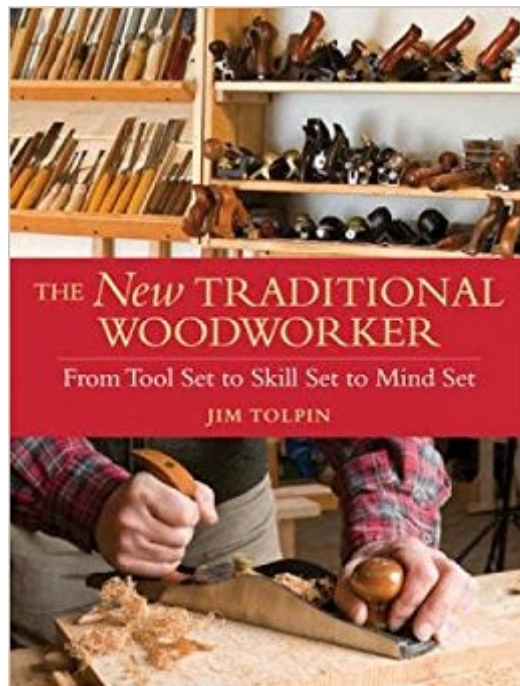




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The New Traditional Woodworker: From Tool Set To Skill Set To Mind Set (Popular Woodworking)



Synopsis

Working Wood, Not Machining It If you're more interested in working with wood rather than machining it, you will be relieved to learn that expensive powered machinery isn't required to build furniture. You can also forget the dust masks, face shields and hearing protection since many of the safety concerns related to woodworking's use of power tools are eliminated. In this book, you'll learn to set up a hand-tool woodworking shop, then discover the toolset, practice the skillset, and understand the mindset effectively completing a comprehensive course in hand-tool woodworking.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jim Tolpin has been a woodworker for more than 30 years and has written a dozen books on the subject, selling more than 750,000 copies. He teaches woodworking for a living at his school, The Port Townsend School of Woodworking.<http://www.jimtolpin.com>

I know I spent at least 5 hours trolling the internet for a suitable birthday present for my boyfriend and no present from me is complete without a book =] He is an amazing woodworker but we've recently moved and have no room for power tools and such so he decided to do everything by hand. he has a variety of saws but only a smooth plane and from a "sneak peek" in the book i found

that a set of 4 hand planes is recommended so I also bought him a jack plane to really kick off his collection. anyway, the book not only tells you what you need but how to use it properly but how to keep it in great working order. for instance, I didn't know a metal hand plane had to be well oiled when you're using it but wooden ones do not. It's in full color, very well-written and definitely worth the bang for your buck. Even for a girl like me who is afraid of every machine but the scroll saw it was very informative and motivating. I definitely recommend it.

Disclaimer: For me, any book about traditional woodworking (back when men were men, who walked barefoot, through the snow, uphill, both ways) warrants at least three stars. This stuff is like porn to me... which probably says more about my age than anything else. That being said, I would really have appreciated more detailed drawings and photos. I want to be led step-by-step through even the most simple of projects. Perhaps the author didn't want to insult his readers' intelligence -- and I can understand that -- but it is not possible to insult my woodworking skills. Precision woodworking without power tools is akin to black magic as far as I'm concerned.

The sub-title of this book says it all - "From Tool Set to Skill Set to Mind Set". For those of us who have used power tools, Jim Tolpin provides a lot more than another set of techniques. He provides a new (old) way of thinking about how we work with wood that brings value to the task regardless of any preconceived hand tool or power tool ideas. There are a lot of good books for woodworkers. This is one of the best. Tolpin really knows how to write and he really knows tools, wood, and design. If you are serious about hand tools, one of the few ways to get more info than what is presented here is to attend a Tolpin class at Port Townsend Woodworking School. I just did and I was very impressed by the school, the teachers, and the fit of this book into the overall idea that we don't need the horsepower in our power tools.

Complete the projects and read part 1 and you will be well on your way to a hand tool expert. The project on making a wooden straightedge might be the best example project in the book. Being able to true the straight edge to within 0.0005" shows how precise hand tools can be. Yes it's a "simple" project in concept, but executing the project to that level of precision is an accomplishment requiring skill in multiple areas such as sharpening, grain reading, wood species selection as well as the manner in which the sawyer cut the wood. It's important to point out that the projects in this book are all about setting up a hand tool shop. Planing stops, sticking boards, squares, winding sticks. All these things are necessary for a hand tool shop. You will not a master after reading this book, but

you will be a capable hand tool user.

Outstanding book, gives good information AND a warm feeling about the topic material. This is an engaging book that effectively conveys why and how one might consider pursuing the practice of woodworking with (mostly) hand tools. I was becoming frustrated with the dust, noise, and potential danger of my power-tool woodworking, and this book gave me both affirmation and a path to finding my way. Mr. Tolpin does not try to present a comprehensive guide to hand woodworking, but rather serves as an overview guide to the mindset and methodologies.

This is a basic yet interesting book. It is not full of technical concepts or diagrams. Rather, it is an interesting read. The author admits to use a couple of power tools but other than that, there is good advice. It is a nice complement to other books on the topic of hand woodworking, such as the one from Peter Sellers, or the Unplugged Workshop.

Imagine a woodshop filled with 10 or 11 people planing, sawing, & squaring lumber, routing dados & grooves and producing all kinds of layout tools based on the wood workers own physical size. One would think that it would be a noisy, dusty, & fairly dangerous environment. But no, one can converse with others without shouting...no need for respirator or dust mask. Hearing protection is not needed. Your digits stay attached to you extremities. This book describes how that is possible. I just attended a week long class from Mr. Tolpin called "Hand Tool Heaven." The class is based on this book The New Traditional Woodworker. It was amazing. Techniques are presented showing how to tune, sharpen & use hand tools as they were operated in the preindustrial era. Skills are taught and then developed by the making of tools, jigs, fixtures and other projects. The book is well researched and presented. Directions are easy to follow. Develop a new mind set. Learn how to work wood, not machine it. I highly recommend this book. In fact I now have some machines for sale if any one is interested. Ryc Williamson Aloha, Oregon

I can't remember how I found this book. Probably through blogger Christopher Schwartz. This book is a great introduction to hand tool woodworking. It has a couple of great bootstrapping projects at the end, and describes how to work towards accurate and reliable results. I am currently in the middle of reading Jeff Miller's "Foundations of Better Woodworking", which I also like very much, despite having a lot of overlapping material. I'd recommend both books for beginning to intermediate (hand tool) woodworkers. Tolpin's book covers more practical stuff, while Miller's book covers more

theory.

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