



Crosscut

Journal of the Wits Woodworking Association

◀John Speedy demonstrated how to turn two identical legs. This was some time ago at the Living Link.

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Go to www.wwa.org.za for back issues of Crosscut.

Next meetings – Woodturners – Monday, 2nd June 2025 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop** –
Work holding in the lathe without the use of a chuck.

Main Club meeting – Wednesday, 11th May 2025 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop** –
Bandsaw set-up and blade selection.

Don't forget we have the members' free raffle for those attending meetings - prizes normally have a minimum value of R1, 000.00

News

Woodturners – Monday, 5th May 2025 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop** – Video on turning thin-walled bowls by Tomislav Tomasic. The demonstrator showed how to approach turning a green thin-walled bowl. The video can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gmy4yRMEpdk>



Main Club meeting – Wednesday, 14th May 2025 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop** – AGM + Making dowels with a table saw, including tapered dowels – by Graham Swallow

Graham showed a method of making dowels. The picture shows Graham spinning a square section workpiece, held between centres in a jig above the running blade of his Festool site saw. If the two centres are the same height and parallel to the saw blade, then the dowel will be cylindrical. By moving one of the centres, the dowel can be tapered.



WWA AGM – 2025. The 2025 Annual General Meeting for the Wits Woodworking Association took place at the Main Club meeting on Wednesday, the 14th May 2025 at 18h00 at **MiW**. The 2024 committee agreed to continue to serve in 2025. The secretary has distributed the minutes by email – please refer to these for more details.

The membership fees for the next year have been confirmed and remain unchanged. You should have seen an email from the secretary as follows:

Membership Type	Annual Fees
Ordinary Members	R600
Country Members	R100

(Residing outside of Gauteng and at the approval of the Committee)	
Scholars	R100

These membership fees are applicable for the year starting 1 May 2025, ending 30 April 2026.

Please can you pay your fees into our FNB bank account using your name followed by the word “SUBS” as a reference.

The banking details are included in the Crosscut Newsletter each month and included below for convenience:

Bank: First National Bank
Account Name: Witwatersrand Woodworkers Association
Account Number: 63026931287
Reference: Please provide your name followed by “SUBS”

Please do not pay any amounts into our old Nedbank account as the account has been closed.



Calendar of Events for 2025

WoodEX for Africa exhibition – Gallagher Convention Centre – 18 to 20 June 2025. For more info, see <https://woodexforafrica.com/>

KZN Woodturners’ Symposium - 12 July 2025 – all day event 7h30 to 17h00 at the Roseway Waldorf School, Alverston Road, Assagay. (Close to Hillcrest and the N3). Amongst the presenters, whom AWSA members may remember, are Carel van der Merwe, Richard Hodsdon, Clyde Neumann, and Allan Ferguson. More information including the program and registration forms can be obtained from marcwoodslimited@gmail.com

AWSA Symposium 2025 – The Association of Woodturners of South Africa Annual Symposium will be held from the 3-6 October 2025, with international presenter Helen Bayley. You can view her work on <https://www.helenbaileywoodturning.com/>

The venue remains the same as last year (Northlink College, Tygerberg Campus, Rothchild Boulevard, Panorama Parow). For details and to register, visit www.awsa.org.za In addition, South Africa’s leading turners will be demonstrating in the two breakaway rooms. Last year there were 111 attendees, this year could be bigger.

Summer Challenge - Saturday afternoon, 18th October 2025 at **MiW**. A competition to make and bring a wooden item for the kitchen. This can be turned or “flat-work” – cutting boards, spoons, rolling pins, salad bowls, pepper-mills, trivets are examples of things you can make. Bring and braai. Most details to follow.

East Rand Woodworkers Association fair – Saturday, the 25th October 2025. Details and venue to be confirmed, but likely to be the Northmead Methodist church, Benoni as past years.

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

The list of suppliers that donated to the 2024 event is given below. Please patronise them. If you can mention that you are from WWA and appreciated their donation, they will appreciate it.

ANDROWARE, Asax Agencies, CCL, CGR Agencies – bandsaw blade vouchers, Creative Turning, Eco Timbers, FEW, First Cut, Genkem, Gedore Tools, Häfele South Africa (Pty) Ltd, Hamilton Brushware, Home Handyman, Lasher Tools, Maple Street Timbers, MATUS & Hi-KOKI, Metabo Power Tools, MITCO Tool Company (PTY) Ltd, Mr Woodturner, Pepper Mills for Africa, Power Tool Repairs, Prosono International,

REM, Richem CC, Robert Bosch (Pty) Ltd, Robert Sorby, Rutherford, Sawmill Traders, Skillcraft Agencies, Spear & Jackson, Spectra Spray, Sprayon, Stevens & Co, Unique Welding Supplies, Vermont Sales, Upat SA

Woodworking Association of Pretoria Wood and Craft Expo – 27 to 30 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**.



The Woodworking Association of Pretoria presents a weekend of creativity and family fun

27 - 30 November 2025

Wood & Craft Expo

Entrance:
Adults – R40
Scholars – Free

New Hope School
163 Cecilia Road
Ashley Gardens, Pretoria

For further info contact:
braam.burger@ptawoodworkers.com

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 to 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

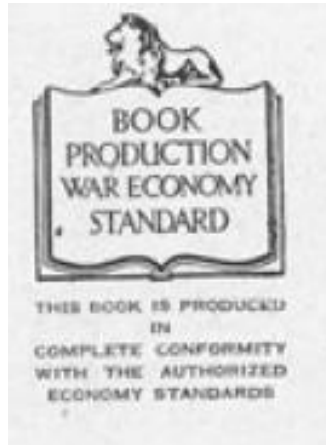
This list is subject to change, so please consult your *Crosscut* each month for any updates.



Toolchests

Charles Hayward was the editor of the *Woodworker* from 1939 until his retirement in 1968. He wrote and illustrated over 30 books (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_H._Hayward).

I have several of his books, one of which is ***How to Make Woodwork Tools***, published by Evans Bros. The copy I have dates to around 1959, but I think the first printing was at least during WW2. It can be downloaded as a .pdf from the source below, alternatively, try Google to locate a copy. The copy scanned in the source given below was published during WW2, as can be seen from this on the title page.



<https://www.toolemerapress.com/2021/08/pdf-how-to-make-woodwork-tools-by-charles-hayward.html>

You may have read some of Christopher Schwarz's books on tool chests and looked at the designs he suggested. The toolchest design in this book is very similar to the designs suggested by Christopher Schwarz.

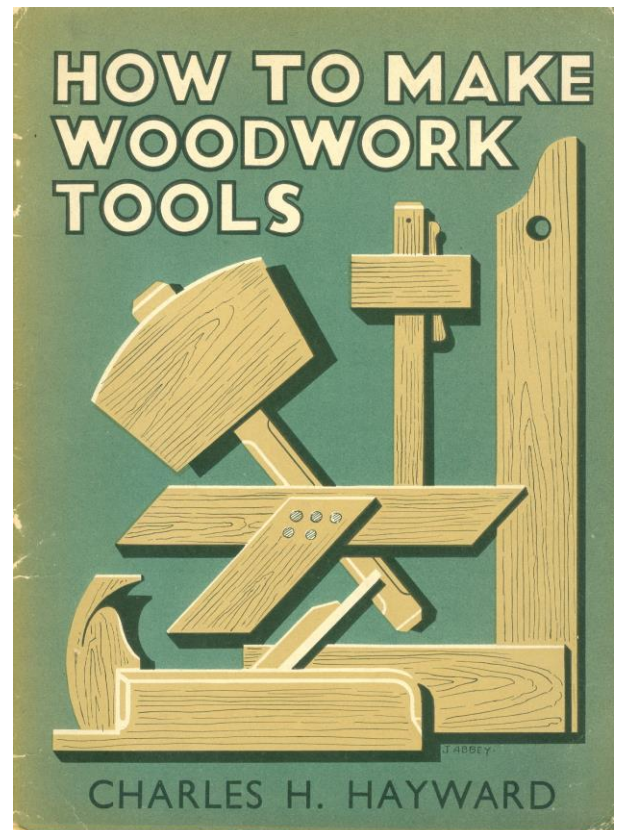
If you are an experienced woodworker, you will find the plans given in this book easy to follow, but as a beginner, you may need more help, and turn to, amongst others, the excellent tutorial style of writing by Schwarz.

The construction of this chest differs from convention where the sides and lid are made from tongue and grooved boards glued together. Hayward suggests that the joints between the sides and the ends are staggered so that any gaps do not propagate to neighbouring panels, probably due to the poor glues previously used that had poor moisture resistance.

The interior layout Hayward suggests is a traditional one that reflects the nature of the craft of the day, still being mostly hand-tools.

It was suggested that many of the designs in the book predate Hayward's tenure at *The Woodworker*, and can be attributed to the previous editor William Fairham. This may have been the case, as the practise at the time was not to attribute articles to authors in magazines. The authors and editors were all rather mysterious.

Buddy Lawson once met Charles Hayward, as documented in a previous Crosscut article from October 2006.



This link has a short video about Charles Hayward - <https://sawdustandwoodchips.com/charles-hayward-the-complete-book-of-woodwork/>

The excerpt from the book with the design for the toolchest appears below. The last part of the article was continued on page 13. Splitting up articles to make full use of the space was common in magazines at the time and continued up to the 70's.

(The quality of the images below is limited by the need to keep the file size of the newsletter down. I can send you better quality images as a .pdf if you need them – please send me an email to request a higher resolution copy.)

The TOOL CHEST

It may be said at once that a carpenter's chest is only worth making if it is to be full size. By "full size" means that it should provide for the accommodation of hand and rip saws, jack and try planes, as well as a kit of ordinary tools. The reason is that it must be convenient as well as soundly made, and to spend time on a chest which, later, may prove too small will result in disappointment.

THE size shown, 3 ft. 2 in. by 2 ft. by 2 ft. over all, may be taken as adequate. In many cases a slight reduction is possible, always remembering that the inside length must accommodate the largest saw. With regard to width and height we would put the minimum at, say, 21 in. by 21 in. Of course, for purely household use, a smaller and lighter chest might be constructed on similar lines.

Carcase.—Excluding the skirting boards, the carcase length is 3 ft. and the width 22 in. The height of sides, excluding bottom, is also 22 in. Front and back are each made up of four boards grooved and tongued together (see Fig. 2). The ends are similarly made up of four boards; but (as in Fig. 3), in order that the joints do not coincide with those of front and back one board is halved and the two narrow pieces placed top and bottom. Deal or other sound whitewood may be used, and the boards may be of stock 6 in. by 1 in. grooved stuff, or 5½ in. by ¾ in. stuff will serve if the worker does his own grooving. The four sides are dovetailed together (Fig. 4), using as many tails as may be convenient.

The bottom is made with similar boards, preferably 1 in. thick, these (for strength) being fitted crosswise (Figs. 2 and 4). They are screwed on.

Skirting and Rib.—The skirting is of 5 in. by 1 in. (or ¾ in.) board. In the strongest way it should be dovetailed at the corners and this joint is strongly recommended. Otherwise it may be mitred. Chamfer the top edge and nail on around

to sides and bottom. The rib is a similar piece, but only 3 in. wide. Note that it is placed about ¾ in. down from the top of sides so that the rim of lid closes on it. Like the skirting it is dovetailed (or mitred) at the corners and nailed on.

Lid.—This is 3 ft. 2 in. by 2 ft., overhanging the carcase by 1 in. on all four sides. It is made up of four or more boards tongued together, these being clamped at the ends with 3-in. clamps (see Fig. 4). It is an advantage if the clamps are of

hardwood such as birch or ash, and a thickness of 1 in. is better than ¾ in. For strength it is desirable for the clamps to be grooved with mortises cut (right through) to take half a dozen tenons. In this way there is no risk of the clamps working loose.

It will be seen that the lid has a rim (Figs. 2, 3, and 4) at sides and front which comes over the chest sides and rests on the ribs. This rim may be of hardwood 1 in. by ¾ in. and is

grooved in as indicated. On account of the hingeing (X, Fig. 2) there is no rim at the back, and the side rims are rounded off at the back to clear the rib (see X).

For hingeing it is wise to use a pair of 3-in. solid drawn brass butts. These are 1¾ in. wide when open. They are fitted as at X (Fig. 2), beds being cut for both flanges.

Handles.—A strong iron or brass handle may be fitted to the chest at each end. Alternatively, wood handles could be used (see Y, Fig. 6).

Stand.—It is often an advantage to fit a tool chest of the kind on a stool, or stand, so that the top

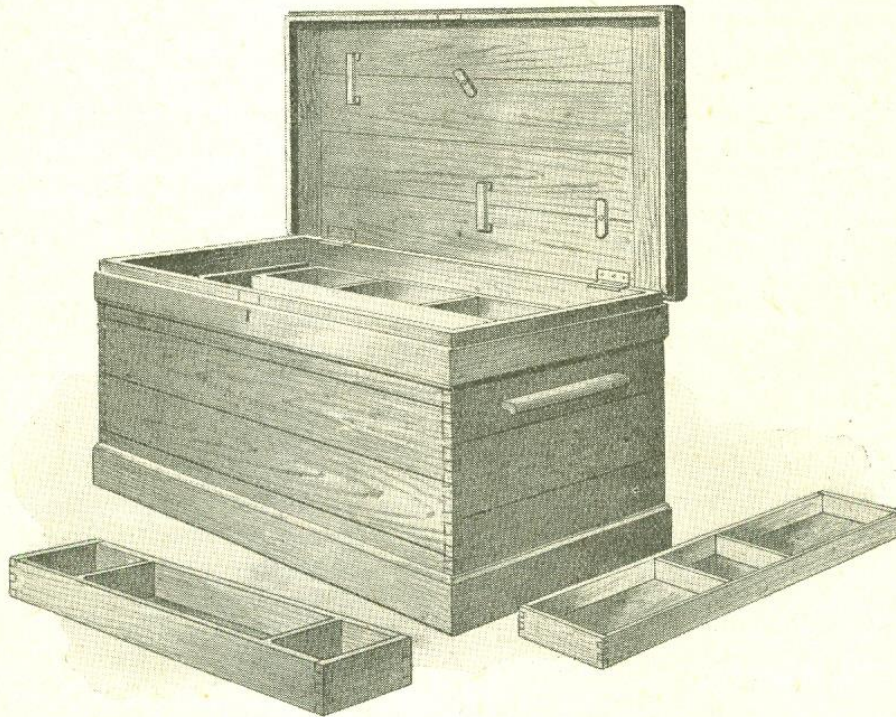


FIG. 1. A COMMODIOUS CHEST WITH AMPLE ACCOMMODATION FOR THE COMPLETE KIT

Main sizes are 3 ft. 2 in. long, by 2 ft. wide, by 2 ft. high. There are three sliding trays in which smaller tools are kept. Below is space for large planes and other items which take up space. Along one side are racks for saws and chisels.

JOINTS IN SIDES AND ENDS SHOULD BE STAGGERED

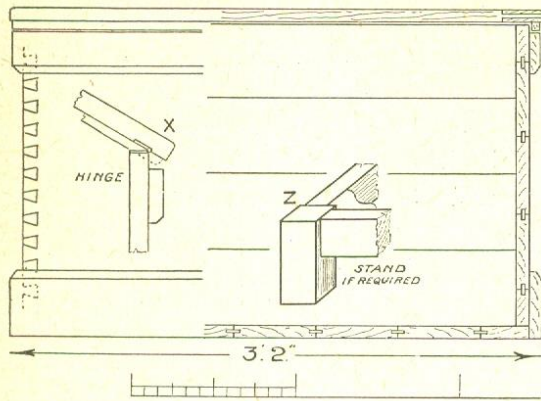


FIG. 2. FRONT ELEVATION WITH SCALE

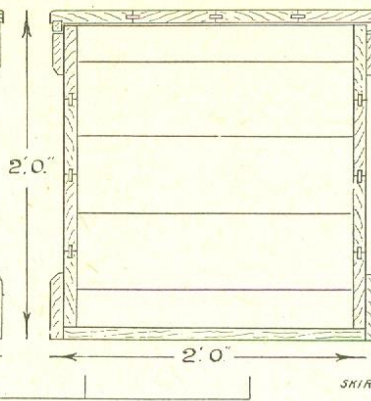


FIG. 3. SECTIONAL END VIEW

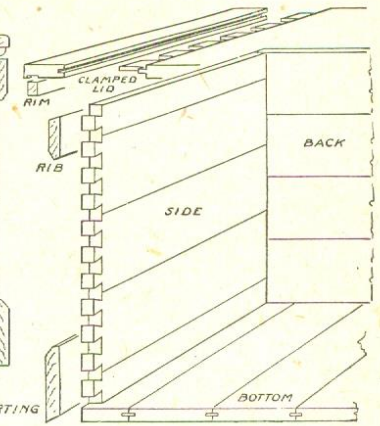


FIG. 4. CARCASE CONSTRUCTION

may be raised to table height (say, 2 ft. 6 in.). Such a stool can be made as at Z (Fig. 2), using legs 6 in. by 2½ in. square and rails 2½ in. by 1½ in. The rails will be tenoned in and braced at the corners. Over-all size may be 3 ft. by 22 in., the chest being held with a few screws through the bottom so that it may be removed at any time.

Interior Fittings.—We do not buy a kit of tools to suit a certain chest; we construct the chest to accommodate our tools. Thus the interior arrangement can only be determined by the worker himself. The suggestions at Figs. 5 and 6 follow what is customary, and modification can be made according to individual requirements. One general principle holds good. Without a regular workshop, wholly our own, tools cannot always be ready at hand. Chests are invaluable for the preservation of our tools; but in planning the interior it is necessary to so scheme that those in everyday use are ready at hand, whilst others less frequently required are stored below.

All such chests have two features. First, provision is made for saws; a special compartment for hand and rip saws, whilst the tenon and dovetail saws are held on the underside of lid. Then, for smaller tools, nails, screws, hinges, and sundries sliding partitioned trays are provided. These, as seen in Fig. 5, slide backwards and forwards so that any one is readily accessible; the contents of two can always be exposed, whilst the third is reached at once simply by sliding the other.

The saw compartment, at front (to hold three hand or rips), may be 4 in. wide. First, a partition (A), about

13 in. high, is fitted lengthways. (And here it may just be said that, if such partitions are fitted between two ¾ in. square fillets instead of being permanently nailed, their positions may be altered at any time.) Then, about 6 in. from each end, two racks (B) are fitted. With three long slots cut as shown, these will hold three saws, two with their handles at one end and one with handle at other side. Provision for tenon saws, etc., on lid can be made as indicated in Fig. 1.

Sliding Trays.—In depth these may be 2½ in., 3½ in., or 4½ in. respectively, but on this point the worker must decide for himself. They are arranged to slide on boards C, D, and E. In cutting the stuff for these allow (1) for the top tray to stand down about ¾ in. from top of chest side; (2) for about ¼ in. clearance between each tray, and (3) for each tray to slide just sufficiently far to clear the contents of the one below. Apart from these points the sketches are self-explanatory. Ledge E is better if in hardwood.

The second and third trays will, of course,
(Continued on page 13)

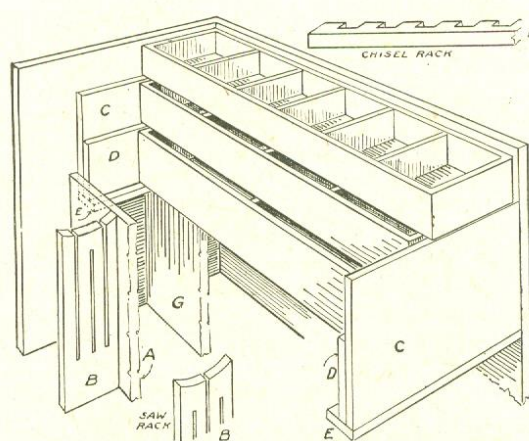


FIG. 5. SUGGESTED INTERIOR FITTINGS

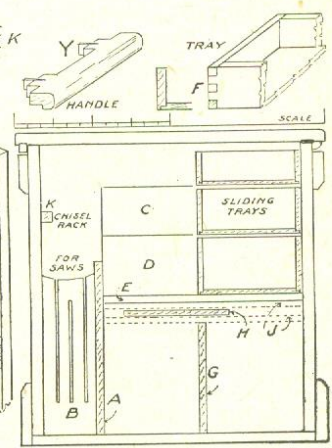


FIG. 6. SECTION OF FITTINGS

TOOL CHEST *(Continued from page 5)*

diminish in length according to the thickness of boards C and D, which act as guides. Tray sides will be $\frac{3}{4}$ in., dovetailed or lapped at the corners (F). Bottoms may be of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. plywood, rebated in.

Underneath the trays there is ample space for tools in less frequent use. This space is usually divided by a partition (G), which may run up to

the ledge (E) below bottom tray ; but here many chests are fitted with lids (H, Fig. 6) which slide between fillets (J). The chief advantage of this lid is that it provides an extra shelf for temporary storage purposes. If introduced, clamp the lid with hardwood ends.

Chisel and gouge racks (K) may be fitted above the saw compartment where they will be ready at hand.