

# NEWS AND REVIEWS

## GENERAL NEWS

After 96 shows and 19 years — first with *Riddell Exhibitions*, then with *dmg* — show manager Patrick O'Reilly was farewelled by exhibitors and friends on Sept 5, the first day of the Canberra Timber & Working with Wood Show.

On the same day, Rick Smith and Liz Fallon of *Everything Exhibitions & Events* assumed control of the Shows.

It is widely known both have extensive experience in the management of similar events but what may not be so well known is that their connections with the Timber and Working With Wood Shows date back many years through *dmg* and one of the companies responsible for building the Shows.

You have probably heard that Australian magazine sales have been badly affected by the current economic problems. Some of the high profile consumer magazines are said to have suffered declines as high as 50%.

The effect on circulation figures for *The Australian Woodworker* has fortunately been slight and the publishers are grateful to readers for their loyalty.

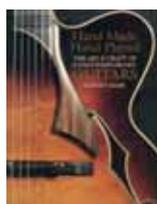
A mail order bookshop customer had to return a top rating American woodworking DVD recently. When he placed the disk in his machine, instead of a woodworking demonstration, all he got was Hot Gospel music. We're happy to report that our customer was not too distressed about the mix-up and we were able to get a replacement to him quickly.

Investigation revealed that the problem was caused by the wrong label being placed on the DVD when the disc was dubbed for export. Red faces all round, an unequivocal apology and a strong assurance that the dubbing house would be reviewing its quality control!

Welcome to the first issue of **News and Reviews**.

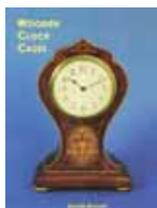
Its purpose is to bring you regular updates about products, books and DVDs — as well as snippets of information about what's happening in the world of woodworking.

## NEW BOOKS & DVDS



**Hand Made Hand Played**  
*The Art & Craft of Contemporary Guitars*  
by Robert Shaw  
416pp \$54.90  
Showcases the beauty and artistry of

contemporary acoustic and electric guitars built by hand. He features a host of the finest and most innovative artisans of the past 25 years and the remarkable variety of high-quality instruments they are making.



**Wooden Clock Cases**  
by David Bryant  
167pp \$46.90  
Twenty one different clocks, clocks are measured from period originals, 18 clocks produced in precise technical drawings



**Woodworking Techniques - Ingenious Solutions & Time-Saving Secrets**  
Best of Woodworkers Journal 153 pp \$39.90  
From hand-cutting the perfect dovetail and

centering a mortise, to the secrets of resawing and surfacing stock, these invaluable tips and techniques will improve any woodworker's productivity and provide useful new methods for tackling tricky situations. Plus, each project includes detailed plans, expert instructions, and helpful sidebars to ensure that your next project is hassle-free.

## BOOKSHOP NEWS

One of the features visitors like about our website for Skills Mail Order Bookshop is that the stock levels of the books are indicated. So when they order a book they can usually be confident of receiving it in a short period, rather than finding out later that the book is on back order and won't be available for months — or even worse is no longer available.

Maintaining stock levels can be a juggling act. One title we reviewed we considered may be a good seller. We ordered a number of copies but after 8 years we have not sold one. Others have been run away best sellers. With one of our latest books, *Tops - The Ultimate Toy*, we ordered an initial stock, believing it to be a great book. We took a few copies down to the Melbourne Timber & Working with Wood Show but to our surprise didn't sell a single copy. We then reviewed the book in Issue 142 of *The Australian Woodworker* and sold out our stock in two days! Further orders poured in and that was when our troubles began.

One of the casualties of the GFC (Global Financial Crisis) is that many companies are reducing their inventories. Book distributors are no exception. The largest book distributor of specialist titles in Australia brings in only a small quantity of each new title to test the waters. If the book is well received they order more stock but as it comes by sea the delay is usually 2-3 months. So to supply our customers we import the delayed books by airmail direct from overseas distributors and absorb the cost.

In the case of the *Tops* book we cleaned out the stock of our US distributor and they have ordered more from the publisher. Most of our customers would have received their books before Christmas, except that the freight company sent our order to the UK. Instead of 2-3 weeks by air it has taken 8 weeks. Nearly all of our customers have now received their books. Further stock will be arriving late February.

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## NEW BOOKS & DVDS



**The Scroll Saw - DVD**  
*A Beginner's Guide*  
by John Burke 65min  
\$39.90

By the end of the dvd, the student will have covered a wide range of topics and tasks - transferring designs,

marking out, cutting thin ply and thick wood, cutting materials other than wood, pinning together stacks for multiple cuts, cutting sharp corners and flowing shapes...



**Simple Toys**  
by Colin and Ann Carlson  
40 pp \$29.90

*Simple Toys* is a practical book containing the complete plans to make eight timeless

wooden toys, all of which are suitable for children to play with and treasure.



**Speed Toys for Boys**  
by A. J. LaBerge  
96 pp \$19.90

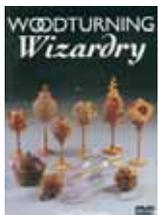
A classic woodworking guide featuring old-fashioned four-wheeled projects for carts, scooters, pushmobiles, and more! Also included are projects for winter, such as a sled, bobsled, scooter sled, and toboggan. The book was originally published in 1928, a time when tens of thousands of kids were involved in manual arts classes and pushmobile contests.



**Woodturning**  
*A Foundation Course*  
- DVD

by Keith Rowley  
88min \$39.90  
The companion DVD, *Woodturning - A Foundation Course*.

Designed to improve your turning, *Woodturning - A Foundation Course* provides all of the basic turning techniques and practices in detailed step-by-step demonstrations you can follow along with.



**Woodturning Wizardry** - DVD  
by David Springett  
123min \$49.80  
Interlocking spheres, cubes held captive in a sphere, an arrow through a bottle - the seemingly impossible are made easy.

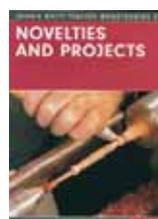
## NEW BOOKS & DVDS



**Bowl Turning**  
- DVD

by John Jordan  
120min \$39.90  
Work beside Jordan and learn all he knows about turning both decorative and functional bowls with

minimum tools and expense. Each step is explained clearly in detail and with superb close-ups.



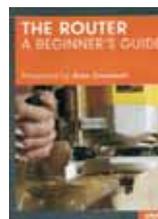
**Novelties and Project**  
- DVD

by Dennis White  
98min \$39.90  
White demonstrates how to make a beautiful dish with a glass insert, a lighter base and a handsome clock, a napkin ring, an egg, a ballpoint pen case, a lace bobbin, a gavel and an entire coffee grinder.



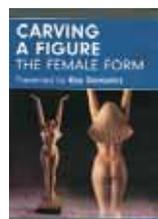
**Turning Between Centers**  
- DVD

The Basics - DVD  
by Dennis White  
65min \$39.90  
Starting with safety measures, progresses to basic tool use: how to shape, grind, hone and use them, with advice on correct body posture and movement. Turning the perfect basic cylinder, followed by cutting beads, coves and fillets.



**The Router**  
- A Beginner's Guide  
- DVD

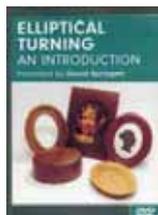
by Alan Goodsell  
67min \$39.90  
Using a router and just a starter set of cutters, the former editor of *Router Magazine*, Alan Goodsell demonstrates the techniques, tools and accessories need to unleash the full potential of woodworking's most versatile tool.



**Carving a Figure - The Female Form**  
- DVD

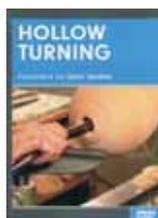
by Ray Gonzalez  
120min \$39.90  
Gonzalez presents the carving process - drawing and preparation, cutting a template, using the band saw to make a basic outline, carving techniques for both hand and power tools.

## NEW BOOKS & DVDS



**Elliptical Turning**  
- DVD

by David Springett  
57min \$49.90  
The majority of the DVD covers the making of a small oval picture frame from the initial marking out of the workpiece to the final parting of the centre waste and sanding.



**Hollow Turning**  
- DVD

by John Jordan  
120min \$39.90  
Turners of all skill levels have the opportunity to work beside Jordan and learn all he knows about turning hollow forms.



**Classic Profiles**  
- DVD

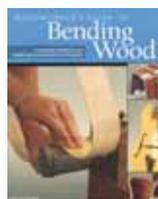
by Dennis White  
105min \$39.90  
Whether it is a Georgian furniture leg or a Victorian baluster, *Classic Profiles* quickly outlines the setting out

of the workplace - traditionally decorated with beads, hollows, fillets, and other shapes.



**Studio Furniture of the Renwick Gallery**

Smithsonian American Art Museum  
222 pp \$105.00  
Collection highlights the astonishing variety of the American studio furniture movement.



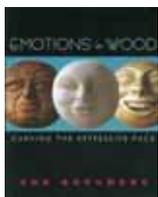
**Woodworker's Guide to Bending Wood**

by Jonathan Benson  
179 pp \$49.90  
Jonathan Benson, a professional furniture builder, demystifies the secret to bending

wood and presents four different methods for bending everything from green wood to veneers.

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## NEW BOOKS & DVDS



**Emotions in Wood**  
*Carving the Expressive Face*  
by Ann Brouwers  
127pp \$29.90  
Emotions in Wood teaches master woodcarver Ann

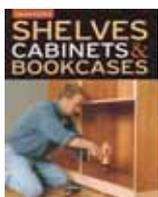
Brouwers' highly-original and captivating style of carving expressive, spherical faces. Step-by-step instructions demonstrate how to create striking, emotionally-charged faces which can include a wide variety of moods and expressions - soft smiles, laughter, and tears.



**Desks, Bookcases & Entertainment Centers**  
*Working Furniture for Your Home*

Best of Woodworkers Journal 153 pp \$39.90  
From an Arts & Crafts stereo cabinet to a

Queen Anne writing desk, this book delivers a variety of 15 good-looking projects that will get to work providing comfort and functionality the moment they leave your shop.



**Shelves, Cabinets & Bookcases**  
*Fine Woodworking*

220 pp \$34.90  
Sections on Basics (Engineering a Bookcase, Biscuit Jointing, and the use of

Plywood); Shelves and Bookcases; Outfitting a Clothes Closet; Entertainment Units and Built-ins; Cabinets, mainly Kitchen Cabinets.



**Chairmaking Simplified**

*24 Projects using Shop-made Jigs*  
by Kerry Pierce  
191pp \$39.90

This book shows you how to make a variety

of styles and types of chairs, from a ladder-back Shaker chair to a continuous-arm Windsor chair. You'll learn how to weave tape and rush seats, carve and shape wooden seats and much more.

## NEW BOOKS & DVDS



**Sculpted Band Saw Boxes**

*Design, inspiration & construction*

by Lois Keener Ventura  
128pp \$39.90

If you have ever admired the free

flowing lines of the sculpted bandsawn boxes you've seen at woodworking exhibitions, this book would be a good place to start to make your own.

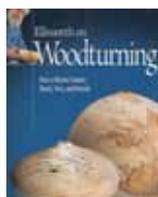


**Woodturning Full Circle**

by David Springett  
191pp \$39.90

This book is a collection of odd and wonderful items that stretch the imagination

while extending the woodturning skills of the turners who make them.



**Ellsworth on Woodturning**

by David Ellsworth  
247pp \$59.90

It would be hard to imagine a woodturner who would not benefit in some way from this

carefully written book by one the great masters of modern woodturning.



**Heirloom Furniture Projects** - *Timeless Pieces for Your Home*

Best of Woodworkers Journal 153 pp \$39.90  
Hand-made furniture

always starts out with a distinct function, but,

over time, it becomes a family heirloom valued not only for its durability, craftsmanship, and classic style, but for the legacy and history it represents.

## DVD REVIEW



**Twists and Advanced Turning**

- DVD

by Dennis White  
87min \$39.90

There was a time when twists were often used for table and chair

legs. The special factory lathes that produced them coupled the rotation of the workpiece with the movement of the tool along the workpiece axis.

Today, twists are rarely seen, although even complex shapes of this type can be made on an ordinary lathe.

The workpiece is mounted in the lathe and rotated by hand, the cutting being started (usually) with a tenon saw and completed with conventional woodturning tools. Cleaning up and sanding may be done by hand with the lathe running at slow speed.

Twists offer modern woodturners the opportunity to exercise their skills while producing work that can be visually stunning.

In the introduction to this DVD, Dennis White shows examples of the twists that he later describes in detail, saying that the work is not hard — all that is required is to follow the rules and have plenty of patience.

White is an accomplished woodturner with some 65 years experience. His presentation is clear and straight forward while the technical aspects of the video — lighting, audio and camera angles — are above average.

The three projects covered in the DVD are the marking out and making of a Single Twist, Double (or Barley Sugar Twist) and a Hollow Twist.

The latter is especially interesting since both left and right hand twists are shown — a necessity when putting them to their most obvious use, the making of a pair of candlesticks.

The producers acknowledge the lower than normal level of commentary on this video but this does not appear to be an issue and would probably have gone noticed save for their comment.

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