

THE WINDSOR CHAIRMAKER

Newsletter of The Windsor Workshop

Autumn 2009



- ◇ *This newsletter is shorter than usual and has the main purpose of alerting you to the upcoming arrival of my book. The good news is that it will be here in time for Christmas!*
- ◇ *Take a look at the brief article about my brother's business Promocan, and browse the website. It's a fascinating niche business and you may find that one day you have just the job for him.*
- ◇ *With Christmas coming you may wish to give a chairmaking course to someone - how about a gift voucher?*
- ◇ *Now that Autumn is really with us, and the days are shortening, it's the perfect time to take a (another) course - dates are shown on page 2.*

Best wishes

James Mursell

Windsor Chairmaking

The wait is almost over! My book has been printed in Malaysia and is currently on the high seas returning to the UK. Signed copies will be available from the end of this month (£19.95 plus p&p). If all goes according to plan you should, by then, be able to order and pay for a copy direct through my website. *I will write again as soon as it is available.*

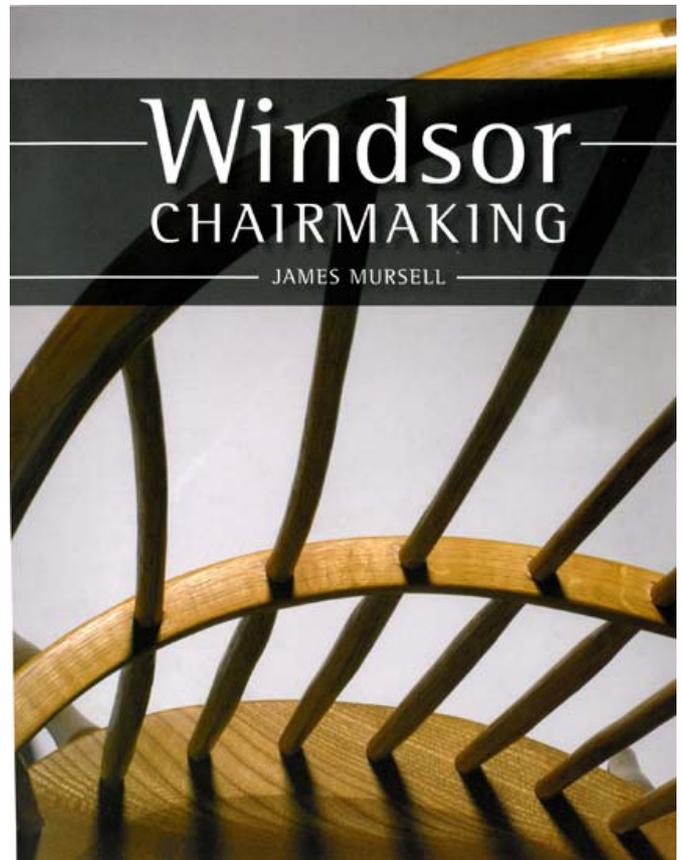
Windsor Chairmaking (hardback) is filled with colour pictures. It has nine chapters:

1. Introduction
2. Historical background
3. Materials, equipment and tools
4. Processes and techniques
5. Two English chairs including plans
6. Two American chairs including plans
7. Lessons from the past
8. Body language of chairs: shape and design
9. Other Windsor furniture

The book covers the making of English and American Windsors together for the first time, and this applies to both the choice of materials and techniques used in their construction.

There are detailed plans for four chairs (2 English and 2 American). Chapter 7 looks in detail at a remarkable 18th century English armchair and explores the lessons that can be learned from the toolmarks left by the maker – my chairmaking has been directly influenced in several ways by this chair. Chapter 8 looks at the shapes of Windsor chairs and the messages that they convey, mimicking the body language of people. For those contemplating designing their own chairs there is simple practical guidance, and a consideration of how by changing the angles of components the appearance of the chair can be radically altered. The final chapter looks at other furniture that can be made using the Windsor form of construction.

I have written the book for both beginners and existing chairmakers. There should be something in it for everyone!



www.thewindsorworkshop.co.uk

"dedicated to Windsor chairmaking"

Website - www.thewindsorworkshop.co.uk

With the upcoming publication of Windsor Chairmaking and increasing sales of tools, the time has come to redo my website so that navigation of the site is more logical and purchases can be made online. Fewer and fewer people today use cheques and I'm sure that I'm not alone in resenting having to write cheques, address an envelope, pay for a stamp, and post the letter in a letterbox! The net is so convenient and I need to be using it to its full potential. I have a designer working away at this project and he has promised me that all will be working by the end of the month. Fingers crossed!

Windsor Wax in a Can

My finishing wax is selling well, and many students take a can home with them after their course to keep their chairs in good shape. I thought that you might be interested in the small company, run by my brother Tom, which seals the wax into the can.

Promocan will put almost anything, or nothing, into a can for you! If you need anything put into a can, for whatever reason, get in touch with Tom and he'll give you a quote.

Promo Can



"Starting as a farm diversification, from canning apple juice, PromoCan "puts thing in cans".

Although we work predominantly for the promotions industry, our business with individuals has been expanding fast. We have recently been producing cans for: charity collecting, wedding invitations, Party cans, and Retirement cans. The service that we provide is limited only by our clients' imaginations and the types of can available.

Over the last 12 months one of our most popular lines has been Money-Cans, individualised for Colleges, to encourage their students to be prudent!



Our latest job has been canning wax for The Windsor Workshop!

The humble tin can is a green product. Made from a minimum of 30% recycled steel they are recyclable after use. Many promotional cans continue their lives, after they have been opened, as useful pen pots on desks keeping the message in front of the recipient.

We CAN at PromoCan – www.promocan.co.uk"

Gift Vouchers



If you wish to give a chairmaking course as a Christmas present I can provide customised gift vouchers for you at no extra cost. Get in touch to discuss your requirements (01798 815 925 or james@thewindsorworkshop.co.uk) Being a small, and therefore flexible, business we can come up with something that perfectly fits your requirements – I'm sure we could even put it in a can (see above)!

2010 Chairmaking Courses

Introductory	11 – 15 January	Further details are to be found on: www.thewindsorworkshop.co.uk Please contact James Mursell to check availability of space on your chosen course. <u>Course costs:</u> Introductory £450 Intermediate £475 Advanced tba
Introductory	25 – 29 January	
Intermediate	8 – 12 February	
Introductory	22 – 26 February	
Introductory	1 – 5 March	
Intermediate	22 – 26 March	
Advanced	19 – 23 April	
Introductory	3 – 7 May	
Continuous-arm at West Dean	16 – 21 May	
Introductory	7 – 11 June	
Intermediate	21 – 25 June	

James Mursell

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