



TOOL LIST

ESSENTIALS OF FINE WOODWORKING

W/ MARK WHITCOMB

REQUIRED TOOLS:

- Dovetail saw
- Twelve Inch Combination Square
- Mallet -Marking Gauge
- Marking Knife
- Chisels
- Bevel Gauge
- Hearing and Eye Protection
- Pencils

NICE TO HAVE:

- Camera
- Notepad/sketchpad

If you choose not to invest in some of the tools for this experience that's fine, I will have an assortment of tools for you to use.

NOTES ON TOOL SELECTION:

1. Dovetail saw:

Saws should have 14 to 20 tpi and very little set to the teeth.

Good brands for our purposes are the Crown gents saw \$30, the Vertis 14tpi. \$50 range. The Lie Nielsen 15 tpi rip saw is at the high end of the scale. These cost around \$125.00. Not expected for this course but a great tool. I will have a Lie Nielsen saw with me for those want to try one. Japanese pull are also a good choice. Get one with a 9 ½ long blade. The 6" or 7" blade work but the longer pull stroke is easier to use. Amazon the saws are about \$40. Flush cut saws have an offset handle. Some are listed as dovetail saws, not a good choice. You want the handle in line with the blade. Whatever saw you choose make sure that it has a spine along the back (top) edge of the blade. That stiffness is necessary for accurate cutting. Finally, bear in mind that cutting dovetails and most other joinery is 98% RIPPING. So, don't buy a saw that is made for crosscutting.

2. Twelve-inch combination square:

You don't need top of the line like a Starrett but you do need one that is square. This tool's main purpose is to check for square on the ends of your boards and to carry a line around your board when making a mortise and tenon joint. Whatever combination square you buy, I suggest that you check it for squareness in the store, prior to purchasing. Here's how: Extend the rule of the square at least seven inches and then tighten the nut on the head. Hold the square on the edge of a board or piece of heavy cardboard any straight edge. Draw a line along the outermost edge of the rule. Then, roll the square over so that the same edge of the square is on the straight edge and check that the ruler is parallel to the line you have drawn. If the rule lies along the line, then you're square is square.' If it doesn't line up, don't buy that combination square.

3. Mallet:

A wood mallet or a mallet with urethane coated head is necessary. You can turn one for yourself or buy one. This mallet should have a slightly tapered cylindrical head. You don't need a big heavy mallet. You are hitting a chisel taking out small wood chips. 12 to 18 oz is good. heavier if you like it's your choice. I would rather not steel hammers due to the noise factor. We will have 9 people working in class. I will have wooden mallets for anyone to use or buy.

4. Marking Gauge:

I have a preference for wheeled marking gauges. This runs about \$20 to \$30. If you already own a marking gauge, there is no need to buy this one for the class. You can try mine for comparison.

5. Marking Knife:

Make sure that your marking knife has one flat side so that it will land flush with the cheek of your ruler or joint that you are coping.

6. Chisels:

You'll need at least one good chisel for this class. If you only have one, get a 1/2" chisel. A 1/2", a 3/8", and a 1/4" chisel together make a good minimal selection for this class. They do not have to be the same make, most of mine are not. If you have a set of four or five, that's great. Marples with wood or plastic handles are good. Higher end chisels are wonderful but not necessary for this class. (These include high end Japanese, Lie-Nielsen and Stanley sweetheart). Stanley sweetheart chisels set of 4, \$75.99 and Marples set of 6, \$54.19 both on Amazon. The major difference in chisels is the hardness of their steel. The harder the steel the longer it will hold an edge. Try to avoid low end chisels. I will have a slow speed wet grinding wheel and honing stones for all to use. Sharpening will be our first task.

7. Hearing and eye protection:

Safety glasses of your choice and headset or foam ear plugs are needed. We'll spend a significant amount of time pounding a chisel with a mallet. You'll be most comfortable and most focused if you have your own hearing and eye protection. The shop is equipped with glasses and ear plugs for your use.

8. Bevel Gauge:

Almost any bevel gauge will do for this class. A homemade one is fine. Borrowing one is fine too. If you want to buy one, I suggest that you buy the type that has a recessed tightening screw, or else one that has the tightening screw on the end of the tool.

9. Pencils and pencil sharpener or artists sandpaper pad

10. Fret saw; Fret saw or jewelers saw is used to remove the waste between the tails and pins. This will be a rough cut. The finish cut will be done with your chisels. Much like a coping saw but with a thinner blade. Coping saw blades are too thick for our work. These run from \$20 to \$100. I have 2 of the low-cost saws that work just fine. I will have my saws in class for anyone to use. The waste can also be easily removed with a chisel. This is not a must have tool.

Any questions on tools or what to expect in class please call or e mail me. I will go over sharpening chisels, hand planes irons and cabinet scrapers. If you have some bring them along. I will have a slow speed wet grinding wheel and honing stones for all to use. I will have extra chisels and saws you can use. It's a good time to talk with others and see what they like and don't like. Looking forward to working with you.

Mark Whitcomb