

Yes Folks- There Really Are More Than 10 Ways to Cut Dovetails
With Bob Van Dyke
August 22-23, 2020

Greetings

You are enrolled in my upcoming class: "Yes Folks- There really are more than 10 ways to cut dovetails."

This is a great class because it highlights the stumbling blocks that I have seen countless students come up against in over 25 years of teaching. Knowing those stumbling blocks means that you can look out for them and avoid them!

We will start out with developing the skills needed to cut dovetails entirely by hand. After a number of exercises and some practice we will move on to the "5 minute dovetail"- essentially a single dovetail with no layout involved- a great way to learn what is important about the joint and what is not. Finally we will move onto cutting through and lapped dovetails. As these skills are mastered we will introduce various machines to "assist" the process.

Knowing the strengths of each machine means that we can take advantage of those strengths and use them to our advantage to cut some of the best dovetails you have ever cut.

This class is NOT the gospel according to Bob Van Dyke. I also highlight techniques I have learned from many other well-known furniture makers- tricks that Chris Becksvoort uses, Mike Pekovich's imaginative techniques and then others from Phil Lowe and Steve Latta. Learn them all and pick what you like!

This is a hands-on class and you will need some specific tools.

Basic tool list

6" or 12" adjustable square

Bevel gauge

Pencils & notebook, camera

Block plane

Layout knife (I use an -Xacto knife)

Bench chisels- SHARP! 1/4", 3/8", 1/2" and 3/4 are more than enough

Dovetail saw- Note- If I could I would require the Tapered dovetail saw from Lie-Nielsen – or its equivalent (Bad Axe). Trying to do this type of work with anything less (and I am sorry but that includes the Lee Valley Dovetail saws) is just an exercise in frustration and you will not be successful.

Safety Glasses, Hearing protection

This is just a suggested list – don't worry if you don't have all of them- or if you have more! You are welcome to take pictures during class.

Don't hesitate to call or email me if you have any questions or concerns.

I am looking forward to a great class.

Best

Bob Van Dyke

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