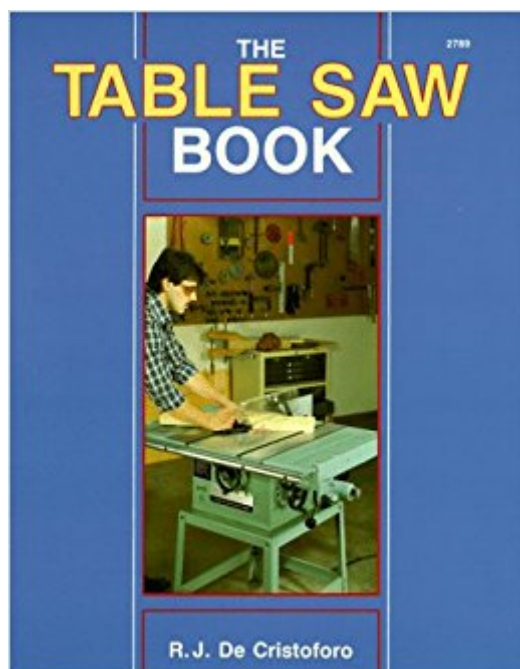


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The Table Saw Book



Synopsis

Presents a complete picture of the table saw's capabilities and provides practical, creative instructions in its use that will be valuable to beginning and experienced woodworkers

Book Information

Paperback: 342 pages

Publisher: McGraw-Hill Professional; 1 edition (December 1, 1987)

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Customer Reviews

The table saw has long been the basic power tool in woodworking shops, and now small models are becoming popular in home workshops. These saws can be used for cross-cutting, ripping, mitering, tapering, shaping, joining, and sanding, all of which operations this volume covers, as well as selecting a saw and blades, safety, and tool alignment. To get the most use and variety of work from a table saw, one needs a large number of jigs and accessories. A strong point of this title is describing how to cheaply make and use these jigs. Recommended for collections having novice and advanced subject demand. W.T. Johnston, formerly with Coastal Plain Regional Lib., Tifton, Ga. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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This book was published in 1988. It could be classified as a text book. Photos while very informative will appear dated. Nice clear explanations for techniques and tool usage. Much of the book is given

over to the production and use of jigs for the table saw. Some of these jigs are meant to be used for unusual projects and are somewhat crude in their appearance. This does not negate their usefulness though. With a bit of thought these jigs can be more modern and longer lasting in their utility. Many of the jigs have adjustments that are made using wood screws into wood, this could be modernized using t-nuts or threaded inserts. Other modernizations can be made easily. With these thoughts in mind I have found this book by Mr. De Cristoforo to be a very useful addition to my research library.

I'd give this five stars but it is some time since this book was published, and the illustrations/photographs (although extensive) are b&w and slightly fuzzy by today's standards. I agree too with the reviewer who said that the photos were sometimes several pages away from the relevant text, but I think that is manageable, and caused by the fact that there are a lot of photos, and sometimes one paragraph of text describes several pages of photos. The text would be a sentence per page if it was more closely linked. The content is superb. I learned a lot and it was all explained clearly. The book is well written by someone who knows how to explain things. I recommend it highly.

The Table Saw Book is an excellent book for experienced woodworkers as well as beginners. I was pleased that the author did not assume that the reader knew all of the buzz words and described the points clearly. It was written in a manner that was most interesting and a difficult book to put down. It would have been helpful if the pictures relating to the articles could have been kept more near; sometimes they did get separated pretty far. On the other hand, the pictures and diagrams were very large and clear which was a welcome feature. Clearly, it was impossible to have it both ways, and I think he made the better choice. I was also pleased that the author did not seem to favor one brand of table saw over another, but did point out the advantages and shortcomings of many. He even included tips on using the ShopSmith unit that so many of us small home shops have. The extensive information regarding saw blades and equipment care was most valuable as was the information regarding fine tuning table saws. The book contained many tips, clear and complete diagrams, many safety precautions and reminders, and a large number of home-made accessories that one could build for themselves. This value in itself was worth many times over the small cost of the book. I will be keeping this book and using it often for a reference.

This is an excellent, very detailed introduction to the table saw. B&W photos are sharp and clear,

and the explanations are tightly written. You can tell that the author clearly enjoys not only working in the shop but helping others to share in that enjoyment. While the book is almost 20 years older than Kelly Mehler's book of the same name, it's still current and valuable. Mehler's book is visually more engaging but just doesn't have the level of detail included in De Christoforo's book. I bought both Mehler's and De Christoforo's books. I find myself referring to both of them--Mehler for high-level information and De Christoforo's for more in-depth explanations.

I picked up this book along with the Mehler book (and also his book on Table saws, Bandsaws and routers with Warner and Bird as co-authors). Great guidance and advice. Easy to read. I feel everyone should read at least these books prior to using a table saw, they are cheap used. It's probably the most dangerous tool any common homeowner will use. A few easy things to remember will keep you safe though, they are not so 'common sense' though and to learn them the hard way would be a life changing event...

I have to echo the opinion of the reviewer who complained about the layout of this book. While the content is good, with an abundance of illustrations, I found it quite frustrating to follow text passages that reference illustrations located 8 to 10 pages ahead. It appears that little or no effort was made to locate pictures and drawings on pages near the relevant text. While this may seem trivial to some, I consider it a serious flaw that detracts from an otherwise excellent tutorial on table saw basics.

The information in this book is very good. What keeps it from being really excellent choice is the lack of COLOR photos and the frustrating layout of the text. There are numerous references to the black-n-white photos (e.g. "Fig. 4-5", or "Fig. 6-8") that are rarely found on the same page that references them. This results in a constant search - as much as 4 pages ahead(!) - for the photo that the text is referring to. In some cases, there is no reason for not including the photo on the same page. It's a maddening back-n-forth scramble all over the book. Whomever put this book together was an ..., and did the author a disservice.

I am new to woodworking and wanted something to let me use my table saw without investing a fortune in custom jigs and fixtures. I saw this book along with several others at the local library and checked them out. Most of the other books just had one or two jigs that looked interesting so I copied them. I read this book for two weeks and figured I'd have to do a lot of copying (everything

looked great) so I just bought it. If you only want one book, this is it.

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