



# Woodworking

WOODWORKING  
FOR BEGINNERS

John Hammer

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***Woodworking For Beginners***

***BY John Hammer***

## Introduction

Woodworking is a hobby that people have been enjoying for years. While in the past it was used more as a way to make furniture and other things that you needed in the home, it is now something that you can do for fun or to showcase your talent in the home. Even though the reason for woodworking has changed throughout the years, there are still many of the same techniques that you can use to get the most out of all your projects.

This guidebook is going to take some time to look at the process of woodworking and how you can use it to make some amazing projects. We will start out with some of the basics of woodworking, such as which hand tools and power tools that you need in order to get started, how to stay safe, how to do a few simple projects, and then moving on to some projects that are a little more complex. When you are done with this guidebook, you will be able to get started on some of your own projects and really impress your friends.

When you are ready to get started with woodworking and you want to go from beginner to expert in no time, make sure to check out this guidebook to help you get started.

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## Chapter 1: The Basics of Woodworking When You Don't Know What You are Doing



Woodworking can be a fun experience. Learning how to make something with your own two hands can be a dream for many people. But you may be worried about getting started simply because you do not have any experience about woodworking. This book is the right place to get started if you have never done anything with woodworking or if you know very little and want to get started. First, we are going to take a look at some of the basics that you will need just to get started, the tools that you need, the space that can make it easier, and even the various techniques that will help you to get some practice and get started with woodworking.

## Pick out the basic tools



The first thing to realize here is that you are only going to really need a few tools when you get started. Sometimes it is tempting to get started and go out and purchase a ton of expensive tools for your projects, before you have even gotten started. In reality, you will end up spending a ton of money and many of those tools will just sit in the closet and go to waste. Learn some of the basic tools that are needed to get started and then only get those, at least until you get to some more challenging projects that need the other tools.

First, let's look at the hand tools that you will need to have with you. Some of these include:

A drill

A screwdriver

Screws

Nails

Hammer

These may seem obvious, but in the beginning, these are really the only tools that you will need, along with the wood, so that you can work on your first few projects and get the basics of woodworking down.

Another tool that you may want to get at this time is a speed square. This tool may not be as familiar to you as the ones above, so learning what it is all about can make a difference. A speed square is going to be a small triangular shaped tool. There are a lot of ways where you may want to use the speed square in your woodworking projects including:

It can help you to make accurate angle cuts, either 90 or 45 degrees, using a hand or a circular saw.

You can use it as a protractor to help you make some angles that are accurate and make the project easier to work on.

You can use the speed square to help measure lines that need to be perpendicular to the edge of the wood board.

For being able to measure and mark the 45 degree angles on your projects.

You can also use it to know the width of the board in relation to the cut that you want to make.

As you can see, there are a lot of capabilities that can come with the speed square. Even with this in mind, the main purpose is to measure out lines quickly and easily, in the hopes of saving time and frustration in the process. You can pick from steel, aluminum, or plastic and the cost is not too bad for how often you will use this piece in your work. Purchase one that is high quality so that it lasts for a long time and the measurements are accurate.

The next tool that you need is a saw. There are many different types of saws that you can purchase and we could spend a whole book discussing which saws are the best and how each of them work. Without a good saw, it is going to get pretty hard to cut through the wood so pick out one that is in good shape and sharp enough to get through the wood. The most common saws that you will want to consider for your projects include:

A miter saw

A table saw

Reciprocating saw

Jig saw

## Circular saw

Depending on the projects that you decide to work with, you may need a few different ones of these saws, but you can take a look at your intended projects and go from there.

You will also need a clamp. This clamp is important because it holds your wood in place when you are cutting through it, making it easier to cut through the wood and get nice straight lines. The most basic clamp that you can purchase for your projects includes the C-clamp.

The C-clamp is nice because it is able to latch on to any table that you are using, so if you don't have a special woodworking table to start with, it will still work. These clamps are going to come in a lot of sizes, but usually range from four to eight inches. These clamps get more expensive the larger you want them to be.

You can also pick up a sander. Unless you want to put all the work into the product and then have it feel rough to the touch or give splinters to those around you, then you must consider investing in a sander that can help you smooth it down. When you get started with woodworking, the sander will probably be one of the most expensive things that you purchase, but they are definitely worth it. There are several sanders that you can go with, but most woodworkers will pick either an orbital sander or a belt sander.

The orbital sander is the best for most beginner projects to work with, such as furniture and some other small wooden trinkets. In addition to purchasing a good sander, remember that you need to invest in some sandpaper. Depending on the wood types that you will pick for the project, there are also some different paper grades that you can pick based on how smooth you would like the project to be when done. The finer the sander grade, the smoother you are able to get the product to be.

These are the most basic tools that you will need to get started. Some other projects that you pick can have some other tools that you may need. If you find that several of your projects need the same additional tool or you plan to work on the same project quite a few times, then it makes economical sense to purchase that tool along with the others that we talked about.

## **Understand How Much Space You Will Need**

Now that you know a bit about the tools that you will need to invest in to get started on your projects, it is important to know more about the space that you will need to use to have room. Unlike other hobbies, you are not going to travel somewhere else in order to do it and most people are not able to rent out space to do this. This means that you are going to need to find room somewhere in your home. Some people will work in their basement, on a porch, in the backyard, or even in the garage. You can pick any location that you would like, as long as there is enough room to fit the boards and all of your tools.

Another thing to consider here is that if you plan to spend a lot of time sanding, then you will want to make sure that you are going with a space where sanding dust can show up without ruining things. It is known that there is a lot of dust that is going to accumulate from sanding and it can be considered damaging to your lungs. If you do spend a lot of your time sanding your projects, you must consider wearing a sand mask and that you clean the area often to keep yourself and your lungs safe.

The amount of lighting that is in the space needs to be adequate. The first reason for this is that it is important to be able to see the wood well when you are working on it. It is really hard to mark, cut, and configure the wood if you have to squint the whole time that you are doing the work. The second reason is that a good source of light will make it easier to line up the saw

blades to the measurements you made correctly. If you work on your projects inside the home somewhere, then make sure that you have adequate sources of light to make it easier.

Each person is going to pick a different spot in order to do these projects. You just need to make sure that there is enough room and enough light for the projects you choose. If you are just doing small end tables, you won't need as much room as if you are doing larger kitchen tables or some of the other bigger projects. You can take a look at the tools and the sizes for each project you want to work on and then choose the space from there.

## **Learn the different techniques**

There are a lot of different techniques that you are able to use when you do woodworking. This is true whether you want to sand the project, learn how to measure and cut the boards, how to stain the project, and even how to finish the project. What works the best for some people may not always work the best for you so trying out some different techniques to see how much you like those options.

When it comes to cutting the boards, you may find that working with a specific saw works the best for you, doing the boards as you go along with the project, or doing them all ahead of time can help. You may want to work with someone else before you decide which method to go with to see what seems to work best, and then try out a few different options until you get it right.

Sanding is probably the part where you will need to really work on the techniques. Many times the project will recommend working with a power sander because this is easier and can speed up the work. But if you don't like the feel of the power tool or find that you just can't get the pressure right and you keep making the project look bad with it, there is nothing wrong with using your hands in order to sand off the project.

No matter what part of the project you are working on, you will find that there are many techniques to use. None of them are necessarily any better than the others so go ahead and experiment and see what you can do to make fantastic projects.



## **Spend time practicing**

While there are a lot more steps that you can consider when you get started with woodworking, the last big topic that we are going to look at is how important it is to practice your woodworking skills. Many beginners will get into this process and expect it to be really easy. When they find that it takes more than a few tries to get it all down, they are likely to get frustrated and angry in the process.

No matter what new skill you are trying to learn, the more that you are able to practice it, the easier it will become. Do not expect yourself to become an expert and make professional pieces the first few times that you do it. Some of the projects that you will work on, including some of the ones that we show in this guidebook, take a lot of time and dedication to complete.

If you are someone who gets frustrated easily with things, then you need to gain patience. Woodworking takes some time and effort to complete and is not always as easy as you may think. Just because you see that others are doing well with it and seem to be able to do things with ease, does not mean that you will be able to do it right from the start. In fact, those people have probably spent years learning woodworking and doing various projects, so comparing yourself to them is not always the best.

If you want to ensure that you are getting better and that you are practicing the right kinds of things, there are a few skills that you can work on and they will include:

Marking the wood: If you are not good at making accurate marks on the boards, then it is more likely that your projects will not look as good at the end. Practice making the marks the right way on the board to make cutting it a lot easier.

Measuring: Some people find that measuring is not that easy for them. Practice your measuring so that you can assess how accurate you are and whether or not you need to have some practice. Some beginners mistakenly think that measuring is not that important, but if you are not able to measure a few pieces of wood the right way, you will end up with a project that is lopsided or has some other issues.

Templates: These templates can be useful when you are trying to make the same cut more than one time in the same piece of wood. So, let's say that you are making a table and then one of the legs is off just a bit. This can be a problem because the table is going to be all wobbly. Using a template can help fix this issue.

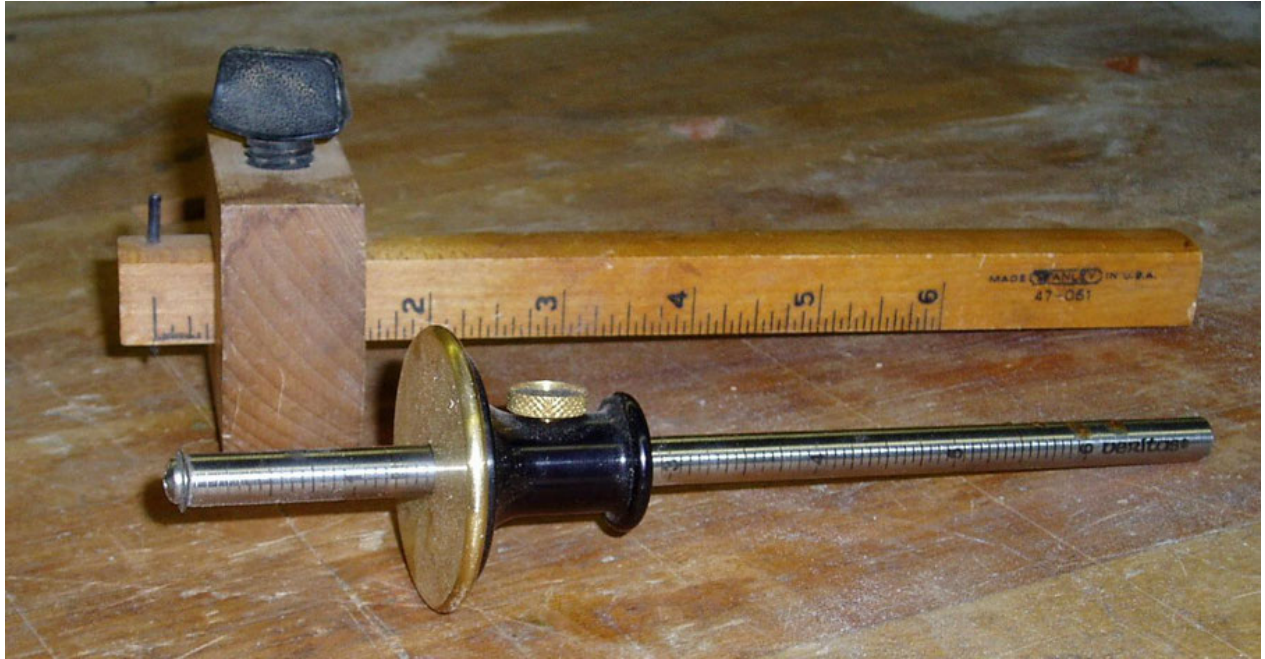
Learning the steps that you need to take to make a good practice can take some time. You are not going to make a perfect project the first time you start and while you are learning all the tools and the steps, you may find that you take a long time to learn everything. Over time though, you will get used to the process and will be able to make something great that looks amazing too. You just need to be willing to put in the time and the practice to get it all done.



## **Chapter 2: How to Be Safe with Your Hand Tools**

Now that we have taken some time to look at the basics of starting with woodworking, it is time to look a bit more at some of the hand tools that you are able to work on. This chapter will start out with some more about the hand tools that you will need as a beginner woodworker and some of the reasons that you need these tools. Later on we will look at some of the power tools that can be nice as well. Remember, you can keep things pretty basic in order to save some money and still make great projects, but you should pick higher quality items to ensure that they last longer. Some of the different tools that you will need for woodworking include:

## Marking Gauge



The marking gauge is going to be one of the most essential tools that you can use when you want to create various joints and designs. A good gauge is going to be upwards of fourteen dollars and this is usually plenty to invest as a beginner. There are marking gauges that can cost a lot more, but you don't necessarily need those and it can be a big waste of money.

The whole purpose of using the marking gauge is that it will make it easier to cut a line in your project that is exactly parallel to the edge of the board. Depending on the project that you decide to make, this can be a really important tool to keep things even.

To use a good marking gauge, you need to understand how the blade of this gauge is going to be a circular disk, and not just an

actual blade. Even though the traditional blade is not found on this gauge, the gauge is still seen as sharp so use some caution while having this gauge. The larger disk is often called a fence because it is going to gauge how close or how far the blade is to the edge of your wood. When you are able to adjust the fence along the rod of the gauge, it is easier to strike the wood at the proper distance from the edge of the wood. Because of the force from the rotation, it is easy to mark where you will place a joint on the wood later on.

Now, there are a few different types of gauges that you can use. The cheapest is only going to have one blade. But you can also use ones that have multiple blades if you would like. As a beginner though, the single blade is going to be just fine for your needs.

## Chisels



Chisels are usually just going to have two functions to help you out. The first way that you can use them is for paring, and the second is going to be for either chopping or for mallet work. When you are paring something, you are moving the chisel from side to side while the tool is at a ninety-degree angle. But if you use the chisel for chopping, you will hold onto the chisel so that it is upright and then you will press down on it with the help of a hammer or a mallet.

For the most part, the chopping is going to be used when you would like to chisel out a joint from the onset. But then you would use paring when you want to clean up a joint that has already been chopped out with your chopping motion. When you go through the paring process, you must make sure that you are not working to

take out larger chunks from the wood. Instead of using an aggressive object or a hammer here, you will instead press down on the wood to use it a little bit at a time.

## Block plane



The next tool that you can choose to use is a block plane or a hand plane. This is an instrument that will be used to help reduce a piece of wood to give it a sloping edge. The blade that is on the under side of this plane will allow for that sloping action to occur. To keep it simple, while using a chisel can help you to get this slope as well, the block plane makes this process a bit easier.

In order to use this kind of tool, you will just need to press it against the edge of the wood and then move the blade so that it goes up and back. You will want to keep going with this simple motion until the piece of wood has the slope that you would like.

Of course, while you are doing this, be careful so that you do not touch the bottom, or you could end up seriously injuring yourself. There should be enough grip room on the top of the plane. You can choose how nice of a block plane you would like to have based on how often you will use it.

These are some of the basic tools that you can use to help get the work done faster than before. You can easily combine them together with some of the tools that we talked about in the first chapter to complete your tool belt of work in no time. Each project is going to be a little bit different, but these, along with a good hammer, a sander, and some measuring utensils, will make a difference in how professional your project is going to look when it is all done. You can choose how much you would like to spend on these tools based on how much woodworking you actually plan on getting done, but still stick with something that is high quality to help your work look better.

As this chapter explains, it is recommended that you start out with these three basic tools as your initial investment of hand tools. The block plane, chisel set, and marking gauge will make your woodworking experience much better. Each of the tools above will help you to do more with your projects and can broaden your skill sets in no time. And when you add them with the power tools that we will talk about in the next chapter, you can really do something amazing.

Do not underestimate using these hand tools. Some people compare them to the power tools and don't understand why they would need both. Hand tools are good for providing some details in the work that you do in the wood, something that is pretty much impossible

when you are working with power tools. These details can take the woodworking from good to great and it is really important to learn how to use them early on.

## **Chapter 3: Going From Hand Tools to Power Tools**

While the hand tools are important tools to learn how to use when you are in woodworking, there is also something to be said about using power tools. For many of the projects that you are working on, you will need to use some power tools to make it easier. There are a lot of power tools that you can work with, but not all of them are all that necessary. Some of the power tools that a beginner can use on some of their projects include the router table, a jointer, and a circular saw. This chapter will discuss how to use these a little bit and even how to stay safe using them so that you get the best results.

## Circular saw



You will find that a table saw and a circular saw are going to be very similar. The biggest difference between these two is that the circular saw is a lot less expensive compared to the table saw. When you decide to use that circular saw, you will want to make sure that you use a table that is safe enough to cut the wood on. Without the table, the saw is not going to work that well because there is nothing to stabilize the saw or keep the wood in place.

To use this, make sure that the power cable has been plugged in and that the blade is turned on. Then line up the saw blade against your pre-measured line so you know where you need to cut. Sometimes it is best to line up the saw with the wood before the blade is on because this allows you time to get the best accuracy before starting. Once the blade is turned on, make sure that one hand is always on the blade of the saw. Your other hand should be on the wood to make sure it is able to stay in place.

Now, when you are ready, push the blade through the wood until you are all the way through and the two pieces are broken apart. Depending on what you want to use the wood for, you could take the next step to sand down the edge after you have used the circular side.

When it comes to safety, there is a lot to consider for this kind of saw compared to the safety of using hand tools. There are several guidelines that you can follow when using a circular saw including:

Make sure that your clothing is secure so that nothing is hanging down. Keep the clothes tucked in and not baggy. Make sure that your hair is put up and that you are not using any jewelry that could get caught.

It is important to use ear and eye protection. Eye protection is important because it will ensure that any particles that go flying will not end up in your eye.

You should make sure that when looking at the blade of the saw, there is not a lot of it hanging off. Only about a fourth of an inch of the blade should be suspended from the saw.

Check the guard of the blade before you turn it on to ensure that the guard is working properly.

To make sure that you are protected, consider using a clamp to keep the wood secure on the surface. This can be helpful because

it allows you to use both hands to guide your wood rather than relying on just one.

## A Jointer



Next on the list is a tool known as a jointer. The main purpose of this tool is to take the rough edge of your wood piece and get it to be flat. This is not the same as a sander through because by flat, we are not meaning that the board will be nice and smooth. This just ensure that the piece of wood itself is flat.

For example, if you were to place a level on the piece of wood that you just used a join on, the level would read that the piece of wood was even. While this is true that it is not always necessary to use a jointer because you could go with pre-leveled wood when purchasing stuff, this is often really cheap wood and not always the best to build with. It is better to get higher quality wood and then use a jointer to make it flat and easier to use.

The biggest safety precautions to follow when you decide to use a jointer on your projects is for your hands and your ears. You should consider getting some earmuffs to use before working with that equipment because it can be loud and hard on your ears.

In addition, never use the jointer without the paddles that come with the machine. Always make sure that you check out the depth of the cut that you want to make before you even turn on the machine. This helps you to stay safe because you may end up having to adjust the cut depth in the middle of the project, while the machine is running, and then you could end up injuring yourself.

## Router table



When it comes to a tool that is considered versatile, the router table is going to be the best. In fact, it is able to help provide you with the same results as a jointer, however, it can only do this for the skinny side of the wood. Some of the other tasks that your router table will be able to help with is to shape decorative edges and curves on a project, form raised structures on the piece of wood itself, cut out some slots and groove, create moldings on doors, and can even be used to create doors if needed.

There are options when it comes to a good router table. Some will recommend that as a beginner, you should purchase a portable or a

trim router, but these are not going to provide you with the same results that you can find with a router table. The router table provides for more stability compared to the other options and it is sometimes best to make the investment.

When looking at the table, you will notice that there is a small opening in the middle of your table where a plastic cover will sit. This spot is where you can place your different bits, which will vary based on the project you decide to work with. Some of the bits are more common, such as the flush-trim bits, the rabbeting bits, and the straight bits.

Once you have looked over your project instructions and you are able to determine the bit that you should use, the next step with your router table is to place the wood on it. There should be a small switch that is on the right of the table (but can vary depending on which router table you choose to use), that will turn the table on. Then you can slide the wood so that it goes against the sides of the router table and stays even. Continue pushing it so it goes to the small bit that is inside your router table.

If you are working with something like the trim of your home, you will want to push the wood through both sides. This ensures that you get the effect on both sides to look good. If you only want to be able to cut one side of your board on the router table, you would be better off using a circular saw when you are done so that you could cut the piece into the length that is needed based on how big the room for the trim is.

The price of the router table is going to vary based on how nice of a one you want to get. Some can be upwards of \$2000, though you

most likely do not need one that is quite that nice if you are just getting started. You will also need to pick out probably a few different types of bits to go along with the router table, based on the types of projects you will do and the sizes that will go through your chosen pieces of wood. The prices of these router bits will vary as well.

Of course, you need to use some safety precautions when using a router table because you are dealing with a saw in the middle of the table that cuts up the wood of you. Again, make sure that you use a paddle to help you put the wood closer to the bit inside of the table so that you keep your hands as far away from the material as possible. You will also want to use ear protection and safety goggles in this situation to protect your ears from the noise and your eyes from any flying bits of wood that come around.

Using power tools with woodworking can be a lot of fun. They help to speed up the process quite a bit and can make some desired effects that you are not able to get with some of the hand tools that we talked about before. The price point that you are going to pay on these depends on how nice of tools that you want to get. If you are only planning on doing this on occasion, then you don't need to purchase the most expensive option, but do not go cheap or they will fall apart or make an accident more likely. And of course, always make sure that you exercise caution when it comes to using these hand tools, even if you have used them in the past before.

A combination of good hand tools and power tools will make all the difference when it comes to the projects that you are able to create. Take your time finding the right tools to work on and getting them set up in your woodworking "shop" so that you are ready to go as

soon as you have the materials. With a bit of practice, you will become an expert at using these tools and will be able to zip through some projects in no time.

## **Chapter 4: The Basics of Sanding and Staining Your Project**

No matter what kind of project you are working on, there will be times when you will need to sand and stain your project. Before you even think about staining the project to get the look that you want, you must make sure that the project is smooth and sanding will help you do this. But you have to learn how to sand the proper way to get the best results. Let's start this chapter out with some of the basics of sanding your project and then move on to tip on how to properly stain your project to get the best results.



## **The basics of sanding**

The first thing that you need to remember when working with sanding your project is that you should start out rough and then finish smooth. Take a look at the piece of wood that you want to use on your project. You will notice that it is pretty rough because of all the mill marks, uneven grain, and scratches. You could use a plane or a scraper in order to smooth out the wood will need a lot of work because you must sharpen them on a regular basis just to get it smooth.

the best option to use is sandpaper, especially when it comes right out of the box, and it comes with a standard grit that makes it easier for any woodworker to follow the right process to get their boards smooth and ready to stain.

Since the job of the sandpaper is to scratch a surface to be smooth, it is important to start out with the right kind of grit based on the condition of the surface of the wood and whether you are going to add on a topcoat or a stain to make the wood look better. For the most part, the sandpaper that you will pick up will come in grits of 80, 100, 120, 150, 180, and 220.

If you go to the hardware store and notice that there are grits that are below 80, realize that these are usually going to be used for removing paint from an item without ruining it. The grits that fall above 220 are going to be for when you want to sand between coats of finish. You can choose to get some of these for

your woodshop, but there are probably not a lot of situations where you would use this.

To start, the coarse grits of 80 to 100 will help you make quick work of removing any deep scratches and removing mill marks. However, they are going to still leave some visible marks behind. You can also choose to sand with 150 grit paper because this is going to prepare your wood to be stained because the faint scratches that come with this are going to create a place for the pigment of stain to lodge into the wood.

In addition, you can also work with the 220 grit paper. When you want to apply a finish to the wood without needing to stain it, then the 220 grit will be the best. The scratch pattern that this sand paper will leave behind is not visible to the naked eye, but it helps to provide a good grip that the top coat needs to adhere to the wood well.

While this may seem like a lot of work and will require you to go through and sand the same part with different grits of sand paper, it is best to not skip any of them for the best results. You should begin with the 80 grit and then move on to the 100, 120, and then 150, sanding the same spot over again with all of these papers. Each grit is going to slowly remove the scratches from the previous grit so you don't need to worry about ruining your board at the same time. But going through this process will help you to get a project that is nice and smooth and will look well when you try to add a finish or stain to the project.

Now, you can choose to get the sand paper grits and do all the sanding by hand if you would like. This allows for a little more personalization and can keep you busy for some time if you are doing it as a hobby. However, it is slow and most people just do not have the time and patience in order to work on this with three to four different paper grits.

You can also choose to work with a random-orbit sander to make the process of sanding easier and if you are able to use the right technique with this, it will be more consistent. In order to use one of these sanders as effectively as possible, you should move the sander slowly without pausing to remove specific spots. This is because it can cause some dips in the surface. You want to make sure that you are sanding evenly and hitting all the parts the same way so that you don't end up with dips or causing issues with the wood.

Repeated sweeps that go across the whole surface of your wood at a rate of six to twelve inches each second will help you to remove the flaws on the surface in an even way. You can pick out a sander that has a dust collection, preferably one that is hooked to a vacuum, to get the best results and to prevent dust flying out at you all the time.

With some experience, you will find that the random-orbit sander is going to operate the best when you only place the weight of the sander on the wood. Applying too much pressure is going to slow down how fast the pad is able to rotate, and also the sanding process, but it could result in some swirl marks and scratches in the wood.

This type of sander is not going to be able to get into the corners of your project and if you try, you may find that they leave some swirl marks in the wood. Because of this, it is best to work with a hand-sander to get the final grit in the corners. This is not going to take long because the power sander did the majority of the work and you just need to finish it up. But doing this step, rather than skipping it, will help you get a consistent surface before you do a stain or a finish on the project.

The sanding process often takes some time, even with a power sander. You need to work to get rid of any imperfections that come in the wood and make it nice and smooth. No one wants to receive or use a product that is not smooth and could have a lot of imperfections that fall into the wood. And since you need to go through and sand the same area a few different times to get the right grit, you have to keep your patience in order to get the best results.

## The basics of staining



Depending on the type of project that you are working on, you may decide to stain it when you are done. There are a wide array of staining products that are on the market and this can make it really hard to figure out which one you should look into. The basic thing to remember about this process is that staining is just the process of adding some color to the wood. You can use this process to darken the wood, to help bring out the grain pattern, to make one variety of wood look different, or to accent some of the fixtures or details of a piece of furniture.

The stains that you pick will consist of three different components. They are going to include pigments, dyes, and a carrier. The carrier is important because it will determine whether or not your stain is oil or if it is water based.

Staining is going to dramatically and permanently change the appearance of the wood. As a beginner, it is always best to test out the stain before you apply it to your furniture. If you start out

the test by putting the stain on your finished product, and you do not like the color, it is going to be nearly impossible to change it. But if you try it on an extra piece of wood and don't like it, you can always change your mind on the color before getting started.

Let's look at some of the steps that you should follow in order to stain your finished product, after sanding it down like we discussed in the section above, includes:

Stir and shake the stain before beginning. You will notice that the heavier pigments are going to settle more in the can so shaking it up a bit can make a difference.

If the test piece is a bit blotchy when you apply the stain, you should consider applying a wood conditioner to it first. If you do need to apply the wood conditioner, make sure to apply a liberal amount of the right type of wood conditioner, either oil based or water based depending on the stain you use, about fifteen minutes before you are ready to stain.

Once you are ready, you can apply the stain, making some even strokes with a staining pad, rag, or brush. After a few minutes, you have given the stain some time to dry and you can wipe off any of the excess stain with a cloth. You can choose how dark you would like the stain. Darker colors happen if you leave the stain on longer and lighter colors happen if you take the stain off earlier.

Once you have been able to stain the whole piece the color that you want, allow it time to dry overnight. The next day, if you decide to darken the wood a bit more, you can add on another coat of the stain. As it dries, you may notice that the stain may take on a dull look. The good news is that you can get the fresh appearance to return when you get the finish applied later on.

Staining the wood can be a great way for you to give a little bit of color to it and give it the appearance that you would like. You can choose from a wide array of colors and styles to get the look that you want.

## **How to finish the product**

And finally, it is time to finish the wood. This will give it the perfect touch and make it stand out from the rest. The first thing that you need to do is pick out the finish that you want to use with your wood. Water based finishes are often the best because they are better for the environment and non-flammable. A clear polyurethane finish can also provide your wood with a protective coat that makes it even better.

Go with a finish that is clear and that has the amount of gloss that you would like the wood to have. If you have a glossy finish on the project, then the wood will end up with a sheen or a glow compared to those that have less gloss. You should be careful about finishes that are water heavy because they are going to sometimes swell the wood fibers in an uneven manner. Apply these kinds of finishes in a light manner and work with several coats.

You should also be careful and consider sanding off bristles that appear after the first finish coat. You will then need to add on at least two more coats in order to get a thorough and even finish over your first coat.

You will want to apply a finish in order to protect the wood from stains, dirt, or any type of water damage. Just like with what happened with the stain, you will need to use a natural bristle brush to apply on the stain, making sure that you go with the grain of the wood rather than against it. You can stir the stain

into the can before you apply it, but then do not shake up the can. Shaking the can will create some air bubbles that end up getting onto the wood and ruining the look that you get.

When working with bare wood, water based polyurethane is the best finish. This is because this kind of finish is going to highlight the features that come with the wood itself, such as the natural color and the grain. Oil-based polyurethane is a good option if you would like to increase the durability of the wood when you combine it with the stain. Wiping varnish, which is an oil-based polyurethane that is thinned fifty percent with paint thinner, is going to be the best for stained and decorative pieces. This one is easy to apply, but it is not a good one for pieces that need to make it through some wear and tear.

When you are ready to use the finish, you simple need to paint it onto the wood. Make sure that you use a natural bristle brush in most cases. However, you will find that working with a foam brush that is about two inches can work as well. After you put the first coat of finish onto the wood, you should let it set overnight. You will end up putting several coats of finish on your project by the time you are done, but you need to allow the first coat time to completely dry. This is because you will need to smooth it out with a light sanding before you add on the other coats.

Once the first coat has had time to dry, you can sand the finish down a bit to make it smooth. You can sand this first coat with sandpaper that is about 280 grit, or you can do a finer sandpaper if you feel like your project doesn't need much in the way of

evening out. Bring out a vacuum or a tack rag to remove all the dust from the project completely before you get started with applying the second coat.

At this time, you will need to apply the second coat just like you would apply some paint. When there are any bubbles in this layer, make sure to remove them by brushing back over the area to help smooth it all down. When possible, try to apply this coat of finish by going with the grain of wood. On flat surfaces, you will just brush from side to side going front to back. Apply this level of finish as thinly as you can, and then line the brush strokes up in rows so that you get a nice even coat on the wood.

For each coat that you add to the project, you will need to sand in between each of them. Just like with the first coat, you will want to lightly sand each coat once it has been cured. This will help to remove any of the dust nibs that come up and any other imperfections that are needed due to the finish. Take the time to remove the dust with a vacuum or a tack rag when you are done so the dust doesn't get stuck in the layers.

You will want to repeat this process two or three times depending on how you want the project to look in the end. Once you have been able to add in a few layers going this one, you will be able to add on the final coat of finish. This final coat does not need to be sanded. You do not need to sand this final coat because if you do, it is going to take away that nice shine and finished look that you want. Once the last coat has time to dry, you can wipe it down with a soft rag to help remove the particles and give it the nice look that your final project will need.

The amount of layers that you will need to do will depend on the project. This finish adds a level of protection that you need on your project. Plus the shine can make your project look even better, and after all the hard work that you put into that project, you want to make sure that it looks its very best when you are all done.

While working on your woodworking project can take some time and does take more than just slicing up some of the boards and nailing them together. But when you add on these extra steps, you will find that they will bring your project to the next level. Take some time to practice these steps and you are sure to fall in love with the results.

## Chapter 5: How to Mill a Board to Square Four Sides

The next thing that we are going to look at is how to mill a board to square on four sides. The previous chapters took some time to discuss the basic tools that you can use as a beginner in this and also the different types of tools that you can purchase based on the various projects you want to complete. This chapter is going to help you get started on your very first project. This particular project is going to be known as milling a board to square four sides. Let's take a look at what this all means and the steps that you must take to make it happen.



## **What does it mean to mill wood**

The first thing that you need to understand on this project is what milling wood means. Milling wood is going to refer to the process of taking a piece of lumber and then turning it into something that is flat and square that you can use later on to help make furniture. If the main reason that you purchased this book is to create furniture later on after some practice, then this is a good exercise for you to begin with.

When the board has been milled well, all the faces of that board will be flat and smooth. In addition, the corners are going to all measure exactly ninety-degrees. For most boards, this means that there will be six sides that you must mill. Let's take a look at some of the basic steps that you can follow when you are ready to mill a board into four square sides.

### **Step 1: Use a jointer**

We have already taken some time to discuss how you can use a jointer, and that knowledge is going to come in handy when you get to this project. When you're doing this to a piece of wood, always insure that you are able to get a 90-degree angle on each of the six sides of the board. You can even stop to double check that all the angles are precise after you cut them by measuring them against the edge of the fence of the joint, which is already designed to be at a ninety degree angle.

Another way that you can check to ensure that the sides of your board are all flat is to simply sit them on a surface that is flat. If the entire side of the board is able to sit on the surface in its entirety, without having any light or something showing through at any point, then you know that the board is completely flat.

## **Step 2: Use your block plane**

If you are not able to purchase a jointer or do not want to, there are still some options that you can use when you want to mill your board this way. One of those options is to use a block plane hand tool because it is able to achieve a similar goal. The block tool is usually known for creating a sloping angle on one side of the wood, you will first need to press the side of the wood that you wish to flatten onto a flat surface. If you do this and see some unevenness or wobbling, then you know that these are the parts of the board that will need to be cut away. Once you have gone through and marked the parts of the board that look uneven, you can then take the block plane to it until the side is flat to the flat surface that it sits on. This is not always the most direct way to get things done, but it does help if you don't have any other tools to do it.

## **Step 3: Get a planer**

Once you are sure that all of the sides on that particular piece of wood are flat, the next step that you can do is to run the piece through the planer. We have not had time to discuss this planer yet in this guidebook, but this is a neat tool to work with if you

want to achieve a pre-determined thickness all throughout the board.

For this part of the project, it is so important that all of the sides of your board are flat before you decide to right it through the planer. If there are sides of the board that are concaving or bow-shaped, then the planer is just going to end up replicating these same shapes in the board, and that can make the board come out looking butchered and bad.

At this point as a beginner, the planer is not really that essential to your woodworking process and they can be kind of expensive. If you decide to use them for this project, it may be better if you go to the local hardware store and see if they are able to rent one of these out to you or even if they would plane the wood for you to save some time.

#### **Step 4: Try out the table saw**

Another option that you can go with to help with this process is the table saw. A circular saw would work well too since you already have that with the rest of your tools. With the circular saw will be able to ensure that all of the skinny edges of the board are perpendicular as well as parallel to one another respectively.

If you do all the steps correctly with the help of the table saw or the circular saw, you should be able to see that your board is

resembling something that looks like a board you may find in the hardware store if you purchased them already done for you.

Now, you are able to choose what size you would like to make each of these boards and you can even choose which of the methods makes the most sense for your needs. Based on what you think is the easiest and which tools you already have in your workshop, decide on the length that you want for your milling process and then give it a go.

Remember that this process will take some time to accomplish. You may have to go with a few different boards before you are able to get it to have the result that you like. You may have a few boards that look funny or do not match up the way that you would like and that is fine. Just keep practicing and it will not be long before you get some great boards that are even on all sides and will work for all your projects.

And that is all there is to the milling process. You just need to make sure that the sides are all even and that they match up to be square, and pick out the tool that you want to use to do this, and you are good to go and have completed your first project.

## **Chapter 6: The Basics of Cutting Mortise and Tenon Joints**

After the last chapter, you should be done with your first project when it comes to woodworking. This is a pretty basic technique, but if you do not have any experience working with this hobby, it is a good place to get started and gain some practice along the way. This chapter is going to move on past that basic technique so that you can learn some more tricks that will be useful when you move on to other projects. This chapter will mostly focus on what the tenon and mortise joints are and how you can go about creating them.

## What is a tenon and a mortise?

Whether you are aware of it or not, the tenon joints and the mortise joints are often the go-to techniques that are used in most cabinetry and furniture work today. Instead of trying to go through and understand the basic structure of these unique cuts, it is best to take a look at a picture of each one, which you can see below to see the differences:



As you should be able to see from the picture above, these two joints can go together. The mortise cut is going to be considered the female end of this cut and then the tenon is going to be the male part of the cut.

The reason that these two cut types are so popular in the woodworking industry is that they are going to work with the contraction and expansion of wood over time. Did you know that it is pretty natural for wood to contract and expand over time. This is a big reason why pocket jig designs are seen as faulty in

nature because they are not able to properly account for the contraction and the expansion that the wood will naturally do. This is not something that you will need to worry about when working the tenon and mortise joints.

If you are taking a look at the picture above and feeling a bit intimidated about how you will complete the process, do not worry. These cuts are actually pretty simple to work with and we will go through the steps to complete them properly below.

### **Step one: cut the mortise joint first**

When you want to cut both a tenon and a mortise joint, the best thing that you can do here is make sure to cut the mortise joint first. This is because it is easier to adjust the tenon joint a bit so that it fits into your mortise joint. But it can be a challenge to fit the mortise joint around the tenon joint if you go with the tenon joint first.

Also, the general rule of thumb regarding the tenon joint is that the length needs to be about four to five times the thickness of the tenon, while the tenon itself needs to be half the thickness of the board. This is pretty easy to measure and the picture above kind of shows how to do it.

When you are ready to cut your mortise, you will want to use your router table to help. You can pick out an up spiral bit to place on the router table because this will make it easier to work on your joint. The roundness that comes with the bit will allow you to cut into the wood properly, and then the flattened edge will deliver the flatness that you need in the mortise cut.

## **Step two: cut the tenon joint**

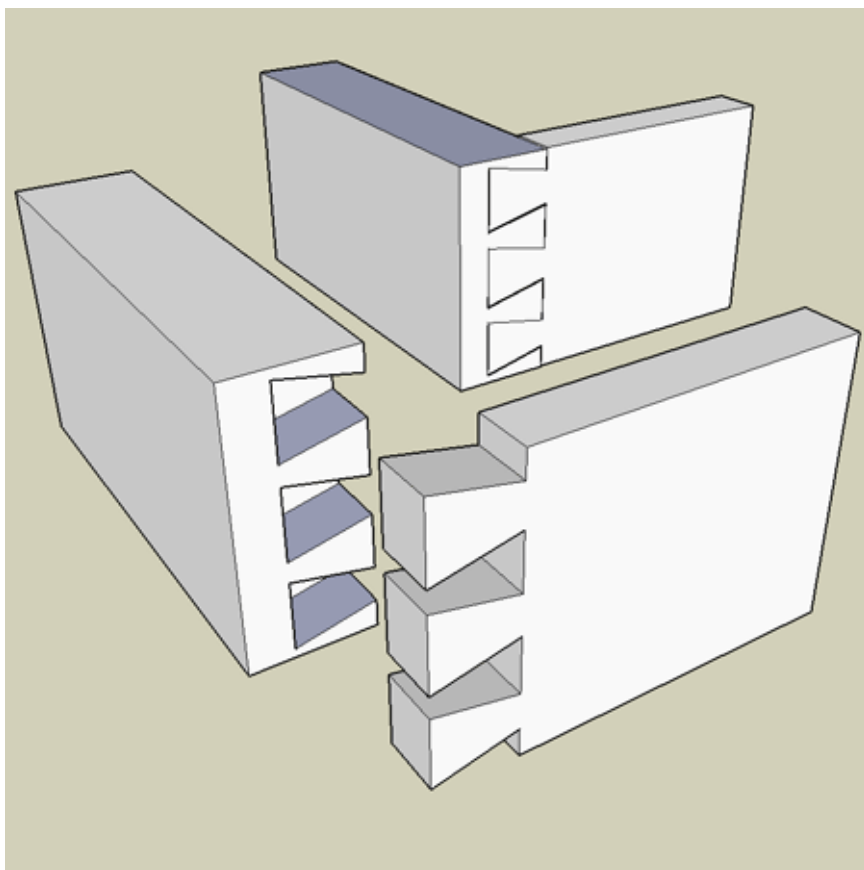
As we worked on with the mortise joint, you will still need to use the router table to achieve the tenon cut. For the tenon cut though, you will need to use a different bit that is known as the slot-cutting bit. The slot-cutting blade is able to dig into the piece of wood and then provide it with that open room to breathe and complement the mortise that you already worked on. The router table can make these cuts pretty easy to handle as long as you measured ahead of time and you don't rush the whole thing.

For most of woodworking, the mortise as well as the tenon joints are considered the methods that have been used the longest for furniture making and it is so important that you learn how to work with them. Many of the projects that you will use in this guidebook and other places will utilize these two cuts so learn how to do them properly.

## **The basic types of tenon joints and mortise joints**

Now that we have some of the basics down of working with the tenon and mortise joints, and how you can use your router table in order to create them, it is now time to take a look at how there are different types of tenon and mortise joints that you are able to create. The three methods that we are going to use are known as the angled, the through, and the stopped/blind tenon and mortise joint.

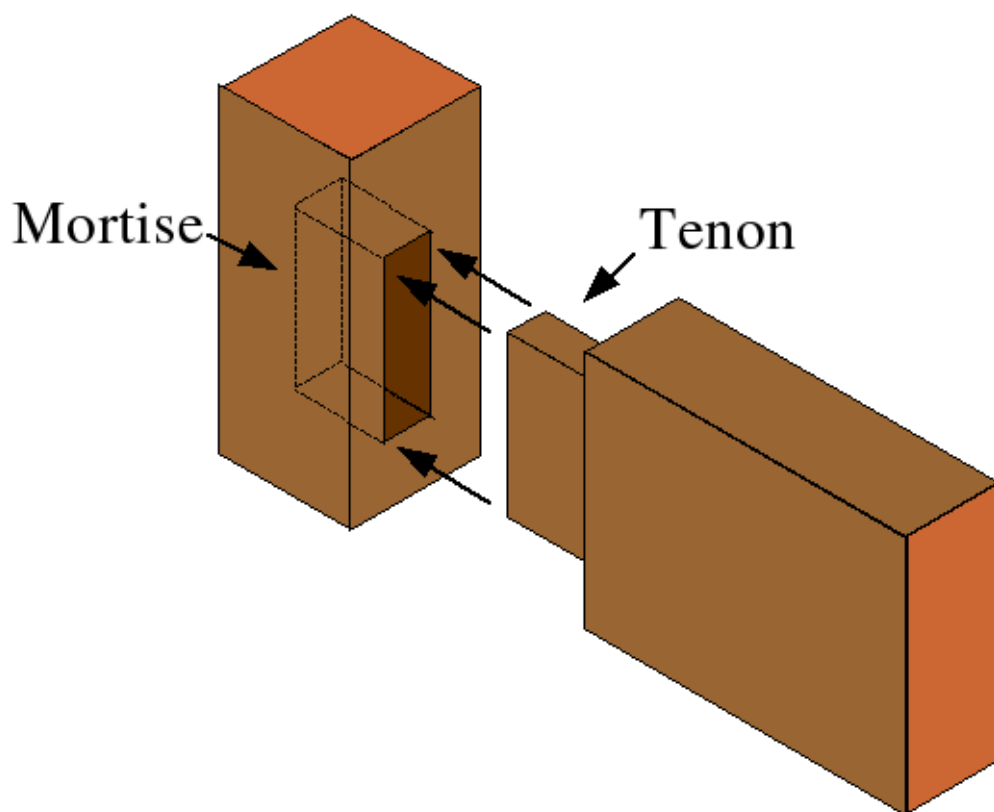
### **The stopped/blind joint**



This type of mortise and tenon joint are like the ones that you saw in the picture earlier in this chapter. This type of joint was able to get its name mostly because of the fact that the tenon is blind when it is placed snugly into the mortise. Note that while the picture above showed the tenon joint as being square, this is not a requirement to work with this kind of joint. You can also make it circular if that works better with your project.

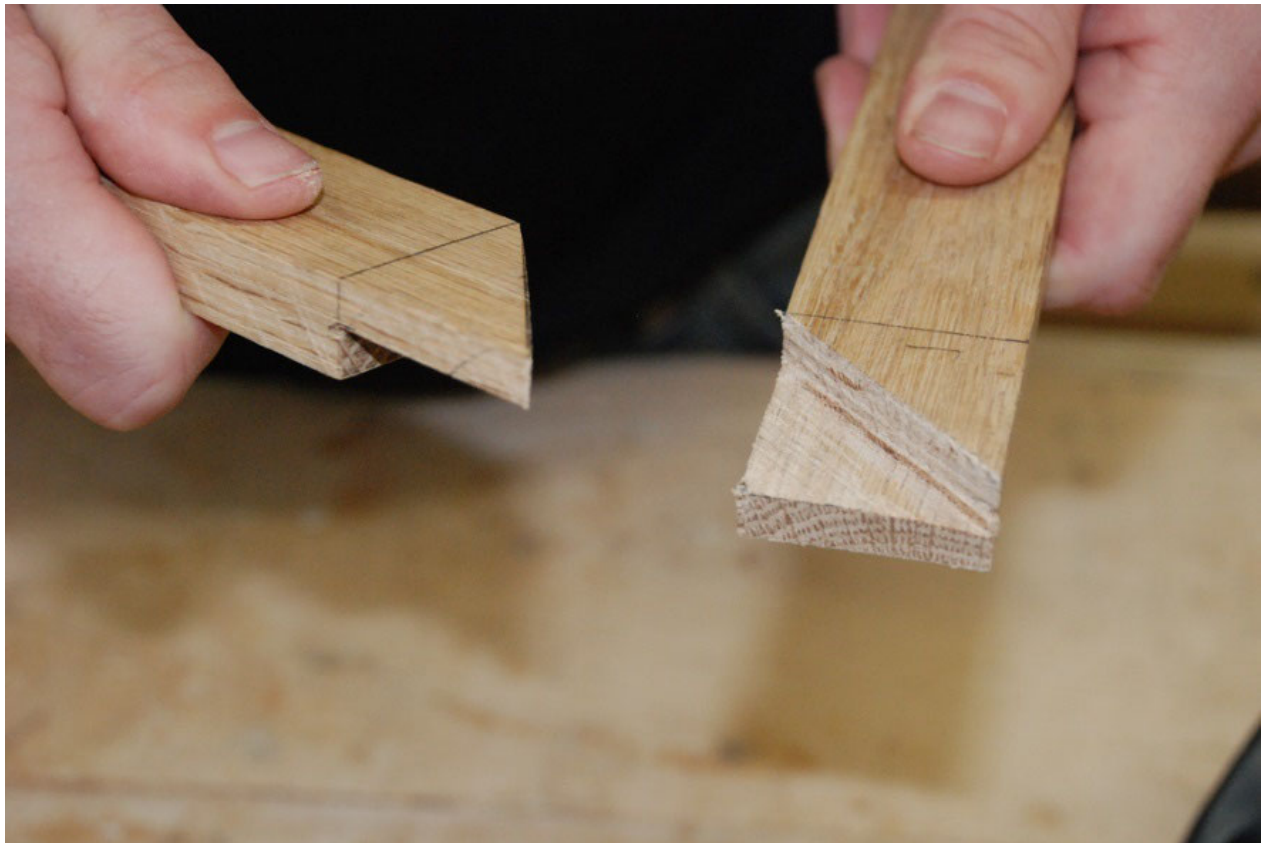
The circular tenon joints are usually a bit harder to work with because of the type of cut you will need to use to make them happen. As you get more familiar with creating the tenon and mortise joints, you will learn how to do this and get it down in no time.

### **The through tenon and mortise joint**



The next type of joint that you can use will be the through tenon and mortise joint. This one got its name because the tenon joint is going to go all the way through the piece of furniture that you are using. This means that you will be able to see it poking through on the other side, rather than getting hidden like in the blind joint. This can be done in table legs, chairs, and other pieces of furniture. It often is used because the tenon will be part of the structure that helps to hold that furniture piece together.

### **The angled tenon and mortise joint**



And finally the third type of tenon and mortise joint that you can work with is called the angled joint. If you have ever used an Adirondack chair in the summer, then you are already at least a bit familiar with the angled tenon and mortise joint, even if you never realized it in the past or not.

The angled tenon and mortise joint is a little more advanced compared to the other two joints that we discussed in this chapter, so you may want to practice those a bit more before you continue on with this one. Once you are able to build one of the other types, it is not too hard to build on to your other options.

As you can see, there are several different types of joints that you can work on and the one that you choose to use for each project varies based on the type of project you need it for and sometimes even with the preferences that you have of them. Learning how to create them is as easy as some of the steps that we discussed at the beginning of the chapter and with the help of your round table, you will be able to get it done in no time.

## Chapter 7: Top Tips to Get Started Right



So far we have taken some time to talk about the basics of woodworking and how you can easily get started on some of your own projects. At this point, you have even learned how to get started on some of your own projects, including how to make a few different joints that can be used later if you would like to create some furniture.

In this chapter, we are going to switch gears a little bit before moving into some of the different projects that you can work on with your new skills in woodworking. For this one, we are going to offer some tips and advice that you can use as a beginner to woodworking to make sure that you get better at the hobby and can

soon create a masterpiece. Some of the tips that you can follow will include:

### **Start with projects that are simple**

While you may be really eager to get started with a new project and want to jump in right away, the best advice that you can follow when you are getting started with woodworking is to focus on doing really well with a smaller project before you try to move to the bigger ones. Of course, when you are eager, this is sometimes easier said than done. But this can really save you a lot of hassle, time, and even money in the beginning.

You may be eager to get started with woodworking, but it is a little expensive, especially if you run out and purchase all the expensive materials and tools that you can find right from the beginning. If you start with some simple projects, you give yourself some time to learn the trade and see if you like it before you invest all that money into it.

In addition, when you start out with some simple projects, you are giving yourself a better chance of honing your skills and getting better, rather than overwhelming yourself and not learning anything in the process. Remember that woodworking is all about the process, the learning, and the seeing where it all ends up leading you next.

To go along with this idea, it is also important for you to understand that woodworking is not always as simple as placing the pieces of wood together and getting a unique design out of it. There is design that should be done on a piece of paper before you get started. Other times the things you are working on should be

focusing on developing the hobby more and learning new skills before you move on.

### **Be wise with any investments**

When you first get started with woodworking, it will not take long for you to see how easy it is to spend a small fortune to get started if you want. That is why we started out this guidebook by talking about which tools are absolutely necessary so that you can save some money.

But while you can save money by not purchasing every tool that you see at the local hardware store, you must also remember that quality is going to be important when it comes to woodworking. You should pick out tools that are higher in quality and are sure to last for a longer time so you get the best out of your projects.

Another way to save some money here is to make sure that you do not purchase tools that are highly specialized. These are tools that are needed for one project type, but then when you are done with that project, you do not really have much need of that tool again. You may want to consider working on another project in this situation, or at least see if one of the tools that you already have is able to do the job instead.

### **Look to see if there are several strategies that work**

With any hobby that you choose to use, there are many ways that you can reach a single goal. If some of the methods that we describe in this guidebook are just not working for you, then maybe

it is time to try out something different and see what will work. You can always look for alternate ways to work on the project, online, on YouTube, and in other books to find the one that works for you. There is no one size fits all when it comes to woodworking and if one method doesn't work and you just can't get the project to turn out, then go ahead and try something new and see if that works.

## **Keep on practicing**

As a beginner, you are going to need a lot of practice to get it all done. It is unlikely that you will be able to just pick up a piece of wood and turn on the machine and get the perfect products that you see at the stores. You need to take a lot of time practicing, and starting out with some of the basic projects that we talked about earlier in this guidebook, before you are able to reach the level of doing something that is more complicated. This can be frustrating to some beginners, but with enough time and practice and dedication to the craft, it will not take long before you can get it all done.

When you first get started, make sure to practice until you get it right. This can be frustrating if you are someone who likes to get it right the first time and move on, but this is an art form that takes time to master and you need to practice to get it right. Before you move on to some of the different projects that are in the rest of this guidebook, spend a few weeks or so learning how to do the projects that we talked about earlier in this guidebook. Once you have the skills from those down, it will be so much easier to advance on your skills and get those new projects down too.

## **Sanding can take time**

While some of the other parts of this process, such as cutting the wood into pieces, can be pretty simple to do and don't take much time, it is important to remember that sanding can take some time. You need to not rush this part of the process because it really makes a difference in the final product. If you really want to be able to impress others with the skills that you have learned and the final product that you are showing off, then it is a good idea to take your time with sanding to get it right.

In some cases, you may even need to use a few different grades of sanding paper to get it right. Work hard on the corners and the little hidden spots because those will often take the longest to get results. But when those are sanded nice and smooth, they can really impress.

### **Follow safety precautions when using the power tools**

When you are doing woodworking, it is important to follow the necessary safety precautions to ensure that you not only have a good time, but you also stay safe at the same time. Woodworking can be safe, but when you work with the power tools, you have to be careful that you do not hurt your hands, have wood parts fly up and hit you, or anything else that could make the whole woodworking process unsafe for you.

There are a few different items that you can keep around that will help you stay safe when you work on your next woodworking project includes:

Gloves: There are some special woodworking gloves that you can choose which will help to protect your hands and make them a little

safer when cutting wood with a power tool. You still have to pay attention, but they can save you if there is a little slip or something else.

Eye protection: Any time that you use a power tool, you should wear some eye protection. It is possible that the wood can fly off at you while using these tools and get in your eyes. Before you even turn on the power tool, make sure that you put on the eye protection to keep yourself as safe as possible.

Ear protection: Depending on which power tools you want to use, you may want to consider putting on some ear protection. Some of those can get pretty loud and if you do not put something over the ears to keep them safe and you use these power tools for a long period of time, you could be putting your hearing at risk.

Face masks for sanding: All the dust that comes from sanding can make it difficult to breathe for some people. Even a little bit of sanding can become an irritant so it is best to wear a face mask to prevent this from happening in the first place. Find one that you like that is comfortable so you can wear it the whole time you sand.

### **Try to do it with someone else to learn more**

If you have the opportunity, it is always nice to find someone who has done woodworking in the past and who will be able to work with you to learn some of the tricks. You do not have to pick out someone is necessarily a professional in the field, although if they are, it can certainly help. Working with a friend or family member who has already learned some of the tricks of the trade can make a big difference. They will be able to show you how to properly use

each of the tools, can give you some advice and encouragement if you run into trouble working on your projects, and can just make the experience more fun compared to doing it all on your own.

Woodworking can be a fun experience for everyone involved. It can allow you to work with your hands to make something beautiful, whether you decide to keep it for yourself or give it to someone else. Make sure to follow some of these easy tips to make the process of woodworking even better.

## Chapter 8: Creating Your Own End Table



The first project that we are going to look at is how to build your own end table. This is a pretty basic project that you can add to if you want. But for this first time, let's keep it simple so that you can learn how to do it and hone some of your skills. The materials that you will need to get started on this project include:

Two boards that are 2 by 4 by 8

One board that is 2 by 2 by 8

One board that is 2 by 6 by 8

Two inch pocket hole screws

Two inch screws

In addition, you will need a few tools to get started on this project including:

A drill

A miter saw

3/4 inch forstner bit

2 36 inch bar clamps

Pocket hole drill bit that is long.

Pocket hole jig or machine

Orbital sander with a few different types of grit paper

Speed square with a measuring tape and pencil

Once you have this, you will need to go through and cut the wood pieces that will be used. Doing this at the beginning can save you a little bit of headache and make the project look nicer. The sizes that you need to cut your boards include:

Four pieces that are 2 by 4 by 26.5 (these are the legs)

Four pieces that are 2 by 4 by 15 (these are the side aprons)

Four pieces that are 2 by 2 by 11 (these are the side aprons)

Two pieces that are 2 by 6 by 15 (these are the bottom shelf)

Four pieces that are 2 by 6 by 20 (this is the top)

### **The steps to follow**

Once you have taken the time to cut out the pieces that you need, the steps that you need to do to complete the end table includes:

Take all of the pieces and sand them to get them nice and smooth. Make sure that while you do this, you will want to get rid of any markings, burrs, and imperfections that are in the wood. You can also take this time to round off the edges just a little bit.

Drill the pocket holes. You will want to do this so that the jig is set up to join 15 inch material to 1.5 inch materials , on both ends of the (B) and (C) boards.

Next, drill 3-4 pocket holes, which should be evenly spaced, on the edge of one (D) board, and on the edge of three (E) boards.

If you have already chosen what color stain you want to give to this particular project, it is sometimes easier to stain each piece before you put them together. Go ahead and do that now and let them have plenty of time to dry out before continuing.

Grab the two (D) boards and then glue the edge with the pocket holes. You can then join the two edges of these boards together and clamp them together. Make the hold tight enough so they stay together but still loose enough so that they will stay flat and not end up bulging in the middle. Screw these together and then give them about thirty minutes to dry. This will be your bottom shelf.

Once your bottom shelf has time to dry, take the clamps off and set to the side. Then lay all four of the (E) boards down in a line with the pocket holes facing up. Glue the edges with the pocket holes and then join the board with some clamps. Screw these boards together and then give them half an hour to dry.

Next, lay two of the (A) boards down with their best faces down. Place two of your (C) boards between these (A) boards, connected them in a way so that the pocket holes are facing out or facing the same direction as your ends. One (C) board will flush with the ends while the other one will go in by two inches.

Repeat these steps with the other two (A) and (C) boards. These are going to make your two sides.

Now you can connect these two sides with the 4 (B) boards, making it so that the pocket hole will match level with the location you have the (C) boards. You should now have the frame of your end table.

Now put pocket holes so that they are around the perimeter of the bottom shelf. You will be fine using about two to three pocket holes on each side for this.

Insert the bottom shelf into the opening that is left on the bottom or on the aprons that are about two inches from the ground. Glue and screw it in.

Lay the end table top down so that the pocket holes are facing up. Then turn the frame upside down on top of this piece. Center the frame so that the overhang is equal on all sides to look nice.

Then you can pre-drill a small hole that is about three inches in on each side of your (C) boards and then two small holes that are about three inches in on each of your (B) boards. Countersink the hole with the  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch Forstner bit about  $\frac{1}{4}$  an inch deep. Screw the frame to the top of the table using your two inch screws.

At this point, if you still need to you can take the time to finish, stain, or paint the project. Give it some time to dry and then you are done!

And once you are done with this, you have created your first real project. Make sure to take your time on this. It can be a little bit confusing, but it is going to turn out to be a great table in the end. As long as you do the right measurements, sand the wood well, and take your time, you will get a great looking table when it is all done.



## Chapter 9: Creating a Bench



Now that we have spent some time talking about how to make a simple end table, you should have some good experience with a few projects that honed your skills. For this next project, we are going to take a look at how to enhance those skills and start creating your own bench. Some of the materials that you need for this project include:

2- 4X4X8

2 – 2X4X8

2 – 2X10X10

3/4 inch dowel or buttons

8 – 4 inch hex bolts

Dominos, biscuits, or two inch pocket hole screws

10 – 2.5 inch long L-brackets

In addition to those materials, there are some tools that you can use that will help you to put this bench together and make it look nice. Some of the tools that you will need for this project includes:

Miter saw

Drill

Table saw

Hand planer or a drum sander

Circular saw

10 -4 ft. bar clamps

Pocket hole machine

Biscuit joiner or domino joiner

Oscillating multi tool or a Japanese Flush cut saw

Orbital sander and sever different grit types

Measuring tape, pencil, and speed square

Before you get too far on some of this project, it is important to cut the boards right so that they are all ready for you. It is a big waste of time if you go through and only cut the boards out as you need them. This makes it more likely that you are going to make mistakes and it waste time. Take your time with these as well to ensure that they are accurate so that your bench looks good. Some of the cuts that are needed to create a bench include:

2 – 4X4X13.5 (tops of bench ends)

4 – 4X4X13.25 10 degrees off square, both ends parallel L-S (legs)

2 = 4X4X8 10 degrees off square, both ends perpendicular L-L (centers of bench ends)

4X4X80.5 (beam length)

2X4X89.5 (aprons)

2X10X84 ripped to 8 inches wide (bench top boards)

2 – 2X10X16 ripped to 6 inches wide (bench breadboards)

## How to do this project

Now that you have all your tools ready and have been able to make the cuts that are needed, it is time to get started on this project. Some of the steps that are needed to create a bench include:

Take all the pieces that you are going to use for the bench and sand them to be nice and smooth. You can use several different grades of sand paper if needed to make this happen. Make sure that you get rid of any markings, burrs, or imperfections that are on the boards before you continue to the next step.

Take the pocket hole machine and get it set up so that it can join the 1.5 inch material to the 1.5 inch material. Drill some pocket holes into the end of each (E) board. If you do not have a biscuit joiner or a domino joiner, you can instead choose to put some evenly spaced pocket holes along the one edge of one of your (F) boards and then along one edge of both of your (G) boards.

If you have already picked out the color that you would like to use for staining, you can take the time here to stain each piece. Make sure that you stain them well, sometimes going with a few coats to get a nice and deep color. Allow the individuals piece some time to dry off before you move to the next step.

Now we can move on. On the inside (the short side of one end) of the (B) boards, you can make a line three inches up from the bottom. This is the location where you will place the bottom of your (C) board. On the opposite face of your (B) boards, drill a  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch wide by 1 inch deep hole. From here, you can glue and screw in the (C) board using the hex bolts you should already have.

On the (A) board, bring out the pencil and mark one inch from each end on one side. This is the location where you will join it with the (B) boards. On the opposite face, drill a  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch by 1 inch deep hole. You can then glue and screw on the (B) boards to the (A) board. Repeat with the rest of the (A), (B), and (C) boards so that you are done with the ends of your bench.

The next step is to take the (C) board and find the exact center using your measuring tape and the outside face of your bench ends. Then you can again drill a  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch by 1 inch deep hole. This is the location where you will place the (D) board so that it will line up between the two bench ends that you already made. When this is in place, glue and screw the board into place well.

Now you can take the inside of each of your (A) boards, and then mark a line that is about one inch in from the end. This is important because it is where the outside face of the € board will go. Make sure to glue and screw it into place.

It is now time to fill in the holes that you made with your towel, glue, and oscillating tool or the buttons and then sand it all

smooth. At this point, you should have a bench frame that is completed.

Take your clamps and set them up while laying the (F) boards with the best face up. Mark the lines across both boards at that joint. This is important because it is where you will be able to drill the hole with the biscuit joiner or the dominos joiner. Drill your holes, fill on board with dominos or biscuits, glue the edge, and then assemble the boards.

You will want to clamp onto this and then allow this part to dry for at least one hour, although more is better to ensure that it is set. If you worked with pocket holes, you can lightly clamp together the boards after you glue the joint and screw them together. But always make sure that you give yourself plenty of time for it to dry.

Now take out the circular saw so that you can square the ends of the bench top by taking as little amount of the length off as possible.

Then you can sand or plane out any of the grooves that are in the bench top until it feels completely smooth across the whole top.

You can then assemble the bench ends in a manner that is similar to what you did with the bench boards. You will want to do this with pocket holes or dominos though because the biscuits are not going to be strong enough to hold onto this. Again, allow this time to dry for at least a few hours.

When that is done, it is time to plan or sand the bench top until it is smooth again.

At this time, flip the bench top over so that the best face is down. Turn the frame of the bench upside down so that it is on top of this bench top. Center so that the bench top is overhanging in equal amounts all around.

Now, place 2 L-brackets on each end, connecting the (A) boards and the breadboard. Take the other L-brackets (three per side) inside, so that you can connect the € boards to the top of the bench.

When this is done, flip the bench over again. Check that everything feels sturdy and that it all has had enough time to dry.

If you have not taken the time yet to apply paint, finish, or stain to the project, now is the time to do it. You should allow for plenty of time for these to dry off before you let someone use the product, but then you are all done!

And that is all there is to creating your very own bench. This does take some time to accomplish sometimes and it may look like there are a ton of steps to consider, but it will not take long for you to get it down and start creating some of your own benches in no time.

## **Chapter 10: Creating a Bookshelf**



The next thing that we are going to work on is how to create a bookshelf. This is going to have a lot of similarities to what you found with the end table, but we are going to add a few more pieces to it and make something that is really nice. Remember that you are able to varnish or paint this to make it look the way that you want, so go ahead and pick out some good colors that you want to try ahead of time.

The first thing that we need to do is get the right materials to make this project happen. The materials that you need to make a bookshelf include:

Five pieces of wood that are 1 by 12 by 16 feet

Twelve pieces of wood that are 1 by 4 by 8 feet

Glue

1.25 inch finish nails

1.24 inch pocket hole screws.

There are also a few tools that you will need to make this project easier. Some of the tools that are needed include:

Chalk line

Pocket hole drill bit ( a long one)

Pocket hole machine or jig

Finish nailer and air compressor

Orbital sander and a few different grits of your choosing

Speed square, measuring tape, and pencil

Drill

Miter saw

Once you have time to collect all of these items, it is time to work on your cut list. These are important to measure out carefully to ensure that you get a bookshelf that looks nice. But doing these ahead of time will ensure that your project looks nice and that you do not need to go back and forth doing the cuts when it is time to just work on the project. The cuts that you will need for this project include the following:

2 – 1X12X71.5 (sides)

6 – 1X12X34 (shelves and top)

10 – 1X4X60/5 (back)

4 - 1X4X36.5 (top)

## How to work on this project

The first step is to take all of the pieces that you cut and then sand them down. You will need to use a few different pieces of sandpaper to make this happen and to get a nice finish that is smooth. Make sure during this process that you get rid of the markings, burrs, and any imperfections that you see. You can also take the time to round off the edges a bit.

If you have an idea of the stain that you want to use, go ahead and cover the boards with it. Make sure to do each piece individually to get the best results. Set these aside and give them some time to dry off before you continue.

Once the boards have been stained and are ready to go, it is time to take a pocket hole machine and set it up to join the  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch material to the  $\frac{3}{4}$  material. You can then drill three to four pocket holes on each end of all your (B) boards.

Take your (A) boards and lay them so that the best face is to the ground. Mark both boards with measurements that start at the bottom end and then mark at two inches, 15.75 inches, 29.5 inches, 43.25 inches, and 57 inches. This is where the bottom of your five (B) boards will go. Then the last (B) board is going to flush with the top ends of the (A) boards. Make sure to glue and also screw the boards in place to get the best results.

Once you are done this far, lay the bookshelf so that it is on the front with the back part facing up. Lightly, using a pencil, make sure to mark the middle of each shelf on the outside of both your (A) boards.

Now lay the (C) boards across the back here and center them. With the finish nailer in hand, nail these boards into place at the top and bottom shelf. You can then use a chalk line to mark right where the other shelves are. Then carefully nail each board onto each shelf.

At this point, stand the bookshelf up properly and then lay the (D) boards on top of the bookshelf so that they are flush with the back of your (C) boards. Center these so that you end up with an equal overhang on all parts. Finish nail them into place so they stay.

If you did not already do so, you can apply finish, paint, or stain to this project at this time. Allow for time to dry before you do anything else with it, such as add books, pictures, or other things to the shelf.

And that is all there is to this project. If you have already put together the end table, then you have some of the skills down to work on this bookshelf. This is a pretty basic one with just a few parts, but you can add in more shelves, make it bigger, and change it up how you like. But for the first few times, just practice making a simple bookshelf like this one that looks nice and is easy to stick with for a beginner.



## Chapter 11: Make Your Own Lawn Chair



Have you ever wanted to make your own lawn chairs? These lawn chairs could really impress everyone that you want to invite over and you can add some special designs, change the colors, and so much more to make them unique. And now that you have some experience making bookshelves, end tables, and even a bench, it is time to learn how to make your own lawn chair. Some of the materials that you will need for this include:

1X2X8

7 – 1X4X8

2X2X8

1.25 inch, 2 inch, and 2.5 inch screws

Wood filler

Glue

In addition to some of the materials that we listed above, there are also a few tools that you will need to help get these lawn chairs done. The best tools for this project include:

Orbital sander and a few grit types for the best sanding experience

Speed square, measuring tape, and pencil

Drill

Miter saw

Level

Once you have all the tools and the materials, you will need to take some time to create the cuts for this project. This one does have quite a few cuts to keep track of, but doing them ahead of time, and keeping them organized, will make a big difference in how nice the project looks later and how much time you waste on it. Some of the cuts that you need for this project include:

4 – 1X4X22.5 (these are the legs)

2 – 1X4X27 (these are the arm rests)

1X4X27.5 (back support)

1X4X24.75 (seat frame)

1X4X22 (seat supports)

2 - 1X4X20.5 (front and back aprons)

2 - 1X2X24.75 (side trim pieces)

1X4X20 (seat boards)

2 - 1X2X19.5 (back supports)

2X2X22 (back bottom supports)

1X4X21.5 (back boards)

## How to do this project

Getting started with a lawn chair may seem confusing and you may look at this chapter and think that there are a lot of steps that come to making your own. And considering that if you want to make one lawn chair, you will end up needing to make quite a few of these to fill up your garden area. Luckily, once you get started on this project, you will find that it does not require as much work as you would additionally thought. Some of the steps that you need to take to make your own lawn chairs include:

Once you are ready to start and have finished cutting up all the pieces, take some time to sand all of the pieces until they are as smooth as possible. You will need to use a few different grades of sandpaper to get this done. Make sure that you get rid of the markings, burrs, and imperfections in the boards and that you slightly round the edges off. If you decide to use treated lumber on this project, just take the time to sand off the ends so that the sharp edges are gone and you can prevent issues with splinter.

If you want to stain this project and you have picked out the color that you would like to stain it, then you can start doing that now. Stain each piece individually and let them have enough time to dry before you move on to the next part.

Stand two (A) boards on their ends with the good sides facing out. You can then cap them with one (B) board with an overhand

that is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches on one side. Glue and then screw this into place. Repeat this with the other (A) and (B) boards. These are going to be the sides of your project.

Now, you can glue and screw the (C) board into place under this overhand. This is going to make a three-sided piece on your project.

Take the (D) boards and set them up on their edges, allowing the best sides to face out. Place the three (E) boards on the edge between these, allowing them to go perpendicularly. Two of these (E) boards will be flush with the ends of the (D) boards to make a square. Then the third (E) board will be about 5.25 inches from the inside of one of your outside (E) boards. Glue and screw these into place. When that is done, you have the frame of your set.

Take the (A) boards and mark them inside about 12.25 inches up from the bottom end. This is where the bottom of the seat frame you just made is going to sit.

Center the seat frame in between the legs and at the mark. These (E) boards should be parallel with your (C) board. Glue and screw these pieces into place. Make sure that the space that is present in between the legs stays at about 20.5 inches wide.

Now you can cap the faces of the front and back of the seat frame with the (F) boards between the legs. You should find that this part will fit perfectly in between them.

Cap the edge of the sides of the seat frame with the help of your (G) boards. Make sure to glue and screw these into place when ready.

The next step is to place your (H) boards on the seat frame from the front (F) board to the middle (E) board. Space these evenly so that there is a little space, such as half an inch, that shows up between the them. Glue and screw these into place.

Take the (K) boards and lay them down so that the best faces are facing down. Spread these out in an even manner, but measure that these are about 19.5 inches total.

From one end of your (K) boards, place the (I) board three inches down and then another (I) board 13 inches down. Screw these into place securely.

Next, take the (J) board and center it on the bottom end of your (K) boards. There needs to be about 1.25 inches hanging off each side if you did this the right way. Make sure to glue and then screw this into place. When you are all done with this step, you should have the back seat completed.

At this point, you need to set the seat so that it goes back into the frame, and then screw it in from the outside, going through the ends of your (J) board. Take the time to fasten the top of the seat so that it goes back to the (C) board.

When you get here, take a good look all around your project. If you see that there are any holes in the project, whether they are noticeable or you only notice them when you look really closely, then you need to fill them up with some wood filler. This is a handy tool that can hide some of the blemishes that you may have caused, especially as a beginner, in the project. Make sure to give the wood filler some time to dry off before moving on.

If you did not have a stain color picked out yet or you wanted to wait until the end, then this is the time for you. Here you should stop and paint, finish, or stain your project, if it wasn't done in earlier on. Make sure to get everything covered, even those hard to reach places, so that the project looks really good. Give it some time to dry before you use the chair or give it to someone else.

And that is all there is to creating your own lawn chair. Since it is likely that you will want more than one of these. This means that you are going to get a lot of practice working on this kind of project!

## Chapter 12: A Dog Bed for Your Best Friend



With this project, we are going to work with making our own dog bed. If you have your own dog, it is likely that you need a place for them to sleep. You could choose to just purchase one from the store, or you can choose to make one that is personalized and the perfect size for your best friend. To start, you need to get the right materials including:

4X4X8

2X4X8

2X8X10

2X3X8

1X3X8

7 – 1X4X8

1/2X24X48 piece of plywood

1.5 inch finish nails

2 inch pocket hole screws

Glue

There are also a few different tools that you will need to use in order to make this project work. Some of the tools that you need to use to make a dog bed at home include:

3/4 inch forstner bit

Oscillating multi tool

Pocket hole bit, a long one

Pocket hole machine

Orbital sander and a few grit paper options

Finish nailer

Table saw or circular saw

Pencil, measuring tape, square

Drill

Miter saw

Once you have all of the tools and materials that you need for a project, you need to take the pieces of wood that we have above and cut them out. The cut list that you need to make this dog bed include:

4 – 4X4X22.5 (these are the posts)

2X4X42 45 degree cuts, both ends perpendicular L-L (this will be the back top plate).

2X4X28 45-degree face cut on one side (this will be the side top plates)

2X4X35 (this is the front lip top plate

2X8X35 (this will be the bed board support and the bottom inner slat lip)

2X8X21 (this is the bed board support and a bottom inner slat lip)

2X3X35 (this is the top inner slat lip)

2 - 2X3X25 (this is the top inner slat lip)

1X3X35 (this is the front and back outer trim)

4 - 1X3X21 (this is the bed supports)

1X4X22.5 (this is the side slats)

10 - 1X4X22.5 (this is the back slats)

10 - 1X4X12.5 (this is the front slats)

1/2X38X24 plywood that has 1 3/8 inch by 1 3/8 square out of each corner to be the bed board.

### **How to do this project**

The first thing that you need to do is sand up all the pieces for this project into smooth boards to help get rid of the imperfections, markings, and burrs and then take the time to round off the edges slightly. If you are working with lumber that is treated, you can sand the ends and any of the edges that are sharp to get rid of the splinters.

Set up your pocket hole machine and set it up so that it joints 1.5 inch material to 1.5 inch material. You can then drill pocket holes into both ends of each of your following boards: (D), (E), (F), (G), (H), and (K) boards.

If you would like to stain the project and you already know the color of stain that you want to use on the project, you can take time right now in order to stain each piece and let them all dry properly. This may take a few days to finish based on which stain you want and the deep color you would like.

Next, you can take the 2 (A) boards, 1 (F) board, and 1 (H) board. Glue and screw the (F) board flush with the bottom and inside the (A) boards. Then glue and screw the (H) board to the top and inside the (A) boards. This is going to be one of your sides.

You will want to repeat these steps using the (A), (F), and (H) boards to make your other side.

Now you can take one (E) board and a (G) board and make a three sided square with two sides correlating to where the two by eight and the two by three boards go.

Before you apply the last (E) and (G) boards on the fourth side, take the time to mark the inside of the posts at 12.5 inches from the bottom of the two by eight end. This is where the bottom of the (D) board will go. Glue and screw this into place with the pocket holes facing down.

Now you can apply the rest of your (E) and (G) boards. The (E) board will need to correlate with the other (E) and (F) boards to your (G) board in order to flush with the bottom of the (D) board. You should now have a square that has an obvious front.

At this time, you can finish nail the (L) (M) and (N) slat boards into place.

Cover the ends of the slat boards with the trim boards or the (I) and (J) boards. Finish nail them into place when done.

Place the (B) and (C) boards into place. Take some time to drill  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch wide by  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch deep holes into the corners of your boards to help the screws go into the right places for your (A), (G), and (H) board. You can also drill one or two holes into the (D) board face to tie it into the (G) board below it. Glue and screw the top plates into place. Fill the holes with the dowels or buttons.

When this is done, you can flip the bed so that it is going upside down. Take the (K) boards and then evenly space these between your two by eight boards. Screw them in so that they end up being flush with the tops of your two by eight board.

Flip the bed back over so that it is the right side up. Now place your (O) board into place so you are then able to tack it down with some finish nails.

At this point, you can stain, paint, or apply a finish to your completed project. Give it plenty of time to dry before you let your dog use it. Go out and find a comfy pillow for them to lay on when it is done so that it is all ready when the project is dry and done.

## Chapter 13: Picnic Table



Now that you have had some time to learn some of the other projects and how to make them work, it is now time to create something that is a little more complex. This one has a lot more parts compared to some of the other projects that we talked about in this chapter, but it is really going to let you practice some of your skills when it comes to woodworking. The first thing that you need to collect are the materials including:

7 – 2X6C10

2X4X10

2X4X8

12 – 5/6 X 4 inch carriage bolts

2.5 inch deck screws

In addition to the materials above, you are going to need a few tools to get the table put together and to cut up the boards that you need for the picnic table. Some of the tools that you need in order to get the picnic table put together properly include:

Miter saw

Drill

Wrench

3/8 inch forstner drill bit

Measuring tape, pencil, and square

Orbital sander with several different sand paper grits.

Once all of this is collected, it is time to work on making the cuts that are needed to work on the picnic table. Having a few of these in order ahead of time will make a big difference in how quickly you can get the project done. You do not want to waste your time and energy stopping every few steps in order to cut more wood to continue. The cuts that you can work on before doing the rest of the project include:

9 – 2X6X60 (these will be the table top and the bench top boards)

4 – 2X4X28 (this will be the table top and the leg supports from one of the 2 X 4 X 8s.)

4 – 2X6X30 both ends cut at a 23 degrees off square, parallel face cuts L-S (these will be the table legs)

2 – 2X4X60 (this will be the bench support boards from the 2 x 4 x 10)

2 – 2X4X23 both ends will need to be cut at a 45 degree bevel, perpendicular edge cuts L-L (these are the leg braces)

## **How to work on this project**

The first step on this project is to sand all of the pieces as smooth as possible. This means that you need to get rid of any markings, burrs, and imperfections that appear on the boards. You can also work to slightly round the edges off. If you are working with treated lumber, it is still good to sand the project so that you can get rid of any edges that are sharp and ensure that splinters will not be a problem.

If you want to stain your project and you know the color of stain that you would like to use on the project, you can take the time here to stain each piece individually. This can save some hassle because you will make sure everything gets stained properly. You will need to allow time for each coat to dry and follow the instructions for staining at this point to make it look nice.

Once the staining process is done, lay down five of the table top boards next to each other, putting the side that looks the best down.

Center two of the table top supports on each end of the table top boards so they are about 7.5 inches from the ends and then screw them to the table top boards with two screws per end.

Now you can mark the other 2 -2 x 4 x 28 inch boards four inches from each side at the top. This is where the top of the legs are going to attach in order to be the leg support boards.

Screw the face of the legs to the face of the leg support boards, using two screws in each one to get it done. When putting in the screws, make sure that you leave about two inches of space between your screws.

Lay the legs down with the leg support board right under the legs. Mark a line across both legs that goes about 14.5 inches up from the bottom. This is where you will want the top of the bench supports to be.

Then screw the bench support board to the legs with two screws that are on each leg. Make sure that when you put the screws in, you are leaving about two inches in between each of them.

The next step is to drill a  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch hole that is directly in the middle of the two intersecting boards on the legs and bench support boards, and the legs and the leg supports. The hole that you are using for the leg support boards as well as the legs need to be around 1.5 inches from the bottom. The reason for doing this is so that they are not going to be in the way when you try to attach the leg sets to the table top board supports.

When these are in place, you can insert four carriage bolts, for a total of 8, per leg set and then fasten them nice and tight so you won't have to worry about the legs shaking or giving out when people use the picnic table.

Once this part is done, you can turn the table top boards so they go upside down again and then set the table and set the leg sets on the outside of the table support boards towards the ends of the table top boards. Attach these with four screws per each leg set.

Now you need to bring out the measuring tape and measure about seventeen inches from the outside of the leg set towards the middle of your table top boards. Then you can center this measurement from each side of your table top boards.

Find the center of your inside bench support board before you screw in the leg brace so that the bottom (as they are laying out right now), or the short side of the leg brace is able to meet up with the bottom of the bench support board.

From here, you are able to screw the other end of the leg brace to the table top boards at the 17 inch mark. This is going to ensure that your legs are exactly at 90 degrees.

When these are at the right angle, you can secure each joint with the carriage bolts between each of the screws.

When it is all fastened into place and you are sure that it is sturdy, you can flip the table over before screwing down the remainder of the four bench top boards. There should be two of these on each side.

At this point, you can take the time to sand and finish the project to look the way that you would like. Remember to be careful about the process so that it comes out looking nice, and allow each layer to have plenty of time to dry before you continue.

As you can see, creating a picnic table is not as complicated as you would think. This one is going to be big enough for you to sit several people at comfortably, and as long as you were able to go through all the steps above the right way, you will find that it is sturdy and able to last for a very long time. Since people will be sitting on this project, make sure in the beginning that you take some extra precautions with the sanding so that it looks nice and no one will get splinters when they use the bench.

## **Final Note**

Woodworking can be a rewarding experience that allows you to make something remarkable with your hands. Many people will go to stores and pay good money for something that they could make on their own, but they just do not have the time or the patience to get it all done. If you get started with woodworking and give it the time that it deserves, you will find that it is rewarding to make one of a kind pieces for your home or for your friends.

This guidebook provided you with a ton of different projects that you get to work on, from ones that are pretty simple to others that are more difficult to handle. Learning how to do each one and giving it the proper attention that it deserves will help you to get better at your skills and start seeing some great results.

The trick here is that you must practice. The most experienced individuals in woodworking did not get up one day and start making these fantastic creations out of thin air. Rather, they took their time, learning all the rules, watching other people do it, and just practicing the various projects until they were able to get it right. Just because you started today and are not able to make a big complicated project already, such as the picnic table that is above, does not mean that you won't catch on soon and make something amazing.

If you give up right at the beginning because you can't be like a professional the first few times that you try, then you will never

get anywhere. But if you keep on trying with this project and learning from your mistakes, you are going to see some amazing results.

Also, if you do get into woodworking, take the advice that is in this guidebook in terms of which tools to use, how important practice is, and especially the safety rules. It can be tempting to assume that nothing is ever going to happen to you and then you may forgo some of the safety measures. But those safety measures are there for a reason and can really help you in the end. Follow them, and you greatly reduce your likelihood of getting hurt in the process.

When you are ready to get started with woodworking, this guidebook is there to help you out. It does not matter how much experience you have with woodworking or if you need some assistance along the way. Make sure to check out this guidebook and follow its tips to go from beginner to professional in no time.

## Conclusion

Learning how to do projects with woodworking can be a great new hobby to learn. It can be really rewarding to learn how to make some of your own projects and use them in your home or sell them to others to use. But if you have never worked with woodworking in the first place, you may be worried about how to get started.

This guidebook took some time to talk about some of the basics that you need to know before you get started with woodworking. Whether you have a little bit of experience with woodworking and want to learn some more or if you have never done anything like this at all, this guidebook is the right one for you. We started out with some of the basics, such as which tools to use, and then we moved on to some great projects that you can create, no matter how much experience you have.

When you are ready to get started with woodworking and making some of your own great projects, make sure to check out this guidebook to get started!