

COURSE DETAILS – WEEKEND WE 361

COURSE TITLE: FINE FURNITURE MAKING, PART 1. TOOL TUNING

NAME OF TUTOR: TOM KEALY

LEVEL OF ABILITY: A/B

GENERAL CONTENT OF COURSE:

The series of Fine Furniture Making courses at West Dean College are designed for students with little or no experience of fine woodworking or cabinet making, but would like to enjoy working with hardwoods and to acquire the skills which lead on to making their own furniture designs. The courses are designed as an integrated series of 'steps' and focus primarily on learning hand skills to a high degree of proficiency and accuracy, which are sustainable in a non-commercial or home workshop.

This course (which should be booked with Part 2) introduces students to the techniques required to tune and sharpen their tools to high professional standards. It is aimed at the serious beginner or woodworker with little experience.

Through discussion, demonstrations and practical guidance, students will be taken through the stages of tuning their own planes and chisels. They learn the principles behind sharpening and maintaining their tools, including looking after the sharpening stones themselves.

Please bring your tools to the workshop by 6.45 p.m. on the first evening, before dinner. During the evening session we will discuss topics that will be covered during the weekend and ensure that you have the correct tools.

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:

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

Included in the non-residential fee for this course is the cost of general materials supplied to the course and shared amongst the group.

Essential tools and equipment required for the course:

If you do not already have these tools, or their equivalents, they can either be purchased by mail order from Axminster Power Tools (tel: 0800 371822) and Tilgear (tel: 01707 873434) and also BriMarc (tel: 01926 884440/0845 330 9100). If you are purchasing new tools the following are recommended.

NOTE: It is essential to have a Jack plane, without this you will be unable to complete the course.

Jack Plane – Either Stanley No.5, Record No.05, Clifton No.5 or Lie Nielsen No.5 or Veritas No. 5¼ Bench Plane:

Due to manufacturing processes, much of the weekend is spent tuning the Jack Plane. This includes a lot of hand grinding of the metal sole/bottom of the plane on a flat surface, (plate glass), in order to make the soles perfectly flat. The more expensive planes such as the Lie Nielsen require little or no grinding, the mid-price ones such as the Clifton usually require some grinding and probably represent the best balance of cost and quality, the cheaper ones such as Record & Stanley require a lot of grinding, which is hard work but necessary. The quality of construction is also significantly reflected in the price you pay for what you get as they say. Do not get the Footprint plane. It is recommended that you contact the tutor for advice before buying a bench plane (email: tom@kealy.co.uk or tel 01460 234272 evenings only).

Plane blades:

Samurai or Victor, select width to suit your plane.

Only required if you have a Stanley or Record plane, the existing ones in these planes do not keep their edge as long. The existing blades in the Clifton Lie Nielsen and Veritas are already good quality.

The Victor is the best blade, both for steel quality and because it is thicker, (make sure if you get this one, that you also get the longer capscrew for it).

Water stones 800 & 6000 grit

A honing guide is not essential but is recommended as it helps you achieve a more consistent honing angles. The Eclipse version or similar is good.

Bevel edged chisels, 10mm ($\frac{3}{8}$ ") and 12mm ($\frac{1}{2}$ ") Sorby, or good quality Japanese or Lie Nielsen

Marking gauge with brass inserts

Japanese marking knife 9mm x 170

6" Engineers' square

Metal hand file 6", smooth cut

Reading glasses (if you need them)

The following items are not essential, but if you have them, do please bring them:

Sandwich box or ice cream box that the water stones can fit into

300 mm steel rule

Leather strop

Engineers' straight edge (this is a useful tool and if you get one, the Veritas Steel 60cm(2ft) is best for value and accuracy)

Hammer

Screwdrivers

A stiff clean paint brush

Diamond stone 'Blue' or 'Red' 150cm (6") min

COURSE TIMETABLE

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.
Usual 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.