

Crosscut

Journal of the Wits Woodworking Association



◀UPAT product demo trailer

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Next meetings – Woodturners – Monday, 7th April 2025 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop** – New range of Wize carbide insert turning tools will be demonstrated by Steven Barrett.

Main Club meeting – Wednesday, 9th April 2025 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop** – Product demos by UPAT – Bessey, Stabila, fischer and Milwaukee agents.

News

Woodturners - Monday, 3rd March 2025 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop** – Decorating turnings using colour – Steven Barrett. Steven showed how he textures and colours a band on a wooden vessel as shown in the picture on the right. Steven incised a band on the lathe and then he textured it using a gouge. A ground colour was painted in the incised band, in this case using black acrylic paint. Then an adhesive was painted over the black band. In the world



of gilding, this is called a size. Instead of gilding the band, Steven used some iridescent flakes to give a colour changing effect. A sealer coat of clear lacquer can help the flakes stay in place.

Main club meeting - Wednesday, 12th March 2025 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop** – Building a router table by Graham Swallow. Graham showed how to make a simple router table that will accommodate any router. He used 16mm birch plywood because it is stable and flat. The table was 600 x 400mm. The back of the fence has a hole to accommodate a hose from a vacuum cleaner for dust extraction. Z clips were used to clamp the router base to the underside.



Calendar of Events for 2025

Hobby-X 2025 - 1 -4 May, 09h00 to 17h00 daily at the Kyalami Grand Prix Circuit.

WWA AGM – at the Main club meeting, Wednesday, the 14th May 2025, 18h00 at **Made in Workshop**.



Toy-makers' Braai Saturday, 22nd November 2025.

Reminder - New WWA Account number with FNB - 63026931287 – please add this to your beneficiaries list. Please make sure that your payment can be identified by adding your **name**, perhaps cell number and **reason for payment**. Annotations such as “annual subs” or “WWA shirt” without your name are not helpful – Anesh will not be able to trace your payment. Please note that the **Nedbank account has been closed**.

Check all this with Henry...

Access times for **Made in Workshop** for WWA members :

MiW access control for WWA members – all current paid-up members who have attended a meeting have been issued with a bar code sticker to be used to gain access. Please remember to bring your bar code, so you aren't delayed at the entrance.

MiW times for WWA members are as follows

Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9AM to 12AM. However please take note of the following:

WWA members CANNOT just arrive at **MiW** and use machines unless they have booked them with **MiW**. This refers to the bookable machines such as the panel saw, thicknesser/planer, drum sander, spindle moulder as well as CNC machines of any kind. This applies only the woodworking machines. The other machines require the purchase of a membership at the monthly (30 day) rate – which is a good rate anyhow.

Machines such as the bandsaw and the Triton router table need no booking.

Henry also requires that all the major machines may only be used if the WWA member is familiar and fully understands the importance of the correct and safe use of these machines. Speak to Graham regarding training and qualification to use machines.

MiW is a **Maker Space**, which means that members are able access the machines which are included in the list above. Access to the other machines and facilities is subject to additional fees as mentioned above. While **MiW** will provide assistance and training where necessary, members are responsible for providing materials and performing the work themselves. Members need to be skilled and competent to use the facilities to do the work. For example, if you wish to use a CNC machine, you will need to manually program the tool path on the machine or import it from a design tool that generates the tool path for you. There may be a steep learning curve, but that is part of the challenge.

Bookings can be made during office hours of 8h00 to 17h00, weekdays by contacting one of these numbers:

Henry – 083-269 9505; Josh – 083-768 7853; or Trenton – 081-365 6039

Schedule for Regular Events

1. Second Saturday of month at 9h00 at **Made in Workshop** - Herman – all things turning related – 083 631 0501 [hermanpotgieteresq AT gmail.com](mailto:hermanpotgieteresq@gmail.com)
2. **Show & Tell** meetings are held at Hardware Centre every Friday Morning at 09:30. All WWA members welcome. Contact Eugene on 0824953394 or eugene@antlerfin.co.za

This list is subject to change, so please consult your *Crosscut* each month for any updates.



The Anarchist's Tool Chest and the Boarded Tool Chest

Trevor Pope

If you attended the WWA's March 2025 main club meeting, you will have seen the tool chest that I built. Here is some of the background to the design that I chose.

Students of history will understand anarchists as political radicals, however Christopher Schwarz defines anarchists in the craft sense as unconventional, not accepting the prevailing dogma and authorities.

Christopher Schwarz is a former editor of the American woodworking magazine, **Popular Woodworking**. Many woodworking magazines, under pressure from their advertisers, promote power-tool woodworking. Woodworking professionals, under time and cost pressures have embraced woodworking machinery, which is evident from the adverts in the woodworking magazines.

There is another group of woodworkers, the so-called gentleman woodworkers, who are not under economic pressures to adopt the latest tooling and techniques.

Christopher promotes a back-to-basics style of woodworking: Not every shop need have a table saw. It's OK to use one, particularly for breaking down lumber to parts for a cut-list, but there is also the alternative to use hand tools. He also rejects the idea that one needs an endless collection of tools for every conceivable task.

To this end, he defines a working set of hand tools that can be used for most woodworking tasks. And he recommends storing them in a tool chest, as was traditionally done by craftsman in the past.

His book, **The Anarchist's Tool Chest** defines a set of tools and the design of the chest to keep them in. This was first published in 2010 by his company Lost Art Press. (<https://lostartpress.com/>)

Associated is **The Anarchist's Design Book**, published in 2019.

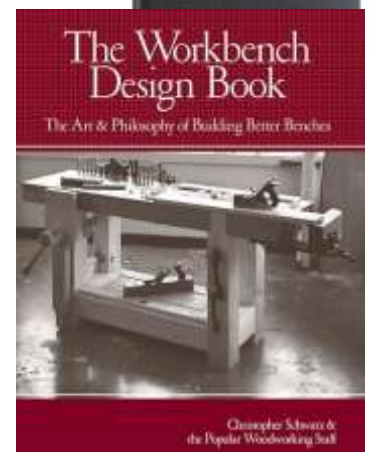
Rounding out the trilogy is **The Anarchists Workbench**, published in 2020.

All three books are available in print. (Although the Tool Chest is sold out at present.) Lost Art Press prides itself in producing high quality books, with sewn bindings, printed in the USA, so they are not cheap. Unfortunately, the books are not easily obtainable in SA, and the shipping is likely to be quite significant. If you are travelling to the UK, they are available there, so you could order them for delivery to an address in the UK.

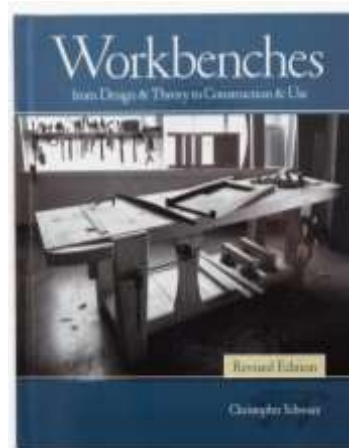
Fortunately, the three are also available for download as .pdfs so you can read them on your screen.

Why, you may ask, are these books now available for download?

- Christopher is busy with a revised edition of **The Anarchist's Tool Chest**, so he is content to give away the previous edition, as it probably won't cut in to the sales of the second edition.



- **The Anarchist's Design Book** is a collection of projects from many years of writing, and is the source of the design for the tool chest I made.
- **The Anarchists Workbench** has a rather interesting back story, which he details in the book: While Christopher was working at Popular Woodworking magazine, he wrote a book titled The Workbench Design Book in 2007. A revised edition **Workbenches, from Design & Theory to Construction and Use**, was then issued in 2015 (which I have a copy of and highly recommend – available from takealot.com at R935-). Publishers of woodworking books often don't treat authors very fairly, and only with the revised edition, was Christopher able to negotiate royalties on sales. As he explains in the book, Lost Art Press attempted to buy the rights for the book from F+W media (and the successive owners, when F+W media went bust), but was turned down. Although he downplays it in the book, I'm sure he was upset at receiving the corporate middle finger. To get even, he has written a successor book on the same topic and is giving it away as a free download.



Anarchist's Tool Chests.

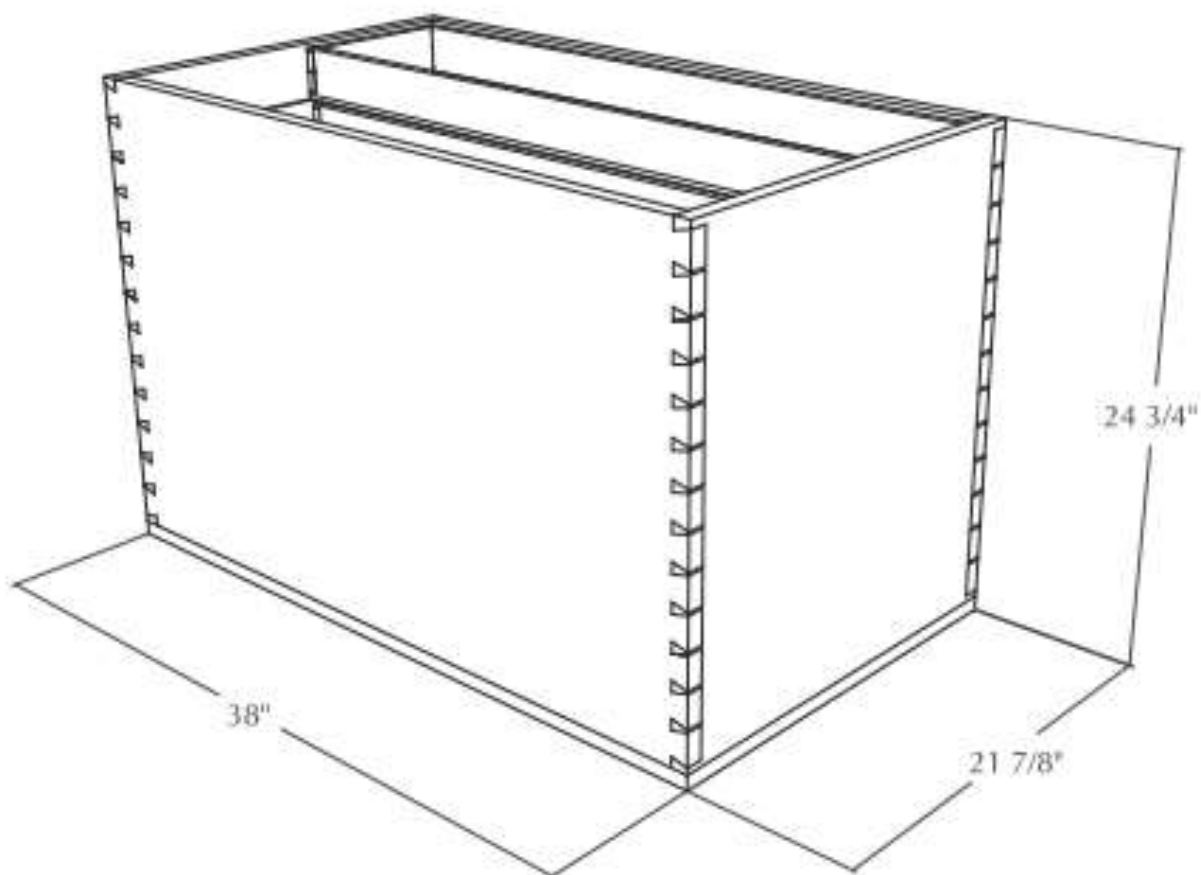
The Anarchist's tool chest design is quite large – Christopher explains in detail in the book how he arrived at that size. This a drawing from the book showing the size. (Page 404)

In metric, the size is 965mm long by 556mm deep, by 629mm high.

(All dimensions in the books are in inches, so whenever I want to make something from the books, I print out the relevant pages and write all the dimensions in millimetres on the drawings and the cut-lists.)

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THE ANARCHIST'S TOOL CHEST



I chose to make a smaller chest design from the design book, called the **Boarded Tool Chest**. This can be found on page 385. A drawing is shown below. I chose to make this chest to the size 800mm long by 400mm deep by 400mm high, which is very close to the dimensions in the book.

The larger chest won't fit in some cars, whereas mine fits comfortably crossways in the back of my Subaru Forester.

I followed the design quite closely, but I added one detail – I built in wheels underneath. There are 75mm wheels inset into pockets in each corner. They do intrude into the interior, but not by much.

Tool chests, once filled with tools can become very heavy, so Christopher recommends using a light but strong wood, such as pine. I decided to try Spruce, as I have not used it before. Spruce has been used for aircraft, as it has the distinction of being the wood with the highest strength to weight ratio. It is also quite inexpensive.

Clear SA Pine can be had for R8,000- per cubic meter, and Spruce for between R12,000- and R15,000- per cube. I bought 38mm thickness planks because that suited the sizes that I intended to resaw to. This was available from Maple Street Timbers, albeit with some knots, at R12,000 per cube. I used two planks 4.8m long by 152mm wide by 38mm thick, with a little to spare, but not much. I also made the tills from spruce. The wood cost about R800-.

Spruce is quite soft and there was some reversing grain around the knots, which made it difficult to avoid tear-out. There were a few loose knots that I secured using thin superglue. The wood did move somewhat after machining, with all the wet weather over the last two months.

I painted the outside with blue milk paint from Rustoleum, so the knots were acceptable. The inside was finished with a water-based varnish that is odourless and keeps the colour as light as possible, so I can find things inside the chest.



Small chains were used to stop the lid opening too far backwards, but I think they may get in the way, so I will shorten them.

All the interior brackets are screwed to the sides, with no glue, so they can be changed in the future.

