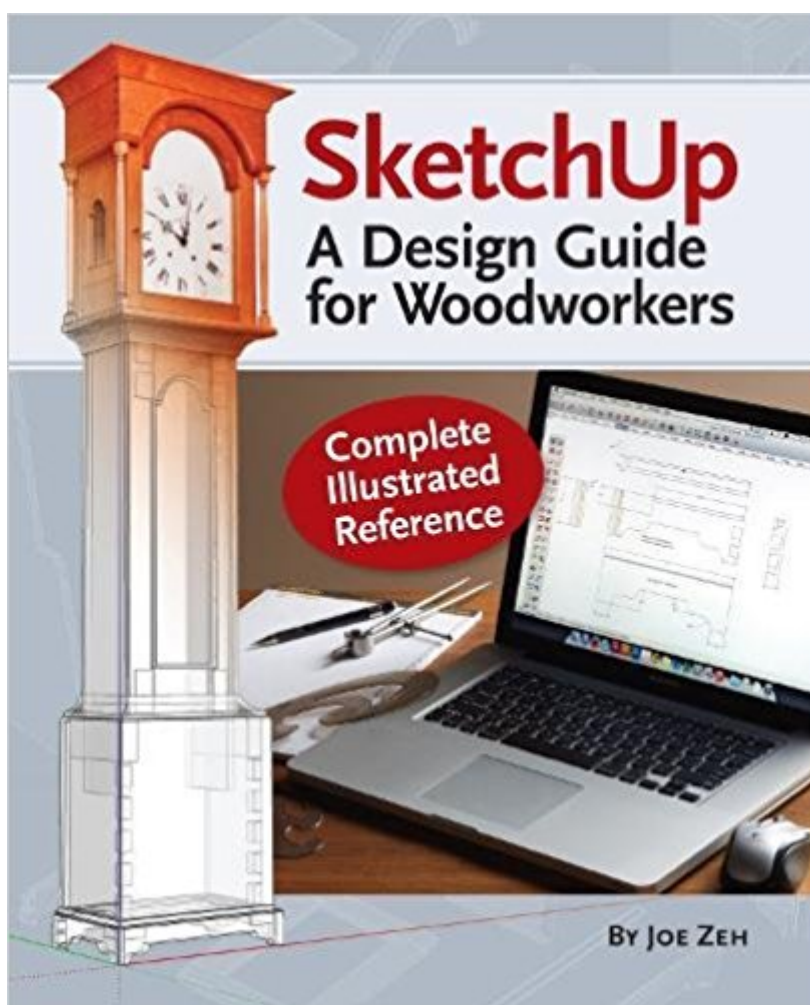


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# SketchUp - A Design Guide For Woodworkers: Complete Illustrated Reference



## Synopsis

A SketchUp guide created specifically for woodworkers! SketchUp is a fantastic design tool for woodworkers. It can save you time, materials and money by letting you test your designs before you even make your first cut. But, as with any computer software, there is a learning curve. This comprehensive guide provides you with the specific advice that you need in order to use the program effectively. Created from a woodworkers perspective, SketchUp: A Design Guide for Woodworkers helps you create beautiful furniture designs and reduces chances of costly construction errors. Inside you'll find: Step-by-step instructions for installing and configuring the program to get the most functionality for your woodworking designs Explicit guidance to help you fully understand and use SketchUp's wide array of tools Helpful directions for employing Ruby scripts that extend SketchUp's usefulness for designing furniture Specialized instruction for modelling the complex shapes necessary for furniture design In-depth examples and exercises More than 600 detailed illustrations and screen captures There are plenty of SketchUp guides out there, but this one concentrates specifically on what you, as a woodworker, need to know. Let this guide help you learn how to get the most out of this versatile tool.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A retired electrical engineer, Joe Zeh now builds furniture and teaches SketchUp at workshops and shows throughout New England. He lives in Worthington, MA.

I used to use high end 3-D CAD software on my job. When I retired I wanted a replacement that didn't cost a bundle. I tried using the free program SketchUp but the tutorials were not easy to follow or apply to hobby woodworking. I decided to make one more try and went looking for a good book. Thankfully I stumbled onto this one, and it is superb. Exactly geared to learn and master the software for the amateur or more advanced craftsman. The step by step instruction builds and challenges the student, and the format makes it simple to go back and retread the parts that need reinforcement. Excellent from every perspective. If CAD for woodworking is what you want, you must get this book!

This book is well calibrated for new SketchUp users of normal intelligence and is a great follow on to the four "Getting Started" videos posted on the SketchUp learning center website. Until recently there have not been many good books on SketchUp, so I learned the program primarily from YouTube, but I sure wish I had this book four years ago when I started out. It would have saved hours of frustration. Mr. Zeh has written an outstanding guide to the program, giving the beginner and even more advanced users valuable advice on how to configure the workspace, and manage the workflow as well as how to draw. Mr. Zeh provides a brief introduction, and then, in chapter one, gives thorough instructions on how to download and install the program. He guides you through setting up the workspace and tool bars for efficient work. His instructions work with the free and the pro versions of SketchUp 2014, 2015, and 2016, so no worries about whether your software matches the book. This book is written for the Windows version, but the differences between it and the Mac version are slight, so no worries there either. Chapter 02 gives a concise explanation of most of the tools in SketchUp and is a section I keep bookmarked for reference. I've filled it with sticky notes and marginalia, but it is probably not a chapter you will read from beginning to end. Part 2 of the book contains 7 chapters that guide the reader through the drawing of a simple bedside table. Each chapter focuses on a different component of the table and each component is used as a vehicle for teaching more and better techniques, so that while you might have already discovered better and faster ways to perform a particular task, it makes sense to follow his instructions. Likely you will learn something new. Chapter 03 is crammed full of information and work habit training which will convert you from a halting beginner, hashing your way through a drawing project, to a quick and confident draftsman. Readers with SOME SketchUp experience may bridle a bit at the painstaking ways he has you draw four simple table legs, but in later chapters, it suddenly becomes clear why he took such pains as the program begins to sing for you. It is the most challenging

chapter in the book, but once you are through it, you will know a huge fraction of the things you need to know to draw efficiently, and the remaining chapters will go quickly. Chapter 04 proceeds with the aprons and drawer rails of the table and introduces the drawing techniques to create them. The following chapters bring in additional components and the additional techniques you need to draw them. In the end, you get a set of accurate measured drawings you can take into the shop. My recommendation? Order this book today and then go to the SketchUp website and download the program. While you are waiting for this book to arrive, work through the four "Getting Started" videos on the SketchUp website. This will leave you primed and raring to go when Mr. Zeh's book arrives. When the book does arrive, read chapter one and set up your workspace as instructed. Skim Chapter 2 and relate the contents to what you learned from the videos. Then, step away from the computer, sit down, and read chapter 3 all the way through. After that, go back to the computer and complete each of the drawings. If you make mistakes, don't sweat it. Electronics are cheap, so start a new file and give it another go. Mr. Zeh suggests that once you complete each chapter, go back and redraw until you can complete the drawing from memory. I think that is great advice. It took me a couple of hours to get through Chapter 2 the first time, about 15 minutes the second, and under five the third time. Subsequent chapters went much faster and while I have not yet finished the book, I am drawing much faster and I am able to create much more complex forms quickly and with confidence. I am currently teaching an introduction to SketchUp to my middle school shop students and once I had this book in hand, I substantially rewrote the curriculum and greatly raised my expectations of what I expected them to learn in a 4 weeks. I think adults who learn from this book will be able to nail SketchUp to the floor in maybe two long weekends.

As a woodworker who has used Sketchup to design products such as chests, tables, shelving, built-ins, I still found this book useful. I taught myself Sketchup and found, comparing my ways with the way Zeh designs which he demonstrates step by illustrates step, that while I had found ways to do what I needed to do, there are more efficient and elegant steps. I could do without the occasional schoolmasterly tone, but the book interestingly explains simple click by simple click and move by move how best to design with Sketchup, in this case a bedside table. I learned a lot. A good investment of my time and money.

Zeh is a teacher and a very careful one at that! Sketchup is like Microsoft...there are several ways to get the same end result. I first watched the video presentations done by Richards and by Lange, which are dedicated to woodworking and are excellent. Both achieve the same results via slightly

different approaches. Zeh gives you yet another slightly different angle to work from. If this is your first approach to Sketchup be prepared to do your homework. If you are dedicated to overcome the learning curve you won't find a better teacher. On the other hand, if you just want to know some basics to start out, first use the tutorials in Sketchup, then try one of the videos. When you get your feet on the ground then embrace Zeh as the master! You won't go wrong. I really like Zeh's careful and explicit approach as he leaves nothing out unless he tells you that he is doing so.

After becoming disillusioned with trying to learn SketchUp off and on over the last couple of years I'm delighted to have found this book. Although it's not perfect Joe does a top job of walking the line between dumbing down and becoming too esoteric. I particularly liked the little "exercises" at the end of each chapter.

This book is pretty good and I am definitely learning more about using Sketchup for woodworking projects. For me it has been difficult to read and then do. It was not always clear to where the author was taking me. The author does recommend reading a chapter first and then reading again as you perform the work steps. For some operations it just did not sink in until I looked up the same topic on Youtube. The book has some really good information, but I would suggest that the author should demonstrate some of the steps with supporting video clips.

This is a great book for learning how to model your woodworking projects in sketchup. The book progresses from the simple construction of a side table to more complicated projects. You'll learn the sketchup methods for mortise & tenon joints, dovetails, molding shapes and more. The methods you will learn will come in handy for projects with splayed parts (compound angles). The book does not require the Pro version but it is written around the 2015 version (although I successfully used the 2014 version).

Just sit down with computer and follow the book, it will quickly get you up to speed with skills that are clearly above basic. Joe Zeh is very responsive to questions posted on the book's support web site. I have also found the end of the chapter exercises to enhance the process and are also a nice challenge.

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