

You Too Can Be a Published Author

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I attended a wedding recently and was approached by an orthopedic surgeon who told me he was about to retire and wanted to get into woodworking. He knew making sawdust was an interest of mine and so he asked me for some advice. He was especially interested in my opinions on what tools to buy, what magazines and websites to follow, and other tidbits I might offer based on my limited experience.

I told him I thought a table saw was the most important and most-used power tool in most shops and started to opine on the SawStop table saw when the rock band started to play, making conversation impossible and ending the discussion before I could tell him about my aches and joint pains. The next day I began to reflect on the many shop lessons I had learned – a very long list since I started woodworking with a knowledge base of zero – knowing only which end of a screwdriver to hold and to never insert the tip into an electrical outlet. Anyway, the surgeon discussion got me to thinking about an opportunity for the EMGW:

Let's put together our thoughts and opinions and publish a book!

Some Possible Titles?

Everything you wanted to know about woodworking but were afraid to ask

Woodworking Advice for the Lovelorn.

Woodworking for Non-dummies

Ten Fingers is Better than Nine

For many topics, we could present point-counter point arguments. For example, I might think you should get started with a table saw; others might suggest the bandsaw is more useful (and safer). Are oil stones better than water stones? Our book could give both points of view. Others could opine about their lathe or success with sharpening stones. Same concept applies to many of the following bullet points.

To get your creative juices flowing, here's a starter list I created in just five minutes.

- If you were buying a table saw today, would you NOT buy a SawStop?
- How important or useful is it to have a jointer? Some EMGW members don't own one and could write about why they don't have one and how they get around that limitation. Is a 6-inch jointer OK, or should you spring for a larger one? Does size matter?
- And what about a planer? Would you buy one today without a spiral cutterhead?
- Do you really need a drill press or mortising machine?
- Dust collectors are a mystery to many. What's with blast gates? Why are there so many hose sizes and adapters?
- What role should Harbor Freight play in your purchasing plans? What products at HF are decent and which ones should you never buy?

- Advice on hand tools. You can buy 4 chisels at Harbor Freight for about \$9 or you can spend over \$100 for a single chisel at Lee Valley. How should a beginner decide? Do you get what you pay for (a subject I have written about in previous Bevel Cut articles).
- Why does Titebond have so many glue varieties? Why not use type 3 for everything?
- What are the different types of epoxy and their uses?
- Is it possible to have too many clamps?
- What are those funny looking rings that you screw into a router baseplate?
- Why is sharpening important? What's the best approach?

Let me know your thoughts on this book idea. Publishing a guide for beginners could be the path to individual fame and glory as well as riches for EMGW.

If enough of you show interest and have tips to contribute, I will volunteer to be the editor and grammar Nazi as well as the writing assistant for any of you too timid to put pencil to paper but eager to share your thoughts, opinions, and expertise.

The pen indeed is mightier than the bench chisel.