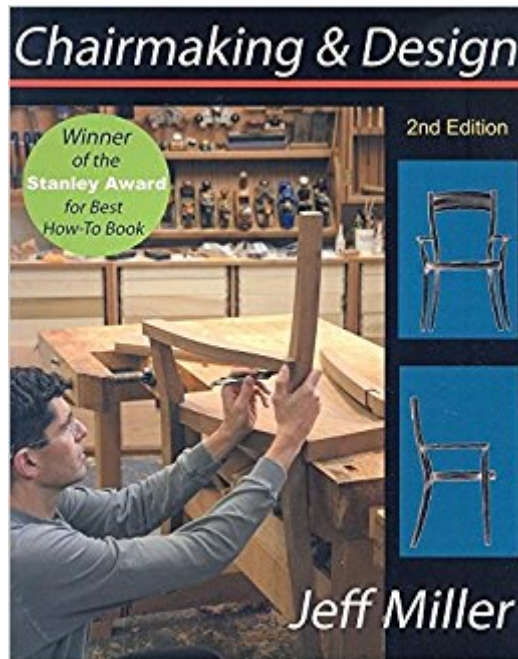




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Chairmaking & Design



Synopsis

The often-intimidating art of chairmaking is explained in this book of expert patterns and tips for creating seven elegant chairs. Through each project, craftspeople learn increasingly complex skills that build upon each other, making the manual a complete education in all of the basic chairmaking techniques. The straightforward plans and methods make the designs--such as a child's ladderback chair and even armchairs--accessible for home woodworkers. Illuminating discussions of construction and design fundamentals, along with an appendix on oils and waxes to give projects the finishing touch, round out this exploration of the art of building comfortable chairs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"There's nothing better on the market." - "Fine Woodworking"

Jeff Miller is a furniture designer, a craftsman, and the founder of Furnituremaking Workshops. His furniture appears in the decorative and industrial arts collection of the Chicago Historical Society. He lives in Chicago.

As someone who has never made a chair or completed a woodworking project since high school, this book starts the surface and gives good general details about chair design, sizing and principles of choosing wood. It then takes you completely through six projects, each one different and more complex than the first. Together, these six chairs cover most of what most people would want to

know about chairs (I think?). I was surprised by how closely the information inside matched what I was hoping for.

Really a fine book. Recently, I have been working a no-frills poplar extension dining-table following the indications of a number of Fine Woodworking's regular contributors. Both my brother and a good friend (both of them carpenters) said, whatever you do, don't make your own chairs, it'll take a lifetime, which then led me to a fruitless and saddening search for a chair on the various "unfinished furniture" websites. So, after receiving this particular title, I see that the included chapter on the dowel chair, which appears fairly easy to make, is perfectly analogous to the dining table I have been working on. So look around, I do not think you will find many books on the design and theory of dining-room chairs apart from this one. And thankfully, the inclusion of the "gallery of chairs" is only there to give one an idea of what it is to be a chair-design virtuoso. As for the rest, it thankfully concentrates on the essentials. For instance, roughly half of the designs as presented feature straight-back chairs, before introducing curved-back chairs towards the end.

Has a lot of valuable information

After building 55 Adirondack chairs of my own design Friends asked me to build 2 captain chairs for a massive table. I completed that project and decided I wanted more in depth info on chair building so I took a chance on this book and I have not been disappointed. Another friend called yesterday to commission a new chair. Timing is everything. I'm putting off building my canoe yet one more time. At 70 I wonder if I'll ever get it done?

This book with help intermediate woodworkers step up to the chairmaking plate. It illustrates all of the relevant issues concerning chair structure, function, and construction. It reviews relevant details of joinery, wood selections, and construction options. There are 6-8 chairs that would fill most inside uses, of all types of construction. This is a valuable asset for the aspiring chairbuilder!

Jeff Miller is the BEST! Even though this book is older, it is still a valuable resource if you want to make chairs!

Although I give this book 4 stars, to be honest it did not help me at all. I was hoping to be able to make my own chairs but apparently lack the skills that are necessary...and the patience. I would say

if you are a beginning wood worker like myself that this may not be the right book for you. That said, the book seems like to someone with the right skill set it would be very helpful. The directions seem to be pretty clear, but that doesn't change the fact that chair making is complicated!!! This book is staying on my shelf until hopefully some day I can pick it back up and actually make a darn chair. If nothing else this book made the chairs that I bought seem like a bargain, considering all of the work that goes into them!

Great book. Very detailed instructions for chair making. Includes fixture design as well as chair design. I really enjoy having the book. Diagrams and pictures are well done.

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