

THE WINDSOR CHAIRMAKER

Newsletter of The Windsor Workshop

May 2007



Welcome to the latest edition of *The Windsor Chairmaker*. Our philosophy is to encourage the making of the finest possible Windsor chairs. If you are not yet a chairmaker, why not join the increasing band of enthusiasts by taking a course? I know you'll enjoy it!

New Tools - and reduced prices!!

TRAVISHER Building on the established success of the travisher I have recently developed a new design that most people find easier to hold and use. It is made of hard maple (as before) and the curved blade is again held in place by two grub screws which can be adjusted with an Allen key from the front.



The key differences are that the shavings emerge from the top of the tool through a generous slot, and the back of the tool is solid wood, giving a much wider area for the thumbs which do almost all of the work. The tool is also not as tall as its predecessor, which makes it easier to hold for those with smaller hands.

Due to the greater ease of manufacture, the price is 1/3 less at £59.95 (incl. VAT). Postage and packaging £5.

Medium Spokeshave While the traditional spokeshave shape is attractive, it is time consuming to make, and not particularly ergonomic.

Past students will remember being encouraged not to grip the handles of their spokeshaves with their fists, but to use their fingertips to hold the tool nearer to the centre.



The new design encourages this approach by eliminating the distinct handles, making it easier to pull and push using the fingertips. The tool has a Ron Hock (A2 steel) blade with threaded posts, which can be tightened with the knurled brass knobs on top of the tool.

For adjustment there are two grub screws which are accessible adjacent to the brass knobs, which can be adjusted in and out with an Allen key. The blade is pulled up onto the grub screw with the brass knobs. Shavings, as with the travisher, are expelled through a slot in the top of the tool, leaving the back entire, and comfortable for the fingers when pushing and pulling.

When purchasing please advise whether it is to be used mainly for green or dry woodwork. A steeper angle relative to the nose of the tool gives a more aggressive cut suitable for green wood, and a shallower angle is more suited to harder dry wood.

The price is £49.95 (incl. VAT). Postage & packaging £4.

Chairmaking Courses 2007/8

Monday to Friday
(M-Th 8.30 am - 6.00 pm; F 8.30 am - 3.30 pm)

18 - 22 June	Continuous-arm*
16 - 20 July	Bow-back
3 - 7 September	Bow-back
24 - 28 September	Child's armchair*
7 - 12 October	West Dean - wheel-back side chair
29 October - 2 November	Bow-back / Child's high-chair*
12 - 16 November	Continuous-arm*/Double-bow*
26 - 30 November	Bow-back
10 - 14 December	Bow-back
14 - 18 January	Bow-back
21 - 25 January	Advanced class TBA*
4 - 8 February	Bow-back
25 - 29 February	Advanced class TBA*

Prices: Bow-back £395 (incl. VAT)
Advanced classes (*) £425 (incl. VAT)

The price includes all materials, use of tools, and food/drink during the day. Wide range of accommodation available locally. More details can be found on the website:

www.thewindsorworkshop.co.uk



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"dedicated to Windsor chairmaking"

Shows 2007

I will be exhibiting at the following shows over the remainder of the year - do come and say hello!

At The Festival of the Tree and at The Weald Wood Fair I will be exhibiting in the **Classic Hand Tools** marquee.

30 June - 1 July	Arundel Castle - Sussex Guild
24 - 27 August	Festival of the Tree - Westonbirt Arboretum, Gloucestershire
1 - 2 September	Pashley Manor - Sussex Guild
21 - 23 September	Weald Wood Fair - Bentley (E. Sussex)
1 - 2 December	Midhurst - Sussex Guild

Child's Armchair Course

A course is booked for **24 - 28 September**. Currently there are a couple of places available. This is an excellent opportunity to take your chairmaking to the next stage, and to come away with a family heirloom that could be used by many future generations. The course involves many new techniques, and is a good challenge. Do not be put off by the reduced size - it will take the full five days to complete!



Visit to America

I am off to America next week to visit Winterthur - former home of Henry DuPont, to see their unique collection of American Windsors. I will be meeting



Nancy Goyne-Evans and Charles Santore, and hope to return full of new ideas for The Windsor Workshop. A report of the visit will be included in the next newsletter, and also in Good Woodworking.

WINTERTHUR



Rocking chair

I have recently completed my largest chair to date - a unique rocker in oak and elm. The

large elm seat (26" x 23") is deeply sculpted, and the broad back which is braced by two additional spindles set into a tailpiece, makes for a very comfortable and relaxing chair. The independent arms also provide support in just the right place. This chair would suit a large room and an owner who likes to unwind after a long day!

Price: £1,195 incl. VAT. Each chair is made to order.



Good Woodworking

Keep up to date with chairmaking news by reading my monthly column: 'Tales of a Chairmaker'.



You may also be interested in the remaining two or three longer articles yet to be published (out of a series of six) on more technical Windsor chairmaking topics.

The Ultimate Challenge!

Last week five students completed an English armchair with crinoline stretcher, curved arm supports, ribbon splats central splat, and a crest. Everybody had already attended at least two courses, but the complexity of the chair meant a very full week.

These makers travelled from far and wide to take the course, including Paris, South Wales, Somerset, Leicestershire, and Berk-



shire. They all made use of the excellent local accommodation, and particularly enjoyed the food at one of our three village pubs!

I hope to run a similar course annually for more experienced makers who wish to really stretch themselves!

New Email Address

Please note that my new email address is: james@thewindsorworkshop.co.uk
My old address will soon be disconnected

James Mursell

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