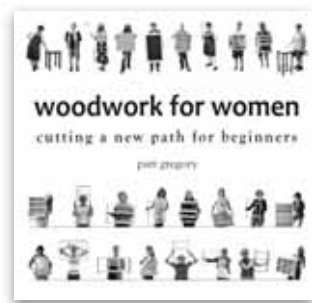


Reviews...



Woodwork for Women

Patt Gregory

RRP \$39.95. ISBN 9780980796308

Published by Woodwork for Women

Available through

www.woodworkforwomen.com

150 pages, colour illustrations throughout

REVIEW BY LYNDA WILSON

Patt Gregory has taken the craft of woodwork and made it easily accessible, through woodworking classes around the country and workshops at her home. She is a professional with a great deal of knowledge that she enjoys sharing with others. This has led her to write her book *'Woodwork for Women,'* with an accompanying DVD to follow shortly.

While the title may indicate this book is solidly aimed at the 'fairer' sex, this is certainly not the case – it is written in a way that makes woodworking accessible

to anyone starting out; man, woman or child.

Basic woodworking skills are covered in a clear and concise step-by-step manner, using the construction of a simple toolbox as the basis for learning a whole range of woodwork related skills: tool and timber selection, sawing technique, joints and fixings.

While the terminology used is simple and easily understood by novices, the correct technical terms are always used so that the reader is learning all the while.

Great troubleshooting sections, called 'splinters' are included with each step, highlighting what may go wrong and how to work your way around or rectify it.

Inspirational examples of past students projects are included throughout, which helps to make you realize that it is possible to complete your own piece of woodwork to be proud of.

It is a worthwhile starting point for anyone with an interest in woodwork, whether it be with the aim of making



your own furniture or fittings to be part of a house build.

If the book stirs your imagination but you are afraid to try it out on your own, Patt also runs courses at her studio in Mullumbimby throughout the year. ♦

www.woodworkforwomen.com

about this book

Ed's note: Patt started out in woodworking when she attended a basic course in Bristol, UK. This is her introduction to the book.

I learnt a lot about woodworking in that Bristol classroom but I also learnt some important lessons about how people learn. For a start, I needed the 'obvious' explained to me because I didn't possess the grounding in tool use and woodwork that my fellow male students took for granted.

With this in mind, this book starts at the very beginning. I explain how to select tools and how to hold them. I introduce you to how wood behaves so that you might get to know the nature of the medium you will be working with. I give detailed instructions of techniques such as sawing, chiselling and assembling and I include problem solving tips called Splinters.

In Bristol I also learnt that practising on endless scraps of

wood is boring. I prefer to make something, so I teach you the basic skills as you make a small pine shelf or box. It doesn't matter if you have never picked up a saw before, I will take you step by step through the process and you will learn as you go.

The small pine shelf or box is simple in design, yet you will learn how to make three traditional basic joints using hand tools – the rebate joint, the housing joint and the butt joint. These provide a general foundation of furniture making. Once you have learnt all the skills involved making this project, you can then go on and make a rabbit hutch with the kids or a bookcase for the living room. You can make boxes, drawers and shelves, and later progress to tables, desks and daybeds.

Book extract... 'Woodwork for Women'



The following extract is taken from **Woodwork for Women** by Patt Gregory, published by Woodwork for Women in 2010. RRP \$39.95. Distributed by www.woodworkforwomen.com.

See opposite for a review of this book

sawing technique – part one

It is important to read through the sections of the two sawing techniques before you begin to saw.

onsite insights

The tenon saw cuts as you push it forwards. If the saw leans too heavily into the wood fibres, the teeth will grab and tear and you will feel a resistance. When you are first starting a cut, you need to pull the saw back towards you.

- Lift the weight of the saw off the wood so it just lightly grazes the (far) edge and draw it towards you in a long light stroke.
- Push the saw lightly forwards • If the saw won't go easily, don't force it. Lift it and gently make another long light stroke towards you again until it pushes forward smoothly.
- Continue to push and pull the saw gently with even strokes. Keep the saw upright at 90 degrees to ensure a square cut and to prevent the saw from jamming. This will happen if the saw wobbles, which is normal to begin with!
- The rest of the blade shouldn't be touching the wood at this stage.
- Continue sawing against the pencil line observing the new part of the cut. In other words, as the saw cuts, you should be looking where the new cut is being created.

I thought that if I could cut fabric and a loaf of bread straight then I could cut a piece of wood straight. But when this didn't happen initially, there was a sense of disappointment. I had to accept it or learn a way to fix it. I tuned into myself and thought about how I was standing in relationship to the wood. Not only feet and hips, but hands and wrist. It was about body to hands not eyes to hands. I had to relax and bend my knees slightly because my hips would tighten. I felt the connection with the saw and noticed my breathing change. Interestingly, the cut was straight this time.
Maggie



Gypsy designed and built her first piece

- Blow the sawdust gently away on your out breath so that you can see where you are cutting – mind it doesn't blow in your eyes. You will find your own rhythm.
- Be patient, sawing across the wood will take longer than you think!
- In fact you will cut almost one third of the way down the back edge of the wood and only have just reached the front edge!

onsite insights

To ease the problem of your saw blade jamming, rub either a wax candle or soap over the teeth of the blade.

Book extract...

sawing technique – part two

Once you have reached the edge closest to you, the saw kerf will be all the way across the wood.

Now you can place the saw horizontally and push and pull, letting the weight of the saw do the work for you until you are through. The saw teeth will scrape along and into the top of the bench hook's surface.

- Identify the piece. Write the name of the piece lightly in pencil.
- Check it off your cutting list.
- Go to 'after completing your first cut' on this page to check your cut for accuracy before measuring and marking the next piece.

sawing summary

- Wood needs to rest flat.
- Holding saw – extend index finger, keep saw upright at 90 degrees.
- Body position – put left foot forward, relax and lean into bench hook.
- Saw position – saw at a low angle while making your first cut across the wood.
- When the kerf is established all the way across the wood, lower the saw to horizontal and continue to saw.
- To complete the cut, relax your grip on the saw handle and, keeping the saw level, continue to push and pull the saw gently with light, long, even strokes until you have cut all the way through the wood.

you are ready to begin sawing!

Return to 'sawing technique – part one' and begin to saw. Remember only cut the one piece, and then return here.



Jessie felt elated after her first successful saw cut.

onsite insights

Remember through the whole process to breathe and relax!

after completing your first cut

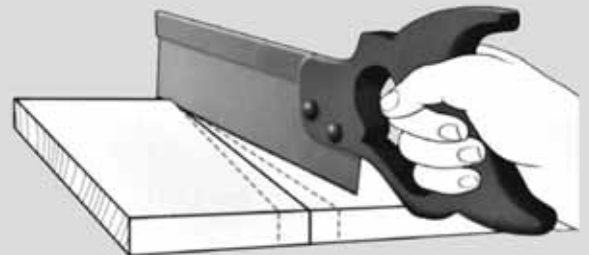
Well done. How did that feel? Do a little celebration dance!

Before cutting the next piece, look at the saw cut you have just made to check that you are making the best cut possible.

splinters one

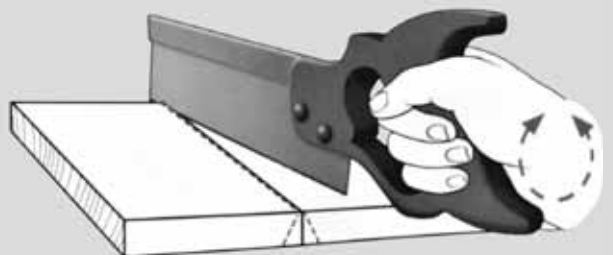
A. Check the cut on the face side

If it is at an angle then your elbow was either sticking out from your body or being pulled in too tightly.



B. Check the cut on the end grain

If it slopes at an angle to the left or right then your wrist rolled to the left or right.



sawing tools and aids

Everyone associates woodwork with saws and sawing, sawdust and beautiful wood aromas. There's a lot of that, it's true, and one of the best way to feel accomplished and produce successful projects that fit together well, is by learning to saw accurately.

Buying the right saw will help make your new adventure with woodwork more enjoyable and successful with less likelihood of blaming the tool when things don't go to plan!

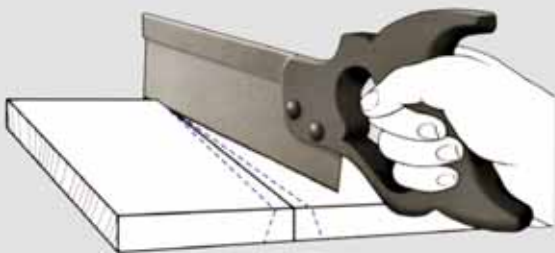
tenon saw

This saw is for cutting across the wood – called cross cutting – but its depth of cut is limited to about 75 mm by the rigid back. The back stops it flexing so you can get an accurate cut.

The tenon saw has been around since Roman times and is used for joinery. It was originally designed to cut tenons, part of the legendary mortise and tenon joint used traditionally in solid wood doors and window frames.

C. Of course you can get a combination of both

Practise body stance until you are aligned. Go to splinters two to solve the consequences of this problem.



bench hook

A bench hook is a very simple aid for cross cutting with a tenon saw. It helps you to saw straight and square and helps prevent the wood from splintering underneath as the saw exits. The bench hook provides a stop to rest your wood against while cutting and helps support the saw to remain upright.



panel saw

I call this one dad's saw, as there always seems to be one hanging around in the garage or shed. This saw is mainly for general work and carpentry, but we use it in this project to cut the plywood panel for the back, if that is the material you choose to use.

