



Our very own Mick Smets was our "expert" for our September meeting. This time he chose to talk and demonstrate furniture making. In particular he selected chairs and stools some of which he had brought along to aid the discussion. If there was one essential thing NOT to do it was to fix parts of any stool or chair before you had made all the parts.

Rule 1- make and check all similar parts look the same e.g. chair legs..

Rule 2 assemble and make sure all parts fit and the whole looks and feels right.

Rule 3 adjust and then glue.

So Mick started by turning a leg patterned against an existing one.



Mark out a pattern stick with each end of the curves on the master. Mick uses a skew to make the initial cuts. If you are going to have square ends then these need to be made first and delicately. Note in the right hand picture above the chuck being used has a square hole in the wood block with a screw plate attaching it to the actual chuck.

The next steps are to rough turn the leg then refine the shape to match the existing pattern.



### Forthcoming Attractions

Oct 4 <sup>th</sup>	@ 7:00pm -	John Johnson
Nov 1 <sup>st</sup>	@ 7:00pm -	Viv Harvey
Dec 6 <sup>th</sup>	@ 7:30 pm	Hands on
Jan		post Christmas Social
Feb 7th	@ 7.00 pm	Graham Bell
Mar 7th	@ 7:30 pm	A G M
Apr 4th	@ 7:00 pm	Malcom Hill
May ?	@ 7:30 pm	Members demonstration
June 6th	@ 7:00 pm	Peter Fagg- Platters from around the world

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Mick pointed out that absolute exactness of the copy is not necessary. He held the two legs as they would be in a chair. "You cannot see small discrepancies- they look the same."

If you have the legs vertical then making joints and fitting is relatively easy. However, normally legs are slightly splayed and nearly always so in stools. This means the connections to the seat and any cross supports have to be marked and cut accurately at an angle. Mick was at pains to tell us to take time doing this especially the marking out.



The seat should never be glued on. Usually the seat will be planks glued with "biscuits". It should be fixed as shown with small blocks as illustrated above. This will allow some minor relative movement seat plate to assembled legs. When making stools the most awkward time is drilling the holes for the legs. The legs are splayed meaning the drilling is at two angles to the seat plate. Mark the hole centres then mark the "diagonal" from hole to hole. This will be your sighting line for the bench drill. Angle the drill plate towards from you and sight along the line you've drawn.



If and when you have mastered the art of simple furniture such as a stool then its time to make something rather more elegant Mike referred to his rocking chair as shown above.



Mick outlined the construction and difficulties he had with making the chair but the hardest part were the shaped long dowels to the chair back. These are tapered and bent.

A wallpaper stripper can be used to create the steam and a simple piece of plastic drain pipe can be used to encase the steaming rod. Then you need blocks to clamp the softened dowel. Allow half an hour per inch for steaming and clamp for at least 6 hours.



Whilst these back support stems can be turned; as you would a walking stick say, it is far easier to use a special tool. This is rather like a spoke shave which you push along the wood. There are several sizes which allow you to gradually reduce the diameter.

The final shaping can be simply a matter of smoothing out the small ridges either with a skew or with sanding papers. This remarkable tool can be obtained from Ashem Crafts.