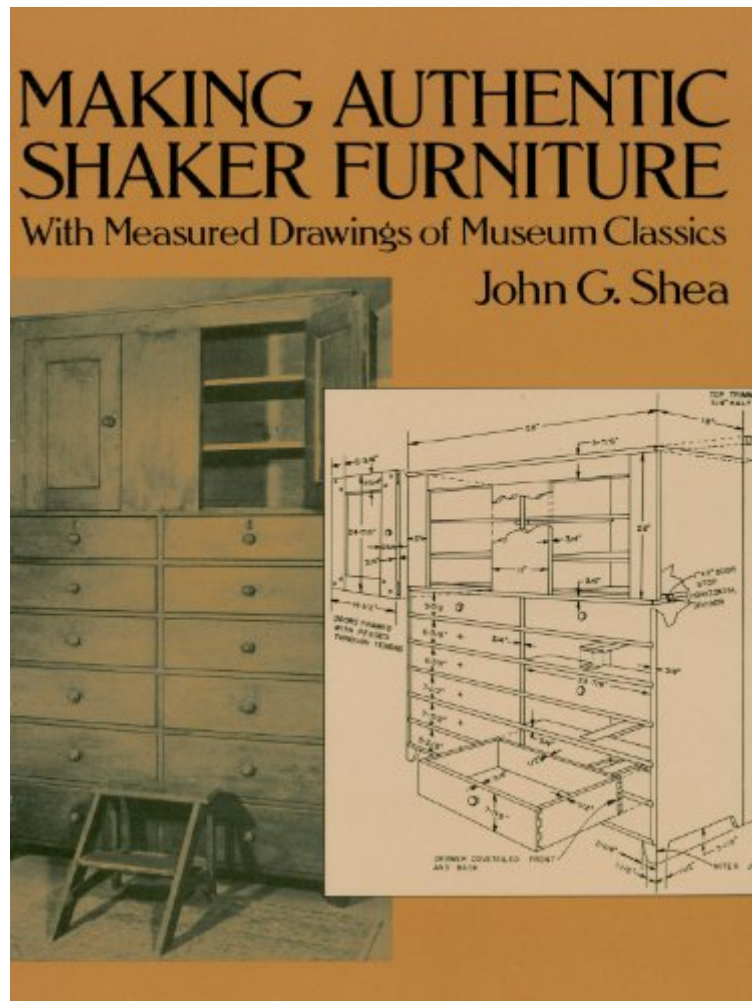


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# Making Authentic Shaker Furniture: With Measured Drawings Of Museum Classics (Dover Woodworking)



## Synopsis

This splendid book describes and illustrates in detail how the Shakers designed, built, and finished their furniture and household articles. With its detailed text as well as over 250 photographs and measured drawings for over 80 classic pieces, it offers woodworkers and furniture enthusiasts a practical guide to the essentials of replicating a broad range of designs long admired for their sturdy practicality and their spare, elegant beauty. The book first chronicles and describes the Shaker movement and the Shaker way of living, worshiping, and working. It then explores the Shaker approach to furniture design (from chests and chairs to boxes and baskets), construction (including all joinery techniques), and finishing (including recipes for finishes). Three important sections of the book depict dozens of classic Shaker designs, complete with measured drawings. The designs include Shaker "smallcraft" such as a cutting board, scoop, candle scone, peg-leg footstool and towel rack; more substantial "utility designs" such as a dough bin, cradle, dry sink, butcher block, and bonnet box; and furniture classics such as a Harvard trestle table, maple chair, lap desk, sewing chest, rocking chair, bed, settee and chest of drawers — each in its own distinctive way defining the simple, practical grace of Shaker design.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

John Shea's "Measured Drawings of Museum Classics" is itself a classic. It is not just a book about furniture; he carefully includes enough information on the Shakers, their history and their religion to give the reader an appreciation and understanding of the people and their passion for piety, humility, industry and kindness. It was these virtues that gave birth to their beautiful classical simple and elegant furniture -- which has been admired by "the world's people" for two hundred years. During his preparation to write his book, John visited several Shaker communities and museums. At Sabbathday Lake and Canterbury, he was fortunate to meet the surviving members of the Shakers including Mildred Barker and Gertrude Soule, both of whom have now passed away. Written in 1971, it includes pictures of Shaker buildings, woodenware and furniture from five of the Shaker communities and ten museums. I have owned my copy for several years. I recently bought copies to give to two friends for Christmas, both experienced woodworkers, who indicated a desire to build furniture. It is inexpensive and completely in black and white but it contains pictures and measured drawings of 87 Shaker furniture and woodenware. In addition, it has pictures of hundreds of other shaker items and a wealth of information about the people and their communities. He includes adequate step-by-step instructions of the assembly and finishing of three simple projects - a candle stand, a step stool and a bench. The instructions for cutting dovetails for the step stool is particularly helpful to a new furniture student. Of all the books about the Shakers and their furniture, this is probably the best low cost, balanced introduction to the Shakers, their way of life and their furniture.

The book covers Shaker history as well as dimensioned drawings. Certainly, most skilled in woodwork can reproduce these museum pieces through the details given in the book. Glad it is on my book shelf

Book was very informative. Covered the history of the Shakers and provided excellent pictures of antique furniture constructed by them. The measured drawings will be helpful when building some of the furniture in the book. Book arrived in a timely manner and was all I expected.

Five star book, one star for misrepresentation. This book is a republication of "The American Shakers and Their Furniture" an exact reproduction of the earlier hardcover book published in 1971

by Van Nostrand. The covers of this book do not match the jacket of the original, and the title is different, so I believed it was a different book by the same author. The back cover, of which there is a photo in the listing, has a description that mentions this. Did you notice that? I didn't. Since I already own the original edition, I now own two basically identical books. One will go to a woodworker friend, or back to me if he doesn't want it.

I am replacing my library of woodworking books that I gave away to my children and friends. As I near retirement I want to take up the production of Shaker furniture as my life's work. This book was helpful in the past and I know it will help me on my way to a new career of furniture building.

Making Authentic Shaker Furniture: With measured drawings etc. Book was received in a timely manner. Shaker history was informative and interesting. Items notes were descriptive in interesting, but pictures could have been a bit better. Then it got worse. I browsed the book periodically after receiving it but never did sit down to read it cover to cover. In hindsight, it would have been better had I done so. Yesterday, I was reading along and came to page 146 -- next page was 115! I subsequently found that pages 115 to and including 146 was duplicated in the space where pages 147 through 179 should have been, but wasn't. It continued at page 180 ok. I also found out that it is now too late to return it to . Most annoying. Had everything been present, I would have graded it 4 stars.

The book was easy to read and had very good information about this style of furniture. Husband has been able to use pictures and patterns for making some of the furniture for personal use. If you are interested in decorating your home in this style of shaker country it is easy to duplicate their way of setting up each room as each picture is authentic.

Great Book for making shaker furniture, several practical pieces detailed in the book. I made several items from the plans in the book.

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