Woodworking Books for Beginners - Comments by Bill Schuchat November 19, 2021

- 1. Woodworking Basics (Peter Korn), Amazon \$13 paperback, used \$1-7
 - a. Peter Korn's method helps new woodworkers learn the right techniques from the beginning.
 - b. This book emphasizes craftsmanship and the content is similar to the content of the Fundamentals of Woodworking class taught by the St Louis Woodworkers Guild.
 - c. This book provides a step-by-step introduction to all aspects of woodworking, including:
 - i. Safe use of woodworking machinery
 - ii. Correct use of hand tools
 - iii. Milling a board four-square
 - iv. Cutting a mortise-and-tenon joint
 - v. Cutting dovetails
- 2. The Essential Woodworker (Robert Wearing), Amazon \$16
 - a. Excellent book for a beginning woodworker with little experience.
 - b. The author is British so some of the terminology is not American.
 - c. Part 1 is Basic Woodworking Skill
 - i. Sharpening skills are essential.
 - ii. Planing is worthwhile, but the emphasis of this book is hand skills and not enough on machines like table saw, jointer, and planer
 - iii. The concept of creating a "face" and an "edge" is excellent, but much easier to do with a jointer and planer than by hand. I have good planing skills, but do not use them much since I got a jointer.
 - iv. Sawing is best done with a table saw and a band saw. I have never cut a tenon with a hand saw.
 - d. Part 2 is making a Table
 - i. The general principles are something you need to know.
 - ii. Cutting mortice and tenons by hand is fun if you like hand tools. I make these joints with machines. This book shows cutting the mortise from 1/8" from one end to 1/8" from the other end of the mortise working from one end to the other. Other books (including ones by Ernest Scott) show working from the middle out (Scott says 1/8" to 3/16" from the end). I have always worked from the middle out.
 - iii. Lots of other good information.
 - e. Part 3 is making a Carcase
 - i. Good discussion of building a carcase. Many options discussed.
 - ii. Good discussion of building with dovetails, options for the cabinet back, and glue up procedures.
 - iii. Cabinet door alternatives discussed and several base designs reviewed.
 - f. Part 4 is making is making Drawers and Boxes
 - i. Emphasis is on dovetailed construction by hand.
 - ii. Variety of box constructions shown including splines and finger joints.
- 3. **A.** Working in Wood: An Introduction (Jack Hill & Ernest Scott), GUILD LIBRARY or Amazon used \$4-7 and **B.** Working in Wood (Ernest Scott), Amazon used \$5-7 or paperback new \$20 or **C.** Illustrated Encyclopedia of Working in Wood (Ernest Scott), Amazon used \$7
 - a. Many sections of these books are identical. Items B and C are identical other than the title and the dust jacket. The Scott versions have an interesting section on Classical Constructions.
 - b. All have a broad discussion of hand held tools (manual and powered); Scott also included stationary power tools such as table saws, etc.
 - c. All cover design, planning, joinery and methods of construction, working manufactured boards, carcase and frame construction, drawers, doors, tables. Hand tool methods and machining methods are included.
 - d. Scott includes wood bending, lathe work, carving, veneering, and marquetry.
 - e. All cover materials (wood), but Scott's coverage is broader.
 - f. The Hill version has a section on some simple projects.
- 4. The Complete Manual of Woodworking (A. Jackson, D. Day, S. Jennings) Guild Library
 - a. Design section is technical. A little to advanced for a beginner.
 - b. Hand tool section is too broad. Planes OK, sharpening is so so.
 - c. Power tools OK. Routers OK+, table saw-others are better.
 - d. Joinery-hand methods only.
- 5. Subject matter videos from Marc Adams. The complete set is in the Guild's library
- 6. The Complete Illustrated Woodworking Course (Guild Library)
 - a. Homeowner oriented.
 - b. Not Recommended