

Tool List 2025

The following items will definitely be needed:

- Tape measure, small ruler, and pencils.
- Small sliding bevel gauge (or not sliding, but still smallish....Crown tools makes a cheap decent one, and likely others). These are generally used for dovetail layout.
- Wheel style marking gauge (Veritas, Glen-Drake, or equal; better suited to modest work than blocky wood types).
- Combination square (12" Starrett, PEC, Fowler, Veritas or similar quality). The ruler is used often as a straight edge, so avoid the cheap hardware store variety. Be wary of Igage and other cheap knock offs.
- 4" (or 6" if you already have it) double or combination square (Starrett, Lee Valley, PEC, or similar quality).
- Low angle (12.5 degrees) block plane, preferably 1³/₈". It's worth spending money on these; avoid the **new** Stanley #60-1/2 and Record of any vintage. Lie Nielsen, Veritas are both good options. We have also seen issues with the new Stanley Sweethearts and Woodriver, so beware. Vintage Stanley 60 1/2 low angle block planes can also be tuned up if you have one. It requires effort, but it can be well worth it and much more affordable. Hock irons can be purchased from Lee Valley to improve their performance as well. It seems most people have found that the Lie Nielsen is the best bang for the buck.
- **Small** dovetail saw (Western or Japanese). Inexpensive saws (Zona 32 TPI) for dovetailing will be available for sale at the School. We recommend trying our Zona saws prior to spending a bunch of money on an expensive saw.
- Hand (card) scraper (Bahco, Lie Nielsen, lot of choices out there....)
- Burnishing tool (Hock tools, L-N, Pfeil, Two Cherries....) They should be very smooth and polished. Hocks and L-N are excellent. Others may need tuning up.
- Set of chisels 1/8" to 1" or wider. The smaller ones are used more than the large. There is a variety out there. (Ashley Iles, Veritas, Pfeil, Lie Nielsen, Stanley, Stubai, Lee Valley, Blue Spruce.....all good options.) Beveled edge chisels are generally preferred over square (mortise)
- Files: 6" (min) mill smooth, 6-8" (min) mill bastard. A milled tooth rasp (Iwasaki) or course file can also be useful for removing wood fast.
- Hock Iron Assemblies (1 1/2" and 1 3/4" Krenov Style Blade Assemblies, 3.5 inch long, with chip breaker). **These will be a required purchase and used right away. This purchase will happen on day 1 unless you bring your own. For the nine month program a 1 1/2" Hock coopering iron assembly will also be a required purchase later in the semester.**

*Fine Woodworking
Program*

Mendocino College,
440 Alger Street
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- Sharpening stones. We generally use water stones here and have had good results. We recommend either the Norton (1000, 4000, and 8000) or the King (800, 1200 and 4000 **or** 6000). There are several other options out there. If you can, avoid the double sided stones. We have Norton stones available for sale here at the School(3 for around \$240). You can get the King stones online for quite a bit cheaper(around \$100) if you are on a budget. Other brands exist but beware of cheapness and softness.
- An appropriate size tub (plastic) big enough to hold your water stones (2 stones normally) and a small squirt or spray bottle will be wanted as well.
- Straight blade screwdrivers: 1/4" x 6", and a 5/16" stubby for tightening cap iron screws. (Craftsman #9-41586 is a perfect solution)
- 4 - 6 oz. hammer or 115 gram(for plane iron adjustment) The 115 gram Japanese style are very nice.
- Small mallet (approximately 10 oz. for chopping dovetails)
- Safety glasses (required)
- Hearing protectors (required)
- Dust mask(highly recommended)
- The Fine Art of Cabinetmaking by James Krenov (highly recommended)

The above items will be needed, those below are optional:

- Shoulder plane, 3/4" or smaller (again the small #041 Lie Nielsen is the best choice we have seen) Note: We have several loaners available in the shop in case you want to wait.
- An inexpensive set of needle files.
- Bench brush
- Carving Knife(simple knife from LV(German #8), Hirsch Chip Carving Knife (17), Hock Carving Knife
- Small manual drill (eggbeater type)
- Anti-fatigue mat for you bench area...our floor is concrete.
- 3M blue tape, doublesided Intertape 591 is very good.
- Glue brushes
- Rubber(no slip) mat or something else to hold your sharpening stones(for grip) Silicone pet food mats with a lip are cheap and work well. Other mats can work too. Sharpening with water stones can be a wet and messy affair at first. The stainless sharpening area provided for each student measures 16" x 30".

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