Welcome to the first issue of 
News and Reviews. 
Its purpose is to bring you regular updates about products, books and DVDs — as well as snippets of information about what's happening in the world of woodworking.

You have probably heard that Australian magazine sales have been badly affected by the current economic problems. Some of the high profile consumer magazines are said to have suffered declines as high as 50%.

The effect on circulation figures for The Australian Woodworker has fortunately been slight and the publishers are grateful to readers for their loyalty.

A mail order bookshop customer had to return a top rating American woodworking DVD recently. When he placed the disk in his machine, instead of a woodworking demonstration, all he got was Hot Gospel music. We're happy to report that our customer was not too distressed about the mix-up and we were able to get a replacement to him quickly.

Investigation revealed that the problem was caused by the wrong label being placed on the DVD when the disc was dubbed for export. Red faces all round, an unequivocal apology and a strong assurance that the dubbing house would be reviewing its quality control!

NEW BOOKS & DVDS

Hand Made Hand Played The Art & Craft of Contemporary Guitars by Robert Shaw 416pp $54.90 Showcases the beauty and artistry of contemporary acoustic and electric guitars built by hand. He features a host of the finest and most innovative artisans of the past 25 years and the remarkable variety of high-quality instruments they are making.

Wooden Clock Cases by David Bryant 167pp $46.90 Twenty one different clocks, clocks are measured from period originals, 18 clocks produced in precise technical drawings.

Woodworking Techniques - Ingenious Solutions & Time Saving Secrets Best of Woodworkers Journal 153 pp $39.90 From hand-cutting the perfect dovetail and centering a mortise, to the secrets of resawing and surfacing stock, these invaluable tips and techniques will improve any woodworker's productivity and provide useful new methods for tackling tricky situations. Plus, each project includes detailed plans, expert instructions, and helpful sidebars to ensure that your next project is hassle-free.

BOOKSHOP NEWS

One of the features visitors like about our website for Skills Mail Order Bookshop is that the stock levels of the books are indicated. So when they order a book they can usually be confident of receiving it in a short period, rather than finding out later that the book is on back order and won't be available for months — or even worse is no longer available.

Maintaining stock levels can be a juggling act. One title we reviewed we considered may be a good seller. We ordered a number of copies but after 8 years we have not sold one. Others have been run away best sellers. With one of our latest books, Tops - The Ultimate Toy, we ordered an initial stock, believing it to be a great book. We took a few copies down to the Melbourne Timber & Working with Wood Show but to our surprise didn't sell a single copy. We then reviewed the book in Issue 142 of The Australian Woodworker and sold out our stock in two days! Further orders poured in and that was when our troubles began.

One of the casualties of the GFC (Global Financial Crisis) is that many companies are reducing their inventories. Book distributors are no exception. The largest book distributor of specialist titles in Australia brings in only a small quantity of each new title to test the waters. If the book is well received they order more stock but after 8 years we have not sold one. Others have been reviewed we considered may be a good seller. We ordered a number of copies but after 8 years we have not sold one. Others have been run away best sellers. With one of our latest books, Tops - The Ultimate Toy, we ordered an initial stock, believing it to be a great book. We took a few copies down to the Melbourne Timber & Working with Wood Show but to our surprise didn't sell a single copy. We then reviewed the book in Issue 142 of The Australian Woodworker and sold out our stock in two days! Further orders poured in and that was when our troubles began.

In the case of the Tops book we cleared out the stock of our US distributor and they have ordered more from the publisher. Most of our customers would have received their books before Christmas, except that the freight company sent our order to the UK. Instead of 2-3 weeks by air it has taken 8 weeks. Nearly all of our customers have now received their books. Further stock will be arriving late February.
marking out, cutting thin ply and thick wood, cutting materials other than wood, pinning together stacks for multiple cuts, cutting sharp corners and flowing shapes...

Simple Toys
by Colin and Ann Carlson
40 pp $29.90
Simple Toys is a practical book containing the complete plans to make eight timeless wooden toys, all of which are suitable for children to play with and treasure.

Speed Toys for Boys
by A. J. LaBerge
96 pp $19.90
A classic woodworking guide featuring old-fashioned four-wheeled projects for carts, scooters, pushmobiles, and more! Also included are projects for winter, such as a sled, bobsled, scooter sled, and toboggan. The book was originally published in 1928, a time when tens of thousands of kids were involved in manual arts classes and pushmobile contests.

Woodturning
A Foundation Course - DVD
by Keith Rowley
88min $39.90
The companion DVD, Woodturning - A Foundation Course. Designed to improve your turning, Woodturning - A Foundation Course provides all of the basic turning techniques and practices in detailed step-by-step demonstrations you can follow along with.

Woodturning Wizardry - DVD
by David Springett
123min $49.80
Interlocking spheres, cubes held captive in a sphere, an arrow through a bottle - the seemingly impossible are made easy.

Elliptical Turning - DVD
by David Springett
57min $49.90
The majority of the DVD covers the making of a small oval picture frame from the initial marking out of the workpiece to the final parting of the centre waste and sanding.

Hollow Turning - DVD
by John Jordan
120min $39.90
Turners of all skill levels have the opportunity to work beside Jordan and learn all he knows about turning hollow forms.

Classic Profiles - DVD
by Dennis White
105min $39.90
Whether it is a Georgian furniture leg or a Victorian baluster, Classic Profiles quickly outlines the setting out of the workplace - traditionally decorated with beads, hollows, fillets, and other shapes.

Studio Furniture of the Renwick Gallery
Smithsonian American Art Museum
222 pp $105.00
Collection highlights the astonishing variety of the American studio furniture movement.

Woodworker's Guide to Bending Wood
by Jonathan Benson
179 pp $49.90
Jonathan Benson, a professional furniture builder, demystifies the secret to bending wood and presents four different methods for bending everything from green wood to veneers.

Bowl Turning - DVD
by John Jordan
120min $39.90
Work beside Jordan and learn all he knows about turning both decorative and functional bowls with minimum tools and expense. Each step is explained clearly in detail and with superb close-ups.

Novelties and Project - DVD
by Dennis White
98min $39.90
White demonstrates how to make a beautiful dish with a glass insert, a lighter base and a handsome clock, a napkin ring, an egg, a ballpoint pen case, a lace bobbin, a gavel and an entire coffee grinder.

Turning Between Centers
The Basics - DVD
by Dennis White
65min $39.90
Starting with safety measures, progresses to basic tool use: how to shape, grind, hone and use them, with advice on correct body posture and movement. Turning the perfect basic cylinder, followed by cutting beads, coves and fillets.

The Router
-A Beginner's Guide - DVD
by Alan Goodsell
67min $39.90
Using a router and just a starter set of cutters, the former editor of Router Magazine, Alan Goodsell demonstrates the techniques, tools and accessories need to unleash the full potential of woodworking's most versatile tool.

Carving a Figure - The Female Form - DVD
by Ray Gonzalez
120min $39.90
Gonzalez presents the carving process - drawing and preparation, cutting a template, using the band saw to make a basic outline, carving techniques for both hand and power tools.
Emotions in Wood
Carving the Expressive Face
by Ann Brouwers
127pp $29.90
Emotions in Wood teaches master woodcarver Ann Brouwers' highly-original and captivating style of carving expressive, spherical faces. Step-by-step instructions demonstrate how to create striking, emotionally-charged faces which can include a wide variety of moods and expressions - soft smiles, laughter, and tears.

Sculpted Band Saw Boxes
Design, inspiration & construction
by Lois Keener Ventura
128pp $39.90
If you have ever admired the free flowing lines of the sculpted bandsawn boxes you’ve seen at woodworking exhibitions, this book would be a good place to start to make your own.

Woodturning Full Circle
by David Springett
191pp $59.90
This book is a collection of odd and wonderful items that stretch the imagination while extending the woodturning skills of the turners who make them.

Ellsworth on Woodturning
by David Ellsworth
247pp $59.90
It would be hard to imagine a woodturner who would not benefit in some way from this carefully written book by one of the great masters of modern woodturning.

Heirloom Furniture Projects - Timeless Pieces for Your Home
by Kerry Pierce
191pp $39.90
Hand-made furniture always starts out with a distinct function, but, over time, it becomes a family heirloom valued not only for its durability, craftsmanship, and classic style, but for the legacy and history it represents.

There was a time when twists were often used for table and chair legs. The special factory lathes that produced them coupled the rotation of the workpiece with the movement of the tool along the workpiece axis. Today, twists are rarely seen, although even complex shapes of this type can be made on an ordinary lathe.

The workpiece is mounted in the lathe and rotated by hand, the cutting being started (usually) with a tenon saw and completed with conventional woodturning tools. Cleaning up and sanding may be done by hand with the lathe running at slow speed.

Twists offer modern woodturners the opportunity to exercise their skills while producing work that can be visually stunning.

In the introduction to this DVD, Dennis White shows examples of the twists that he later describes in detail, saying that the work is not hard — all that is required is to follow the rules and have plenty of patience.

White is an accomplished woodturner with some 65 years experience. His presentation is clear and straightforward while the technical aspects of the video — lighting, audio and camera angles — are above average.

The three projects covered in the DVD are the marking out and making of a Single Twist, Double (or Barley Sugar Twist) and a Hollow Twist. The latter is especially interesting since both left and right hand twists are shown — a necessity when putting them to their most obvious use, the making of a pair of candlesticks.

The producers acknowledge the lower than normal level of commentary on this video but this does not appear to be an issue and would probably have gone noticed save for their comment.
News articles for English learners in three levels. Practice your reading & listening skills, learn new vocab and study for the TOEIC, TOEFL, IELTS, GRE, and more.