

## **An Apprenticeship with Michael Fortune**

### **May 13-24, 2019 (2 weeks)**

Suggested Outline:

#### **Monday AM**

- . Individual introductions, “what you’d like to achieve during the class”.
- . “What I do, what I can do for you”.
- . “Rules of the road”, how to use the school/course to your best advantage. Course introduction.
- . Suggestions for personal planning, possible project ideas
- . Tour of the weeks activities

#### **Monday PM**

- . Safety instruction as necessary
- . How to generate ideas then develop them into furniture forms
- . Initial *one on one* “plan your apprenticeship” consultations

#### **Tuesday AM**

- . Lecture: working with curves
- . Steambending, slides and demonstration.
- . History of furniture lecture, utilizing historical influences Styles you never knew existed

#### **Tuesday PM**

- . Your bandsaw, The most useful machine in your workshop, Jigs you must make.
- . Laminating demonstration
- . Sketching, model making techniques, drawing full size, role of the full size mock up

#### **Wednesday AM**

- . Cutting and joining veneer
- . Vacu-forming demonstration
- . Discussion: Drawing as a Design Tool. Perspective, charts, mechanical drawing.
- . Shaping wood with a die grinder and hand tools

#### **Wednesday PM**

- . Individual consultations.
- . Working from a “Centerline” how to plot unusual shapes and forms

#### **Thursday AM**

- . Slide lecture, jig design and construction.
- . Working with compound angles. The “no-math” approach.
- . Continuation of project consultations.

#### **Thursday PM**

- . Inlay techniques: silver, mother-of-pearl, wood.
- . Group show and tell.
- . Work on projects.
- . Chair primer, design and construction of chairs #1 chair sequence

#### **Friday AM**

- . Using the biscuit joiner. Tricks to make it more accurate, set up on a stationary table.
- . Individual assistance.

#### **Friday PM**

- . Work on projects.
- . Individual assistance

## **Week Two**

### **Monday AM**

- . Joinery with the mortise jig
- . Joinery on curved parts

### **Monday PM**

- . Three way miter joints
- . Cutting miters of different lengths
- . Clamping miters

### **Tuesday AM**

- . Marquetry leaves
- . Making jigs with a French curve
- . Cutting veneer to an angle, cutting to length

### **Tuesday PM**

- . Sharpening drill bits
- . Detailing table and chair legs

### **Wednesday AM**

- . Making waterfall edges
- . Cutting wedges in place and clamping edges

### **Wednesday PM**

- . Dowel joints – shopmade jigs, the unsung hero of the workshop

### **Thursday AM thru Friday AM**

- . Mitered dovetails with a jig/by hand
- . Work on projects

Work on projects and personal explorations can continue throughout the two weeks. Demonstrations and discussions will continue throughout the week from the following list:

Additional Topics: (Post them on the blackboard)

- . Photographing your work. Making a simple set up to give you professional results
- . Developing a career “your clients are not just buying a piece of furniture...” \*\*\*
- . Running a viable business \*\*\*
- . Assembling a portfolio \*\*\*
- . Developing a client base \*\*\*
- .. Burnishing a cabinet scraper
- . Sharpening hand tools
- . Measuring accurately, the fine points
- . Repairing mistakes
- . Machine maintenance, setting up your tools for maximum performance
- . Building a workbench and tool cabinet
- . Tuning up your handtools

\*\*\* Possible evening discussion

Additional demonstrations, topics of interest to the group are noted during the course and are inserted throughout the two weeks.

## **Tool List**

- (1) Sliding bevel. Slim all metal type by Shinwa, 6" or 9" size. Highland Hardware Ltd.
- (2) Engineer's protractor. Metal type by General or Bevel Boss by Epic Tools Ltd.
- (3) Rectangular card scrapers. Bahco, Lie-Nielsen
- (1) Thick card scraper to be made into an inlay tool
- (2) 10" Mill bastard single cut file. Nicholson or equal at Home Depot or Menards.
- (1) Marking gauge
- (1) ½" or ¾" Tape measure
- (2) 6" Ruler
- (1) Combination square 12"
- (1) Safety glasses, goggles, dust mask and ear plugs
- (1) Pad of tracing paper 14" x 17". Several 2H, 6B pencils to add to the instructor's horde of pencils
- (1) Wooden hand screw 10". Harbor Freight
- (1) Block plane
- Set of chisels
- (1) Spoke shave
- Misc. twist drill bits 1/8" thru ½" (for re-sharpening)
- Compass
- Blue tape
- #49 or #50 Nicholson rasp
- X-ACTO knife
- 2" cellophane tape, 1 roll

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