

Federal Furniture

Michael Dunbar

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Michael Dunbar : Federal Furniture before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Federal Furniture:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book for the aspiring furniture makerBy Gabriel DwigginsI bought this book to get an overview of federal period furniture construction after visiting the MET collection. The author has done their homework, and the pieces described in the book are stuff that's nice enough to devote some love and care to in the shop. Classy stuff, even though I prefer the Japanese aesthetic.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. adds very well to information that i need in order ...By walter loughlinadds very well to information that i need in order to construct a piece of furniture. any line drawings with measurements are a huge help1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This is a no brainer - Mike Dunbar gets five stars every timeBy newenglander1But then anyone buying Mike's book already knows this. It is a classic in its field. Information on Federal style furniture is getting harder to come by. Anyone know of any plans for Federal style end tables?

Federal furniture first emerged in the late 18th century, at about the same time as the American Revolution and the beginning of the Federal Republic. This furniture was dramatically different in design from what preceded it - light and graceful, yet remarkably sturdy. It reflected the spirit of a people who had just undertaken one of the most radical political experiments in history. This is a book about that furniture. It is a complete workshop in the design and construction of selected Federal-period pieces, written by a craftsman who knows the subject as few others do.

Woodworker Michael Dunbar lives in a faithfully restored Federal-period home filled entirely with furniture of the period. He also makes Federal furniture for a living, using 18th-century methods and tools. In this book he shares what he has learned about how and why the furniture was made, how people lived with it two centuries ago, and how he lives with it today. For readers interested in reproducing the furniture, Dunbar examines 20 individual pieces from his own collection, including a card table, Pembroke table, candlestand, secretary, Hepplewhite and Windsor chairs, desk on frame, chest of drawers, bellows, and high-post bed, providing a complete set of measured drawings for each and plenty of practical construction information. Dunbar also discusses one design element or technique about each piece that is uniquely Federal - how to hand-carve spiral turnings on a mirror, reproduce the simulated cock beading on a drawer front, or hand-shape the seat of a Windsor chair, for example. He includes detailed photographs, isometric drawings and step-by-step instructions to help woodworkers reproduce these features authentically. It all adds up to a fascinating workshop in traditional woodworking, for furniture makers, collectors, historians and others interested in learning about the hallmarks of Federal furniture and its construction and use in Federal period life.

About the Author Dunbar is a master woodworker, famous for making exquisite Windsor chairs. He is the founder of a well known woodworking school, author of several books and many articles, and an acclaimed lecturer.