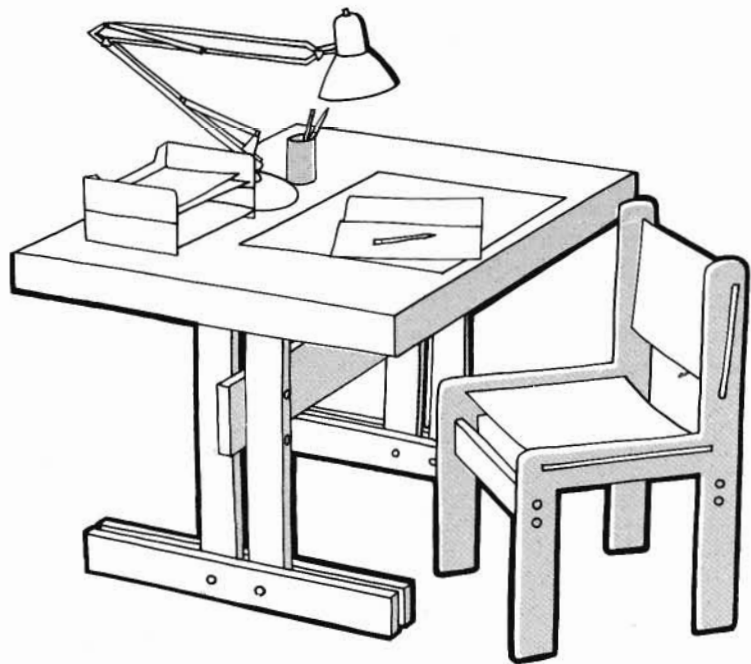


**Easy-to-make**

# **TABLES & CHAIRS**

By the Editors of Sunset Books  
and Sunset Magazine



Lane Publishing Co., Menlo Park, California



**Surviving four centuries, old Spanish trestle table has maintained its design integrity from past to present. This classic's contemporary counterpart — shown on the front cover — is discussed fully on page 42.**

With a little help from our friends . . .  
A book that involves so many elements of research, building, testing, photography, and writing gathers participating friends along the way.

For their ideas and help in gathering information and making prototypes, we thank Steve Coffee, The Furniture Makers, The Just Plain Smith Company, Lynne Morrall, Bill Provost, Victor Tobolsky, Roberta Vandervort, and all of the project designers.

And for their generosity, our thanks to George Dean of *Mobilia* and to the *Jordan International Company*.

**Edited by Donald W. Vandervort**

**Design and Illustrations: Ted Martine**

**Photography: Norman A. Plate**

Cover: Directions for trestle table on page 42;  
birch chair directions on page 34.

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# A WORD ABOUT THIS BOOK...

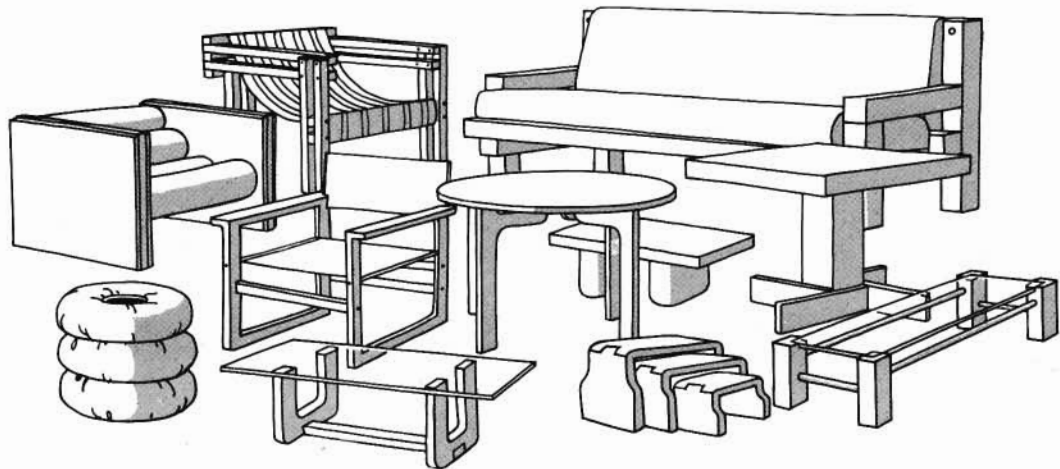
You need furniture, right? Relax. Though buying new furniture can destroy a well-planned budget, by making pieces yourself you can keep expenses under control, explore a craft, and enjoy the satisfaction of creating.

*Easy-to-make Tables and Chairs* focuses on the two most needed kinds of furniture in a home. Projects include coffee tables, dining tables, dining chairs, easy chairs, couches, lounges — and more. You'll find an assortment of materials, styles, and degrees of simplicity. Flip through to see the variety.

You can brush aside any doubts you might have about your skill as a craftsman. If you can swing a hammer, saw off a board, or thread a needle, you have creative potential. With good plans, step-by-step guidance, and a little time, anyone can fashion pride-inspiring furniture.

Tools? You can get by with fewer than you might expect. All projects feature a "bare minimum tools" schedule that lists the necessities. But don't make the job tougher than it needs to be. Tools can determine whether a project is easy or difficult to make. The right tools pay off — a luxury such as a \$15 saber

With their elements of contemporary design, simplicity, comfort, and, in most cases, low cost, these table and chair projects are designed for you. They reflect plain materials, honestly used. As the maxim says, "honesty is integrity." Where bolts can easily form a strong joint, bolts are used. In the same spirit, clear finishes on most projects enhance the wood's natural coloration.



saw will greatly simplify making many projects.

Consider tools an investment. Your savings from not buying furniture should more than cover tool expenses, and you'll have tools next time you need them. (Hopefully, there *will* be a next time.)

### **How to get the most from this book**

Projects and the techniques to make them — these are what this book offers you. Pages 6 through 65 contain 35 table and chair projects shown in color and accompanied by complete directions. Supplementary how-to information, beginning on page 66, rounds out the book.

So glance through until you find something that appeals to you. Though project types are not divided by clear boundaries, the projects tend to flow through the book in a certain order. First are lounges, followed by couches and groupings, easy chairs, straight chairs, dining tables, and small tables. Most projects group in twos or threes under a common title and introduction, according to their common traits. The introduction tells a little about each.

Following each introduction, the how-to-do-it instruction begins. Before starting a project, read through these directions. Included are lists of the tools you'll absolutely need ("Bare minimum tools"), the tools that can simplify your work ("Helpful tools"), and the necessary materials ("Materials to buy"). Step-by-step directions ("Here's how") guide you through all the processes in simple terms and with helpful sketches.

To devote maximum space to projects and necessary information, project directions avoid repetition. General information and techniques needed for making several projects are presented in the section beginning on page 66. Turn to these pages when you want detailed information on buying materials, using tools, mastering joinery techniques, making cushions and slings, finishing, and the general "ins" and "outs" of making tables and chairs.

