



Crosscut

Journal of the Wits Woodworking Association

New WWA logo, thanks to Daniel Erasmus ◀

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Woodturners - Monday, the 4th May 2026 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop**. A beginner's journey into woodturning by Dirk Potgieter.

Main Meeting – Wednesday, the 13th May 2026 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop**.
Workbenches and work holding – a discussion. We'll appreciate it if you can share your workbench and work holding solutions. Please bring pictures of your work benches and work holding to show and discuss. (Clamps, plane stops, holdfasts, etc.) We will also hold the AGM.

News

Woodturners – Monday, the 13th April 2026 - from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop**. **Turning finials by Poena Coetzee**. Poena showed how he solves a problem encountered in turning finials. Finials are long delicate pieces, such as the examples that Poena showed on the right. These cannot be held in the lathe between centres with axial pressure to support the tailstock end, so Poena devised a special tailstock centre with a bearing. He made one with a 2MT that fits into the tailstock, but showed how a chuck can also be used to hold a bearing. Using his special centre, he showed how to turn a finial.



As you may have noted, such fine turning requires delicate tools, so Poena made a set to suit. To give you an idea of the scale of the picture, the handles of these are about 25mm diameter. The tips are shown on the left.



Tom Howden showed a bowl with an incised Celtic Knot pattern. This picture shows the bowl with the template Tom used to mark out the pattern in the foreground.



Main Club meeting – Wednesday, the 8th April 2026 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop**.

More on Jigs.



◀ This is the template Chris Cooper used to make the back legs of his dining chair.

This is the lathe steady that Peter Middleton uses for long work pieces in the lathe to reduce flexing. ▶



This the angle drilling jig that Anesh uses with his drill press to accurately drill holes at an angle. ▶

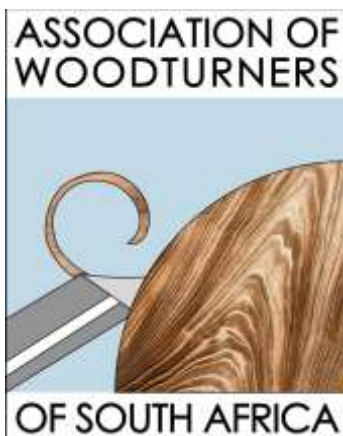


2026 WWA AGM – You will have received by email a notification of the 2026 Annual General Meeting to be held at 18h00, on the 13th May 2026 at MiW. The committee looks forward to your attendance. Our chairman, Graham Swallow is standing down as he feels unable to continue due to ill health. We are grateful for Graham's contribution to date. He will continue as an ordinary member of the association. We welcome volunteers to serve on the committee, as always, and if you wish to assume the role of chairman, you will be particularly welcome.

Calendar of Events for 2026

Hobby-X 2026 – Pictures from Day 1





AWSA Annual Symposium – 2026 – this will be held from 03-05 October 2026 at the New Hope School, Menlyn, Pretoria.

Visit www.awsa.org.za to see registration information when it becomes available later in the year.

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**.

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.



These are the companies that supported the 2025 WWA Toys for Charity function with donations.

Supplier	
Academy Brushware	Metabo Power Tools
ANDROWARE (Blacksmith)	MITCO Tool Company
Asax Agencies	Pepper Mills for Africa
Bostik South Africa (PTY) Ltd	Power Tool Repairs Cape Town
CCL	Prosono International
Chavda International	Robert Sorby
CGR Agencies	Sawmill Traders
CRC Industries (PTY) Ltd	Shield Chemicals
Creative Turning	Skillcraft Agencies (iNGCO)
Eco Timbers	Spear & Jackson (ECLIPSE)
FEW	Sprayon
FIRST CUT	Stevens & Co (Ryobi)
Genkem	TGD Magnets4U
Gedore Tools	tools4wood
Häfele South Africa	Vermont Sales
Hamilton Brushware	Upat SA
Lasher Tools	Will Professional Tools
Maple Street Timbers	Wize Tools
MATUS & Hi-KOKI	Woodoc

“Academy Brushware, with 65 years on the brushware business, has over 2000 items in their range. They manufacture **55% locally** in South Africa and the balance is outsourced globally. Presenting



only products of the highest standards to their customers and consumers, they know that when you work with quality products, you’ll experience the best results.”

They offer natural, synthetic and mixed fibre brushes to suit a variety of applications from varnish to water-based finishes, in a variety of shapes and sizes.

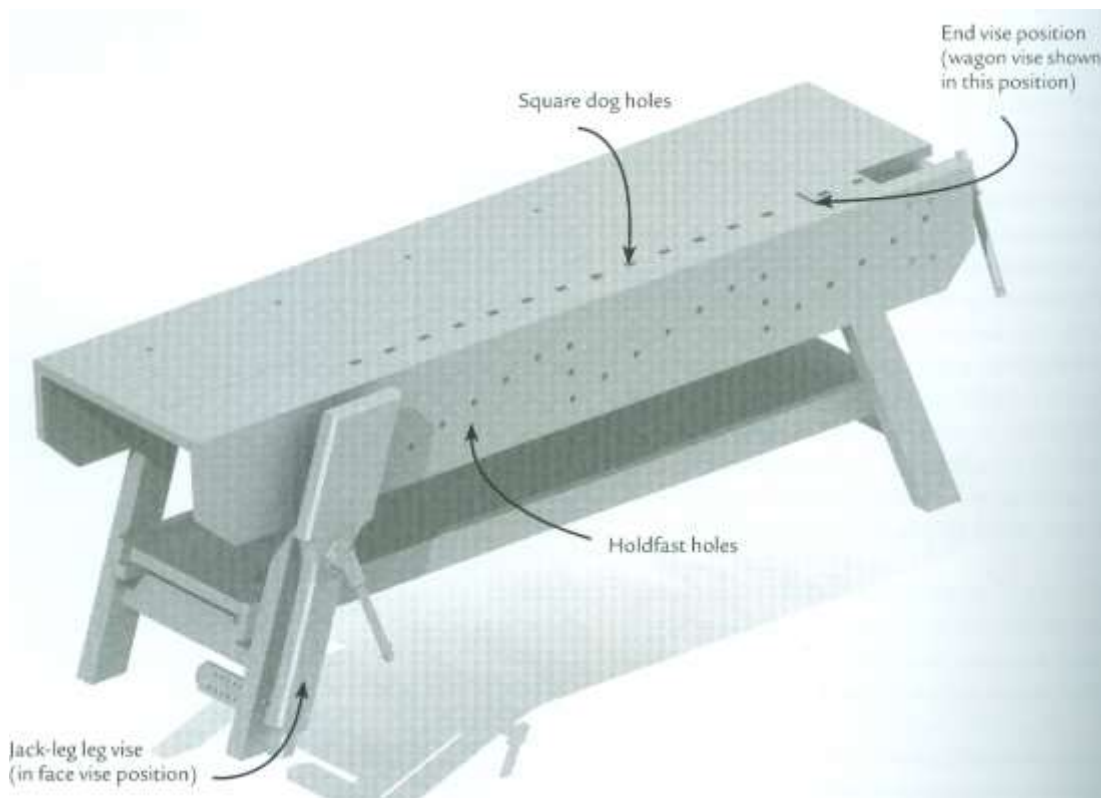
Work benches – types

Trevor Pope

There are as many types of workbenches as there are styles of woodworking. The primary purpose of a workbench is to support and restrain the work pieces, so that they can be worked on.

This is potentially a topic that books can be written about, and some people have done just that.

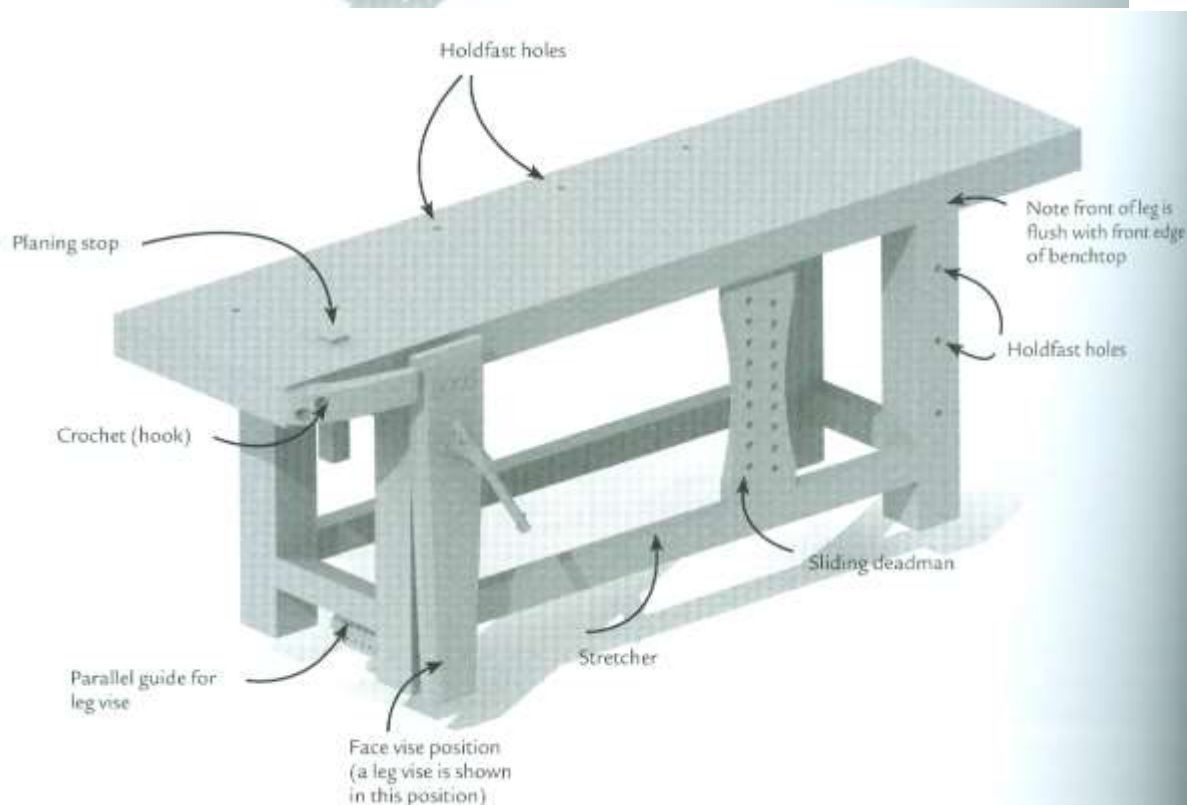
To limit our discussion, we'll talk mostly about benches for western style wood working, where the bench is a table of some fashion with some means of holding the workpiece onto the table.



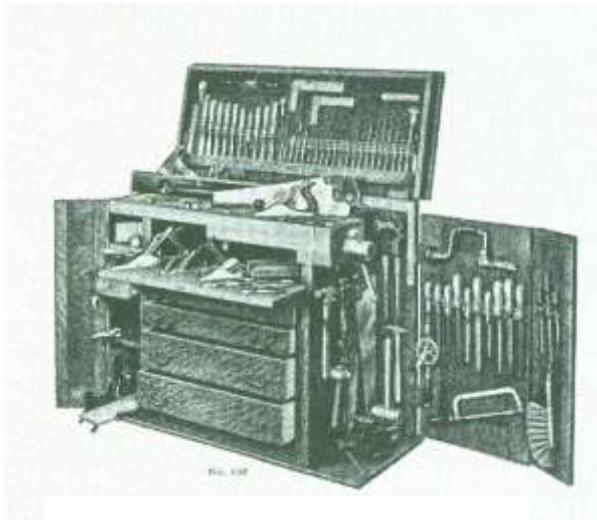
These two benches are a traditional English "Nicholson" bench and a French "Roubo" style bench.

These images are taken from *"Workbenches – from Design & Theory to Construction and Use"* by Christopher Schwarz, 2010 – Popular Woodworking Press, part of F+W Media.

(F+W went through several private equity owners, with



predictable results – they filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in 2019, and most of the book publishing assets were bought by Penguin Random House, so the book may be available from them).

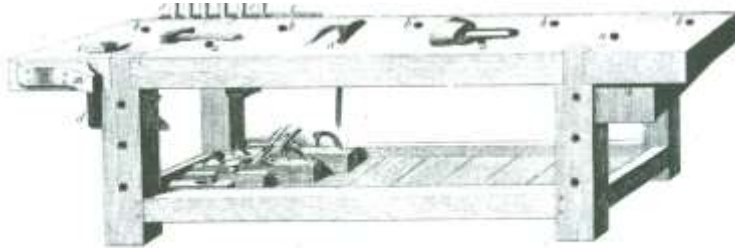


◀ How not to make a usable bench. ▶

Continental style joinery bench. ▶

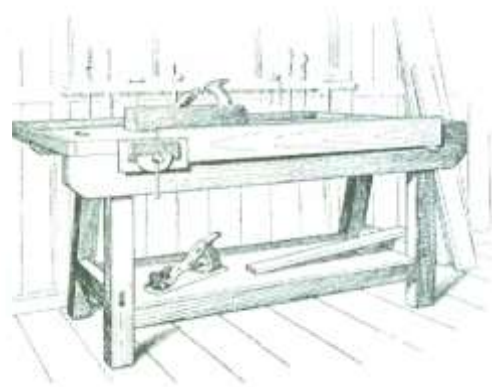
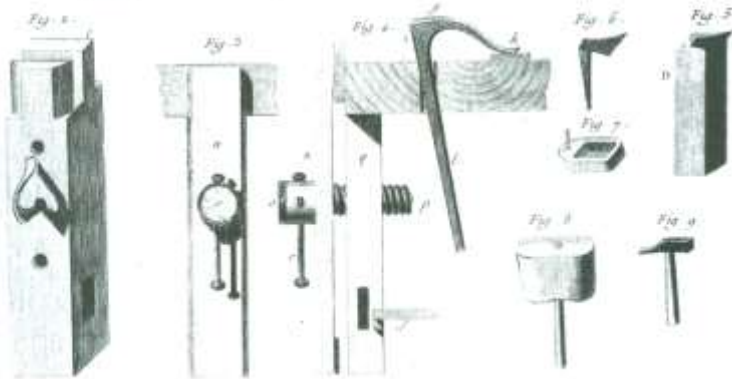


Manual instruction
◀ benches. ▶



◀ Roubo style bench.

English bench. ▼



Another continental style joinery bench showing the tail vise. ▶

