

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

5-day: Students begin the week by steam bending ash to make arm/bow/crest/rockers. Next, the spindles are shaved by hand from damp ash using hand tools. Strategies for turning sets of legs are demonstrated before shaping the seat with adze, travisher, spokeshave, rasp and other tools. Holes are drilled at compound angles and the chair is assembled. Alternative finishing strategies are discussed and the course finishes at around 4.00 pm on Friday.

3-day: The course follows the same pattern as the 5-day course, but with fewer and smaller components, less time is required to complete the chair.

2-day: Students turn their own legs and carve the seat with hand tools on Saturday; and then assemble the stool and apply a simple finish on Sunday.

5-day courses: Monday to Friday
Mon-Thu: 8.30am - 6.00 pm
Friday: 8.30 am - 4.00 pm

3-day courses: Friday to Sunday
Daily 8.30 am - 6.00 pm

2-day courses: Saturday & Sunday
Saturday: 8.30 am - 6.00 pm
Sunday: 8.30 am - 3.30 pm

**Accommodation is available onsite,
details on website**

All tools, materials, food & drink are supplied

Maximum 8 students per course

Booking:

A deposit of £350 for a 5-day course, £250 for a 3-day course, or £100 for a 2-day course, is payable to secure a place.

Payment options are shown on the website:
Cheque (to 'The Windsor Workshop')

BACS (sort 60-20-35, account 41515706)
or through link on the website.

Payment will be acknowledged and the booking confirmed by email. The balance is payable at the start of the course.

Please read 'Terms of Booking' on the website.
These will apply in the event of cancellation.



James Mursell is a full-time Windsor chair maker and teacher. He set up The Windsor Workshop 22 years ago, to offer chair making courses. James also makes specialist chair making tools, which he sells around the world. He has contributed to many woodworking magazines and has written a book 'Windsor Chairmaking'. James was a tutor at West Dean College for 12 years and his workshop is based on his farm, with views across the fields to the South Downs, just 4 miles away. He is a member of The Sussex Guild.

www.thewindsorworkshop.co.uk

CHAIRMAKING COURSES

2026/27



2-, 3- and 5-day courses with professional
chairmaker James Mursell

Everything provided, including food and drink

Suitable for all levels of experience

Purpose built workshop on a farm in West Sussex

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The Windsor Workshop

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www.thewindsorworkshop.co.uk



Stool



Rocker



Continuous-arm



Blenheim

WHAT CAN I MAKE?

2-DAYS: Over a weekend you can make an attractive and comfortable 4-legged stool. Being the same height as a normal chair, it will be useful anywhere in the house. This course is a great introduction to woodworking and chair making. Students gain experience in many techniques such as turning, shaping, drilling and finishing.

3-DAYS: over a long weekend (Fri-Sun) you can make this very comfortable side chair. This is an excellent introduction to chairmaking.

5-DAYS: If you are coming to the Windsor Workshop for your first 5-day course, you have a choice of 6 chairs: Classic, Rocker, Low-back, Blenheim, Continuous-arm and Sack-back.

Making these traditional and modern designs involves all the fundamental chair making techniques and includes the use of damp wood. Most of the work is done with hand tools using traditional techniques that were developed in the 18th century. Great emphasis is put on creating an elegant, attractive and comfortable chair.



3-day chair



Classic



Low-back



Sack back

COURSE DATES

Choosing a Course: Decide which chair you wish to make and choose dates from the table below. Phone or email James Mursell to check

2026		
September	18-20	Crescent (3-day) FULL
October	19-23	Classic
November	16-20 28/29	Sack back FULL Stool (2-day)
December	14-18	Rocking chair
2027		
January	18-22	Continuous arm
February	1-5 22-26	Low back Blenheim
March	8-12	Classic
April	5-9 16-18	Rocking chair Crescent (3-day)
May	10-14 22-23	Sack back Stool (2-day)

Course Prices

2-day:	
Stool	£390
3-Day	
Chair	£650
5-day:	
All chairs	£1070

Choice of Woods

The standard course chairs are made from English ash with tulip wood seats. Alternative seat woods are usually available at an additional cost of £50.

DO I NEED PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE?

Making a Windsor chair is one of the most accessible forms of woodworking. Courses at The Windsor Workshop are suitable for anyone over 18, who is keen to make a chair or stool. Over the past 22 years James Mursell has taught over 2,200 students from 24 countries. Students have ranged from complete woodworking novices to expert cabinet makers. All have been challenged and all have succeeded!

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