# Learn basic woodwork skills and save money by Graham Coupland

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If you glance around your house it is really hard to ignore the fact that a very significant number of the things are made from wood. There are tables, chairs, cupboards, dressing tables, stools and countless other items. All of them will have been bought by you and will have no doubt cost you a significant amount of your hard earned cash. You simply accept that you have got to purchase these things and believe it as a simple fact of life.

It does not have to be this way. You could in fact very easily make many of these items yourself!

Woodworking is a fascinating and absorbing pastime and it is astonishing how inexpensively you can manufacture many of the items you would generally purchase. Inexperience does not necessarily have to be a problem. A lot of the smaller projects need only the most basic of woodworking skills and can be carried out by anybody with only an elementary knowledge of woodwork.

You will of course require woodworking tools but you will only need the very basic items to begin with such as a hammer, saw, screw driver, drill, measuring tape, trisquare, spirit level and maybe a plane. It is also a good idea to purchase clamps of some sort to hold your pieces of timber in position when you are fastening them together. The type of clamps you need will be governed by the project you are undertaking.

You will undoubtedly want to buy other items as you improve and your skill level rises. Keep in mind that the tools you purchase will last for many years as long as you look after them correctly.

The very first thing you need to do is become familiar with the tools and how they should be used. The hand saw is probably the most difficult tool to use correctly. Lots of people find it hard to get an accurate straight vertical cut at first. The more practice you get the more proficient you will become. If you have never used a saw before you should practice on any pieces of waste wood that you can find.

Do not be too adventurous to begin with. If you begin by building simple items (such as shelving) you will find that, in a lot of cases, it is simply a matter of cutting your timber to the correct length and then joining them together in some way. Generally simple woodworking projects will be screwed or glued together. Avoid trying to make complex joints (dovetails etc) until you have perfected the basics as they do require quite a bit of skill.

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Virtually all woodwork projects need planning. Even a easy woodworking projects can go wrong if you set about them badly. If you are trying to find a woodworking ideas there are woodworking plans that you can procure cheaply on the web that will make it easy for you to get started.

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