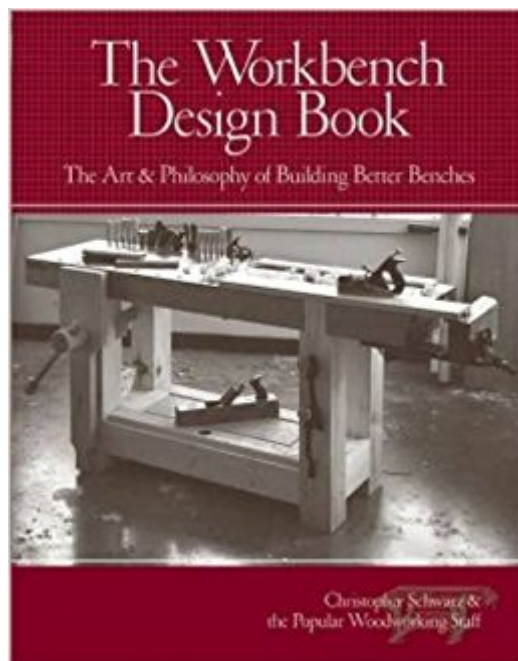




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The Workbench Design Book: The Art & Philosophy Of Building Better Benches



Synopsis

The follow-up book to *Workbenches: From Design & Theory to Construction & Use* Complete plans, expert instruction and rationale for building nine workbench forms Instruction on improving existing workbenches for better workholding and an improved woodworking shop. The *Workbench Design Book* not only shows how to design a workbenchâ•it also discusses and presents nine specific designs plus critiques of 10 additional workbenches, with suggestions for making any bench work most effectively for the kind of work the user does. The 9 workbench plans have a range suitable for all workshop needs, from handwork to power tools. A discussion of workbench design rules teach what's effective and why in a multitude of workshop situations. Additional workholding optionsâ•from shop-made jigs and commercial bench dogs to vise hardwareâ•are also provided.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Kudos to Chris Schwarz et al. for revisiting the first book and creating this exceptionally well-written and researched collection of work!~ Hundreds of photos detailing key fabricating and assembly processes~ Nine plans that are also available in Google SketchUp format~ Numerous practical thoughts and interesting philosophies to guide you to build a great customized bench~ Chapter devoted to work holding hardware, (but does not discuss the brilliant BenchCrafted Criscross)~ Entire chapter of drawings on bench designs that an intermediate woodworker could easily build from~ Nice section on building a wall hung tool rack~ Chris's challenge: Chapter Seventeen, The Best Bench Never Built If you are up to the task of creating a bench to last a lifetime, you'll love this

book. Nick D. Benson
Operations Manager
National Center for Craftsmanship
Fort Collins, CO

It is hard to tell if what you are reading, at some points, is by the author or another of his journalist colleagues. That said, I found this book to be very useful in building my own workbench. I would not say that this book is essential, but that it is very helpful. You may want to look elsewhere if you are a power tool, or hybrid style woodworker. Although the author attempts to describe some of the differences, he is honest in his preferences, and I felt the need to adapt my own design for my own needs. This is not a criticism, just an observation. One other note. Since the author's approach is to describe his own "superior" design and then critique several other designs against his, if you don't like his "best" design, you may be frustrated with his singular-design-centrism.

Very well written book, one of the few that made me laugh while learning. The author covers quite a few different workbench's, different methods of construction, different types of vises and their placement. The author also explores different types of woods to use in the construction of the workbench. He includes plans for each bench discussed along with an evaluation of each built. Yes, he actually built the workbenches and he includes the pros and cons he discovered during and after the building. He discusses what he would change on the builds and why he would do the build differently in the future. Best I have read on the subject, I would recommend that it be included in the library of any friend who asked me about the book.

Great book and Chris Schwarz-isms humor throughout. This is the 2nd workbench book. I have both. This has some review of book one, but a lot more designs. There were only basically 2 benches in the first book; 8 in the second. This has a chapter on updating your bench. For me, there was more theory in the first book and I read that a couple of times. But then as I'm working on the design for my bench, I am spending much more time in this book. I would guess I will spend more time with this book than with the first, but I consider buying both even though there is overlap. I wonder if my local library was better equipped if I would have just borrowed the books. I think once I'm finished my bench, I may not use these books again. Consider the Fine Woodworking Best Workbenches book as well. It has many design ideas that may compliment the ones in this book; particularly the Garrett Hack bench and the Essential Workbench. There's good detail in that book for making the breadboard ends. I think too much emphasis is placed on the wooden screw vices. I'm very happy with my purchase. If I could choose only this one or the first one, I would choose this one.

The Workbench Design Book by Christopher Schwarz is required reading before you build your workbench! The book shows step-by-step procedures for building nine different styles of workbenches and is highlighted with Christopher Schwartz humor and insight. The book includes a before and after critique of various workbenches along with tool rack design, vises, and bench upgrades. This book saved me a lot of time and money!

Separate from all of the excellent specific instruction, I really enjoyed reading this book. It's focus is on the logic and critique of various workbench designs. He has a couple of designs that work well, and he also tells you what some other designs fall short for most people.

Awesome! The author is a world-class expert and he used his vast research throughout this book. His writing is non-elitist and offers practical suggestions anyone can understand. I was surprised at his assessment of the Black & Decker Workmate portable bench, included among his descriptions of the best hand-built bench designs over the past four hundred years. However, I was most impressed by the way he combined the best features of all the classic benches and explained the steps for building a perfect bench for a specific person's needs. The book left me with the feeling "I can really build one of these!"

I bought this book to help me design/create my own workbench. I've only ever done very limited carpentry, so I my skill set is limited. This book starts with an overview of the authors philosophy of important features and considerations in a workbench. After that several different sets of plans for workbenches are presented with notes from the author about the build and what he considers to be the pros and cons of the bench in question. It does include a list of lumber and hardware used for each bench and, in some cases, a rough estimate of cost. This books doesn't provide a detailed step-by-step guide to building the bench, so if you're unfamiliar with techniques you may want to supplement it with another book or other source of instruction.

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