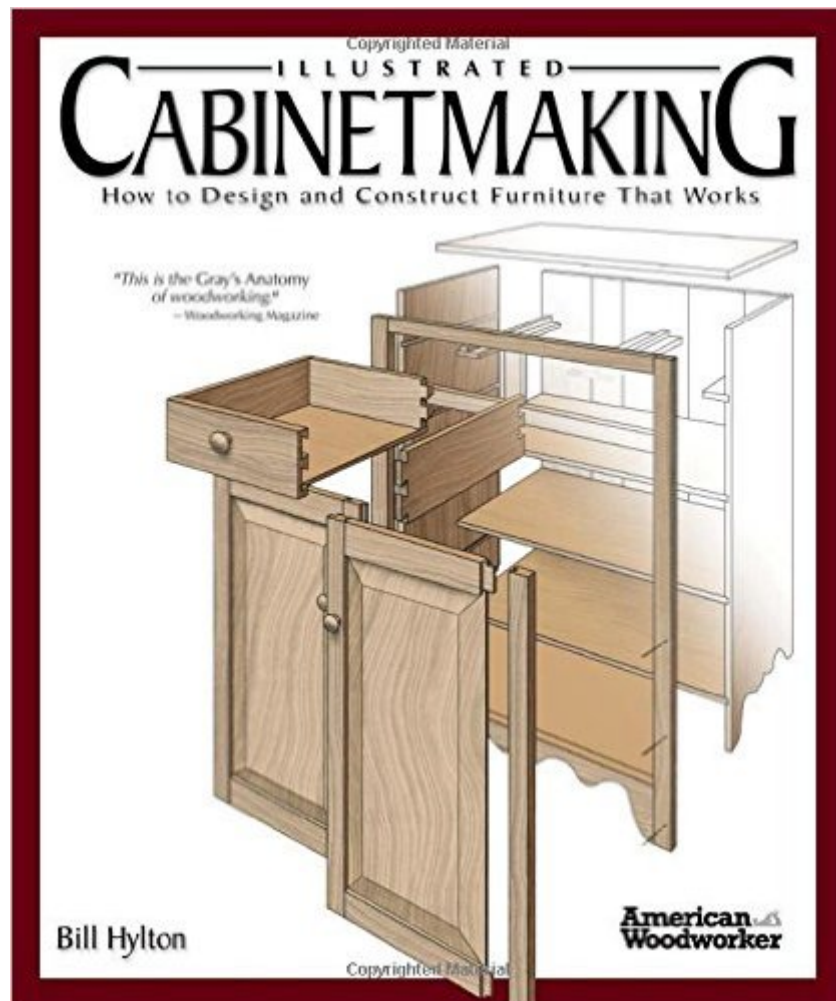


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# Illustrated Cabinetmaking: How To Design And Construct Furniture That Works (American Woodworker)



## Synopsis

The most complete visual guide to furniture construction ever published! Includes hundreds of clearly-labeled drawings and exploded diagrams that explain everything there is to know about joints, subassemblies and furniture design.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As a semi-pro woodworker I found this book to be invaluable. It has detailed drawings of just about any type of joint or furniture item you can imagine. The first section is a discussion of wood and its properties and then there is a detailed comparison of wood joints. Mortise and tenons, miters, dovetails, etc. are all discussed. Then the book moves on with chapters dealing with various classes of furniture, desks, tables, beds, cabinets are all discussed with clear exploded diagrams. Although the book does not contain detailed, measured drawings, it shows the conceptual details of how to make functional furniture. Additionally there are references to detailed plans that you can access via the internet or purchase to make typical examples of each piece. Especially helpful are the "standards" sections at the start of each chapter. The "nominal" dimensions for tables, beds, kitchen cabinets are all given along with illustrations. If you're serious about woodworking and furniture making, this book belongs on your bookshelf.

Illustrated Cabinetmaking would make a decent idea book, but falls short if you're looking for a "how

to" book. It is filled with many different types of furniture designs, including alternates. The chapters on furniture style and anatomy are adequate, however, the ones on joinery are lacking. Although quite adequate in describing and showing limited illustrations of the joints, there is virtually no instruction on how to construct them. The same problem occurs in the furniture section. The description is short and offers very little construction information. Consider the spice box on pages 272-273. The door of the illustration on page 272 appears to be lipped, but has a half mortise lock. What does it lock into?

This book is a wealth of ideas and illustrations. Every page has an illustration (non measured drawing) giving details of types of joinery, moldings, etc. that can be used in furniture making. The book is also a starting point to get ideas how furniture can be built. It illustrates how hundreds of types of furniture (beds, cabinets of all sorts,...) can be built according to different styles. This is no cookbook for furniture (such as "Country Pine Furniture" from the same author), but it is ideal for people who have acquired a little assurance in building furniture and are ready to make their first (or second) steps in designing their own.

This thick little book is filled with dimensional drawings of all kinds of furniture, including the very high-end furniture and some historical pieces. The author goes into great detail about every type of joint with some practical commentary on the pros and cons of each type. There are also detailed sections on legs and feet, table types, and drawer construction. My only letdown, as an amateur furniture hobbyist, is that there is little or no talk about tool usage and how to make some of these pieces. The author favored information about origins, history, and aesthetics. However, the book makes up for this with its great perspective drawings on every page, complete with dimensions and names for each component. This will be a great resource down the road when I need to know how to construct a unique joint or when I just want to see something new to inspire me.

This book would be a great textbook for Introduction to Cabinetmaking. It explores history, basic joinery, and presents several different examples of end products for the basic styles of cabinetry and furniture. Although the book has very recent publication dates (2003, 2008, 2010), the end products illustrated in the book were popular several years ago. In other words, don't expect to see plans for any of the end products in the next edition of Wood or Fine Woodworking magazine which I subscribe to. If you're looking to recreate furniture that was popular 30-50 years ago, you've got to have this book in your library. If you're looking for examples of modern cabinetry incorporating

drawer slides, casters, and soft-closing concealed hinges, look elsewhere. Again, the book presents a great overview of cabinetmaking techniques, but falls short in showing "How to Design..." furniture for today's homes.

All previous reviews are correct, with one addition: Although the book provides only 2 page reviews of each project with citations to get the actual plans - it is important to note that the citations are not to online sources or readily available books. I read prior reviews and got the impression that if I like a project I could go and buy the detailed plans to build that project. Not the case. The citations to where the plans come from all refer to old and out of print books, magazine articles, news letters, etc. It appears that none of the projects contain an online source for detailed plans. I have not been able to locate the original detailed plans for a single project, and I probably searched for the plans on about 20 of the projects discussed. So, if you get the book and find a project you would like to build, you will likely never be able to actually find the complete plans unless you happen to have a library of woodworking books and magazines from the 70's 80's and 90's.

This book is very complete covering fundamentals of furniture anatomy, styles, and wood movement, various joints, subassemblies used in all kinds of projects, and Furniture. This is a great book for the beginner or professional. Provides a lot of good inspiration as well. Dining tables, occasional tables, desks, chests, cabinets, built-in cabinets, and beds are all of the Furniture types covered. Beautifully illustrated with exploded plans of how all of the parts go together... I can thumb through it and end up reading it for hours!! It's just really a very great book to own if you're interested in woodworking. It seems I always have within an arms reach!! love it!

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