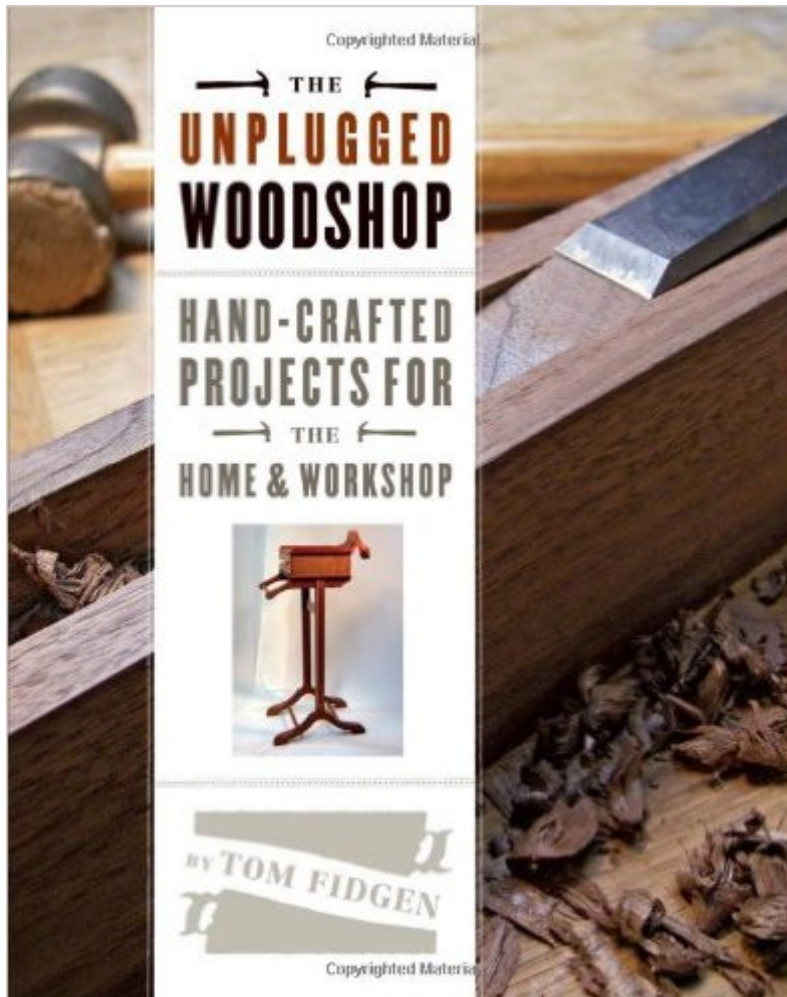


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The Unplugged Woodshop: Hand-Crafted Projects For The Home & Workshop



Synopsis

Unplugged is “no power tools needed! For the growing number of woodworkers who are opting out of power tools and returning to hand tools, The Unplugged Woodshop is a refreshing concept and a welcome change. Written by custom furniture maker and hand tool expert Tom Fidgen, this new book promises to be as successful as his first book, Made by Hand. Handcrafted projects with a distinctly retro look. Recycling designs from our not-so-distant past, this collection of projects has been repurposed for use today and includes: A classic library card catalog converted to use as kitchen storage A medicine chest that does double duty as a four-bottle wine tote A gentleman’s classic valet that becomes an elegant clothing stand Get some useful pointers from a popular blogger. Founder of theunpluggedwoodshop.com, Tom offers savvy advice for working with and sharpening hand tools. He also delves into glues, finishes, and even how to make hand tools using only hand tools. Visual inspiration. Practical instruction. The Unplugged Woodshop takes you on a fascinating adventure back to a simpler time when everything was made by hand. It’s a refreshing experience that takes you far away from today’s hi-tech, fast-moving world. And it shows you how to handcraft some handsome projects you’ll find satisfaction in making – whether or not you choose to use only hand tools!

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Customer Reviews

Perhaps like you, I am always a little weary buying books like these because they usually end up

being 200 page presentations with little more than pictures and general instructions on concept. But here in *The Unplugged Woodshop* we actually get step-by-step instructions on how to build real world projects using in-depth instructions and drawings. Books like this can be difficult to review, so let me give you an understanding of just what you will find within. Not only is this book an instructional tale of how to build the projects contained within, but it gives you a far more complete understanding of the art of woodworking. In the beginning there is an introduction to the unplugged form. In this introduction the author speaks to the emotional feel a woodworker can get from forming wood without electrical-mechanical aid. This understanding of the art just doesn't speak to nonelectrical craftsmanship, but extends to time when woodworkers got their source material from the land and not at a store's lumberyard. Here you will find a great instructional telling of how to form rough lumber into a workable material. Next is an understanding of how chemical bonds can extend layers of material into larger project materials by having an understanding of glues and finishes. After a base understanding of the art of woodworking is complete, it is time to get to work. Eleven projects are presented to the reader; the sawyer's bench, the Funeral Chair, the Architect's Chair, Lying Press, the Pochade Box, Wood Planes, Kerfing Plane, Frame Saw, the Good-Doctor's Medicine Chest, the Gentleman's Valet, and the Card Catalog. So you will note by this list that not only cool projects are in the book, but actual woodworking tools can be made as well.

Tom Fidgen is one of those very rare woodworkers who is able to support himself using only hand tools. Perhaps that's not as surprising as it sounds. The hand woodworker can get by without a multi-thousand dollar cabinet saw, or joiner, or shaper, or a lot of other tools that demand power, maintenance and a lot of respect for the damage they can do. Working in his relatively small shop, Fidgen creates original, elegant pieces of furniture and useful hand tools, many of which are presented here as projects for the amateur woodworker. As someone returning to woodwork after a long hiatus, I'm encouraged by Fidgen's ethic. Every time I walk into my local woodworking store I see expensive bandsaws, router tables, table saws, joiners, and other tools that cost a small fortune and can take off a finger in a moment of inattentiveness. I like the idea of working quietly, hearing the sound of a plane or a saw slicing through wood fibers, watching wood take shape at human speeds. Fidgen's mode of work fits in well with the ideas popularized by people like Roy Underhill and Christopher Schwarz, both of whom have done much to restore respect for traditional ways of working wood. *The Unplugged Woodshop* is a beautiful book, with excellent photography, just as you'd expect from Taunton Press. The projects are elegantly conceived, and described in detail—choice of wood, order of construction, special techniques and so forth. This is not a book for the

rank beginner; no mention is made of shoeing, sharpening, or basic use of hand tools. The reader is expected to know how to sharpen a chisel or a plane, how to make an accurate saw cut, and how to trim tenons.

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