

◀ Toys from the 2022 braai – Pound a peg benches made by the Friday Hardware Centre group.

# Crosscut

Secretary: Kenneth Jackson [secretary@wwa.org.za](mailto:secretary@wwa.org.za) Editor: Trevor Pope [tpope@iafrica.com](mailto:tpope@iafrica.com)  
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**Next Turners' meeting** – 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023 from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop** – Video on how to make a tri-cornered bowl introduced by Herman.

**Next Main club meeting** – 8<sup>th</sup> February from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop** – To be advised.

New WWA Account number. **FNB 63026931287** – please make sure that your payment can be identified by adding your **name**, perhaps cell number and **reason for payment**.

## News

**December combined meeting. Monday, the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022** – from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop** – There were free boerewors rolls for members. Chris and Trevor compiled a wood and tree identification quiz that tested people's knowledge of wood in the wild. The challenge was to match 16 samples of wood with the bark on and leaves to a list of common and botanical names. A couple of people almost got them all right.

**Turners' meeting. Monday - 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023** from 18h00 at **Made**

**in Workshop** A show-and-tell meeting where members discussed their projects started the year off. Amongst others, Bobby showed his square-footed matumi bowl and explained the complicated steps necessary to make it.

**Main club meeting. Wednesday - 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023** from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop** – New members Shaun and Joe gave a presentation documenting the progress of a workbench build. Shaun was the spectator to the bench building process. Joe and Gideon actually built the benches.

The middle picture shows Shaun setting the scene ▶.

In the lower picture Joe shows a leg that was laminated from pine. ▼

For those that know their benches, the style that they made is called a Plain Roubo, which is named after a bench described in a book *l'Art du menuisier* written in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by a Frenchman called Andre Roubo. Their bench



has a slab top of 1570l x 600w, laminated from pine. The legs, also laminated from pine are rebated into the top for a height of 900mm. 0.6m<sup>3</sup> of SA Pine weighing 280kg was used to make two benches. Dominoes were used to align the pieces for gluing.

**Reminder - New WWA Account number.** Due to ongoing difficulties in changing signatories and poor service from Nedbank, the committee resolved to change banks. Anesh, our new treasurer has opened an account with **FNB** and requests that all payments be made into this new account: **63026931287** – please add this to your beneficiaries list. Please make sure that your payment can be identified by adding your **name**, perhaps cell number and **reason for payment**. Annotations such as “annual subs” or “WWA shirt” are not helpful – Anesh will not be able to trace your payment.

**Planning for 2023 Toymakers braai.** If you have any suggestions on things you would like to change for the next braai, please approach a committee member with your suggestions. Concerns that arose last year were around how the ticket books are constructed that made them difficult to control and sell. We would also like to encourage members who donate toys to put a label on them so we can credit your efforts in pictures for the newsletter.

**Raffle prizes during the year.** The committee is always on the look-out for raffle prizes through the year. Donations and purchase of prizes such as surplus tools from members are one option. Please approach a committee member if you can assist.

#### Schedule for Regular Events at **Made in Workshop**

1. Second Saturday of month at 9h00 - Herman – all things turning related – 083 631 0501  
[hermanpotgieteresq AT gmail.com](mailto:hermanpotgieteresq@gmail.com)

This list is subject to change, so please consult your *Crosscut* each month.

**Show & Tell** meetings are held at Hardware Centre every Friday Morning at 09:30. All members welcome. Contact Eugene on 0824953394 or [eugene@antlerfin.co.za](mailto:eugene@antlerfin.co.za)

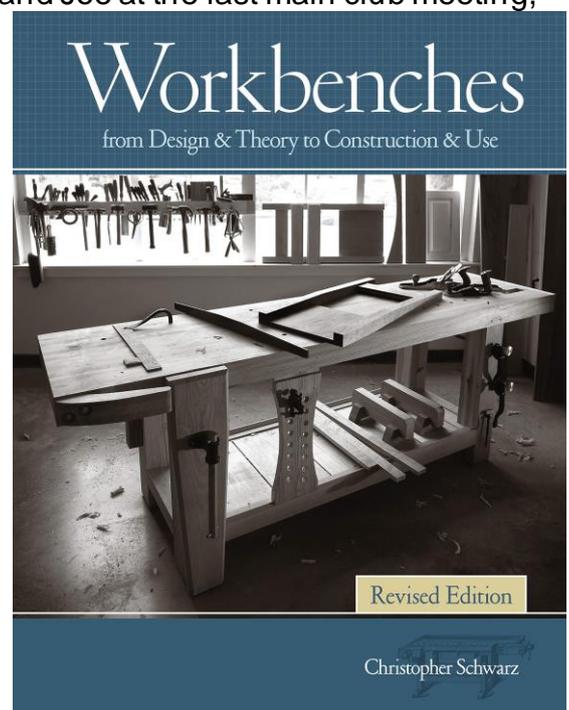
## Workbenches – some more information

Trevor Pope

Following an entertaining and informative talk by Shaun and Joe at the last main club meeting, here is some more information on building your own work bench for those who are interested.

Joe and Gideon decided to make their bench top height 90 cm. This was supported by Graham in the meeting with a useful demonstration that gave an insight as to why. The standard height for kitchen tops is 910mm and for bathroom cabinets, 820mm. Christopher Schwarz (see below) suggests a height of 36” (915mm) for machine work and 34” (864mm) for a bench top to be used for hand-planing.

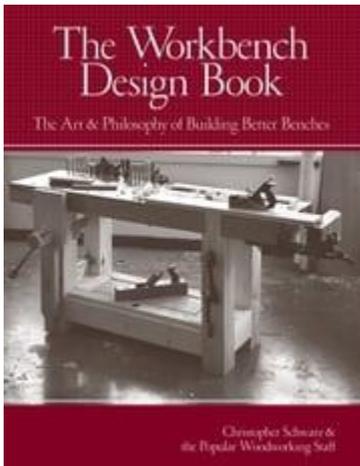
Because each person is different and their work needs may differ, Schwarz also offers a guideline that the top should be the height of one’s first knuckle (closest to the wrist) of the little finger. Trying out other benches can be helpful to see what suits you. He advises



making your bench a little higher than needed to start with as it is easier to cut down the legs than add a bit on.

**Workbenches from Design & Theory to Construction & Use** by Christopher Schwarz provides a very comprehensive breakdown on hand wood working work benches and how well they work. It is published by F+W media (Popular Woodworking, USA). I managed to buy it from Takealot some time ago, but it is not listed by them at present.

You may not look at commercial bench designs with much respect again after you have read it. The book provides several designs that you can build, but more importantly, you will understand all the advantages and disadvantages of each design.

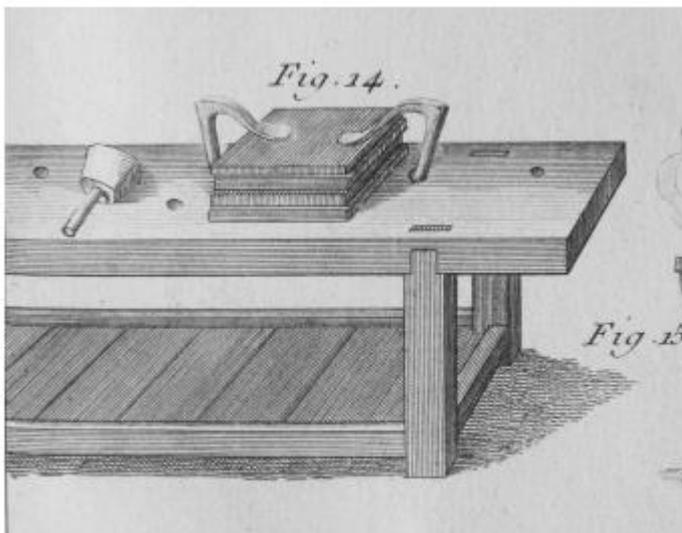
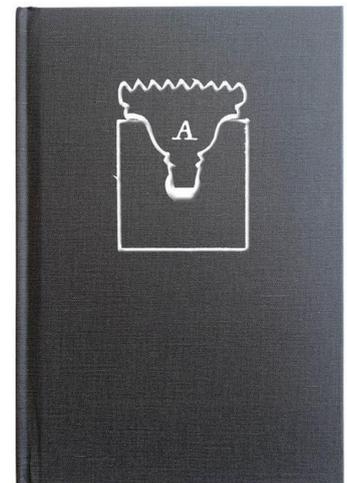


Schwarz's first book on workbenches was this one: **The Workbench Design Book** published by F+W media.

And the revised version is the one above. He earned no royalties on the first one as it was a fixed price deal with F+W media.

For the second edition, he negotiated royalties, but these probably started tapering off. He attempted to buy the rights to his book, but was rebuffed.

So, he self-published through **Lost Art Press** (his own imprint) **The Anarchist's Workbench**. It is long, but very readable and full of good advice, particularly if you are a hand-tool woodworker. (See p 286 for an account of how he tried to buy back the rights to his blue book and why he wrote this, the third book.)



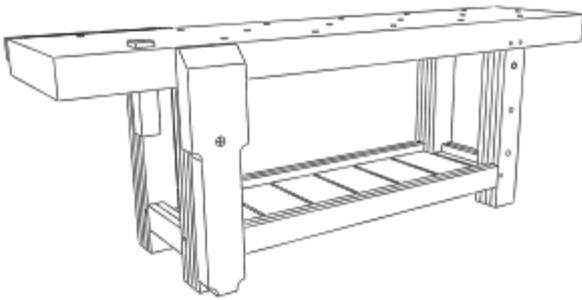
'L'ART DU MENUISIER,' PLATE 334, 1774

IN THIS WORKBENCH, ROUBO SHOWS A VARIATION ON THE JOINT THAT BRINGS THE BENCHTOP AND THE BASE TOGETHER.

The book is a distillation of which bench he prefers to use at present. He gives a comprehensive guide to making it. It is available here:

<https://lostartpress.com/collections/books/products/the-anarchists-workbench>

THE ANARCHIST'S WORKBENCH



SIMPLE, BUT NOT TOO SIMPLE

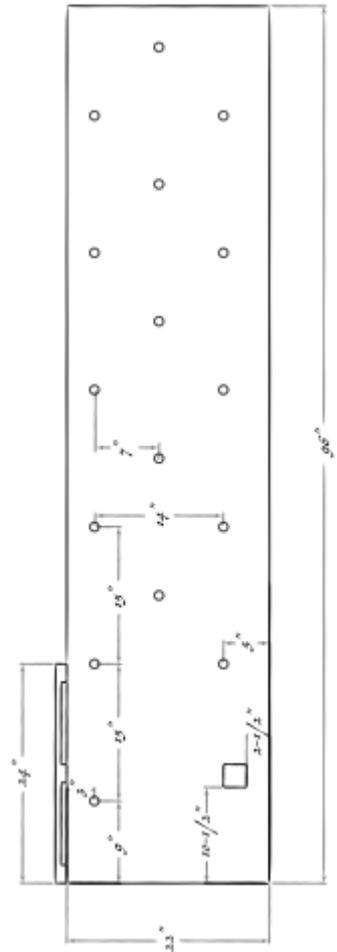
This is a view of the bench from page 192, and the process to build it is in the pages that follow.

If you want an audio book version, if I recall correctly, Ray Deftereos at the [Hand Tool Book Review podcast](#) has been recording the book as a free audiobook.

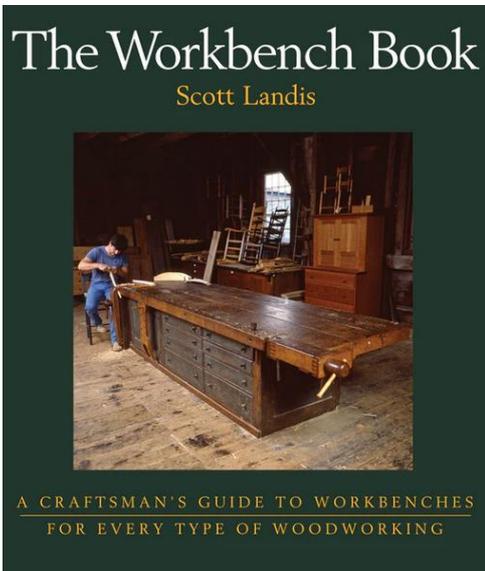
If you want to include holdfast holes, Schwarz gives some guidance on the locations on p172.

This is a top view, with the front of the bench on the right.

THE ANARCHIST'S WORKBENCH



HOLDFAST HOLE PATTERN



Another classic book on workbenches is *The Workbench Book* by Scott Landis, first published in 1987 by Taunton and republished by Lost Art Press. Unfortunately, my copy was lent to a friend and when he killed himself, I didn't have the heart to ask for it back. (I don't think the book was connected to his suicide...)

If you think you need a workbench to make one, Paul Sellers shows how to make one, referred to as a Nicholson or English bench, with no power tools

and a pair of trestles in a seven part video series. (See <https://paulsellers.com/2012/06/how-to-build-a-workbench-video-with-paul-sellers-part-1/> for the first part.)

My own bench is a smallish one that I made in 1989 that works OK, but it moves and creaks when I plane big pieces on it. A new, better bench is a long-term project for me, hence my interest in workbenches.