

THE WINDSOR CHAIRMAKER

Newsletter of The Windsor Workshop

Spring 2009



Happy New Year!

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2009. If you have not yet created your first Windsor chair, I hope that you will consider making it one of your New Year's resolutions; and to those of you that have already taken the plunge I hope that you will help to add to the Windsor chair population in the country!

This should be another busy year for me, with a book to complete by the end of April, tools to promote and develop, and a full programme of courses to teach - and of course chairs to make.

Enjoy this newsletter, and please make the most of the hyperlinks.

May I wish you a happy and prosperous 2009.

Advanced Course - 20 - 24 April 2009

Only one Advanced course is run each year for those that have already made an 'intermediate-level' chair (double-bow, continuous-arm, child's armchair) and wish to stretch themselves with a real challenge. On this course we will be copying this English comb-back armchair dating from around 1760 using ash and elm (seat). The challenge comes from the size of the chair, and the number of components. There are four pieces to steam-bend (arm, two arm-posts, and a crest), a splat, and 14 spindles, as well as the undercarriage and seat!

I will try to find a special wood for the splat that adds to the character of the chair. The seat will be made of elm, and if you haven't yet tried this for a seat you will find that it is much tougher to adze than the tulip wood that we usually use on the courses - but it should look fabulous in the end, making the effort well worth while.



Advanced course 2007

In order to complete the chair in the five days, I will ask students to turn their legs and stretchers before they come. I can supply templates and wood as necessary, and can do the turning if you don't have a lathe at home.

Booking details are on the next page with the course schedule.



Linseed Oil Wax - a WINNER!

This has to be my product of the year. A mixture of beeswax and linseed oil, it is the easiest wax to apply, and I will now use it as the finishing product on all my chairs, and for all course chairs. The product really does seem to 'feed' the wood. Wipe it on, leave for 10 - 15 minutes, and wipe off vigorously. After a couple of coats your chair will have a wonderful sheen, which can be reinvigorated any time with another coat.



It is also an excellent sealing product for milk paints, giving a fairly waterproof surface and bringing out the best of the colour.

Available from The Windsor Workshop. £8.50 plus £1.50 p&p.

Linseed Oil Paints

In my last Newsletter I extolled the virtue of these paints, and I have tried them out on a stool that I made for taking to shows. The paint flows on beautifully, and the colours are superb, but they do take a long time to dry. If you have the patience they will reward you with a fabulous finish.

The stool seat was carved out of a 3" thick piece of tropical hardwood that I was given many years ago. Not the easiest wood to carve, but I'm pleased with the 'antique tractor-seat' effect - comfortable too!



<http://www.holkham.co.uk/linseedpaints/index.html>

www.thewindsorworkshop.co.uk

"dedicated to Windsor chairmaking"

Unscrew Those Legs with Ease!

Get yourself a *Powerball*, and exercise with it once a day, and your grip will rapidly improve. At the heart of the ball is a gyroscope that you power with your wrist up to 13,000 rpm. You can see from the digital readout how many revolutions it has made (endurance) and also the maximum rpm.



If you have already taken a course you may remember that the legs have to be put in and removed from the seat many times before they are glued in. While it's important to remove them by twisting in the same direction that they were inserted, it is tough on the forearms. Technique plays a big part, but strength is useful too, this gadget will help build up the necessary muscles!

If you get one with flashing lights you will get an extra reward for your efforts. Give it a go! I will have one in the workshop for everyone to try.

Available from Amazon:

www.amazon.co.uk/s/ref=nb_ss_w_h_?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=power+ball

Spokeshaves

They will be available from Classic Hand Tools by the end of January, and they can also be ordered direct from myself.

The unique shape of the hard maple body, the fine adjustment, and the Hock blades make them superb tools. They are used all the time here in the workshop, and I'm confident that you won't find a better wooden shave.

Medium spokeshave: £69.95
Small spokeshave: £59.95

www.classichandtools.co.uk



Courses 2009

The course schedule for 2009 is now on the website, but I reproduce it here for convenience, along with the prices.

A detailed course brochure can now be downloaded from the website: www.thewindsorworkshop.co.uk/2009%20Brochure%20pdf.pdf

2009		
January	12 - 16	Introductory
	26 - 30	Introductory
February	9 - 13	Introductory
March	9 - 13	Intermediate
April	20 - 24	Advanced
May	4 - 8	Bow-back at <i>West Dean</i>
	18 - 22	Intermediate
June	7 - 12	Introductory
	29 - 3 July	Introductory
September	7 - 11	Introductory
	27 - 3 Oct	Double-bow at <i>W. Dean</i>
October	19 - 23	Introductory
November	9 - 13	Introductory
	30 - 4 Dec	Intermediate
December	14 - 18	Introductory

Introductory: bow-back, wheel-back, and child's high chair (2 per course)
Intermediate: double-bow, continuous-arm, and child's armchair
Advanced: English comb-back armchair with splat

Choosing a Course

Decide which chair you wish to make, taking account of your experience, and choose dates from the table. Contact James Mursell to check availability of spaces.

COURSE PRICES

(from 1st January 2009)

Introductory £450
Intermediate £475
Advanced £555

(All prices are inclusive of VAT)

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