

## **2017 Kansas City Woodworkers' Guild Workshop : Dutch Tool Chest**

### **Description**

In the October 2013 issue of Popular Woodworking Magazine there appeared a design for a tool chest well suited to the beginning and intermediate woodworker who also desires to improve their hand tool skills. The so-called Dutch Tool Chest was re-introduced to the world by Chris Schwarz in his magazine article, blog postings and an appearance on The Woodwright Shop with Roy Underhill.

The Kansas City Woodworkers' Guild is happy to announce that we will be offering intense build sessions to our members for them to create a Dutch Toolchest of their own using primarily hand tools. Participants will be selecting and supplying their own lumber and hardware. This project will be offered on a first-come-first served basis where one or two participants per session will schedule the time to complete their project. Some time outside of the guided sessions may be necessary to complete the project. Come ready to work!

A reprint of the October 2013 article will be provided for reference, but participants are invited to modify the size of the tool chest to best accommodate their needs. We will be using the basic construction methods outlined in the article to give participants practice in the hand cutting of joinery such as dovetails, dados, tongue and groove, simple mouldings without power tools and other useful skills.

It is strongly suggested that you create your own drawings, a profile and plan view are fine. Using these, you can work out what tools will fit and make changes to the design as needed. Be aware, there are discrepancies between the drawings and cut-list in the article. For this reason, it is always good practice to make your own drawings.

## **Tool List**

The tool list for this workshop is split into two parts, the first part lists tools that are strongly recommended. These are tools (as many as possible) that participants should bring. They are the tools that are difficult to share and often times are of a personal nature for setup and use. The second list gives additional tools that can make the work go more quickly.

The KCWG shop has examples of many of these tools and the instructor will be bringing examples for student use. Make sure the tools you bring are in good working order as we will not have time during the workshop to sharpen or otherwise rehabilitate your latest \$0.25 garage sale triumph. Contact Rob Young ([rwyong@ieee.org](mailto:rwyong@ieee.org)) in advance if you have questions or need help.

This list may receive minor additions or changes prior to the class. Please check for latest edition by refreshing your browser.

Note, many tools are given by the model number used by Stanley Toolworks. These are not to be taken as definitive examples, just helpful. Especially when using Google to search for examples.

## Recommended Tool List

- **Bring as many as you can because eventually you'll need to fill your new Dutch Tool Chest! But rest assured, the KCWG shop and instructors will make sure you have what you need to complete the project.**
- smoothing plane - any small hand plane capable of fine finish work such as a block plane, Stanley #60-1/2, #3 or #4 -- SHARP AND READY TO GO!
- 1/4" (small), 1/2" (medium) and a 3/4" or 1" (large) bench chisels
- mallet or other chisel striking implement
- small joinery saw such as a rip filed dovetail saw, carcass saw or fine-tooth pull saw
- marking gauge - pin, knife or wheel
- marking knife - SHARP
- 12" combination square - SQUARES ARE SUPPOSED TO BE SQUARE! CHECK YOURS!
- 2' folding rule or small tape measure (giant 25 ft models are for carpentry, too clumsy for bench work)
- fine point (0.5mm or smaller) mechanical pencil - wooden pencils are fine too
- sharpening gear for plane and chisel - at the minimum a hone with compound to keep edges sharp

### **Additional Tools - These Make the Workshop Experience Better**

- router plane - Stanley #71 or #71-1/2 or similar - HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that you own a router plane of some type at some point in your woodworking career
- Jack plane such as a Stanley #5 or a bevel-up equivalent - SHARP AND READY TO GO
- Jointer plane such as a Stanley #6, #7 or #8) -- SHARP AND READY TO GO
- Fine tooth crosscut hand saw, 7ppi or finer
- bench hook
- shooting board
- card scraper & associated sharpening gear
- shoulder plane
- glue (hot hide glue will be provided -- icecream for enjoying the hide glue as a dessert topping will not be supplied)

Tools such as mortising chisels, plow planes and moulding planes will be available for use in building the tool chest as a way for participants to experience.

Bring snacks or a sack lunch because we will be making a long day of this!

## Participant Materials List

Participants will be supplying all the wood necessary to build the tool chest. The Dutch Tool Chest can be built from just about any wood or even combinations of woods. But keep in mind, some woods may be a better choice than others. Here are some things to consider:

- Weight -- Fully loaded, even the “small” design can weigh in excess of 100 pounds. Using light, yet strong woods is a good thing.
- Cost -- This chest can be painted or left with a clear finish. Painted, it is an opportunity to “use up” a few odd ball pieces of wood that might not otherwise find a home.
- Personal Preference -- Hey, if you love mahogany, build it from mahogany! Mahogany takes paint very well. I’ve seen examples made from ash (heavy but good looking) as well as cherry and mixed species. You might consider just making the lid a little fancy while the rest is made from 1x12 pine and painted.

Suggested materials include pine (white or yellow), poplar or aspen. Of these three, poplar will make the heaviest chest, however we can mill down the poplar to  $\frac{5}{8}$ ” thickness for several parts to save weight. If build from pine, it can be sourced as 1x12 material from the home improvement center so long as you are very selective AND purchase the material well in advance to allow it to dry and acclimate.

If using materials not easily available in widths of greater than 10”, participants will need to create glued-up panels. These panels should be made in advance of the first session. Contact Rob Young ([rwyoung@ieee.org](mailto:rwyoung@ieee.org)) if this is the case as there are some considerations to be made with respect to material selection when making up the panels that will make the project easier when using primarily hand tools.

If choosing to use 1x12 material from the home center your selection criteria are:

- Dryest -- boards will seem lighter for their size than others. And this means they will probably keep their general shape as they dry before the workshop begins.
- Fewest knots -- selecting from the #2 common stacks can yield boards with sufficient clear areas to build this design.
- Flattest and straightest -- many pieces are used at their full width (1x12 typically measures  $\frac{3}{4}$ ” thick by 11- $\frac{1}{4}$ ” to 11- $\frac{1}{2}$ ” wide). Flat and straight will minimize your heartache and workload later.
- Buy EXTRA
- Note that 1x12 lumber is typically sold by linear length and not board feet so be sure to make the necessary calculations when selecting.

Estimated board feet for small chest design based on magazine article

**Too be added**

## Estimated board feet for large chest design based on magazine article

### Too be added

Suggested hardware list based on items from Van Dyke Restorers ([www.vandykes.com](http://www.vandykes.com))

- Prices are rounded up to nearest dollar and may vary over time.
- Various finishes are available on pieces.
- All of these parts are available elsewhere and any sort of substitution can be made, from zinc coated versions from the corner hardware store to custom blacksmith made parts. These parts simply give an idea of what is available and needed.
- Hinge (sold individually, need 2) -- Classic Iron Heart Strap Hinge #02034796 \$16ea, \$32 total
- Iron Trunk Lifter Handle (sold individually, need 2) -- Oil blackened finish #02022422 \$11ea, \$22 total
- 4" Iron Trunk Hasp -- Oil blackened finish #02022425 \$6ea
- Screws, etc. -- some hardware may come with screws, others without. Contact VanDyke's directly to confirm.

## Additional hardware

A minimum of a dozen #8 to #12 sized screws will be needed to attach things such as battens, rub strips and tool racks to the chest. The length of the screws will vary with the task but a selection of 1" to 1-1/2" screws should be sufficient. They can always be shortened. Vintage slotted iron screws look good but can be expensive. An alternative is to buy modern zinc coated screws and remove the zinc coating by soaking overnight in vinegar or similar solutions. The screws can be dried and oiled, giving a vintage look.

It may be advantageous to attach the handles with bolts through the side of the chest instead of simply screws into the side.

We will be using cut-nails for attaching the back boards and re-enforcing other parts of the chest. The KCWG will have a small selection of nails on hand for the workshop.

## Finishing Materials

The finish is up to you but as you can read from the article by Chris Schwarz, in his research, most were painted. Most of the ones I've seen made have also been painted. But a clear finish is just fine too. It's your tool chest, do what you want. The workshop will have a finishing variance for the use of shellac and milk paint (we will use the General Finishes premixed milk paint which is an acrylic paint) in the shop.