Woodworking’s lexicon can be overwhelming for beginners. Following is a list of terms used in this issue. Check out woodworking-magazine.com for a complete and searchable glossary.

**arbor** *(n)*
A motor’s axis or rotating shaft to which a tool is attached, such as a table-saw blade or a router bit.

**Baltic birch** *(n)*
A high-quality birch plywood made from veneer of equal thickness. It has no voids. Widely used for furniture, it’s also known as “Finnish birch.” Unlike domestic plywood, such as “apple ply,” which comes in 4’ x 8’ sheets, Baltic birch is made in 5’ x 5’ sheets.

**bevel** *(v, n)*
To cut an inclined or sloping angle on a workpiece that is other than 90°; also, the angle itself.

**block plane** *(n)*
A small plane for trimming joints or end grain; the bevel on the cutter always faces up. Low-angle versions excel at trimming end grain.

**carcase** *(n)*
The frame or structure of a cabinet.

**chamfer** *(n, v)*
A beveled or grooved edge that is 45°.

**clearance hole** *(n)*
A hole for a screw that allows the shank and threads to pass through without biting the wood.

**combination square** *(n)*
An all-metal, adjustable square that can measure 90° and 45° angles. It is perhaps the most-used (and most dropped) tool when marking out joints.

**countersink** *(n, v)*
To cut a cone-shaped recess in a pilot or clearance hole that allows a flat-head screw to seat flush or below the surface; also, the hole itself.

**crosscut** *(n, v, adj)*
A cut perpendicular to the grain of a board.

**dado** *(n, v)*
**dadoes** *(pl)*
**dadoing** *(v)*
A three-sided trench cut across the grain of a board.

**featherboard** *(n)*
A safety device comprising of flexible fingers that hold a workpiece against the fence or table during a cut; often constructed by cutting a number of slots in the end of a board.

**Forstner bit** *(n)*
A type of bit used to bore clean, flat-bottomed and generally larger holes.

**glue-up** *(n)*
**glue up** *(v)*
The act of assembling parts with glue and clamps.

**grain pattern** *(n)*
The visual appearance of the wood grain; types include flat, straight, curly, quilted, rowed, mottled, crotch, cathedral, beeswing and bird’s eye.

“When the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail.”

— Abraham Maslow (1908 - 1970) psychologist, philosopher

**groove** *(n)*
A three-sided trench cut with the grain of a board.

**kerf** *(n)*
The wood removed by a saw blade between the piece you keep and your offcut.

**kickback** *(n)*
**kick back** *(v)*
The action of any number of woodworking machines to throw the workpiece back toward the operator. It usually occurs when wood gets caught between the rip fence and the blade. Splitters – and a dose of common sense – can prevent these.

**offcut** *(n, adj)*
A waste piece of lumber.

**outfeed** *(n, v, adj)*
The point where the workpiece exits a machine.

**panel** *(n)*
A large wood surface, sometimes made out of several boards glued edge-to-edge.