

COURSE DETAILS – 5 DAYS 5D0311

TITLE: MAKING A BOW-BACK WINDSOR CHAIR

TUTOR: JAMES MURSELL

LEVEL: BEGINNERS/INTERMEDIATE

AIMS OF COURSE:

The objective of this course is for students to make an elegant single-bow Windsor chair, and in the process to learn extensively about the methods and materials used in the construction of a Windsor chair.

Absolutely no previous experience is needed to complete this course successfully. However, those with carpentry or cabinet making experience will still be challenged by the different skills and techniques used in Windsor chairmaking – which differ from most types of woodworking.

WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD ACHIEVE:

The chair will be made using green woodworking techniques. Instruction and demonstration will be given in all aspects, including timber selection, splitting, shaping, drying, steam bending and finishing. At the end of the course students will be in a position to tackle further chair making projects on their own.

MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES COVERED:

Traditional hand tools will be used for most tasks, including the drawknife, adze, spokeshave and travisher. Clear instruction will be given as to their safe use. Students will also undertake simple turnings on the lathe to produce the legs and stretchers for the chair.

During the course students will gain an insight in to the history and development of this very flexible method of chair making, and be able to recognise many of the traditional styles, which have evolved over the past 275 years.

TEACHING METHOD:

The tutor demonstrates each stage of the making process, as students build their own chairs using these techniques.

EVENING SESSIONS:

First evening session – attendance is an essential part of the course: On the first evening the group will discuss ‘What is a Windsor chair?’, timetable of course, safety and green wood-working.

Other optional evening activities:

The course is quite physically demanding, due to the extensive use of hand-tools, and students may need to work during the evenings to complete their chair. The workshop is available until 10pm for those wishing to work on, however you must agree intended work with the tutor. Non-resident students may book additional dinners at reception each morning.

GENERAL TIMETABLE: see overleaf

Health and Safety: The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. Students may work unsupervised on agreed projects once they have satisfied the tutor as to their competence. There may be restrictions on the equipment available to students in the tutor’s absence. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.

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MATERIALS FOR THE COURSE:

The College supplies all tools and equipment for use on the course; however students are encouraged to bring their own favourite hand tools, if they wish (please ensure that they are clearly marked as yours).

ADDITIONAL CHARGE: There will be an additional charge of £85 for the necessary timber pre-prepared and supplied by the tutor. This is in addition to any items you may purchase individually. This charge should be paid to the **tutor** before the end of the course, by cash or cheque.

Please bring the following items with you:

HB pencils and rubber

Notebook

Abrasives (120, 180, 240 grit) – these may also be purchased from the College Shop

Appropriate working clothes or apron, and stout covered shoes

Any favourite tools that you wish to use (please mark clearly with your name)

COURSE TIMETABLE (unless otherwise stated above or agreed with the tutor during the course)

Course timetable for 2–9 day courses – each course starts with a welcome session on the first evening of the start date of the course and is followed by 2–9 days depending on the length of the course.

Arrival Day	From 4.00pm	Arrival for residential students. Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner.
	7.00	Dinner.
	8.15–9.15	First teaching session.
Daily Timetable	9.15am	Morning classes.
	10.30	Coffee.
	12.45pm	Lunch.
	2.00pm	Afternoon classes.
	3.30	Tea.
	5.00	Classes finish.
	7.00	Dinner.
	8.15	Evening working – students may have evening access to certain workshops in the absence of their tutor, but only with their tutor's permission and provided it is safe to do so.
Departure – last day	10.00am	Residential students are asked to vacate rooms.
	3.00pm	Classes finish.
	3.30	Tea then departure.