kinds. I also like to sand my carvings; I like to be able to see the details of the grain and I feel that an item is incomplete until it has been sanded." Having said that, he hates the process of sanding, saying: "It takes me forever and can bore me to tears." Although, as Jason points out, if he's carving an item to go in someone's hair, he can't really get away with not doing it. Jason tends to mainly use knives in his carving, but that is most probably due to the small scale of most of his work rather than a preference. He tells us that he can't really work on small items like hair forks in-the-round with anything other than knives.

The future

Jason tells us he has many carvings waiting for him to sand down and



many more carvings in progress. He works on a steady stream of hair sticks and hair forks and has currently finished nearly 500 hair sticks so far! "Repetitive items," he says, "give me a chance to refine some of my skills."

Other projects he has on the go include a variety of lovespoons and art spoons at various stages of completion. Jason is also trying his hand at a series of sculptural pieces using London plane (*Platanus bybrida*) and burr elm. The sculptural pieces are quite a challenge for Jason, because he has had to scale up his carvings, but it has certainly been a learning curve for him.

Jason would like to try tackling larger carvings, with greater details in the future: "I like to be challenged, so I am always looking to undertake more and more ambitious projects," he explains. ■





DWORKING GEOMETRY

Simon Rodway takes a look at gates

or as long as people have been building walls to protect and define where they live, it is likely that gates have been a part of that process. Although the earliest examples have long since vanished, there are many surviving gates in castles and fortifications from the medieval period onwards. As well as having a defensive purpose, gates have also served as symbolic

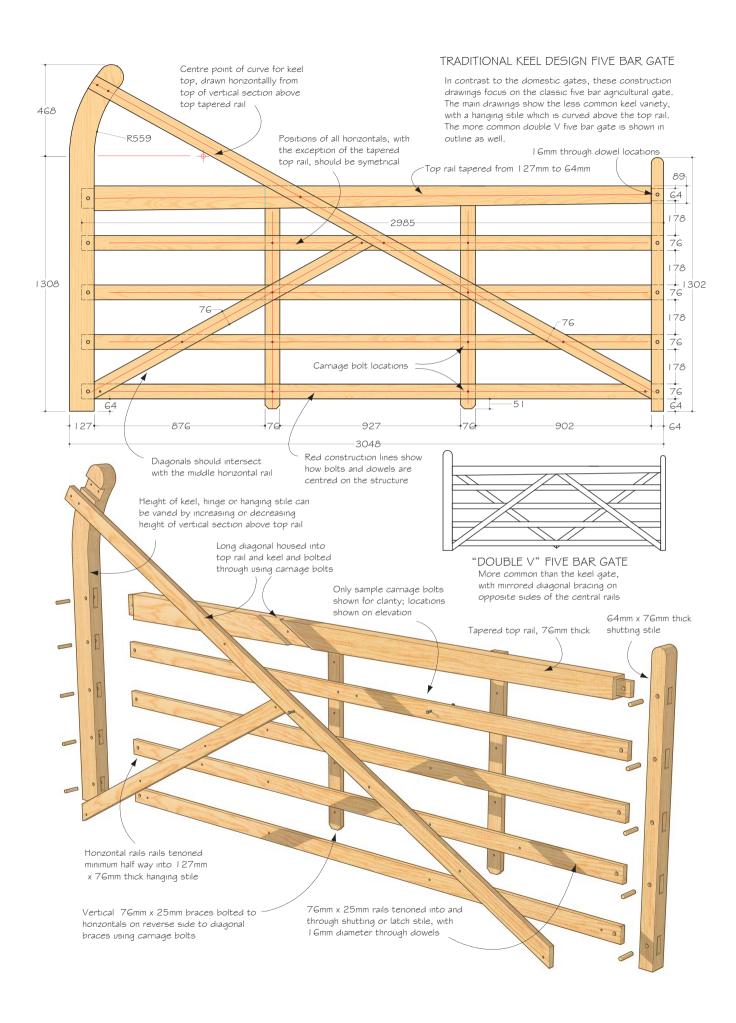
boundaries, as in the lychgate seen at entrances to churchyards. The construction of wooden gates presents a range of technical problems due to the constant exposure to the weather, and the longevity of a gate depends on a combination of good detailing and jointing techniques and the selection of suitable timber, ideally hardwood or a softwood like western red cedar.

SIMPLE FRAMED GATE WITH THROUGH DOWEL JOINTS

TYPES & CONSTRUCTION OF GATES Contemporary domestic gates can really be divided into two basic types; solid or boarded gates, which may be framed as well, and Vertical boards open, framed gates with a variety of muntins and shaped rails. The -1041 gate shown on the left has a minimum of structure, essentially just a series of vertical boards joined using splines or loose tongues and braced across the back using a series of horizontal boards or 229 ledges which are screwed into the back of the gate. Gates are obviously subject to much greater variations in humidity and temperature 102 than internal joinery, and timber movement is a major factor in designing a gate able to withstand weathering. Slotted screw fixings would be needed in the ledges shown here, for example Protected end grain of vertival boards 508 -35-102 Ledge 1854 Slotted screw fixing 508 BRACED GATE DETAIL The boarded gate shown right has the addition of diagonal 102 braces as well as framing. This gate has the advantage of a rebated head or top rail with 305 the vertical boarding stopped into the bottom of the rail, providing some protection for the end grain of the FRAMED, LEDGED boarding from the elements **\$ BRACED GATE** LEDGED GATE Posts concreted into ground to a depth of 650mm approx -30 80 Decorative features on gates often have a functional origin; rounding or angles to the tops of post and stiles and chamfers on the tops of rails all help to shed water and prevent rotting of timbers. -35-R35 96 Where possible, metal fixings should 937 be kept to a minimum due in part to differences in expansion/contraction in hot weather; dowels are often used 25 although some gate makers even see 56 these as a potential weakness which may fail in time due to shrikage of the dowel, opening the face of the gate to water ingress. Through wedged mortice and tenons overcome this problem and are probably the best gate joint for this

DETAIL SHOWING THROUGH WEDGED

MORTICE AND TENON JOINT





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Wormy maple side table

Something's really bugging **Michael T Collins**. He's treating us to a worm-eaten side table project – very tasty...

s a woodworker and very avid 'upcycler', I am always loath to see wood go to waste. So, when a friend said they had some 'wormy' maple they couldn't use, I just had to have it. Instantly, I knew that I wanted to make something with it that would show off the worm holes, creating a beautifully organic effect in the piece.

Tenons

Prepare all parts to final dimension. Legs can be left 25mm longer; this extra wood, called 'horns', located at the mortise end of the legs, will prevent 'blow out' when chopping the mortises.

1 Start by marking the tenon's depth, based on the mortise depth you

want. My rule is that tenons should be approximately three quarters of the width of the mortise stock. Gang the rails and with a marking knife, scribe the shoulder line on all faces.

2 Set the mortise gauge using the width of the chisel. I make my tenons half the width of the stock, so 19mm stock will have a 9mm mortise. I find this a good size for most mortises and it is the width of my mortise chisel, not by coincidence!

Adjust the gauge so that the mortise is in the rail centre. Mark the tenons, before setting the rails aside.



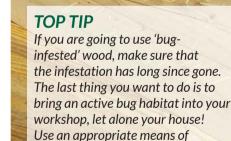
Maple (Acer saccharum)

Cutting List

- Legs 4@45 x 45 x 760mm (including 25mm waste)
- Rails 4 @ 360 x 100 x 19mm (including tenons)
- Top 3@154 x 460 x 25mm

Tools

- Rip and tenon saw
- 10mm mortise chisel
- Jack, jointer and block planes
- Brace and 9mm twist bit
- 19mm bevel edge chisel
- Marking knife and mortise gauge
- Try square



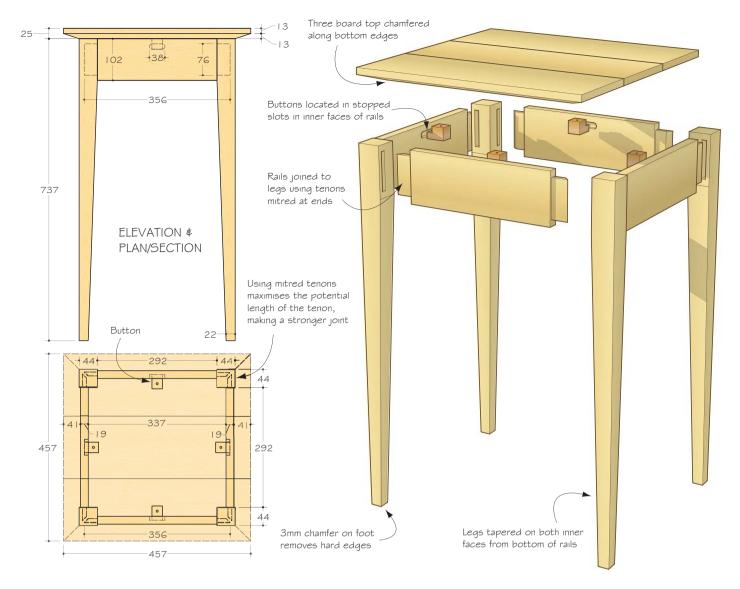


woodworm treatment if necessary.





PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAELT COLLIN



Chopping the mortises

Arrange the legs to give the best look and distinguish them with a cabinetmaker's mark, keeping the apex points to the front. Using this method ensures you always have legs in the correct orientation for marking out and assembly.

5 Mark the face and edge side and gang the parts together. Lay out the mortise location using the rail width, a try square and pencil. The actual mortises are going to be centred and 25mm shorter than this dimension.

6 It's a good idea to identify the general location of mortises with pencil, prior to marking. It is so easy to chop the mortises, only to find that one is in the wrong face. How do I know this, you might ask? Well, from personal experience of course!

Scribe the mortises carefully so you have two clear lines to work to, in the case of each mortise.









Place the wood over a leg of Oyour bench so that the forces are concentrated in the chop rather than absorbed by the bench. Chopping a mortise is a matter of placing the chisel with the bevel facing the mortise and about 1.5mm from the end (this will protect wood from being damaged while removing the waste). Now 'march' the chisel towards the other end of the mortise. With each successive blow, the chisel will go deeper into the mortise. Continue to within 1.5mm of the end, then 'about face' and repeat the process back to the start, clearing out the chopped wood as you go. Only remove wood that has been chopped; never try and pry out un-chopped material as you are likely to split the wood and, at worst, bend or even snap the chisel. Lastly, true up the ends of the mortise by chopping vertically down the end mark. If two mortises are going to intersect, only chop the mortise down to the level of the intersecting mortise. This way you will have support at the bottom when chopping the intersecting mortise. You can draw a line or add a bit of tape on the chisel as a depth gauge.

Shaping the legs

I have long admired the elegantly tapered legs of George Hepplewhite furniture, so I wanted to incorporate tapered legs into this project. It was with a certain amount of trepidation that I embarked on tapering these legs, wondering if there was enough substance with all that wormy wood! Luckily in this case, the wood still maintained a lot of integrity.

The legs should taper to half their original thickness, so from 45mm to 22mm. The tapers are on the two inner mortise faces of the legs and start at the bottom of the rail position. Mark these for the same reason we did the mortises, because it's easy to taper the wrong face.

10 Using a pencil, mark the upper extent of the taper and then add the final dimensions on the bottom of the leg. Connect these locations with a diagonal line. Now remove the bulk of the waste with a rip saw. Add a small wedge to the top of the rip to lessen the friction on the saw.

1 1 Plane down to the line with a jack plane and finish using



TOP TIP

Mortises and tenons should be gauged from the face side – by doing this, any errors in the wood's thickness will be orientated to the back and not affect the joint. This table will have a 3mm reveal between the legs and rails on all sides. Using the same mortise gauge setting that you used to mark the tenons, add an additional 3mm between the fence and the position of the first spur.









a jointer plane. Be careful not to encroach beyond the upper marks as it will ruin the mating surface between the rail and the leg.

12 Once the legs have been tapered, 'ease' all the edges with a block plane.

13Add a 3mm chamfer to the bottom of each leg. This looks better, prevents breakout and avoids catching or scraping floorcoverings.



Cutting the tenons

14 Cut a 'V' groove on the waste side and then pare out a notch using a chisel. This will give your saw a place to run and produces a very clean shoulder. Saw down to the shoulder marks. This technique was first shown on the Shaker shelf project in *Woodworking Crafts* issue 16.

15 Place the rail in the vice at 45° and mark a small 'V' notch on the waste sides of the mortise line. Saw down to the ends of the scribe marks you can see. Do not try and saw to the shoulder in one pass as this is prone to error. Rotate the wood in the vice and again saw at 45° using the saw kerf as a guide. The small triangle of wood at the bottom of the kerf can be removed with a few saw cuts.

16 Finally, use a chisel to clean up the shoulders. Test fit as you go and label each joint.

17 These tenons are going to intersect inside the leg and need a 45° bevel on the ends. I have cut them shorter to allow a small gap between the mitres, enabling seasonal movement inside the leg. Dry fit the legs and rails, checking for squareness.

Attaching top to base

18 These boards are likely to move with the seasons by approximately 3mm for every 300mm. Because of this seasonal movement, the last thing we want to do is rigidly screw the top to the base. Instead, you will make some L-shaped buttons to be inserted into pockets, that allow the top to float. Using a 9mm twist bit, create a 32mm pocket in the centre of each rail, 12mm from the top, and chop out the waste.

1 Then, using some left over hardwood (I used cherry) cut a 11 x 12mm rebate on the edge of a board. Then drill a countersunk hole and cut into buttons 25mm wide.

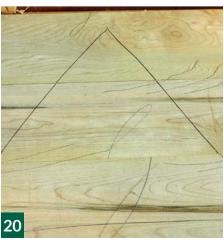
The top

20 I did not want to use wormy wood for the top, but instead chose some of the maple that was spalted (with partial rot), which gave some very nice patterning. While the glue is setting on the base, select three pieces of wood that have similar grain structure and arrange them to produce a pleasing look.

















21 Plane mating pieces together; this way the joint is pretty much guaranteed to fit. This technique was explained in detail in my project on making a table top in *Woodworking Crafts* issue 2.

22A rubbed glue joint and some clamping pressure is all that is needed to keep these boards together. Wipe away any excess glue. Once dried, any squeeze-out can be removed with a card scraper. Use eye protection when doing this; dried glue is sharp!

23 The top needs to be cut to a 'hair' over 460 x 460mm, so that it can be planed to the final size. Add a chamfer on the underside so that the edge is 12mm and it is as wide as the 38mm overhang. This will give a pleasing edge and gives the illusion that the top is thinner than it really is.

24 With the plane held at an angle to the grain direction, plane the end grain first. Any tear-out will be cleaned up when the long grain is chamfered. Make sure that the chamfers meet at the corners. Always start by working on the underside of a table. This way you finish with the visible surface uppermost and it is less likely to get damaged by placing it down on something.

25 Use a smoothing plane to finish the top surface, with the blade set to produce reasonably fine shavings. Lightly ease the upper edge with one pass of 220 grit.

Attaching the top

Before attaching the top, sand all the parts with 180 and 220 grit. Then give the table two coats of amber de-waxed shellac, sanding lightly with 320 grit between coats and allow one hour to dry. In this case, it really brought out the crazy wormy pattern as it soaked deeper into the worm trails. It's a good idea to finish the top and base separately so that the shellac does not glue the parts together. Shellac dries very fast so feather the edges in with a polishing rubber as you work.

Supplies

De-waxed shellac is available from: www.shellacfinishes.com

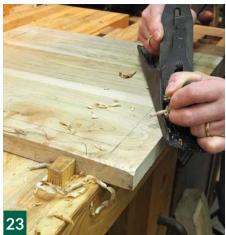






26 Once dry, the buttons can be screwed into place. Because the rebate on the buttons is 1.5mm less than the distance from the underside of the table to the pockets, the top will be cinched tight against the top of the rails but will still allow movement.

27 Finally, give the top three more coats of shellac using a rubber (a wad of cotton), lightly sanding between coats. The result of your labours is an organic effect from reclaimed wormy wood!







Michael T Collins

British-born Michael has been working with wood off and on for 40 years.



He moved to New York in 1996 and over the years, has made bespoke furniture, including clocks, inlay work, Adams fireplaces, book cases and reproduction furniture.

Web:

www.sawdustandwoodchips.com Twitter: @sawdustandwood



PHOTOGRAPH BY GMC/ANTHONY BAILEY

Fine steel wirewool is inflammable; the filamentous glow is extremely hot and difficult to extinguish unless dunked in a water tank. Rags covered in oils or solvent-based finishes must be laid out to dry or dunked in water



Michael, busy in the workshop

Amber Bailey asks furniture maker and on-call fireman Michael Brett some burning questions and gets some very safe answers

Designer/maker/fireman

A former Design and Craft student at Grantham College, Lincolnshire, Michael continued his Furniture Design and Making studies at Buckinghamshire New University. Michael Brett Furniture was established five years ago in High Wycombe. Running a thriving workshop specialising in bespoke furniture, retail installations and commercial furniture, Michael also finds time to work as an on-call firefighter for the High Wycombe branch of Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue

Service. Who better to turn to for fire safety advice in the workshop than a 'woodworking fireman'?

Ever ready

The role of an on-call firefighter is to provide cover for the on-station staff while they themselves are out on a job. They also assist with the backfilling of station appliances (such as fire engines) when staffing levels are insufficient. High Wycombe Fire and Rescue Service is home to 60 full time firefighters and 10 Retained Duty System firefighters.

Checking for risks

The biggest danger areas in the workshop are machines that cause friction or faulty electrics. The spray shop is always a risk; chemicals need to be stored in a safe location out of direct sunlight. Compressed air tanks need emptying after use and bleeding and checking for corrosion regularly. Michael checks theirs every six months, along with a service.

Safe materials storage

They try to avoid stocking timber and flammable liquids at Michael Brett Furniture. If they have to store timber, it is stacked on a rack to avoid trip hazards. Easy access for two people to handle lengths of timber off the rack is essential. Safe manual handling





Michael Brett Furniture produces a diverse range of high quality projects for both private and commercial clients

is incredibly important. Flammable liquids are stored in a dry cupboard, with labels to confirm the contents.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL BRETT

Essential safety equipment

A well-stocked first aid kit, telephone and fire extinguishers are essential in any work environment. Dust extraction equipment reduces the likelihood of trip hazards and avoids material such as sawdust being left on surfaces that may create a risk of fire. Push sticks should be present on every machine; hands should never be anywhere near a blade. All tools and machinery should be well maintained, lubricated and cutters kept sharp. If you experience difficulties, check the sharpness of cutters and the correct setup.

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

Michael provides his staff with basic PPE: ear defenders, dust and hazardous particles mask, eye protection and steel toe boots. The most important thing about a workshop environment is to understand how to operate machinery. Always isolate the machine before setup. As an employer, Michael is responsible for giving detailed safety advice on every piece of equipment. Members of staff can only use the equipment independently once they have passed a three-month probation period and assessment.

Keeping records

Most woodworkers will be familiar with COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health). In addition, if members of the public are entering your workspace, by law you need an incident logbook, health and safety policy and evacuation procedures. Remember, your workshop can never be safe enough. Staff members have a responsibility to report any incident, hazard, risk or accident.

Furniture fires

Parker Knoll in High Wycombe infamously suffered a fire in the 1970s that destroyed its factory. More recently, Stewart Linford Ltd's workshop suffered a fire in 2011. **Bucks Fire and Rescue Service** responded with force to this latter incident and quickly controlled it. Thermal imaging cameras and a PPV (fan to extract smoke) were used. Some of the recent workshop-based fires in the area appear to be linked to the structural integrity of the building or were gas cylinder related.

Safety summary

Michael always reminds his staff of a comment made to him early in his career, 'Safety first, last and always'. Common sense has to be practised in every workplace. Regular safety checks of equipment are essential. You cannot foresee all hazards, so make absolutely sure you have an escape plan. A clean work environment really does result in a happy work environment.

In case of a fire or chemical emergency

- 1. Report the incident to the nearest member of staff
- 2. Call the fire service by dialling 999 (or 112 on a mobile)
- 3. Exit the building immediately, closing any doors to contain the fire
- 4. If the fire is small and you or another member of staff have been given the required training, the fire may be extinguished with an appropriate fire extinguisher, provided it is safe to do so
- 5. Go to the fire assembly point and wait for the fire service. No one should re-enter the building until the all clear has been given



Michael leading by example and making sure his hands are away from the blade



The correct type and capacity of fire extinguisher should be available for use in accessible locations



Chemicals should be stored in lockable cabinets and a register of all contents maintained

For further information, visit:

- www.michaelbrettfurniture.co.uk
- www.bucksfire.gov.uk/contact-us/ stations/high-wycombe

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As much as **Gary Marshall** would like to see New England in the fall, he is reminded that Old England has plenty to show as summer yields to winter

ell here we are, another summer draws to an end and winter is approaching. In the woods, the sap has slowed down or stopped; berries are being raided by blackbirds; fieldfares make their way westwards towards our shores. Subtle changes are afoot.

You may remember my spring article on the blossom clock. Well, our native trees are not as reliable in their order or intensity when changing colour in autumn. Looking at oaks (*Quercus robur* and *Q. petraea*) for example, one oak may remain green until nearly December, where its neighbour may have changed colour to its distinctive russet browns as early as the start of October.

Ashes (*Fraxinus excelsior*) often have a very short autumn; one day green

and the next day seemingly bare. Look out for those that put on a show of autumn colour in a pale buttery yellow, with keys (bunches of seeds) to match. Many people think of our beautiful beeches (*Fagus sylvatica*) as archetypal autumn trees. Leaves will vary from summer green, through yellow to rich coppers, bronzes and russet.

Autumn leaves

Other trees can really show off their colours. I love the dogwoods (*Cornus sanguinea*) that turn the deepest purple with stems to match, showing their clusters of blackberries. A star of the hedgerows is the field maple (*Acer campestre*) that rivals its European cousin, the Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), for its bright golden hues. Don't forget the humble but

colourful hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and, if the squirrels, woodmice and dormice haven't got there first, its tasty bunches of hazelnuts too.

Some birches and poplars can hang on to a handful of bright yellow leaves right into the winter, defying all but the fiercest of gales. Rich browny-red hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) haws often outdo its small yellow and brown leaves for colour, as do the sloes on blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), adding a bluish-purple tinge to the hedgerows, surrounded by pale yellow leaves.

The leaves of elder (*Sambucus nigra*) are surpassed by their berries, as too are the rowan tree (*Sorbus aucuparia*) and the madly gaudy spindle (*Euonymous europaea*).

Locally, I love the swooping yellow branches of hornbeam (*Carpinus*





Above: Soaking up all that Old England has to offer – hopefully more than rain!

betulus), and of course my more rare favourite, the wild service tree (Sorbus torminalis) (you'll have heard enough about this in my previous articles).

Just before I end, I can't ignore a couple of our best non-native trees to watch out for: the fiery larches (*Larix* spp.) and the spectacular and aromatic liquidambar, or sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) in yellow, crimson and deep purple.

Gary Marshall

Gary has had a life-long interest in woodlands and the countryside. He trained in countryside management and subsequently ran a company working with the local County Councils and Unitary Authority and their Countryside and Rights of Way Teams, as well as a wide range of conservation organisations.



Beech leaves in autumn



Psychedelic spindle berries



Leaf of the wild service tree



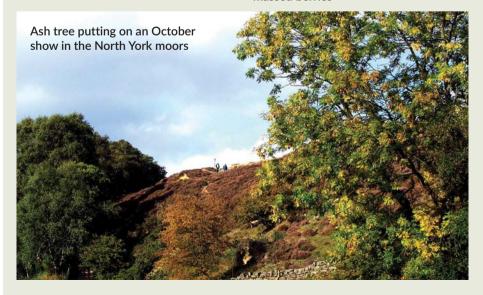
Autumn leaves



Oak leaves in autumn



Firethorn (*Pyracantha* spp.) with its massed berries





y client's father was a cabinetmaker who many years ago made an oak dining table and six chairs. After decades of everyday use with his family, and now with his daughter, the chairs were in need of some restoration. Two chairs from the set were in a worse condition than the remaining four, so we decided to focus on these two and do the remaining chairs in pairs at a later time.

Assessment

- The rush seats were sound, although a little soft and stretched in the middle, and the reeds were very finely twisted.
- The seat rails into the back legs and the side rails into the tops of the front legs were loose.
- Stretcher rails and top/mid rails in the back frame were loose.
- All of the edge trims were loose.
- One edge trim was broken, several of these were split and they all had damage due to re-fixing with nails and screws over time.

When the seat rails are only a little loose, you can sometimes part the rush enough to knock a joint out and get some glue into it without removing the entire seat. As all the joints were loose it was decided to remove the seats



and have them re-rushed in the same pattern. The downside is that there is no way to artificially colour rush; it changes with light, air and general use, but has to do this naturally, which leaves a stark difference between old and new for a period of time.

Tools used

- Glue pot
- Animal/hide glue
- Utility knife
- Masking tape
- Screwdrivers to suit
- Rubber mallet
- Restorer's cat's paw
- Side cutters
- Old cabinet scraper
- Plane
- Chisels of various sizes
- Fine toothed saw
- Sash cramps
- G-cramps (if required)
- Rule
- Drill bit
- Drill stand or hand drill
- Plug cutter
- Polishing materials
- PPE breathing and eye protection, gloves

Wood

Oak (Quercus robur)

Stages of restoration

The first step was to remove the edge trims. The screws were easily removed, although some did resist. In this case, I generally tighten the screws up a little which then releases them to be unscrewed. It was easier to punch the nails right through so as not to cause any further damage to the edge trims when levering them off.

2 The rush seats had to be removed carefully as they were required as patterns. It took a little manipulating, but I cut through the rush on the four edges and then taped the top edge to keep the twists of rush in place.

By supporting the underside and working around the four edges, I then pushed the seats down through the middle of the frames until all four edges were released and the seats could then be removed.

Having labelled the various sections with low-tack masking tape to keep the components of the two chairs together, I knocked the frames apart using a rubber mallet. With the front and back frames separated, I moved on to the front legs. If more weight is required, use a hammer, ensuring you hit against a protective softwood block to avoid damage to the chair frame.

5 With the side rails removed,
I poured a small amount of
methylated spirit into the holes,
allowing it to soak into the wedge
and the top of the leg. This helped to
break down the animal glue, releasing
the wedge and the leg. If the polished
surface is to be kept, be very careful
that the methylated spirit does not
dribble out of the hole or from any
gaps. Applying a bit of gentle force,
the legs were prised out of the blocks
and the front stretcher rail released.

As with many chairs of this type, the top rail of the back frame had been nailed through from the back of the leg. The nails had to be prised out without causing damage to the surrounding timber. Using an old chisel, I carefully removed the wood from around the head as I only needed to grasp the top of the nail. Using an old worn cabinet scraper to protect the surrounding wood, the nail was eased out using a pair of side cutters. If nails are embedded and space permits, lever the top rail from side to side.



Wedged joint on turnings

A wedged joint on a turned section is often seen on Windsor chairs. In most cases, the turned section will pass right through the seat or rail to be wedged from the other side, so the wedge is clearly visible.

In the case of these chairs, the tops of the legs and the wedges are contained within square blocks on either end of the front seat rail. The hole for the leg is tapered, just like those in Windsor chairs, but within the top block, with a saw cut in the top of the leg. The thickness and length of the wedge has to be judged correctly so that when the joint is glued up, the wedge opens up the top of the leg into the tapered hole, while being pushed down the saw cut until the top block and leg come together. Too long or too thick and the wedge will have done its job before the joint has fully tightened.













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7 The old glue was removed from all the joints and the remaining old wedges were removed from the front legs. A fine saw was used to clean out the wedge, keeping the saw blade within the waste material so as not to increase the size of the cut.

Our Using animal/hide glue, the back frames were then re-glued, adding sash cramps and protective blocks. They were checked across the diagonal and the cramps adjusted as necessary in order to pull them square then measuring again until both sides were the same.

The front frames were the next task. To re-glue the front stretchers, the seat rails were put in place while dry and the stretcher rail glued in order to get the frame square.

10 Once the glue had set, the size of the new wedges was worked out and the seat rails and wedges were glued in place using two sash cramps to pull the rails down upon the legs. As I use animal/hide glue in a glue pot, this stage needed to be worked quickly before the glue started to set. The sash cramps applied the correct pressure needed to push the wedge into place and tighten the joint.

11 With the front and back frames glued up, these were then joined by re-gluing the side seat rails and stretchers.

12 My attention then turned to the holes left by the nails, through the back legs and top rails. If only to spare a thought for restorers following behind me, I drilled out the holes to take a dowel. This would strengthen the joint while covering any damage caused around the hole when the nails were removed. A piece of masking tape around the drill bit acted as a depth stop. The dowels were formed of oak, by hammering a square section through a homemade dowel plate.

13 With the chairs re-assembled, the screw holes in the seat rails, that had been left by the fixing of the edge pieces, were plugged with timber and the splits in the edge strips were cleaned out and glued up, then held with masking tape.

14 On the one broken edge piece, a long joint was planed to

















remove any damage caused by the break and a section of old oak was then prepared to size and rub-jointed onto the edge piece. When the glue had set, this repair was shaped in to the edge strip using a spokeshave and abrasives.

15 With the edge strips glued up, the various old screw and nail holes were drilled out using a standard twist bit to clean up the damaged areas before they were plugged with old oak.

16 The various plugs were trimmed back flush to the edge strips then finished with abrasives. The chairs and the edge strips were then treated with Bald's Balm, which cleans the surfaces and revives the finish.

17 The repaired areas on the edge strips, the dowels through the top rail and any other areas were then stained with a mix of oil stain colours to achieve the right colour match.

18 Once they were sealed with shellac sealer, these areas were then polished up. At this stage, further colouring could be carried out. I tend to use a blend of red and black polish with earth pigments if required. The top rail dowels were coloured out to blend in, with the chair on the ground.

19 In order to get the colouring right on the edge strips, I had to simulate the position they will be in when on the chair; they were held in a vertical position. If I kept them horizontal, the light would give a false reading for the colour and they would then look wrong when pinned back on to the chair.

The rush seats proved to be a headache even for my expert colleague, Frances White, due to the very fine twist of the rush. Once completed, the edge strips were then pinned back in position. As the pins were going in different positions to the original ones, a fine hole was drilled to the diameter of the pin, so the strips did not split again. With the pins hammered in, the heads were left just under the surface with the use of a pin punch, so they could be filled and coloured out.

21 The two chairs were then given a good coat of tinted wax and buffed up before being returned to my client.

















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PLANS4YOU

Shepherd's hut-part two

Simon Rodway sees his shepherds hut to completion

n this second part of building a shepherd's hut, I'm going to look at how to add some flesh to the

bones of the timber structure put together so far. First of all, there remains one additional structural element to put in place; the shaped rafters. For the sake of economy, I have cut these from 18mm plywood, but glued and screwed pairs of these profiles together to form a reasonably substantial rafter, able to pick up the plywood joints and give the roof structural rigidity. The curvature of the rafter should be taken from the inside curve of the roof cladding. which is traditionally made

from corrugated steel sheet. This can be bought from various suppliers, ready made as a roof profile, and the curvature and span varies. Make sure the roofing is one of the first things you select when starting on your hut.

Set out the top curve of your first rafter on a sheet of plywood, then transfer this curve about 56mm vertically downwards from midpoint to midpoint. By doing this, you can use the bottom cut of one rafter as the top cut for the one below, saving time and trouble. It also means the rafter is slightly deeper in the middle than at the ends. Leave this slightly longer and don't cut out the birdsmouths at this stage. Once you have fitted the first rafter at one end, just inside the studwork end wall, transfer the positions of the birdsmouth cuts to the other rafters to get a consistent height and line of curvature along the roof. Fix securely at the ends into the timber framing, bearing in mind that this will

Cutting list

All 9mm plywood

 Roof sheet 2@2230 x 1220mm Roof sheet 1@2230 x 670mm Side sheet 4@2250 x 1220mm • Side sheet 2@2250 x 670mm Front sheet 2@2177 x 597mm Front sheet 1@2122 x 335mm Rear sheet 2@1902x715mm Rear sheet 1@1902 x 692mm Rear sheet 1@2122 x 610mm Ceiling lining 2@2120 x 1220mm Ceiling lining 1@2120 x 560mm

Western red cedar (Thuja plicata)

Corner fillets
 Side cladding
 Front/rear cladding
 4 @ 2309 x 86 x 30mm
 2 @ 3110 x 2271 x 25mm
 2 @ 2532 x 2028 x 25mm

Shiplar

Side wall lining
 End wall lining
 2 @ 2998 x 2083 x 12mm
 End wall lining
 2 @ 2320 x 2028 x 12mm

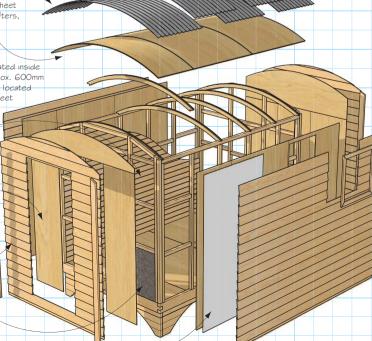
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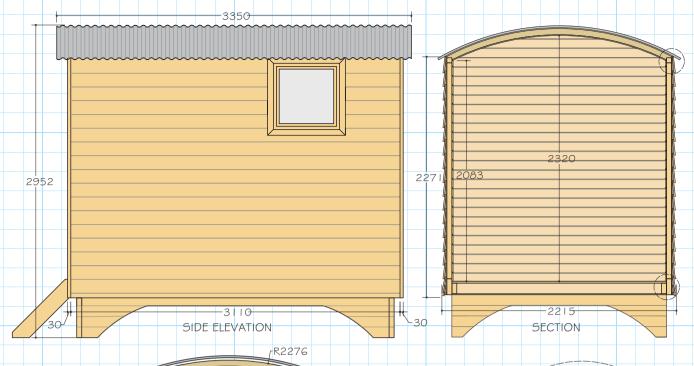
- Plywood sheet sizes, particularly on end wall, are for guidance only, as they are dependent on stud positions and the size of the door opening for the front sheets. Rafters can all be cut from one sheet of 18mm plywood.
- Cladding and lining are given as overall areas covered, and will vary according to section sizes of both. Additionally, door and window openings should be subtracted from this area where appropriate. Internal lining is given as the area of each wall; subtract for corner joints as required.

Corrugated steel roof cladding 9mm external grade plywood sheet bent across tops of shaped rafters, infill with insulation, plywood or other ceiling liner underneath (not shown for clarity) 2 x 18mm plywood rafters located inside stud walls at each end, at approx. 600mm to pick up joints of plywood sheet Internal shiplap cladding, fixed to stud wall and also ceiling (not shown). Alternatively line ceiling with plywood Outer skin of hut formed from external grade 9mm plywood sheet, securely screwed to stud walls. Horizontal timber cladding fixed to stud walls and plywood sheets

Vertical corner trim for

Infill wall voids with insulation





anchor your roof to the main structure. Some sort of steel angle bracket or cleat is a really good idea, as shallow pitched roofs can generate a lot of lift in high winds.

At this point, you can finish the top sections of the end studwork walls, as the verticals were left long, so cut these flush with the curve of the rafters and brace in between with noggins. With the rafters in place, it is time to add the outer skin to your hut, which in this case is 9mm external grade plywood, a breather membrane and timber cladding. The plywood, as long as it is securely screwed to the studwork, forms very strong structural bracing on the sides and roof, where it will need to be bent into place using the rafters as formers. Obviously, the plywood sheet needs to be cut around the door and window openings, allowing for any framing that you are using. The architrave I've shown mitred around the window is actually fixed onto the surface of the ply, with the cladding finished up against it, but you need to consider these details and how the openings are going to be finished at this stage.

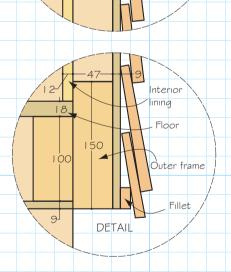
The breather membrane, which will really help to keep your hut dry internally, goes on top of the plywood skin, with joints overlapped and taped

according to the manufacturer's specifications. Next, the roof and wall cladding can be fixed in place, with vertical trim on the end walls to finish the horizontal cladding against. Although it is expensive, using western red cedar, with its resistance to rot and insect attack, for the outer cladding will mean a minimum of maintenance over the coming years. The corrugated steel roof cladding will come with recommended overlaps per sheet and frequency of fixings, so make sure you stick to these.

RAFTER DETAILS

Once your outer layers are in place, and your door and window are installed, infill the wall and ceiling voids with insulation, between all the vertical and horizontal wall timbers and between the rafters. Fixing non-rigid insulation into the ceiling void from below is a tricky operation, but taping across at regular intervals between the rafters until the lining is in place is one answer. Finally, it is time to add the internal linings and I have suggested tongue and groove shiplap for the walls, which you could also use on the ceiling, but that is a matter of personal preference.

All that now remains is to add some steps to your front door and enjoy the retreat that you have created, in peace and tranquillity!



Steel roof

Timber cladding Plywood

Simon Rodway

Simon Rodway also runs LineMine, a website with articles and online courses on drawing software. A new course, for Woodworkers', is pro-

for Woodworkers', is proving really popular. For details and to get discount coupons, see website details below.

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Garden kneeler

You don't have to suffer from a bad back to realise that our handy kneeler is just what you need

◀ Use a standard pre-sanded pine shelf board, 200mm wide, and cut two pieces roughly 700mm long.

Mark hand cutouts near one end of each board and cut the holes by using a jigsaw, first drilling a pilot hole for the blade to go through.

• Round all edges of the hand holes and the outer edges of both boards with a rasp except at the bottom ends which must be left square.

4 Cut, glue and screw two lengths of batten to the bottom ends of the boards. These will stop the boards sinking into the ground and will help to spread the load.

Saw off a length of the same shelf board, slightly longer than the foam rubber kneeler pad you intend using. Cut, glue and screw two corner strips one under each end.

Now glue and screw the board Oat a slight kneeling angle between the two upright boards going into the corners strips from the outside faces of the uprights. Ensure you make the position identical on both uprights.

Apply a varnish to the whole piece to seal it. Once dried, spread a coat of thixotropic contact adhesive to the underside of the kneeler and the top surface of the kneeling board. When the glue is tacky, press the kneeler pad down in position. Now you can get down to weed the garden and up again, much more easily than before!





When you make a project preparing the surface is an important part of the process, so here the **Editor** provides some do's and don'ts to help it go smoothly

he way you treat a surface to get a finish will depend on what it is you are working on and how you want it to end up. A precious antique needs a very careful sympathetic approach to restoration, while a recycled pallet project will take some harsh treatment with coarse abrasives. So you need a different approach that suits each job.

Here are some useful tips and guidance to help you.

1 If an important surface is dented, often a highly visible top surface, you can use a steam iron and paper or an iron with a damp cloth to lift the crushed fibres. Don't try this on an antique though! Leave the wood to dry and if necessary use a fine grit paper to rub away any projecting fibres. Don't expect a perfect result but it will be much less visible.

2 Stripping off an existing finish is justified if it doesn't have a delicate patina or 'acquired' surface finish like antiques do. It becomes

necessary if the finish is too thick and likely to clog a sander, paint or varnish for example. Use a safe type of stripper, follow the safety instructions and be patient as the process takes a little time. Neutralise the chemical action in accordance with the manufacturers instructions.

Often, surfaces are just very dirty or clogged with wax. You can buy wax cleaning agents that, when used with medium or fine wirewool, can clean a surface nicely ready for a new finish. Wipe away all the dirty residue and allow the surface to dry before any further work.

Asanding is the process of 'roughing up' the surface of wood to make it smoother. This is a bit perverse, scratching a surface with sharp pieces of abrasive material just to get a better finish – but it works.

5 There is one golden rule, start with coarser abrasive and work through increasingly finer grits until you are

satisfied with the result. This depends on the job, fine quality cabinet work demands a fine finish while joinery will take a coarser finish.

Sanding a turned item is often done on the completed item or parts of it, on the lathe while it is turning. It can't be done static as the results would be poor and it is harder work. Remember to remove the toolrest for safety and have an extraction hood close to the work to take the fine dust away.

With furniture it is always better to do most abrasive work before a job is fully assembled if you can. It is much easier to work on separate parts and sanding can reach into corners, etc. or before mouldings are applied so it gets sanded properly.

One of the worst offences is 'cross grain' scratches caused where the abrasive goes over a join line between perpendicular components. This is hard to avoid but do the piece that butts to the other piece that



If the wood is dented you can use a steam iron and a sheet of cloth to help remove the dent



A wax cleaner and medium wire wool or a scouring pad will remove a lot of dirt from the wood grain

Right: Abranet is particularly efficient at sanding surfaces

at sanding surfaces and it doesn't clog like conventional abrasive paper

Above: There is a very wide range of abrasives available to suit different needs

runs through, so when you do the latter hopefully its scratch lines will obliterate the other ones.

material and Abranet with is a highly efficient non-clogging form of abrasive.

Prepare timber correctly first. If it isn't beautifully flat and smooth to start with, don't expect abrasives to somehow create a perfect result. Softwood can be bought fully prepared and some sections of hardwood also. Anything else will need a planer/thicknesser to flat it and square it.

10 Choose the right starting grade of abrasive. For cabinetwork (as an example) no coarser than 120 grit and possibly finer. This obviates a lot of work and damage in sanding. Veneered surfaces need a finer starting grit still, 240 then running through to 320 grit and possibly 400, the bigger number indicating finer grit particle size.

1 Although DIY stores and builders merchants stock standard aluminium oxide abrasive there are a much wider choice available if you search around. Specialist abrasives and woodworking suppliers can supply finishing papers and web type flexible

12 To check whether a surface is really ready to have a finish applied you can put a thin coat of sanding sealer or water-based varnish on an area and check how it looks against the light once it has dried. Also, don't ignore the power of touch as fingertips are a sensitive way of checking the quality of a surface.

Where wood grain meets at different angles, great care is needed to avoid cross-grain scratches occuring



Power woodworking

Above: Sanding on turnings is normally done with the work rotating, which is easier and gives a more consistent finish than static sanding

Ask the Experts

This is your chance to challenge our Editors and for them to answer your comments and queries



ANTHONY BAILEY Editor, Woodworking Crafts magazine



MARK BAKER Group Editor, GMC woodworking magazines

MAN VS MACHINE

This may be more of a philosophical question for you. In a modern digital age with desktop CAD/CAM machines that rout and carve, are craft skills going to die out and be lost forever and do we really need them anyway? Is the outlook for woodworking skills maybe rather depressing?

Anthony replies: Oh dear, you sound like you are on a bit of a downer! Unlike many questions of this era which many of us struggle to deal with, craft skills and in this context, woodworking in particular, have in some ways never been stronger. Yes, you can buy your own CAD/CAM machining centre at a price not entirely 'out of sight' and by the same token, it is true craft education has slumped for a variety of reasons - cost, lack of teaching skills, health and safety and perceived lack of need for such skills. But it's not all bad by any measure. Many, many people want to practise hand skills, often precisely because



Working with hand tools is both quieter and more satisfying because skill is involved

they want the polar opposite activity to their high stress jobs and always being at the beck and call of emails, texts and social media. That is not to decry the use of programmed machining, it does have a place, but it simply makes us operators, rather than people with hard learnt 'hand and eye' skills which are much more satisfying and improve over time with more experience. Even though teaching of crafts is largely in the hands of private teaching establishments, or maybe because of it, these learnt skills are going to be with us for a long time yet. Indeed, many ancient skills are being revived, green woodworking being one such example. The difference is that in the main we now do these things for pleasure, rather than economic necessity.

HARD AS NAILS

This isn't exactly a woodworking question, it's more of a metalworking one. I've tried drilling a piece of steel and my apparently sharp engineering drill bits won't even look at it. What's the matter here; is the steel hardened in some way? Is there a solution to my drilling problem, please?

Nev Biddle

Anthony replies: This is quite a common problem, asking steel to cut steel which, when you think about it, is asking rather a lot. The tooling has to be quite a lot harder and the cutting angles on the tip of the drill also have to be correct for it to cut properly.

A standard drill bit won't cope and may get damaged as it overheats, even with cutting lubricant applied during drilling. There are drills with a percentage of cobalt in the alloy, which are tougher but may still struggle. I have a side interest in scything, i.e. cutting grass the traditional way. I bought a top quality Austrian blade, but I needed to bolt it to the snath (handle) not clamp it, which it was designed to do. The blade tang was hardened so my drills would not cut through it. Fortunately, I had a Trend carbide-tipped piercing bit which I fitted in a drill press. Running at low speed, it not only made a hole exactly where I wanted it without wandering off course, but it went like a knife through butter. There was no overheating and the long spiral meant



A carbide bit made short work of drilling this blade tang

there was no tendency to 'grab' as it exited through the other side. I did, however, need a thick block of wood underneath, placed in the machine vice to prevent the tip going straight into the vice itself!

STUCK INSERTS

I have recently got into routing and trying to work safely and do things by the book. I have an insert plate which has tightly fitting insert rings that need changing as the cutter diameter changes. It seems to be quite an effort to get the rings out as they are such a tight fit. Have you got any tips to making this easier to do?

Gerry Smythson

Anthony replies: Insert rings have to fit very tightly and flush with the table surface. If they didn't they could easily bounce out due to the high level of vibration during machining. Workpieces could catch on exposed edges of the insert rings if they didn't sit down tightly. Manufacturing tolerances are quite carefully worked out so the rings are a snap fit. My own experience is that the outer ring can be popped out by levering with a large screwdriver; it shouldn't cause damage as they are made out of a tough grade of plastic. The inner ring or rings are a different matter. I found they would sit inverted in the space where they normally sit right way up. Then a smart thump from the handle of a screwdriver or other implement makes them pop out downwards so they are sitting around the router collet nut. Actually fitting rings back in does require some pressure but they should snap back into place. I hope this advice helps.



The set of insert rings can be prised out using a screwdriver to force them upwards and out



Now rest the inverted inserts in the large opening and thump the inner ring with the back end of the screwdriver; it should then separate easily

IN A FIX

I need to fix some 75 x 50mm framing on walls to put up studwork to sub-divide a room. I'm not sure what the right fixings are but the walls are evidently brick as they are so solid.

Anthony replies: The first thing is to be reasonably sure there are no buried wires or pipes. You can use a metal and current detector. Decent ones are more expensive, but more reliable. Often the best way is to study any wall disturbance and the location of the nearest sockets, pipes, etc.

Standard wall plugs are inadequate for larger timber sections. Frame fixings, i.e. those which go straight through the wood into the wall,

are best with at least one and a half the timber thickness buried in the masonry for a solid fixing. You need ideally a mains drill with SDS fitting and hammer action as it can deliver more torque than many cordless drills and a long masonry bit of the right diameter. Don't try using it to drill the holes in the wood as the tip will be too blunt; instead use a brad point bit, drill all the holes, then hold the timber on the wall in the correct position as determined by measuring and spirit level. Now use the masonry bit to drill and mark the wall where all the holes are. Remove the timber and proceed to drill all the marked holes to full depth making sure the combined timber thickness and masonry hole are greater than the frame fixings. Now replace the timber and hammer the frame fixings through the wood deep

into the wall. The plastic sleeve sets in position flush with the surface of the wood and the steel centre is hammered home also sitting flush. There is a crosshead you can turn for a neat finish but is seldom usable and the fixing will be set hard in the wall, just belt it one more time to make it sit neatly.



'Knock through' frame fixings are a very effective way to fix frame components to solid masonry



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For our upcycling and restoration special, we thought we'd find some great products... so you don't have to!





Vinyl gloves

Use gloves, even with waterbase products. Get several pairs if you are planning to layer colors on your project. Applicators will rinse free very well, but the dyes and pigments in waterbase products can stain your hands.

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film disc Contact: 3M Price: £34

Web: www.3m.co.uk

Brass furniture sash knob **Contact:** Tool Nut Price: From £2.50 Web: www.toolnut.co.uk

Cabinet H hinges Contact: Tool Nut Price: From £17.99 Web: www.toolnut.co.uk

FireWriter **Contact:** Antex Price: £149.99

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Web: www.letonkinoisvarnish.uk

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Saral transfer paper sampler pack **Contact:** Wood Crafts Supplies

Price: £5.75

Web: woodworkscraftsupplies.co.uk

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A long overdue repair requires some lateral thinking to sort it out, as the **Editor** discovers!

his garage, like so many, had been converted for storage, so the up-andover door no longer opened. One stile had become quite rotted at the bottom. Without being able to get proper access to it, some crafty repair techniques were needed to put it right.

1 The first job was to work out how far the rot went. The stile was marked where the wood needed to be cut, so that all the rot would be removed. Because of poor access to the damaged area, the repair section would have to be made up of two pieces; a shorter one behind and a full length section on the front. A weather-angled bevel cut was required to minimise the risk of any water ingress into the finished repair. This cut had to sit flush

with the garage door to allow the facing piece to be fitted into place. A multi-tool with curved blade was used (not unlike the cill repair in *Woodworking Crafts* issue 17).

2 The rotted section was levered away and the weather-angled bevel cut was cleaned up with a chisel.

3A flat face was now created in line with the garage door. ➤





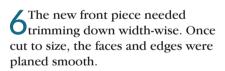


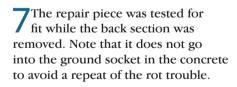


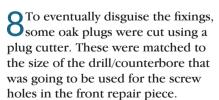


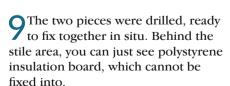
Where the original stile is standard softwood, the let-in pieces were oak (*Quercus robur*). The lower rear area was cleaned up and a section of wood was cut to depth and width and pushed neatly into the lower rear gap.

5 The front piece was cut to depth but slightly over length, and marked against the existing stile so that it could be trimmed to slide in nicely. The 'weather bevel' was vital so that water could not run backwards into the joint.









10PU glue was applied to the rear piece of oak on the top edge and the front meeting face.

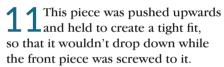












12 The front piece had PU glue applied to the bevel and was then screwed to the pre-glued rear section. Next, the side was drilled to take two frame bolts, which would lock the whole assembly to the wall.

13 Before fixing, a quick check made sure the new piece was running in line with the existing stile but not quite vertical as the spirit level shows, so it was adjusted with a screw driver before fixing in place.

14 The plugs were glued and tapped into the screw holes, ready to trim off flush later, once the glue had cured.

15 Exterior filler was used to fill any surface deficiencies, followed by sanding off when dry.

16 Everything was then sanded down, including the door and rest of the frame, followed by coating everything with wood/metal primer undercoat before rubbing down, ready for the finishing touches.

17 Finally, the door joint was sealed and a coat of white gloss paint completed the job. The door stile was now weather tight and safe for some years ahead. This proved a very satisfactory and smart outcome!









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Colin Sullivan takes us through butterfly joints using Trend router cutters

o you ever get a gut feeling about some jobs? I remember going to measure up for some fitted cupboards some time ago and getting the distinct feeling that no matter how hard I tried the client would never be satisfied. My persivearence paid off eventually and that is what happened when our editor asked me to try out these Trend router cutters. I've never needed to make butterfly joints before and the only time I recall seeing them in the flesh was on Arts and Craft furniture.

They were used on tables, partly as decoration, but mainly to help hold the joints together between the boards on the top. On the face of it, it looks straightforward, two matched router cutters produced especially for making these unusual joints. But I was in for

a shock; this is a routing operation that requires very precise setting up. There are seven faces to this joint and they all have to fit neatly together.

To find out how difficult it is to make these butterfly joints I set about making a simple shelf to hold CDs. I wanted to use only the table router because much has been written about it recently and I presume most of you have one. They're simple to set up and most things can be done without making yet another special jig. The butterflies are made from American walnut (Juglans nigra) and the shelf parts are made from ash (Fraxinus excelsior) as this forms a contrast and makes the joint more visible. I would strongly recommend the use of test pieces for this joint as it's not for the faint hearted.

The Trend dovetail shaped cutter is made at 104°, a larger angle than the usual dovetail cutter and it has a ¼in shank. The matching butterfly spline cutter has a ½in shank and is 46mm in length

MAKING BUTTERFLY SOCKETS



The height required for the dovetail cutter is 12mm. This gauge from Trend takes some of the guesswork out of setting up

There are two ways to set about this joint and I chose to cut the dovetail shaped sockets first and make the butterfly splines to fit it. The height of the cutter must be set to exactly half the length of the butterfly, 12mm. I have a 90° template for vertical work that can be used on the saw or router. By cramping the end piece on the jig I could feed it onto the cutter, the jig needs to run in a track or between the fence and a strip of wood. This is because the cutter kicks the wood away from the fence and must be fed onto the cutter as slowly as possible to avoid break out. Although the cutter is only about 12mm in both directions, it can still drag the wood out of your hand in the most brutal way if you're not prepared for it. A stop is important because the cut is not right through the end piece, but as deep as possible. The way

An accurately made vertical jig comes in handy for a lot of small batch production work on the router table or saw

I set the joints out meant I had to alter the position of the fence several times. In future I would think about it more carefully and make the ends and the shelf the same width, to be able to cut more of the dovetail shapes on the same setting and then trim them to size. My lack of fore-thought meant I had to mark these cuts carefully onto the shelf and back piece, then line them up centrally with the cutter. The shelf and back was laid flat on the router table to make the cuts, leaving the height of the cutter in the same position.



The router table set up and ready to go with stop, secondary fence and vertical jig





No extra support is required when creating the dovetails while working flat. The fence can be adjusted across the router table after each of the components have been machined at that setting

CREATING BUTTERFLY SPLINES



Measure the size of the butterfly spline required from two mating components...



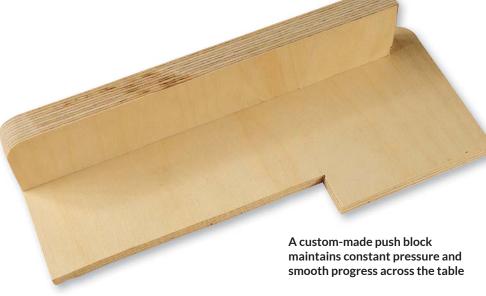
... transfer this measurement to the spline cutter in the router table

The cutter supplied for this has a ½in shank and is much larger in length at 46mm. By the time you read this Trend will have increased their dovetail cutter range to allow for larger splines to be used. I would think it's essential to have a choice and to be able to make bigger butterfly joints. The grain on the butterfly joint needs to run along the length of it, so it's made from a piece of wood cut across the grain. Any tension in the wood will show up now and make it curl very slightly. To overcome this I cut the wood slightly over size, planed it flat on one side and ran it across the saw to size, carefully checking the length against

the two dovetail cuts laid together. With the butterfly spline cutter in the table router, I set the centre of the cutter exactly to the length of half the joint in height. Then by adjusting the fence a few times I managed to get the butterfly to fit the dovetail. Extreme care and patience is required at this stage and I spent longer doing this than any other part of the operation. The cutter works well across the grain but it still needs a second fence to keep the size consistent and it's now quite fragile because of being short grain. A custom-made push block allows constant pressure to be applied to this fragile component.



A through fence as well as a second fence will reduce vibration of the work piece considerably



Trend cutter details

Butterfly spline cutter 104° Ref: 10/40X1/2TC Price: £62.40

Leigh dovetail cutter 104° Ref: L120X1/4TC Price: £22.80

From: www.trend-uk.com

TEST FIT AND ASSEMBLY



The finished test pieces did not require any adjustment...

After cutting a few butterflies from this section I was able to dry fit the shelf together and check the accuracy of my setting out. Next, a quick sanding and it was ready for gluing up. The end sections were left square to make cramping up as easy as possible and shaped after the glue had set. Previously I said there were two ways to set about this joint and the other way is to make the dovetail cut to fit the butterfly, on reflection I think that it would be even more difficult than the way I chose. This is far from being an easy joint to make, there are so many variables to take into account and precision is required at every stage. Is the result in the end worth the effort? I'm not sure, it looks fine, but it's more than decoration, it has to form a function and hold the various parts together.



... just tapping home and levelling off once the glue had dried

EXAMPLES OF BUTTERFLIES AT WORK

Bill Laberge

In Bill's Arts and Crafts style furniture he uses embellishments that are functional as well as decorative. Instead of a dowel to pin a mortise and tenon joint, he'll use a peg that's raised and chamfered. Likewise the butterfly spline is decorative, while also providing structure. He makes a router template to create the spline itself as well as the slot that will receive the spline. There's no limit to the shape of the spline which will often be determined by the grain of the wood. For more information visit www. williamlaberge.com



An example of butterfly joints in the work of Bill Laberge



George Nakashima

In addition to makers associated with the Arts and Crafts style George Nakashima's work features butterfly ties to great visual effect although this is not the primary reason for using them. His style is distinctive, he approaches construction with an integrity for the material and a sympathetic ear to what was once a living thing. Symmetry, balance and proportion are interpreted differently as he seeks to produce pieces that are every bit a part of the life cycle of this incredible resource.

This table by George Nakashima shows a very different use for butterfly spline joints





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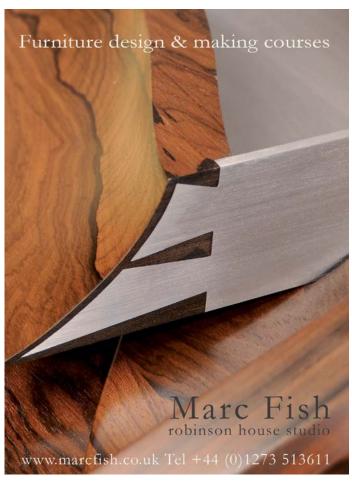


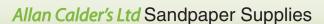
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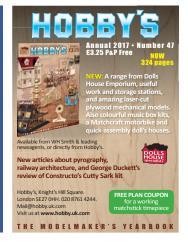


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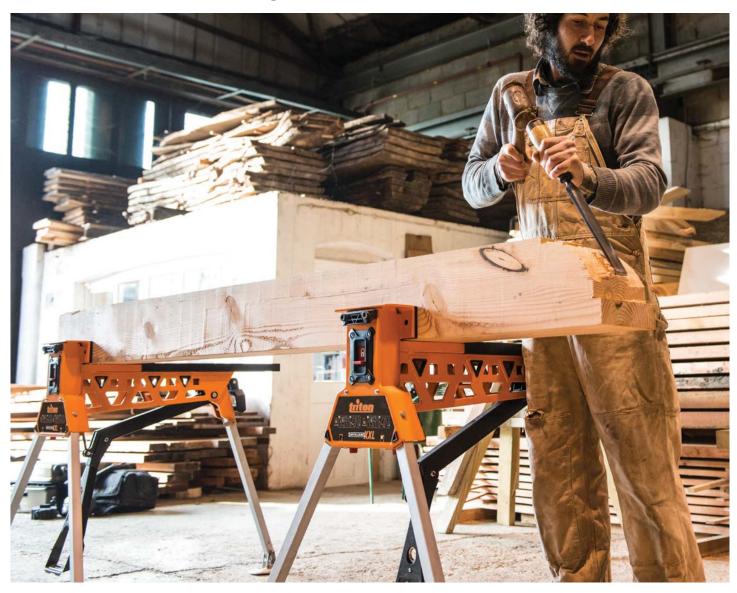


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