

# SAN JOAQUIN FINE WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

## AN INTRODUCTION TO WOODWORKING

This is a series of short, introductory courses dealing with the bare, essential elements of fine woodworking. As an entire series, it is intended for those who have limited woodworking experience. Courses are numbered, and each course is based on knowledge and skill developed in lower numbered courses. An initial estimate of the number sessions for the course follows the description, where each session is thought to be of four to six hours duration.

- 1. Planning the Project** covers the choices to be made for a fine woodworking project, and how those choices interact in a good plan. Sketching the intended product, choice of wood(s), joinery, finish, and general sequence of work are included. Then shop drawings are constructed and the cut list is prepared. Materials requirements and cost estimates complete the plan. Two sessions, with homework.
- 2. Measuring, Marking, and Drawing Tools** is an introduction to these tools and their appropriate use. Straight edges, left and right read rules, and tapes, bar gauge, caliper, marking knife, compass, parallel rule, French curves, sliding bevel, dovetail marking tools. One session.
- 3. Basic Hand Tools** deals with types and uses of planes, scrapers, saws, chisels, drills, and sanding blocks. Sharpening is explained and demonstrated. Simple exercises are planned for homework. Two sessions.
- 4. Characteristics and Safe Uses of Basic Power Tools** provides an introduction to the table saw, band saw, joiner, planer, drill press, and router. Tuning and maintaining these machines is emphasized. This leads to the characteristics to consider in selecting these tools for purchase. Two sessions.

- 5. Machining, Sanding, Scraping, and Edge Joining** combines use of hand and power tools to accomplish preparing wood for finishing, including (a) edge joining, using biscuits, dowels, splines, pocket hole screws, and glue, (b) surface preparation, including jointer, planer, scrapers, and sanding. Two sessions.
- 6. Mortise and Tenon Joinery** involves discussion of several types of mortise and tenon joinery with exercises in accomplishing at least one sample of each. Two sessions with homework.
- 7. Dovetail Joinery** done by hand, and through use of table saw or commercial dovetail jig. Drawer construction is included, along with brief discussion of some other drawer joinery methods often used in lower quality work. One session.
- 8. Stile and Rail, and Panel Construction** is examined and practiced for use in case and door parts of furniture and boxes. A basic introduction to the technology of wood movement is included. One session.
- 9. Drawer Case and Drawer Construction** requires a case made for drawer(s) and drawer(s) made for that case. Shop made slides and commercial slides are discussed. An exercise in making a box and a properly fitted drawer is part of the course, and requires homework. Two sessions with substantial homework.
- 10. Basic Finishing** is an introduction to finishing with and without spray equipment. This course begins with a review of surface preparation. Two sessions, with homework.