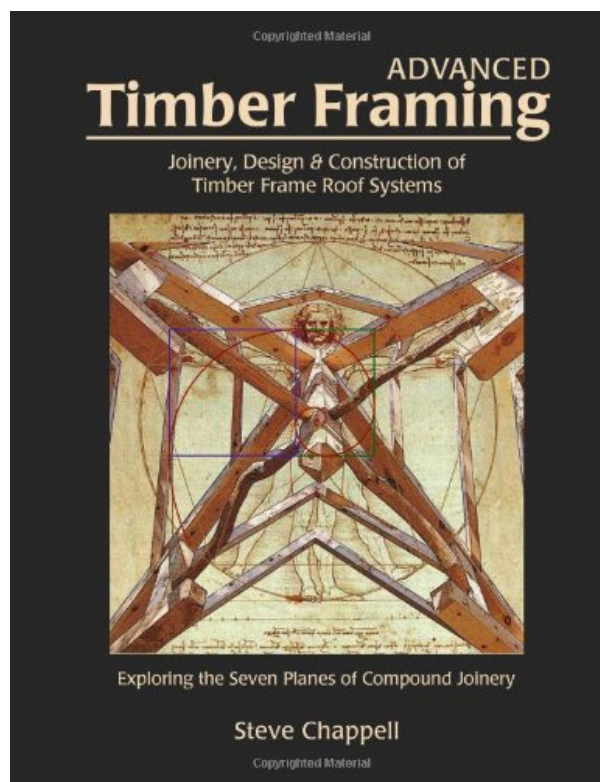


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Joinery, Design & Construction of
Timber Frame Roof Systems



Exploring the Seven Planes of Compound Joinery

Steve Chappell

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Review

Steve Chappell's Advanced Timber Framing: Joinery, Design & Construction of Compound Hip & Valley Timber frame Roof Systems is the most detailed and comprehensive book available on how to layout and cut mortise and tenon joinery for complex roofs. But this book is invaluable to any craftsman-builder in a number of other ways as well.

It includes an in-depth review of the history of timber framing, including insights into the evolution of joinery, building form and design from ancient times to the present. Inherent in this development was an understanding by ancient builders of proportion and geometry in both the natural and man-made environments, and Chappell carries these lessons forward to apply them to modern timber roofs.

Whereas all of this drawing can now be done by computer, the traditional training of the craftsman includes learning to draw it by hand, thus increasing the artistic abilities and visualization skills of the craftsman. This ability to see the roof framing in one's mind's eye enables the problem-solving ability of the builder, and offers a wider variety of possible solutions to a problem, including the use of naturally curved or free-form materials. The author is able to successfully extend these concepts to musical analogies as well, which have been a big influence on his work over the years.

The techniques Chappell has developed and presents here are applicable to other building challenges that require three-dimensional visualization - stairs, furniture and boats, for example. Anyone faced with a problem that involves a structure being built at varying angles through space (not just square, plumb and level) will find many useful tools here.

The layout of mortised and tenoned joinery in heavy timber is especially challenging and presented here in a clear and methodic manner. The many photos alone are valuable to see potential solutions to a myriad of compound roof problems (especially valley systems) a framer might encounter in their career. There is a vocabulary of compound joinery that shows many of the ways roof timbers can come together, and it's hard

to imagine a junction that isn't shown here.

Finally, the guidelines are condensed into a number of axioms that summarize the basic rules to follow to successfully execute one of the most difficult skills in timber framing today. --Will Beemer, Director, The Heartwood School for the Homebuilding Crafts

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Drawn from over 35 years of experience building and teaching advanced timber framing, this book combines both the nuance one might expect, and also a broad and colorful overview of the history and development of compound hip and valley timber frame roof systems and joinery. The work is divided into two parts, Book One: Design & History, and Book Two: Geometry & Joinery Systems.

Book One begins with a chapter titled, The Elements of Design. In this section, Chappell draws parallels between the significance of proper design proportions, harmonics and the feel that resonates between these elements and the craftsman's touch. Through the proportions of the golden mean, phi and the Fibonacci sequence, metaphors to music and the jazz of timber framing, Chappell begins to develop a template that includes both sound and harmonics as fundamental aspects of the design medium.

Chappell then goes on to explore the early development and history of timber framed roof systems from the 12th century Stave Churches, medieval Tithe Barns and Market Halls of Europe, to the ancient Pagodas of China and Japan. The focus is on discovering the systems and techniques used to build vernacular medieval timber framed roof systems.

Book Two moves into the technical aspects of how to begin the process of designing complex, compound joinery by first developing the geometric model. Though the subject can be quite complex, the emphasis on developing a strong visual mental image at the outset is strengthened through the use of numerous photographs and illustrations. The book goes on to thoroughly discuss a very broad variety of design options and joinery details for virtually any situation one may ever confront in constructing complex, joined timber framed roof systems.

Beautifully illustrated with over 870 color photographs and illustrations, Chappell presents a complete and comprehensive geometric and mathematical system in this work. One that can be used to design virtually any conceivable arrangement of complex structural members that one may ever face--all using mortise and tenon joinery.

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- Used Book in Good Condition

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6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Clear, thorough and inspiring

By Brent Stanley

In this book, Chappell secures and solidifies your interest in enhancing your timberframing projects to include more intricate and advanced frame elements by so tastefully showing the history and potential of compound joinery. He also shows you that it's within your reach. The details are meticulously presented with care and attention to detail any practitioner would appreciate. To be fair, this is not a subject for the faint of geometric heart, and many will find it an enjoyable challenge to wrap their head around all three dimensions of the topic, but with this reference, it is well within range. Aside from his hands-on workshops (which I recommend) I cannot imagine a better way to present this subject, than the book he has put together. Read, be inspired, design and cut.....with confidence.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

A Beautiful Book

By RC

Another great Timber Framing book by Steve Chappell.

Also recommend his other book "A Timber Framer's Workshop".

Applying these advanced techniques will make for a very memorable building.

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Nice work

By Livefreefarm

This book will serve as inspiration to anyone interested in the craft of timber framing. Whether it be learning the craft yourself or having a frame crafted for you, this book will excite your interest and get you moving forward with incorporating the craft into your life. Seasoned pros would be doing themselves a favor in purchasing this as well. This author has really outdone himself with this piece of work.

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