

Build a Tiger Maple & Cherry Blanket Chest with Bob Van Dyke

August 24-28, 2020

Please note: There is a \$275.00 material fee payable to Bob when you are here for this class. Please bring a check with you to pay Bob directly.

Greetings,

This is one of my favorite projects- it combines a number of basic furniture making skills with some other skills that may not be so basic to a lot of woodworkers. The design of the blanket chest came from my friend John McAlevy, a furniture maker from Tenants Harbor, Maine. John did a lot of very distinctive furniture based on the Arts & Crafts style before turning full time to woodturning. A version of this particular chest was on the cover of Fine Woodworking magazine sometime in the 1990's.

I like the contrast of the tiger maple panels with the cherry frame. I have had one of these chests at the base of my bed for years and it looks better and better each year. The construction style- basically frame and panel, gives the piece a lighter and, I think a more interesting look than the traditional blanket chests. Because the lumber- both figure and color, is such an important component to the success of the piece I will be supplying all of the cherry and tiger maple from a hardwood supplier I have been using in my school for over 20 years.

I expect the class to progress as follows- but any project class depends on the participants- some people are faster, some slower and more deliberate- remember- this is not a race- you do not have to go home with a completely finished piece of furniture.

Syllabus:

Day one:

Go over design, construction factors and layout. Mill all legs and begin milling cherry frame parts and Tiger maple panel stock.

Day two:

Cut carcass parts to size and begin joinery- blind tenons for side panels, through tenons for front and back panels. Glue up Tiger maple panels

Day three:

More joinery on carcass and top frame. Dry fit mortice & tenons. Get tiger maple panels planed and dimensioned

Day four:

Profile panels, Cut rabbet on back of panels. Dry fit panels.

Day five:

Glue up front and back panels. Fit rosewood wedges in twin tenons. Glue up tops. Profile tops
Glue up end panels which forms the whole box. Layout & mortice hinges using hinge morticing jigs (made specific to these hinges and this project). Install cleats for bottom.

Note- surfacing (scraping and sanding) is done when time is available- remember- you have the rest of your life to be scraping and sanding surfaces- but we only have 5 days to get as near to completion as we can. This is an ambitious project to get done in the allotted time and you should expect to have finish "detail" work to complete in your own shops.

Basic tool list

6" or 12" adjustable square

Pencils & notebook, camera

Card scraper & burnisher

Block plane

Smoothing or general-purpose plane #4 or #5

Shoulder plane – I would highly recommend the Lie-Nielsen 041 (small shoulder plane) it is a perfect size for adjusting tenon fit and chamfering the through tenons=- and it is less expensive than most shoulder planes

Layout knife (I use an X-acto knife)

Bench chisels- SHARP!

Back saw or dovetail saw

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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