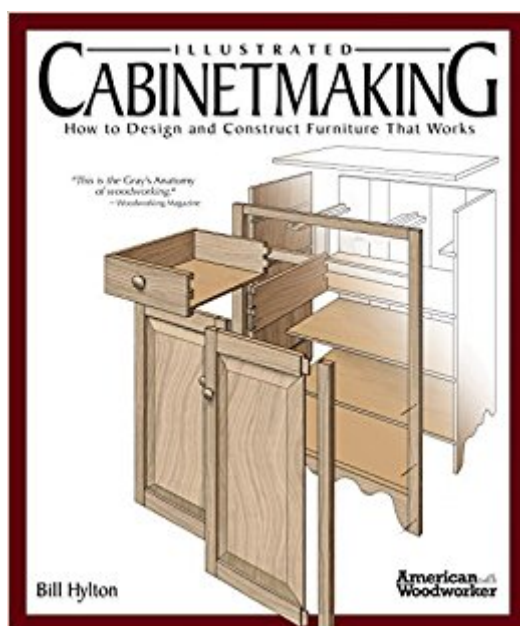


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# Illustrated Cabinetmaking: How To Design And Construct Furniture That Works (American Woodworker)



## Synopsis

The most complete visual guide to furniture construction ever published! Includes hundreds of clearly-labeled drawings and exploded diagrams that explain everything there is to know about joints, subassemblies and furniture design.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is the "Gray's Anatomy" of woodworking. *Illustrated Cabinetmaking*, by Bill Hylton, is a visual reference to take the guesswork out of designing kitchen cabinets, desks, bookcases and chests by applying the time-honored dimension and ergonomic standards presented. It features hundreds of drawings, which provide "classic" solutions to age old construction problems. For example, the book presents at least five ways to hang a drawer and four ways to attach a table top. A section covers more than 100 joints, while the "subassemblies" section explains how to use those joints to assemble tabletops, doors, drawers and more. The Furniture section explains how to combine joints and subassemblies to construct more than 100 pieces. It also provides rule-of-thumb design standards, such as the height of a dining table and the depth of kitchen cabinets, tips for altering designs, and sources for locating published plans. With more than 100 project plans for everything from tables to beds to built-ins, woodworker Hylton's (*Router Magic*) exhaustive primer, whose original, 1998 edition is now out of print, still has great value for any woodworking collection. He begins with a brief introduction to period style, then covers joinery in depth. There are no

glamour shots, only clear, black and white drawings for assembly and measurements. Exploded view drawings highlight each piece's details and special features. Because of the few instructions on construction, this is not a book for beginners; rather, it is a collection of patterns with citations to additional offerings in other books and publications. For the advanced woodworker, it is a treasure trove of project ideas. Recommended for woodworking collections in any library.

How to Design and Construct Furniture That Works 'Ideas and Inspiration. A visual source of information ranging from furniture styles and dimensions to joinery. The essence of more than 100 classic furniture pieces is captured in highly detailed, exploded drawings. 'Standards. Take the guesswork out of designing kitchen cabinets, dining tables, desks, bookcases, and chests by applying the time-honored dimension and ergonomic standards shown here. 'Options and Alternatives. With more than 150 joints and subassemblies at your fingertips, you'll be able to easily alter a projects appearance or construction. 'Construction Solutions. More than 1,300 drawings take you inside furniture and show you classic solutions to age-old problems, such as: hanging a drawer, attaching a tabletop, pegging a mortise. 'Plans. If you don't have the time or inclination to design your own furniture, check out the sources we provide for specific plans for most of the furniture pieces shown.

All previous reviews are correct, with one addition: Although the book provides only 2 page reviews of each project with citations to get the actual plans - it is important to note that the citations are not to online sources or readily available books. I read prior reviews and got the impression that if I like a project I could go and buy the detailed plans to build that project. Not the case. The citations to where the plans come from all refer to old and out of print books, magazine articles, news letters, etc. It appears that none of the projects contain an online source for detailed plans. I have not been able to locate the original detailed plans for a single project, and I probably searched for the plans on about 20 of the projects discussed. So, if you get the book and find a project you would like to build, you will likely never be able to actually find the complete plans unless you happen to have a library of woodworking books and magazines from the 70's 80's and 90's.

The book is beautiful and full of very detailed instructions. What it is missing is the how-to. Wish I had checked this out at the library before purchasing it.

This isn't a book on dimensions or cut lists, so if that is what you're expecting look elsewhere. What

it does offer is a good insight into joinery and give ideas that you can take from it to develop what you need as you see fit. I like it and plan on getting quite a bit of use out of it in the near and distant future.

This is a bible of cabinet and furniture making. Clear and so full of details and illustrations. It belongs in every person's interested in woodworking. I strongly recommend it.

The good: Illustrations are large and on every page, easy to read, too many illustrations to count. Has a decent history of furniture styles from 1640 to Arts and Crafts. Covers not only cabinets, but furniture of all types, such as table, beds. Definitive, page-after-page of furniture. Each piece of furniture also has pointers to plans in other books, such as Fine Woodworking. Joinery, seems to cover all the different types of joints. As author says, "unarguably, the most comprehensive visual guide to furniture construction and design ever published." The bad: Is a paperback. Bill Hylton has definitely delivered, highly recommended.

Excellent detailed version of everything you would want to know about constructing cabinet joinery and furniture. Most helpful feature was visual presentation of how various cabinets, desks, tables etc would go together. Recommended !

I feel like most everything I want to say has already been said. But I don't think it'll hurt to recap. It is such a joy just to open a book to a random page and be able to absorb and internalize the presented material. Obviously such a book would have to meet the reader on his experience level by presenting the material in a well organized and informative manner. It would have to open the door for the reader to extend his own creative impulses. And this is just what Mr. Hylton provides for us in his Illustrated Guide to Cabinetmaking. This book immediately sets out to appeal to a much wider audience with different styles and tastes and it succeeds on every level. I often find myself reviewing, from the first pages of the book, the nomenclature of the different methods of joining wood. I honestly believe he covers every means known to the wood worker. (Well, there is that thing I like called confirmat screws that he doesn't mention.) His presentation of topics is easy to understand and comprehend. For example, his discussion of wood expansion and contraction and how to accommodate this in furniture construction is truly a God send. The second and larger part of the book is a compendium of various furniture assembly illustrations encompassing simple end tables to large and complex armoires. The illustrations go as far as to describe the recommended

joinery method for the individual pieces. (Note that I use the word 'recommended' because the first part of the book gives the designer a complete choice of other available joinery methods.) The illustrations do not include measurements which is, perhaps, my only angst with this book. Some people may be taken a-back by this book. It is a collection of illustrations/assembly guides for different types of furniture and different styles of the highlighted piece. It doesn't give the reader a step-by-step guide to build from scratch, even though it does provide references to more detailed plans and drawings. (To me, this is enough.) However, by giving you all the necessary joinery background and alternatives, any semi-experienced wood worker can run with it and let his own creative mind take over by adding personal and artistic changes. What book can truly rise to this challenge? It also needs to be made clear that this is not just a book covering the topic of cabinets and the 'cabinetmaking' in the title is misleading. It goes so much further by giving the wood worker a complete and unhindered view of furniture design and assembly. I highly recommend this excellent book to any intermediate to experienced woodworker who wants to expand his furniture horizons.

I have a friend who didn't care for this book due to the lack of actual plans. However, the vast majority of my woodworking doesn't use them, which is why this book is valuable to me. The first part goes over every joint or method I can imagine. It is broken down into carcasses, drawers, runners, wall hung cabinets, tables, etc. There are great drawings that clearly show how such things are assembled. The second part of the book has several examples of each type of furniture construction. If you don't find the furniture piece you want, you can certainly adapt what is there to a different style. If you are one for plans, there are alternative ideas complete with information as to where the plans are available. I suspect that this is one of the few books I have that will be well worn and tattered in a short while.

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