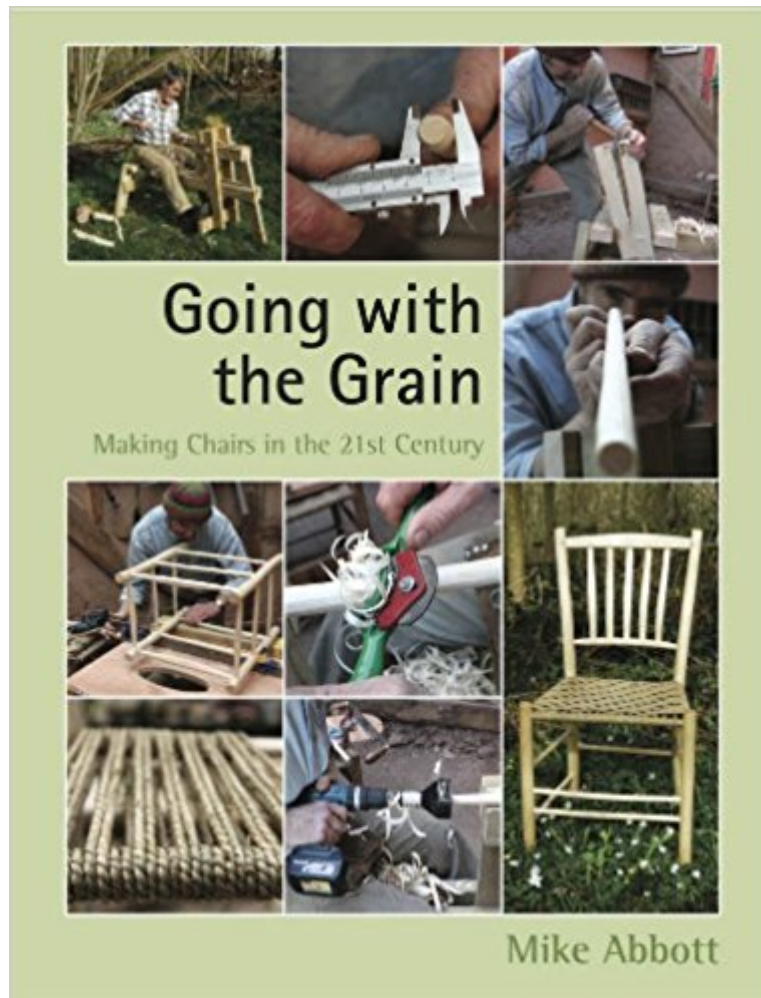




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Going With The Grain: Making Chairs In The 21st Century



Synopsis

This book is about how to make a chair - simply and with tools you can easily obtain or construct for yourself. In 1985, when Mike Abbott started running courses using the traditional tools and techniques of the Victorian chair-bodgers, many people said it was about time he moved into the 20th Century. Following the success of his first two books *Green Woodwork* and *Living Wood*, Mike's third book shows that he has now moved happily and unashamedly straight into the 21st Century. With the help of over 600 colour photographs he guides you, step-by-step, through: The tools and techniques needed for cleaving, shaping and assembling a chair Constructing a few simply homemade devices to aid the process Making 3 stools and 3 chairs, each with its own unique character Going with the Grain is not written for cabinet-makers (although they are welcome to read it too) - the techniques described in this book have as much in common with cabinet-making, as does a jacket potato with haute cuisine. It is written for anyone who shares Mike's passion for trees and wood and is interested in getting to know them better through the fulfilling process of turning a tree into their very own chair.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Mike Abbott spent most of his childhood playing in the woods around his home near Bristol. After graduating with a degree in combined science, he returned to the countryside with a variety of jobs in amenity horticulture. While attending a course in arboriculture in 1976, Mike discovered Herbert

Edlin's inspiring book *Woodland Crafts in Britain*. From this he made his first pole-lathe and set about rediscovering the skills that had been all but lost. Two years later he undertook a course in recreation management which included a study of the recreational potential of small woodlands. Here he developed the concept of the 'Living Wood'; no longer just a haunt for pheasants and wildlife but an environment where people could re-establish their contact with the natural world. After two years landscaping in Germany's Black Forest, Mike returned to work in his home village near Bristol, supervising a youth-training scheme on a woodland restoration project. Here he was able to incorporate his new found love of woodland crafts and could see the fulfilment that this kind of work offered to his trainees. In 1985 he set up Living Wood Training with the aim of teaching green wood skills and promoting their potential. In 1989 he wrote his first book, *Green Woodwork*, and a year later gathered together a small group of enthusiasts to found the Association of Pole-lathe Turners which grew from a band of six in 1990 to an association of over 500 members within ten years. Over the past two decades, Mike has taught his skills for numerous organisations throughout Britain as well as in the USA, Sweden, Denmark and Finland. In 1993, he was joined in his venture by former green-wood pupil, Tamsin Allum, a talented artist, writer and craftsperson who shares Mike's passion for woodlands. Within a year of being together, they had bought a 10-acre woodland in Herefordshire together with five other people. They subsequently renamed it Clissett Wood after Philip Clissett, a local Victorian chairmaker whose former cottage abuts the wood. For ten years this woodland was the home to Mike's courses in a workshop that he shared with fellow green woodworker Gudrun Leitz. Mike and Tamsin married in 1996 since when they have lived in a cottage in East Herefordshire. In their spacious garden, they have built two traditional timber framed workshops with wattle-and-daub walls. Mike runs personal tuition and makes chairs in his workshop, while Tamsin creates stained glass illustrations in hers. As well as producing two delightful children they have also published a book entitled *Living Wood - From Buying a Woodland to Making a Chair*, written by Mike and illustrated by Tamsin. After 10 years of sharing the woodland workshop at Clissett Wood, Mike decided that he needed more time and space for his courses. Meanwhile Tamsin was developing her business in stained-glass, so in 2005 they sold their shares in Clissett Wood. Since then, Mike has established a new base at Brookhouse Wood which he rents from a tree-loving Farmer, four miles along the lane from their home. Mike has now finally achieved his main ambition; to live and work in the countryside in tune with the seasons. Each spring Mike and a group of volunteers reassemble the workshop structures and add new improvements to the woodland facilities. From May to September he runs his woodland courses with a break in July for a family holiday plus craft fairs and some personal tuition.

In autumn he wraps up the workshop again for the winter. In the run up to Christmas he spends most of his time at home catching up on administration while giving Tamsin more time in the studio during her busiest season of the year. From January to March, Mike seizes the opportunity on sunny days, to pay his rent by carrying out woodland management at Brookhouse Wood. Otherwise his winter is split between making chairs, writing, running personal tuition and harvesting enough firewood to provide warmth for the cottage, the workshop and the studio.

What a lovely book. Perfect for someone wanting a project to use that drawknife and spokeshave. I found the writing interesting and the pictures fantastic. If you would like to build a chair on your own, using more basic methods than all those power machines, then this is for you.

Excellent book. Printed in the U.K. and uses both metric and Imperial measurements.

There are many photos in the book, very clearly illustrated process of making chairs. The most valuable for me that for any chair discussed is given dimension of elements and shape of jigs for bending legs. New techics to make tenons on rungs is also very practical and easy to make. The book is amazing and worth any euro!!!

I really like this book -- you see I am in it ,or my chair seat is !! Good chair making book

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