

Donald Bradley's Basic Book List

“Cabinet Making and Millwork” by John Louis Feirer - Lot's of info on how to use, maintain, set up, and use your tools and machinery. This book is a text book so it covers a lot of different subjects.

“The Art of Woodturning” by William Klenke - This book is primarily for spindle turning so it isn't a book for bowl turners, but it has lots info from selecting your lathe and tools and how to use them, how to design in woodturning, to how to lay out and make a barley twist turning. It also has lots of useful projects.

“Fine Furniture for the Amateur Cabinet Maker” by A. W. Marlow - This book is directed toward providing the amateur craftsman with the means of making fine furniture that is within his ability. Successive photographs show in minute detail how a subject piece should look as the construction progresses. There are a lot of projects ranging from a carved paper knife to a fully carved pie crust table. I doubt that I would be making the furniture that I make today if it hadn't been for this book.

“Reproducing Antique Furniture” by Franklin H. Gottshall - This book has everything from fundamentals to carving and finishing and has nicely drawn plans for forty different projects.

“Woodwork Joints” by Charles H. Hayward - This has been my bible for hand cut traditional joinery. This book is well illustrated and is a book that I usually keep in my shop and refer to often.

“Fine Points of Furniture” and “The New Fine Points of Furniture” by Albert Sack - These books are the classic handbooks comparing merits and values of over 100 types of early American furniture. If I only had one of these books it would be the second.

“Furniture Treasury Volumes One and Two” by Wallace Nutting - There are five thousand illustrations of American Furniture with descriptions. There are also line drawings of everything from bedposts to moldings.

“Furniture Treasury Volume Three” by Wallace Nutting - This book is richly illustrated by the author with plans and drawings of everything from bedposts, chairs, furniture and much more.

“American Chairs Queen Anne and Chippendale” by John T. Kirk - “Mr. Kirk shows the reader how to analyze the structure and design of 180 chairs through such details as feet, rails, and splats as well as overall design impact. He reveals the identifying regional characteristics of the major American style centers – Philadelphia, Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, The Connecticut Valley and the South.”

“American Furniture Queen Anne and Chippendale” by Joseph Downs - 400 hundred examples of American Queen Anne and Chippendale Furniture in the Winterthur Museum in Delaware with lots of photos of chair details and construction.

“Masterpieces of American Furniture” and “More American Furniture Treasures” by Lester Margon - These two books have lots of illustrations of American furniture with well drawn plans.

“Masterpieces of Furniture” by Verna Cook Salomonsky - This is another book with illustrations and plans.

“How to design and Construct Period Furniture” by Franklin Gottshall - This book is helpful if you need to know standard dimensions of furniture and also has lots of drawings and plans.