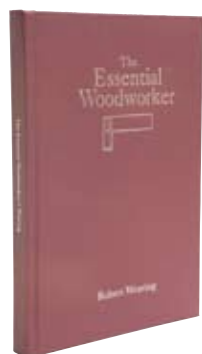


# Essential reading list

After much deliberation the **F&C** team has devised this essential reading list for your workshop library



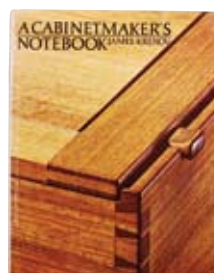
**Techniques**



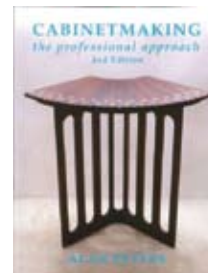
**Tools**



**Projects & techniques**



**Theory**



**Business**



**Tools**

**The Essential Woodworker**  
by Robert Wearing

**The Anarchist's Toolchest**  
by Chris Schwarz

**Making Classic English Furniture: a modern approach to traditional cabinetmaking**  
by Paul Richardson

**A Cabinetmaker's Notebook**  
by James Krenov

**Cabinetmaking. The Professional Approach**  
by Alan Peters

**The Handplane Book**  
by Garrett Hack

This is a seminal text that every single woodworker should have to hand when undertaking any project. Originally written in the 1980s the book clearly outlines each of the basic cabinetmaking forms and the joints required to make them. Giving every step from how to flatten your first board to completing your latest cabinet piece, there is something for everyone in this hugely influential publication.

Are you building up your hand tool collection? The iconoclastic hand tool advocate Christopher Schwarz outlines all of the hand tools you are likely to need and how to set them up for the majority of jobs. Just as importantly, he outlines why there are many tools you don't need for 95% of jobs. He makes a compelling case for the use of a traditional tool chest and shows readers how to build it well.

For those who shy away from the prospect of making anything larger than a box, you could do a lot worse than take lessons from Paul Richardson. With no formal training to draw from, every piece of advice has first-hand experience behind it. This is a no-nonsense instruction on how to build the pieces of furniture that have inspired generations of supremely talented craftsmen – author included.

The late James Krenov remains an idiosyncratic but towering presence. His unique way of approaching furniture making meant that he brought real insight into the heart of why working in wood gives us such satisfaction. Rather than a textbook in any conventional sense, reading this will make you ask yourself questions about why you work wood and how you approach the craft as an individual.

Since Alan's passing, his down-to earth advice on how to set up as a cabinetmaker rings ever more true. Although some of the advice on advertising is beginning to date it gives aspiring professionals a start-point on the essentials: choice of equipment, working from a commission, how to develop a design from a brief, the efficiencies of batch production and finance all feature in this guide.

More than a how-to or workshop reference book, Hack has compiled a comprehensive study of the most cherished possession to be found in most workshops. It will either unleash the collector in you or save you a small fortune. Read it and you'll be better informed than most who write on the subject. Put half of what you learn from it into practice and you'll want to read it all over again.

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£25

£19.99

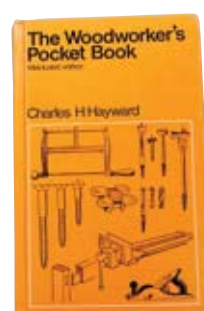
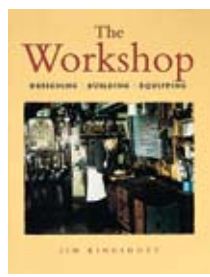
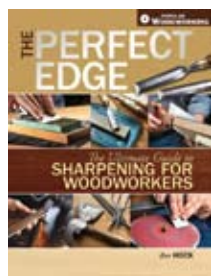
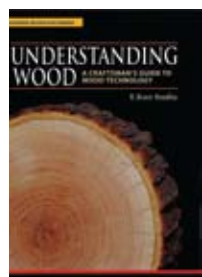
Our craft is about learning each individual skill and honing it through constant practice. It is therefore essential that precious research time is spent reading, viewing and using only the best material possible. *F&C* contributors and staff have put their heads together, read hundreds of books, watched countless hours of

instruction DVDs, pored over plans and scoured our archives to compile a list of must-have titles for your workshop library.

To get onto this list any resource has to be much more than a how-to guide, it must provoke thought, entertain and inspire. We have shown the recommended retail price of any current publications. Prices in **bold**

represent books that are out of print and are therefore available from online retailers or second hand book shops. We've checked and they're out there and the price we've quoted is an average.

Here then is the first of *F&C*'s recommendations for a complete resource to help you to get more from your woodworking.



**Materials**

**Sharpening**

**Workshop environment**

**Projects & techniques**

**Workshop reference**

**Techniques**

***Understanding Wood***  
by Bruce Hoadley

***The Perfect Edge***  
by Ron Hock

***The Workshop***  
by Jim Kingshott

***Cutting-edge Cabinetmaking***  
by Robert Ingham

***The Woodworker's Pocket Book***  
by Charles H Hayward

***The Technique of Furniture Making***  
by Ernest Joyce

To truly understand how wood will behave when we work it, it is incredibly beneficial to be equipped with a deeper understanding of the structure of the material and how it behaves under varying conditions. Bruce Hoadley understands the huge range of woods available like few others. He is able to guide readers in a way that can only improve the quality of their work.

This is by far the best overall text on sharpening available and it is clear that Ron Hock has real enthusiasm for his subject. Ron covers the metallurgy of blades; how, why and when to sharpen them plus abrasives and all of the sharpening systems. Despite this wealth of information Ron also covers how to sharpen almost every cutting edge you are likely to need. Buy it and read it.

For anyone attempting the daunting task of constructing a workshop from the foundations up, this is one of the definitive books on the subject. From 'Preliminary Steps' and the 'Floor Plan', all the way through the complete spectrum to 'Care of Tools' and 'The Working Workshop' this is a fantastic guide for anything, from purchasing a basic shed to making a complete insulated workshop.

This is an all-embracing book ranging from hand tools and jigs, including the most basic constructional techniques through to the most complex. It is written in a clear and concise way by a master for those aspiring to be masters. Whilst the designs may not be to everyone's taste, there can be no denying the sheer technicality and truly faultless manner in which they have been executed.

First published in 1949, but still relevant today, a little gem from one of the greats, packed full of useful information. Do you know your Hepplewhite mouldings or how to work out optimum machine transmission speeds or even make your own wax polish? Although this edition is a little outdated, the fundamentals of the craft haven't changed a great deal in the intervening years.

First published in 1970, this is the first complete, up-to-date manual on furniture making techniques and construction, revised quite recently by the late Alan Peters. As much of a how-to manual as a 'what's the best way?' book, Joyce covers all the myriad technicalities and variations on any particular theme in minute detail. If you need to purchase only one book, make sure it's this one.

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