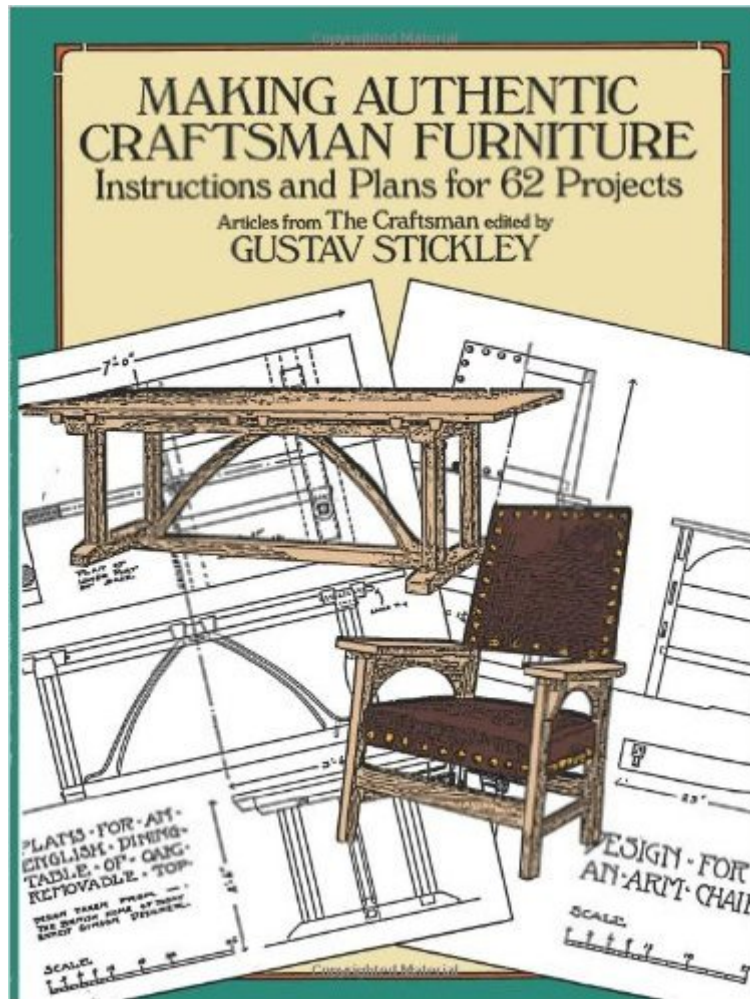


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Making Authentic Craftsman Furniture: Instructions And Plans For 62 Projects (Dover Woodworking)



Synopsis

Rejecting the "badly constructed, over-ornate, meaningless" furniture of the late Victorian period, architect, furniture designer and manufacturer Gustav Stickley developed a radical new design concept that stressed careful workmanship, simplicity, and utility. His important monthly magazine *The Craftsman* (1901-16) published construction plans for his distinctly American furniture. The 62 simple, straightforward projects reprinted here are exquisite examples of Stickley's classic designs that first appeared in *The Craftsman* between 1903 and 1907. Included are projects large and small enough to satisfy the household needs and creative urges of any woodworker. Make authentic reproductions of handsome, functional, sturdy Craftsman home furnishings from bookcases to bedsteads, dressers to dining tables, a hall tree, a foot rest, a wood-box and more future family heirlooms that will stand the test of time both in durability and in clean, elegant purity of line. Each project includes Stickley's original information for woodworkers of the early 1900s: a perspective drawing of the completed piece; a brief description of the item with suggestions for appropriate choices of wood; a "mill bill" giving complete lumber specifications; and schematic drawings showing both front and side views with accurate measurements. All woodworkers, even beginners, will delight in this collection of genuine Stickley plans for 62 of the finest, most desirable pieces of Craftsman or "mission-style" furniture. Antique collectors, furniture restorers, and historians of American style also will appreciate the detailed information on an influential design movement enjoying a resurgence in popularity.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is a collection of articles/plans that originally appeared in Gustav Stickley's THE CRAFTSMAN magazine near the turn of the century. It has several plans for "classic" Mission/Stickley furniture. Unlike a Norm Abrams (New Yankee Workshop on PBS) book, there are not detailed instructions on HOW to make the joints and features shown in the drawings. Nor is any assembly sequence given. How people knew HOW to do this stuff back then is unknown to me. I love this book. However, I would not recommend it to a novice woodworker. Stickley furniture is all about joinery. This book does not explain HOW to create any of the marvelous joints. Unless you already know how to make pegged mortise and tenon joints, before you grind a lot of oak or cherry into sawdust and eventually firewood, consider buying books by Norm Abrams, Tom Moser, or Tage Frid first. If you aren't a builder and want to look at interesting pictures of Mission furniture, consider buying one of the many reproductions of Arts and Crafts furniture catalogs. A favorite of mine is the "Arts and crafts furniture, the complete Brooks catalog of 1912" by Dover Press.

As a guide to making furniture for the home craftsman, this book should get either zero or one star. It includes a couple of dozen projects which consist of line drawings, a brief description, a parts list, and minimalist plans - just an elevation or two, poorly done. HOWEVER, these are, by definition, authentic Stickley designs. If you are an intermediate or expert woodworker and a good designer, you can take these plans and drawings and then make your own detailed production drawings. In summary, what you get in this book is a couple of dozen drawings of furniture and some commentary, both of which are of historical value and of interest to the woodworker. Incidentally, I have seen at least two of the designs in some modern mission furniture construction books.

This book has great elevation plans for authentic craftsman furniture. A good number of plans are included. However, if you are looking for a book to teach you the basics of furniture making in the craftsman style, this is not the book for you. There are no exploded views of the pieces and no real description of the process.

My husband bought this book because of the variety of projects it includes. There are smaller projects like 3-legged stools and hanging bookshelves as well as very involved projects like

cabinets and bedsteads. He commented that, as the other reviewers have noted, the directions are MINIMAL. But if you are familiar with the techniques and construction, the designs make absolutely spectacular items, that look exactly like the designs. He made me the hanging bookshelf for Christmas and it is stunning. A great value if you're looking for design ideas and have the technical know how.

What you'll get with this book are some fairly good illustrations of authentic Stickley furniture. You also get a pretty good materials list with each project. You do not get any fully detailed working plans. You'll have to generate these yourself, but the illustrations with each project make this an uncomplicated task if you are handy at drafting or know AutoCAD. Some of the projects have more complete plans than others. Some of the plans might be a pair of dimension elevations, others may include all elevations, plan view and details. From what they do provide, any capable woodworker can build any project within this book. It's not a bad book to have with you if you go to a lot of garage and estate sales. It might help you recognize a treasure unknown to the seller. Fortunately, this is an inexpensive book, so go ahead and order it.

This book is a great "helper" for those who make Stickley inspired furniture. It has nominal dimensions for most pieces, which is a plus in helping with getting the proportions correct as well as milling lists for the projects. If you are looking for a "how-to" or complete plans you are in the wrong place. The illustrations in the book are straight from the original "The Craftsman" series.

This is a great collection of original articles from The Craftsman. It's written for the audience of the day, an audience which probably already knew a lot more about woodworking and cabinetry than the average home shop putterer today. That's not a rip on today's do it yourselfers or woodworking hobbyists, but it is a warning. These are authentic designs from the drafting board of Gustav Stickley and as such they do not contain detailed step by step instructions such as you would see in a modern woodworking magazine. Stickley was not verbose. But if you have workshop experience and have learned elsewhere how to plane a smooth, flat, and square block, can hand cut accurate mortises, tenons, and dovetails, and understand how wood WILL move with the seasons, then you should be able to reproduce any of the projects from the drawings and descriptions in this book. Just don't expect "cookbook" instructions. You will probably need to prepare your own detailed shop drawings and instructions before you fire up any of your power tools.

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