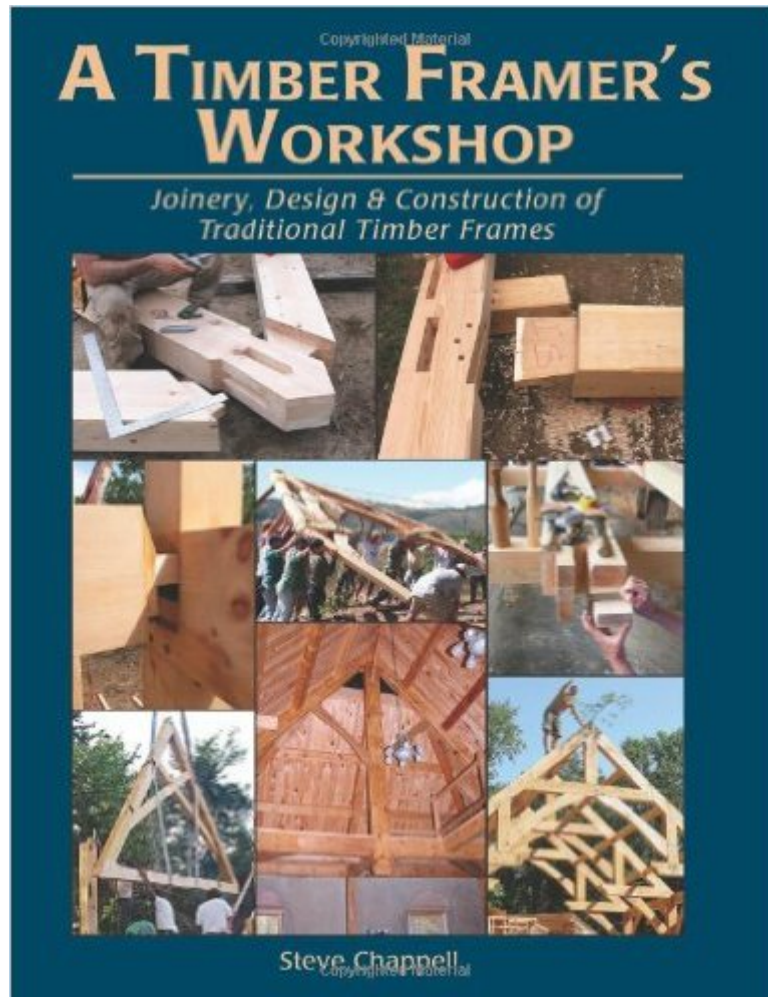


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# A Timber Framer's Workshop: Joinery, Design & Construction Of Traditional Timber Frames



## Synopsis

This revised edition of *A Timber Framers Workshop* has over 150 new photos and includes updated engineering specifications for pegged joinery, along with expanded in-depth technical information on the joinery, design and construction of Traditional Timber Frames. The major portion of *A Timber Framers Workshop* was first written back in 1983. Over a period of a number of years several revisions and additions took place, as it was used as the handout workshop manual for Fox Maple Timber Framing Workshops. At last, it was published for general distribution in 1998. When this book was first published in 1998, scientific testing results for pegged mortise and tenon joinery simply did not exist. The corollaries that could be made at that time were drawn from testing results for bolted connections. This is common in engineering as the essential physical laws concerning force and motion, primarily Newtonian physics, are symmetrical. However, nothing ever beats a direct test for a specific condition as the results end with an emphatic exclamation point. In the past five or six years testing has at last been carried out for a number of the most common pegged joinery conditions and the results have been published. The impetus for this revision was in large part to update and to include these new testing results so that the readers would be privy to the latest engineering results available for timber frame joinery. Along the way, over 150 new photos and drawings were added and editorial additions were made to clarify specific conditions, or to more fully explain a critical aspect of timber framing. While the essential book is the same, virtually every element is expanded in some way to paint a more vibrant picture of the technical aspects of how to build a traditional timber frame. In addition, there is an expanded element of color and nuance to help the reader more fully understand the magic of timber framing... and that timber framing really is the Jazz of building. Illustrated with over 500 photos and CAD drawings.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a serious book...for serious timberframers and those who seriously aspire to become a timberframer or build their own timber frame house. My copy of the 1st edition was passed out to the participants of a 1998 onsite Fox Maple timber frame workshop in High Rolls, New Mexico. It served as our 'bible' as we selected, planed, laid out, cut, chiseled, mortised, fastened, and erected the timber frame members for the Robinson's house overlooking a spectacular mountain valley. The workshop manual served as our daytime reference and our nighttime reading. After the workshop and to this day, when I reread the manual, it serves to recapture many memorable moments of successes and screw ups. But, more importantly, it gave this reviewer the fundamental information I needed to decide to build my own timber frame house and to invite Fox Maple to Stuart Island, Washington in August, 1999 for another workshop where the 2nd Edition was again distributed to the workshop participants. Steve Chappell is a master craftsman and teacher. He is a passionate advocate for timber framing and wants to infect and educate the reader with the spirit of working with big pieces of wood and the art and science of creating structures which will withstand the rigors of time and use. I consider the 'Timber Framers' Workshop' a valuable addition to my library because it delves deeply into the "whys" of timber framing with lots of illustrations of the "hows" to support the theory. Chappell minimizes the use of photos except to clarify the reader's understanding of favorable results or competent practices. Don't be frightened off by Chappell's use of and illustration of mathematics. You may have a similar experience to mine, ie. I more fully understand why high school geometry and trigonometry were important.

I actually used the methods in this book to build my 40 X 30, four-bent barn. I can't say enough about this book. From the dedication to the index this timber frame manual was crafted in the same manner as author Steve Chappell's structures: solid, precise and with artful beauty. This book teaches everything from the basic tools to advanced joinery and details everything you need to build a traditional timber frame structure. The illustrations are great and the exercises are extremely useful. "A Timber Framers' Workshop" is an essential reference tool for anyone who's serious about timber framing.

Timber framing has been an essential part of our building and architectural culture since the Middle Ages. It remains as one of constructions most enduring forms, not only because of its intrinsic beauty, but because it is a pure and complete structural system. In *A Timber Framer's Workshop: Joinery, Design & Construction Of Traditional Timber Frames*, Steve Chappell covers every aspect of the process timber framing including joinery, design, construction, frame plans, tools, timber and wood, technology, engineering, builders math, and goes on to offer a wealth of tips, tricks, and techniques. *A Timber Framer's Workshop* is exceptionally well written and will prove an invaluable introduction for the novice, with much to commend it to even experienced architects, construction crews, and specialty timber framers.

The book is well written and very easy to follow. Steve walks through the history, design considerations, math, and knowledge needed to get started. I've read lots of Timber framing books and this is the first book I grab for reference. If you are trying to decide which book to buy...Look at "*A Timber Framer's Workshop*" FIRST!

In *A Timber Framer's Workshop: Joinery, Design & Construction Of Traditional Timber Frames* is a complete instruction course under one cover in the carpentry craft and architectural art of building with timber framing technology. Included are engineering basics, builders math, tips, techniques, tools, and structural design considerations. Chapters are devoted to Bent Framing & Joinery Design, Tension Joinery, Roof Framing & Truss Design, Joinery Details, and more! *A Timber Framer's Workshop* is a core title for any professional, academic, or community library carpentry, architecture, and woodworking collections.

"*A Timber Framer's Workshop*" was revised in 2011 adding technical content and many new photos and illustrations. This book provides a systematic and thorough coverage of timber framing history, architectural elements, design, calculations, hand and power tools required (and optional), example frame specifications, and a tremendous number of photos and illustrations. The book is written at a level helpful from providing a general overview to technically accurate calculations for joint design and execution to aesthetic considerations in wood grain, proportions, beam layout, and wood/joint shrinkage. This book has been used for years by students in the author Steve Chappell's timber framing courses ([...] which have been offered around the world. The experience and expertise exhibited in the preparation and publication of the book are exceptional. I would recommend this

book for industry training, vocational and avocational courses in timber framing, community college and university courses in this topic, and as an outstanding personal guide and ready reference for timber framing projects. If you EVER have the chance to meet, talk with, consult, take a course from, or work with author Steve Chappell, you will know his passion and gift in timber framing for a life time. Vive Jean Claude! H. Fred Walker, Dean College of Applied Science and Technology Rochester Institute of Technology

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