

# furniture making classes

## Weekly day classes

These classes are designed to be flexible, so they can be tailored to meet student's individual requirements, whether a beginner or a more experienced woodworker.

The classes take place once a week, from 9am till 5.30pm, giving each student plenty of time to work on their furniture. A maximum class size of 4 ensures that each person benefits from one to one guidance.

In addition to learning new furniture making skills, students will be able to broaden their knowledge and expertise of existing skills.

Those wishing to design and make their own piece of furniture will receive help and support throughout the whole process, including drawing, sourcing materials and the machining of timber.



rocking chair by tom kealy

Students will be encouraged, with guidance, to achieve a high standard of excellence throughout their work. They will also benefit from seeing work in progress on current commissions being made by Tom in the workshop.

## Beginners



student marking out dovetails

Students may initially work on set projects in order to cover the essential elements of working with wood, with the opportunity of progressing through to making their own pieces of furniture.

They will also benefit from working alongside other more experienced students in the group, by discussion and observation of the different techniques being used.

Topics covered will include;

- Tool Selection; Students will receive help and advice with what to look out for when selecting and buying tools.
- Tuning and Sharpening existing or new tools.
- Fundamental techniques of furniture making; including material preparation, marking out and basic jointing techniques.

## Intermediate and advanced

Students with some experience will be able to progress and advance existing skills to achieve a high standard of excellence. They will have the use of a well equipped professional workshop to undertake their projects.

Students will be able to;

- Have guidance and support with designing and planning a piece of furniture, including the sourcing and selection of materials.
- Refine and extend their knowledge of joint making.
- Learn new techniques such as laminating, veneering, jig making and the safe use of the router.
- Learn the safe use of a variety of machines in this well equipped workshop.

Certain topics, such as dovetailing or an introduction to laminating and veneering, can be covered as a set programme, where requested.



student fitting drawers

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## Workshop and tools

The workshop is a well equipped professional environment, with the necessary machinery and facilities needed for making one-off contemporary furniture. This equipment will be available to the students when appropriate and they will be taught the safe use of these machines.

A craftsman's tools are personal to them, therefore students would normally need to have a set of their own hand tools. However they are advised not to buy any new tools without first getting advice from Tom.



part of the cabinet workshop

## Further information and booking

- Classes run on a weekday from 9am to 5.30pm
- They take place at Tom's workshop near Broadway, Ilminster, in Somerset.
- The cost is £85 per day, materials are not included as these will vary from one individual to another.
- A minimum of four consecutive classes can be booked at any one time.
- Which day a class will run depends on availability. Currently they run on Mondays.
- If you are interested in booking a place please contact Tom to discuss your particular aims and to check availability.



purple heartwood box made by student Jamie Meakin

## Tom Kealy



Tom was one of the first students to train at Parnham House in Dorset and has designed and made contemporary one-off furniture for 30 years.

For 10 years he worked at the John Makepeace workshops, for much of this time as workshop manager. Working from his own workshop he continues to undertake commissions for private clients, companies and other notable designers such as Illingworth & Partridge and Wales & Wales.

Tom is an experienced teacher, he has taught at Parnham House and currently runs regular short courses at West Dean College in Sussex.

He also teaches annually at the Centre for Furniture Craftmanship in Maine, U.S.A., where he works alongside other internationally renowned designer makers. At these colleges he is a highly regarded and respected tutor.

A visit to his website [www.tomkealy.com](http://www.tomkealy.com) will show you some of the outstanding pieces that he has made.