

# Stephen Mackay

*Confident learners in the making...*

## Course Title

Confidence with tools...or 'what is that thing called?'

## Course outline

If you have ever questioned your own confidence in the use of tools or equipment, then this course is for you. This is your opportunity to get to safely use a limited range of tools and equipment to bolster your woodworking skills.

This is a practical hands-on course designed to eliminate fear whilst having fun.



## Courses detail

No prior knowledge or experience is required, just a willingness to get to grips with the exciting world of hand tools.

Instruction will be offered in the safe use of the following tools and equipment; jigsaw, impact driver and torque screwdriver, belt and orbital sander, scroll saw, different hand saws, drill and various drill bits, chisels, files and rasps. Use of different woodworking glues will also be covered.

In order to focus our efforts, a short build project will be undertaken that will be completed within the set time period. Choose from a limited range of options at the time of booking; these include a tool box, a simple wooden toy or a birdbox or contact me to discuss something specific.

## Skills to be developed

All courses are designed to ensure that you achieve some level of mastery with minimal instruction and maximum hands-on experience. The success of these practical courses will be as a result of the full engagement of your physical senses along with your mind. Whichever course you undertake it will be an opportunity to expand your understanding of how you process instruction.

This particular course will offer you the opportunity to develop a broad range of personal (or soft skills) and in addition, specifically to,

- Rediscover fine motor skills in the use of a range of tools and equipment,
- Advance your understanding of their appropriate use and limitations,
- Gain confidence to work alone with such equipment.

You will also be invited to take part in the risk assessment for any process you are involved in, highlighting specific tools and equipment as appropriate.

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**Time frame**

Minimum three hours

**Course numbers**

Tuition is offered individually but small group sizes can be arranged. Ask for details.

**Materials, background reading list, essential equipment required**

None. Please ensure clothing worn is not so precious that a little dust and dirt is a problem.

**Brief resume of tutor**

In the last twenty years I have developed a successful career in teaching, where I have led a number of initiatives in the special needs sector. I am a qualified, secondary trained, Design & Technology teacher. Much of my work is outdoors, constructing things that change the lives and the surroundings of my students. In 2012, I was recognised as one of New Zealand's 'Most Inspiring Teachers'. My teaching career has consolidated my experience in leadership, management, data analysis, logistics and Health and Safety.

For the past five years I have provided my own brand of specialised technical support to schools and kindergartens. I provide a range of educational services designed to develop confident learners. Specifically I work with staff and children to nurture a broad range of competences through a holistic approach to the design and build process.

Much of my success is grounded in thirteen years of industrial experience across a number of disciplines where I achieved chartered status in mechanical design and production. I have also studied green woodworking in the UK and am a practicing 'Bodger' with my own pole lathe.

In 2005 I took six months unpaid leave of absence to provide humanitarian support in Thailand after the Tsunami. There I led an international workshop project that involved locals in the production of their own furniture (Thaikea).

In short I have a passion for making things. I am happiest when surrounded by those that share my passion.

**Course cost**

For details regarding price see my [Pricing Policy](#)

Note that materials and travel costs may apply

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