



MERCURY

— SCHOOL OF WOODWORK —

About us:

Mercury School of woodwork offers the opportunity to rediscover the age-old craft of woodwork. Whether you are a complete novice or a seasoned woodworker wanting to brush up on your technique, you will find a course that suits you.

We have created a series of short courses called Foundations to woodwork - that you can complete weekly on a Saturday, in the evening or during one of our week long comprehensive courses. Mercury School of Woodwork will provide students with the opportunity to gain knowledge of woodwork techniques, materials, machinery and finishes. Our small classes ensure the perfect balance between shared learning and individual attention.

The School was established 2006 with the aim of sharing our knowledge and passion for all things woodwork. Our course lecturers have a combined total of 50 years experience in the industry and are looking forward to welcoming you to the studio.

What our past students have to say:

If you are interested in reading past reviews you can find them at the below link.

[Google](#)

FOUNDATION COURSE - TUESDAY/THURSDAY COURSE

These weekday classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and all 15 lessons are completed in 6 visits to the studio (or 5 lessons in two visits if you are doing only one section.) The Tuesday class is 5 hours and the Thursday class is 4 hours each week until all levels of the foundation are completed.

Is this course right for you?

Our courses are for anyone who is interested in learning a new skill in woodworking.

There are no pre-requisites required and we encourage you to give it a try.

Completing the full foundation program will further your skills and knowledge of woodwork technicalities. We start with the beginner program which will illustrate basic concepts of working with a drawing and making something of it. We focus on hand tools before moving onto the intermediate lessons. We further our skills and knowledge of

woodwork technicalities such as grain direction, sanding and fastening systems. Lessons will include demonstrations and discussions on hand power tools - and standing power tools like table saws, radial arm saws etc. We finally move on to the advanced section of the foundation course which will have us concentrate on joint-making, in particular, mortise and tenon, dowel joints, pocket-hole joinery, biscuit joinery, butt and half lap joints and edge joining of solid timber. At the end of the week you will have enough expertise to make anything from picture frames to furniture, shelving and even decking.

All the tools and materials needed are provided

Course overview: All 15 lessons

Beginners Section

- Workshop Safety
- Basic measuring tools and their uses
- Cutting tools – hand (Tenon Saw, Chisels)
- Hammers
- Screwdrivers & Screws
- Drill Bits
- Nails
- Materials (types of wood)
- Projects: Two projects completed by the students

Intermediate Section

- Screws, screwdriver bits and also different types of fixing systems.
- Jigsaw and sanding Machine
- Drill Bits
- Routers
- 'Work shop walkabout'

Advanced Section

- Pocket Hole Joinery
- Mechanical Joinery
- Traditional Wood Jointing
- Particle Board use
- Cupboard Building overview

Daily schedule (please note this is subject to change - some groups move more quickly than others:)

Week one - Beginners

Tuesday : Introduction to fundamental concepts behind successful woodworking. Assembly of pot stand (using these concepts.) Fundamental woodwork rules & Workshop Health and Safety Lesson and finishing with how to use a wood chisel

Thursday : Today we focus on how to make a half lap joint (3 different versions of this joint) and our assembly of Cape Salt Box.

Week two: Intermediate

Tuesday : During this lesson we will be discussing the various types of screws, screwdriver bits and also different types of fixing systems.

We discuss the use of a jigsaw, types of blades and the materials it can cut. We discuss jigsaw vs circular saw and pocket cuts (demonstrations of these cuts.) We also run through the 3 different types of belt sanders and how to use them.

This lesson will be all about drill bits and the various types needed for wood and other materials

Thursday: This lesson will be an introduction to the safe operation of routers, how the machine works and an overview of its versatility. We will also demonstrate how to use the large standing power tools that are used daily in a workshop. We demonstrate how to use the table saw, radial arm saw, sliding compound mitre saw, surface jointer, thicknesser, bandsaw and scroll saw.

Week three: Advanced

Tuesday: This lesson will focus on pocket hole joinery and explaining the two main categories of wood jointing - mechanical and traditional. We will demonstrate how the pocket hole is made and the use of a jig to create three types of joint.

We will also focus on the two other types of Mechanical jointing - Biscuit Wafers and Dowels. We will demonstrate how to use a Biscuit wafer Machine for students as well as use the Dowel jig.

Our focus for the later half of the lesson is traditional Wood Jointing (The joints are created out of the wood itself) We demonstrate Dovetail Joints, Housing Joints, Mortise & Tenon Joints & also covering the heads of screws with matching wooden plugs that you cut yourself.

Thursday: This lesson is focusing on the commonly used - Particle Board. We focus on how the system works (Cutting Lists, Board Optimization, Cutting Schemes), Material Types used & the basics of Kitchen Cupboard Building. This is our final lesson and will focus on Bedroom Cupboard Building. We discuss assembly & Setting Up of Concealed (round base) Cupboard Door Hinges, Fitting Hinges to Doors, Attaching Doors to Cupboard Carcases, Adjusting Doors, Fitting Door handles, Building Cupboard Drawers, Fitting Runners to Drawers, Fitting Drawres to Carcases, Fitting Handles & making of Picture & Mirror Frames.

What to bring:

We provide all tools and equipment for our courses - you don't need to bring anything with you.

Reusable bottle for water (we have a cold water available)

Closed toed shoes

Comfortable clothing

Mask - you will be required to wear a mask for the duration of your class

Protective eye wear*

Protection for ears* (our classes are in an active woodwork studio and it can get very loud on some days. If you are sensitive to noise please be sure to get proper ear protection.)

* Please enquire with us if you need to purchase these items. Glasses are R20 and ear muffs are R50.

Class starting times:

* Please arrive 15 mins before each class.

Tuesday 10-4pm

Thursday 10 - 3pm

If you are going to miss a class please give us as much notice as possible and we will do our best to offer a make up lesson.

Our street address is:

Unit 9, First Floor
VPI House
15 Bridgewater Street
Paarden Eiland.

Ours is the second last building in the street, on the left as you face the N1 Highway.

The up ramp to the first floor deck is to the right of the "Shutterway" sign, and there is a round wooden sign on the gate that reads "Tinsley Woodcrafters".

There is also a "Mercury School of Woodwork" sign above the "VPI House" one.

If coming by car, please park at street level (it is quite safe, in our experience, and the whole area is patrolled 24/7). *Wednesday evening class can drive up the ramp and park on level one.

Please press the button in the silver box on the left side of the gate, and we will open up for you (the gate should be open).

The studio is at the far end of the deck. Once inside, the class room is at the Table Mountain end, on the right. Kindly walk between the yellow lines (for safety), and the only rule is: no open toe shoes, please (same reason).

Indemnity forms:

Please note that you will need to sign an indemnity form before you start a class with us.

Terms & conditions:

To confirm a course we require a R500 deposit. Full payment is required 7 days before your course starts. I

If you need to cancel your course outside of 7 days we will transfer your deposit to a new future date. If we cancel for reasons beyond our control we will give you a full refund.

If you fail to make your full payment we will consider your spot cancelled unless we hear from you.

[Click here to visit the COVID-19 Corona Virus South African Resource Portal for more information on COVID-19 in South Africa.](#)

