

Highland Woodworking, (known as Highland Hardware until 2006) has a long history of offering practical woodworking education to budding woodworkers. The first class was taught on December 8, 1979 by F. H. (Butch) Bohannon, who operated a nearby furniture repair shop. In the morning session, Butch demonstrated how to adjust & use hand planes, covering many different types. In the afternoon he taught students how to sharpen plane irons, chisels & other hand tools. It was a humble beginning that turned into more than four decades of classes aimed specifically to teach our customers how to use woodworking tools.

The second seminar was taught on February 23, 1980 by a customer named John Gould. John was able to help each participant successfully sharpen, burnish & use a cabinet scraper, a tool that is often frustrating for new users.

(continued on next page)

WOODMAN

"A Journal Devoted to Serving the Woodworker"

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PLANE MAKERS

Twenty-four woodworkers each built a wooden plane during our plane making seminar held on two Saturdays in June, 1980. Taught by John Gould, the students were led step-by-step through the process described by James Krenov in his book, "The Fine Art of Cabinetmaking", a section of which was required reading for the two-day course.

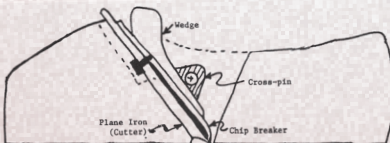
The event took place in the downstairs area of Highland Hardware, using the store's Inca and Makita machinery for cutting and thickening the plane bodies, and the store's large new workbench which was designed to accommodate 24 people working in pairs. The bench was built using solid 2" maple stock by Bob Kelley, who now runs the store's hardwood lumber sales operation.

John Gould's goal in the seminar was to have each person build a precision wooden plane and then tune it so as to effortlessly remove long, thin, uniform shavings resulting in a beautiful wood surface.

By the end of the second day of the seminar, students were smiling with satisfaction as the sought-after shavings curled up from the blades of their newly made planes.

Photographs of the seminar in progress are on the facing page.

More woodworking seminars will be occurring at Highland Hardware this fall and winter. The next issue of Woodman will offer details.



Rough Sketch of the design used in making the smooth planes

John then offered to teach a class based on James Krenov's method for building a superb wooden plane. To create space for the class, we mounted long maple 2x12s along 2 sides of 3 structural wooden columns in the store's large basement to build a 30' long double workbench. Our goal was to create a stable work surface that could accommodate 24 people working in pairs on a small project like a wooden hand plane. We held the class on 2 consecutive Saturdays in June of 1980. All 24 participants took home a new well-sharpened hand plane capable of slicing off long wispy-thin shavings.

Newsletter

In 1979 we published a newsletter called Woodman to advertise new classes & present photos of old classes. Later called Wood News, the newsletter continues to this day in an online version.

New Plane Making Seminar June 21-23, 2024

Flash forward to 2024. We celebrate the return of Gary Rogowski to teach a class on building a superb high-angle hand plane. See more information on page 3.



John Gould demonstrates his blade-honing techniques during our PLANE MAKING SEMINAR June 14 and 21, 1980.

The first session was devoted entirely to having each student prepare the cutting edge of his plane iron and fit the chip-breaker. The bevel was hollow-ground using a hand grinder and a jig whose design was described in an article by Tage Frid. After grinding the bevel and flattening the back of the blade, only a few quick strokes on Soft and Hard Arkansas stones were necessary to produce a proper edge.



Concentration and patience were required at every step along the way.



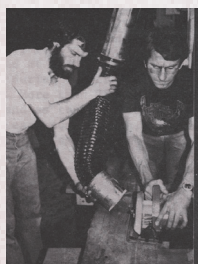
Shaping a plane body on the Inca Bandsaw.



Using the Makita planer/jointer to surface the Cocobolo shoe of a long jointer plane.



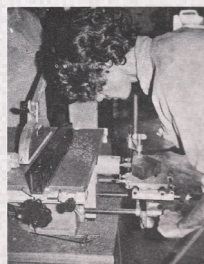
Chiseling out the opening in the sole of a jointer plane.



Ripping the 4" thick Cocobolo slab from which most of the plane bodies came prior to the seminar.



Finishing and adjusting two smooth planes.



Mortising a slot for the chip-breaker screw using the Inca Tablesaw.