Encyclopedia Of Furniture Making
Synopsis

It's been the number-one book on the subject for most of the 20th century; the encyclopedia with the latest information on the tools, techniques, and processes. "This thorough...edition introduces furniture construction, design, and restoration. Choice photographs accent...abundant black-and-white photographs and drawings."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The best attributes about this book are the diagrams/pictures of furniture making techniques. With +/- 514 pages of reference information, you certainly get your $ worth. Each page is packed with diagrams, how to information, and explanations. The entire book is packed with just about every aspect of furniture making. However, while covering such a broad spectrum, it is unavoidable that this book will gloss over subject matter. This is a great furniture reference book.

While not the only book you'll ever have to buy, this is a book every woodworker should own. It is an excellent reference, packed with useful suggestions, recommendations and advice. The book does have its flaws. I agree with a previous reviewer who found the diagrams and their reference numbers confusing. Also, this book does appear to be written for readers in the UK and seemed a little out of date, or incomplete, from a US perspective. At times the tool descriptions didn't seem complete. I was a little troubled by the fact that the only combo square mentioned was the Stanley (No reference to Starrett, or others. Maybe it's a UK thing). None of these issues I had with the book would prevent me from recommending this book to a friend. The wealth of information
contained in its pages more than makes up for any of its shortcomings.

This book attempts to detail every aspect of furniture making from plastic to metal to its main focus of wood. This is a English book so there are some unfamiliar terms but there are American equivalents. This book has the reader flipping back and forth to different pages looking at referenced pictures every other sentence and some reference numbers are annoyingly mixed up every so often. In my opinion, the author seems to gloss over some more advanced details in his very concise (miss on word and you miss the point) wording. Perhaps it was over my head after just one reading or perhaps I expected to much detail and he did not deliver as much as a book just on a niche subject would. This book needs to be read at least twice. A must have reference work - if you need some quick info on an obscure subject or problem, this book will usually deliver to all skill levels.

If you're new to woodworking, and you want the 10,000 foot view on woodworking then this is the book for you. I'd say that 75% of what the book contains is useful, 25% fluff and pictures. It could go into greater detail... but I think that each specific section in the book is likely worthy of it's own book. Let's be realistic... howe can an author tell you everything you need to know about finishing in one chapter? Or all the subtlties of joinery in 2 chapters?Overall, a decent book and makes a handy addition to my library.

This is a fine and curiously underrated reference that I have found useful in my own pursuits. The authors write with lucidity and command. Not all the entries are uniformly excellent, but that does not detract from the whole.

This is a reference book, but the individual chapters can be read in their entirety. A lot has changed in the last half century and a lot hasn’t. For instance, nobody is recommending insulating with asbestos anymore. OTOH, the materials relating to hand tools and joinery are basically timeless. I would recommend it highly with the caveat that some of it is dated. And the flavor conveyed by that dated material is, itself, charming. Just remember, this is an 'encyclopedia', not a bible, so don't take everything as gospel.

Huh? The sections on power tools are behind the times; and there are new materials available. So, it's dated. The methods of work and examples are as valid today as they were twenty years ago. Anyone who didn't pick up some tricks from this book didn't give it a chance. This book has some of
the best drawings I've seen. They have views that really show how things work together. For the price, this deserves a place in your shop library. If you refer to it first, you'll be surprised how often you don't bother to check another source.

This was a replacement for a copy so worn it was starting to fall apart. This is still an excellent reference for anyone building furniture. It misses some more modern 'tricks' but provides an excellent starting point for quality construction methods. You can see how far much commercial furniture has fallen.

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