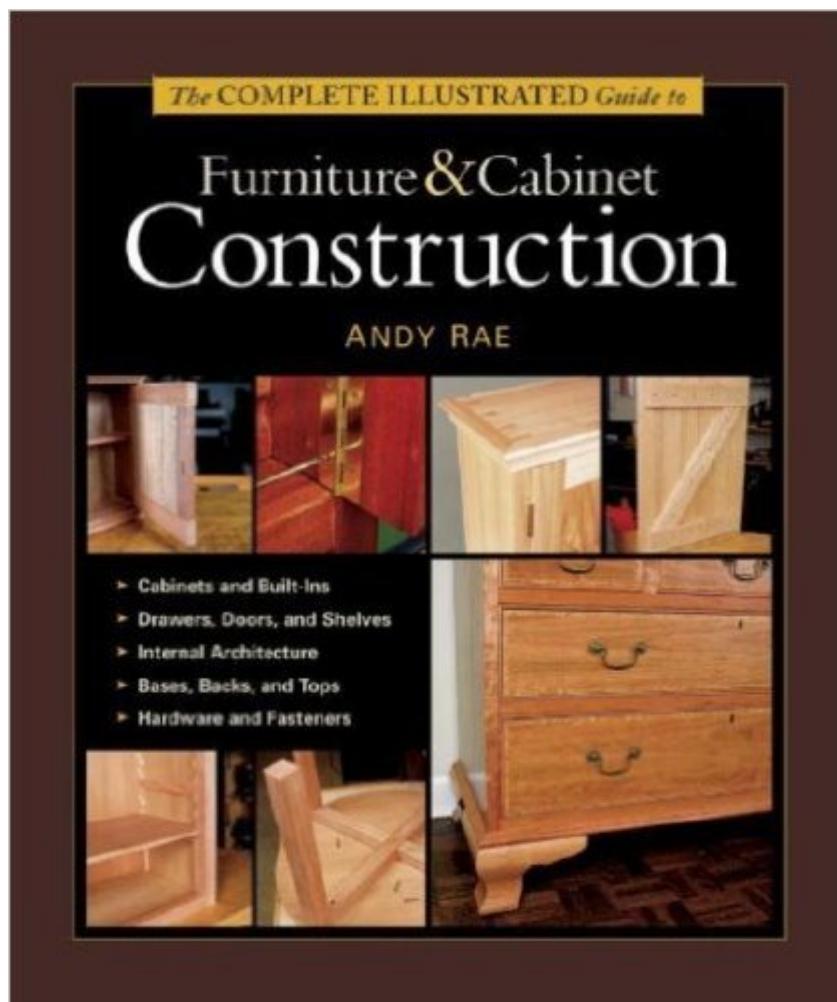


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# The Complete Illustrated Guide To Furniture & Cabinet Construction



## **Synopsis**

Expert woodworker and writer Andy Rae takes the construction of furniture and breaks it into components -- from boxes, cases, doors and drawers to shelves and feet. He explains all the techniques used to build them, so you can choose the ones that are best for you. Then he shows you how to put the pieces together to make great furniture. You'll acquire a working knowledge of woodworking materials, a higher control over your work and tools and an understanding of basic design principles. Graphic, step-by-step presentation of key techniques and methods Visual maps, cross-references and indexes make information easy to find Covers the many woodworking methods and tools available Modern, up-to-date coverage of tools and techniques Part of a three-volume encyclopedia of woodworking

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I bought this book because I thought it would give me project specifications for the novice furniture builder. It doesn't give project instructions. Instead, it gives instructions on any simple design that you might create for your own furniture designs. It gives instructions on different drawers, different doors, different legs, etc. In other words, this book gives you the freedom to be creative and also to accomplish your own vision.

Through my work as a public librarian I recently ordered this book, and subsequently had the

opportunity to be the first at my library to read it! I am very impressed with the sheer scope of the work. Having long been a fan of the Taunton Press I expected this work to be very good quality, and I was not disappointed. I agree with most of the favorable comments made by other reviewers, but I have to disagree with the claim made by another that this book is disjointed. I found it to be very readable and informative. To me the beauty of this book is that there is something in it for everyone. Beginners will of course gather the most new knowledge here, but even seasoned woodworkers (and woodworking book junkies) will find it interesting and above all useful. Besides the grand scope of the book, I was impressed most with the fresh and creative ways that common woodworking knowledge is presented. I found that the way the chapters were laid out, the order of presentation, felt very natural. Each subject flows nicely into the next. I particularly liked the sections illustrating the most common forms of a particular component of woodworking. Such as, the most common methods for mounting and fitting drawers and doors, the most common edge details for shelving, the most common dimensions for various categories of furniture, etc. If I had to sum up why this book is a great buy I would have to say it is because this book serves as both an encyclopedia of woodworking facts (useful to all woodworkers among us) and a comprehensive collection of tips and advice (which novices will find especially helpful). I highly recommend this purchase.

This is yet another excellent volume in Taunton's 'Complete Illustrated' woodworking series. Focused on (but not really limited to) furniture and cabinet construction, the book takes the reader through 1) Tools and Materials, 2) Box and Case Construction, 3) Doors, 4) Bases, Feet, and Stands, 5) Frame Construction, and wraps up with 6) Tabletops and Work Surfaces. This is an ambitious undertaking under any circumstances, but Andy Rae finds an approach that is both broad in coverage and tightly organized. After a few initial wobbles as the book gets underway, the reader will grasp the overall approach and discover that there seems to be an endless supply of techniques and ideas one can draw on. Whatever your level of building there is good material - this is one of those efforts that can help you make a breakthrough in quality of work. Unlike many how-to books this series stays away from getting bogged down in projects. This allows the writer to move around and offer a lot of alternatives rather than get bogged down in one way to do things. It doesn't hurt to have a project in mind when reading the book, but be sure that it will change several times as you read and absorb the ideas. I have a buffet table that owes a great deal to Andy Rae's ability to communicate both technique and design. Thus the book paid for itself in one fell swoop. Happy woodworking!

Although not for beginning woodworkers, this is an outstanding book--sort of like a combination Rodale & Tage Frid. It goes into detail on the construction of furniture and cabinetry--where Rodale provides an overview of cabinet/furniture types, and Tage Frid provides details of how to create specific joints, Andy Rae puts the two together. He provides a number of techniques that I hadn't thought of before, such as creating a raised panel out of cheaper MDF framed by solid wood. The other books in the series (Joinery and Shaping Wood) are great as well. But I find myself looking to this book more often.

This book is very well organized and has many excellent examples of cabinet construction. He goes into great detail on all types including frameless cabinets. I have been looking for something which would give me the basics as well as provide for more advanced concepts. I am very pleased to have found such a thing in one volume. I highly recommend this book.

I bought this book based on recommendations from reviews, and find those recommendations to be correct. This book is loaded with good information, detail and pictures on all areas of furniture and cabinet construction. It is not filled with step by step instruction that some beginning woodworkers may be seeking. But you certainly don't have to be an expert to understand and appreciate the techniques and styles shown in this book. This one sits proudly in my bookcase (yes, I made the bookcase).

I agree with a few earlier reviewers that this is an attractive book with opaque explanations and confusing illustrations. For me, it brought to mind Stephen Hawkin's "Universe in a Nutshell", a fascinating book of impenetrable text, beautifully illustrated with incomprehensible drawings. Probably experienced cabinetmakers would read this book and nod their heads that old Andy knew what he was talking about. But I'm NOT experienced and I could not find (or maybe, understand) the answer to any questions I've had about projects I have in preliminary stages. In my quest to develop a new hobby to go with my new retirement, I have found "The Complete Manual of Woodworking" by Jackson, Day and Jennings to be way more helpful - much more clearly written with illustrations that are much easier for me to figure out.

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