



COURSES

A busy year! I ran my first chairmaking course at The Windsor Workshop just twelve months ago, and next week's course is the 19th. Including six courses at West Dean, this brings the number of students taught to 84. Whether chairs (mainly) or stools, the Windsor population has certainly been boosted, and not just in the UK. Two chairs have gone to France, and one to Australia.

New Introductory Course: This compact comb back side chair, that I developed a couple of years ago, has been one of my bestsellers. It works well in both new and old settings, and it can now be made on a five-day course, as a precursor to more advanced chairs such as the double-bow, or an armchair version of the comb-back. This course is an alternative to the bow back. As an additional variation it can be made as a rocking chair.



Comb Back Side Chair

New Advanced Course: For those that have already completed an introductory (Bow or Comb), and an advanced (Double Bow or Comb Armchair) course, I can now offer a 2 + 5 day course on which you design (2 days) and then make (5 days) your own chair. This will give you the expertise and confidence to take an idea and convert it into a chair. The first course is being run early in the New Year.



Comb Back
Rocker

Rockers: Both the comb back side chair, and the double bow can be made as rockers. They are compact chairs, which rock freely, and are very comfortable. There is a small additional charge (£20).



Double Bow Rocker

Further course developments: In the pipeline are courses making a Continuous Arm chair, Writing Arm chair, children's armchair, and a Windsor coffee table. Details in due course!

Currently Available Course Dates 2006

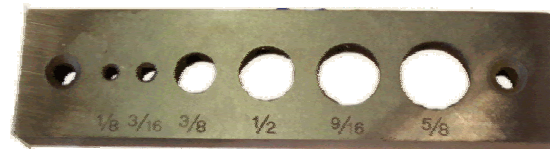
Weeks beginning (Monday) 27/3, 10/4, 17/4, 8/5, 11/6, 26/6, 10/7, 24/7

New Tools

Drawknife and Scorp (Inshave): The first set of custom-made tools were received in the late summer, and promptly sold out. A new batch has just been received, made to the same very high quality. All who have used them vouch for how pleasing they are to use, and how effective they are. These are 'Rolls Royce'-quality tools, designed for Windsor chairmaking, and will last for generations!



Dowel Plate: If you have attended a course in the second half of the year, you will know how useful these plates are for sizing spindles. They are also excellent for making dowels (eg for attaching rockers to legs) or small pegs (securing crests to spindles). These have been made locally to my specification, with a set of useful Imperial sized holes. The steel has been case hardened, and the tool is easily sharpened.



Rasp: This tool has revolutionised seat shaping on recent courses. The coarse side removes wood unbelievably fast, yet the fine side leaves an excellent surface even on end grain. The custom-made hardwood handles make them a joy to use, but wear a glove on the other hand to avoid cutting yourself (they are that sharp!)

CHAIR MAKING MATERIALS FOR SALE

To make it easier for students to continue chairmaking after a course, I can now offer seat blanks, steam-bent bows, sets of turnings (legs, stretchers, armposts), and green spindle blanks. If you have non-standard requirements, do please get in touch, and I'll do my best to supply you. Further details on separate price list.

NEW WORKSHOP

We are very close to giving the go-ahead to convert a barn into a purpose-made teaching workshop. The existing workshop is great for two students, but there is no room left over. All the lessons learned over the past twelve months will be incorporated into the new shop, which should be bright and airy, as well as having its own kitchen and rest area built in.



PUBLICITY

'Good Woodworking' magazine

I am writing a monthly article titled 'Tales of a Chairmaker' which is based on experiences, ideas, and plans of a professional chairmaker. Do look out for the magazine if you do not already know it. A new editor has sharpened up the content (I'm not biased, really!), and there's plenty of interest to read.



'Fine Woodworking' magazine

I was delighted that my Elm and Oak reading bench was featured last month in the 'Readers Gallery'. Another great magazine—well worth checking out, if you're not a regular reader.



'CHAIRS 2006' in Sweden

June 3rd—5th

Having been closely involved in putting on Chairs 2004 last year, I am delighted that Chairs 2006 will take place next year in southern Sweden. Basic information is available at www.chairs2006.se

Application forms can be obtained from:

CHAIRS 2006, Skanes Hemslojdsforbund, Gisela Trapps vag 7
Se-254 37, Helsingborg, SWEDEN
Email: kalle.forss@hemsloid.org

James Mursell
The Windsor Workshop
Churchfield Farm,
West Chiltington
Pulborough,
West Sussex.
RH20 2JW
01798 815 925



jamesmursell@aol.com
www.the-windsor-workshop.co.uk