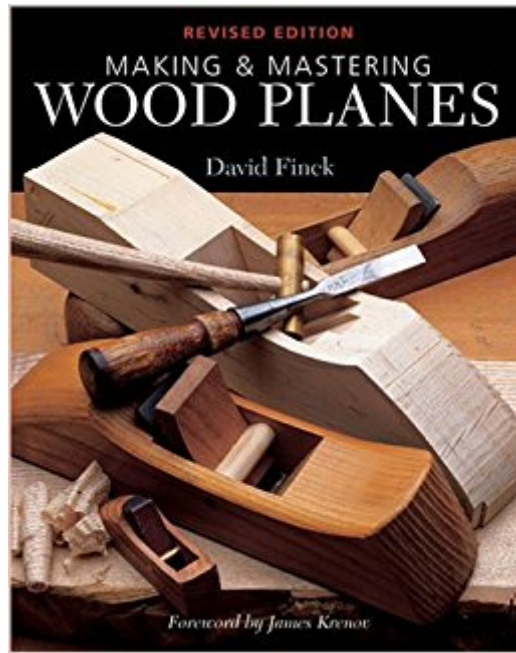




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Making & Mastering Wood Planes: Revised Edition



Synopsis

The classic guide by master woodworker David Finck is back and better than ever, with all-new color photography. It's the best book ever on this popular tool-and it features a foreword by the celebrated woodworker James Krenov."Serves as an elegant framework for teaching many of the fundamentals of fine woodworking."--Woodshop News Small and extremely comfortable to use, wooden hand planes bring machined surfaces to an alluring, silky smoothness-but they can't be bought anywhere. Fortunately, this meticulously complete, photo-packed guide is like two volumes in one, teaching you how to make a classic plane yourself (it takes only a day or so) and how to use it in a refined manner. One of the most respected woodworkers around digs deeply into the art of crafting and working with this personalized tool, helping even the most uninitiated with dozens of detailed boxed sidebars on the basics. Every step in the construction process receives extremely close attention: preparing the plane blank, bandsaw pointers, drift angle, tension, tuning and using hand tools, sharpening with ease speed, and reliability, cross pin location, and gluing up. Handle the plane well to get a good stroke going; and take a look at invaluable planning aids and special techniques. There's no other manual on the market to match this woodworking masterpiece.

Book Information

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Sterling; Revised edition (June 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 140272022X

ISBN-13: 978-1402720222

Product Dimensions: 10 x 8 x 0.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 36 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,127,466 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #41 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Woodworking > Tools #112 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Hand Tools #1432 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Woodworking > Projects

Customer Reviews

"Serves as an elegant framework for teaching many of the fundamentals of fine woodworking." - Woodshop News"

David Finck comes from a long line of ardent woodworkers, and he continues the tradition, designing and building fine furniture, as well as acoustic guitars. He has also written Practical Planning for Sterling

This is a well written and detailed book on making hand planes. Not only does the author explain the process of making a wooden plane, but he also explains how to get standard shop tools to perform their best so each plane comes out the best that it can possibly be. It is important to know things like setting up tools because if the tool does not make an accurate cut, the resulting plane will not be accurate either. The author assumes you know nothing, and guides you through each and every step in the process leaving nothing out. An excellent book, and it will surely make a plane lover out of anyone. I had avoided hand planes for many years, and unfortunately it was in error. After having made a few wooden planes, and learning how to adjust them and use them, my opinion on the use of hand planes has completely reversed. Not only are hand planes easy to learn and use, many times they are faster and more efficient at removing a little material here and there than hauling out a power tool or sanding forever to accomplish the same thing. I think I really had to make one myself in order to get myself to use it, and now that I have, the experience has been well worth the small effort up front. My new wooden planes work better than the several old metal planes that have been sitting around the shop forever, and this is primarily because after making the wooden planes I tuned them to work the best that they could. The author explains all of these steps, and there is nothing better than a handmade plane that is perfectly tuned to remove material so thin you can read through it.

I have been a wood worker / carpenter for many years, building boats, furniture, cabinetry and homes. I purchased Making and mastering wood planes to do just that but this book is so much more. This hands down the best woodworking book I own and I own a lot of book like this one. Finck covers not just making wood planes but how to tune spoke shaves and sharpen cabinet scrapers. If you have no interest in planes and just would like to know how to learn such things as using a band saw, jointer and planer. How to tune your Combination Square, straightedge, block plane and spokeshave. Preparing a grinder, honing stone and workstation. Making a tool rest and truing jig for your grinder just to mention a few of the many useful techniques that any woodworker could use. This book is a gem.

In the interests of "writing short," I'm simply going to summarize my feelings, up front, by saying "This is a fantastic book. Buy it!" and to add that anything else positive that other reviewers had to say about this book is exactly right. Having put one wooden hand plane together, from a kit, prior to buying this book, I can already see (via a couple quick flip-throughs of the contents, with a bit of more detailed reading, here and there) that this book will absolutely meet my needs for studying this part of the craft. Having previously put one together from a (Hock Tools) kit, I can see that these instructions go even deeper than I have already gone. There's a boatload of helpful information in this book, that will be great for any future plane-making I do. I'm not at all sorry I built my first wooden (block) plane from a kit! Buying both this book and a kit would be a very fast way to get started in this interesting niche in the woodworking hobby world. The book filled in details the kit's instructions didn't; and having pre-made parts in a box, ready to put together and refine, seems like the best of both worlds to me. That was ideal for my first hand-built wooden plane, but I'm really excited about my second plane, or my third one; and learning to make planes for specialized tasks. (I often build scale models and such, rather than "boxy" projects ... so, adaptation will be a good thing, over the long haul!) When the book arrived, I did an initial flip-through, just to get a sense of the whole. I was deeply impressed at how detailed and helpful, but also fun and inspiring, this book was. I was just as impressed on a second, more detailed overview or skimming. Going forward, I'm really looking forward to "deep diving" this book -- not just as a one-time passive reading experience, but to actually take me beyond kit assembly, and into the (very enjoyable!) waters of building and using hand planes. I will really enjoy having this book around, as my road map for that journey, as I make another hand plane later on, and then another one, and ...

I probably spend as much time reading about woodworking as I do actual woodworking. As a consequence, I have read a lot of books. This book by Finck is one of the best that I have come across. If you have any interest in making (or using) a wooden plane, this book is a must! He not only tells you, in great detail, how to make a wooden plane, but he also covers the care and use as well. After reading his book and following through the construction of the smooth plane he describes, you will have the knowledge necessary to look at other plane designs and reproduce them. I have spent considerable effort in tuning up old metal planes and have gotten to the point where I really enjoy using them. The smooth plane that I made using Finck's instructions, however, is now my favorite tool of choice.

This is a good, serious book. I'm not sure if David Finck is overprecise (his shavings are super-thin)

but if you can make something that will do what he says you can do, you should make your own planes. You'll need irons that are worthy of your efforts (Hock Tools).

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