

COURSE DETAILS – 6 DAYS 6D 397

COURSE TITLE: MAKING A DOUBLE-BOW WINDSOR CHAIR

NAME OF TUTOR: JAMES MURSELL

LEVEL OF ABILITY: A/B/C/D

GENERAL CONTENT OF COURSE:

You do not need any previous experience to take this course, although relevant experience will be an advantage.

Students learn about the origins and evolution of Windsor chairs over the past 270 years and become familiar with all the main forms, which have been developed on both sides of the Atlantic.

Materials and techniques used in their construction are discussed and their design analysed in order to appreciate the simplicity and effectiveness of this form of chair construction. A discussion of the pros and cons of using green wood will also take place.

Construction of each student's chair will take place in the following sequence:

- Students steam-bend the two bows in green Ash or Oak, which they have shaped with traditional hand tools. The long and short spindles will also be made from greenwood, using drawknife, spoke shave and scraper.
- Students turn the legs, stretchers and arm posts using green wood.
- The deeply sculpted seat is shaped with adze, scorp, travisher, spoke shave and scraper. Much attention will be given to achieving a comfortable and attractive seat.
- Completion of the chair will involve the drilling of many holes – of different sizes and at different angles. Techniques will be demonstrated and practiced which make this a straightforward process.
- Once all the parts of the chair have been made and dried, the undercarriage is assembled with the seat, and finally the spindles, arm supports, arm and bow added to complete the chair.
- A simple, and attractive finish will be applied to the completed chair.

The overall objectives of the course are for students to complete their own chair, and to develop a better appreciation of the materials, tools and designs that they have used and seen. At the end of the course all students should have learnt enough to make further examples of the chair independently and to begin to make chairs to his/her own design. To this end, general principles of chair making will be taught wherever possible. Having completed the course, students will never again take the ubiquitous chair for granted!

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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IMPORTANT – see materials section overleaf

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MATERIALS FOR THE COURSE:

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ON PRACTICAL COURSES YOU MAY WELL NEED TO PURCHASE MATERIALS THROUGHOUT THE COURSE TO COMPLETE PROJECTS

The College and tutor supply 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

The tutor will prepare and supply all necessary timber and this will be **charged individually at £80 per chair**. Students must reimburse the tutor for this, by cash or cheque, before the end of the course.

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 comfortable footwear (not sandals)

Your favourite hand tools – if you already have any (clearly marked with your name)

ILLUSTRATION OF THE 'COURSE' CHAIR, MADE BY JAMES MURSELL



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 7.00 8.15–9.15	Arrival for residential students. Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner. Dinner. First teaching session.
Daily Timetable	9.15am 10.30 12.30pm 2.00pm 3.30 5.00 7.00 8.15	Morning classes. Coffee. Lunch. Afternoon classes. Tea. Classes finish. Dinner. 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 3.00pm 3.30	Residential students are asked to vacate rooms. Classes finish. Tea then departure.

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