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Design For CNC: Practical Joinery Techniques, Projects, And Tips For CNC-Routed Furniture



Synopsis

Design, DIY, and computer-controlled fabrication are a powerful combination for making high-quality customized things. Written by the founders of the architecture, design, and research firm Filson and Rohrbacher, this book takes you through the basics of CNC fabrication, the design process, production, and construction of your own furniture designs. Through their AtFAB series of projects, accompanied by an overview of digital techniques and design thinking, this book introduces the knowledge and skills that you'll find widely applicable across all kinds of CNC projects. Not only will you learn how to design, fabricate, and assemble a wide range of projects, you'll have some great furniture to show for it! While 3D printing has been grabbing headlines, high school, college, library, and other public makerspaces have been making things with CNC machines. With a CNC router, you can cut parts from strong, tactile, durable materials like wood. Once you have your design and material, you can set up your job and let it run. When it's done, you can put the project together for an heirloom of your own. While 3D printing can make exciting things with complex designs, CNCs are the digital workhorses that produce large-scale, long-lasting objects.

Book Information

Paperback: 350 pages

Publisher: Maker Media, Inc; 1 edition (September 25, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1457187426

ISBN-13: 978-1457187421

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.6 x 9.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #388,408 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #63 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > Furniture](#) #201 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Carpentry](#) #214 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Industrial, Manufacturing & Operational Systems > Industrial Design](#)

Customer Reviews

[View larger](#) Design Globally, Manufacture Locally! By Anne Filson and Gary Rohrbacher

Digital fabrication has been in the public eye for quite a few years. With 3D printers and desktop machines getting most of the spotlight, the increasing accessibility of large format CNC machines,

and availability of user-friendly CAD and CAM software has been relatively unnoticed. When you combine machine and software accessibility with the growing number of digital design files online, nearly everyone has what it takes needed to precisely fabricate long-lasting, useful, beautiful goods from local materials. It's not a leap to imagine that locally manufactured goods could become part of the locavore equation, just like supporting local business and dining on locally farmed produce. As more individuals design for CNC fabrication, or fabricate designs with the CNC, it's easy to envision a world where distributed, networked CNC workshops provide a locavore alternative to the traditional centralized factory. The more that makers, designers, and fabricators design for CNC, the closer we'll come to this world where we share designs globally and manufacture locally.

Tips for Better CNC Projects

CNC fabrication is more like baking than cooking. Take your time to think, prepare, measure, setup, and stage "then let the machine perform its magic!" Laser cutters are great for quick, mini-prototypes of a CNC project. Study a new design, try out decorative patterns, and practice putting flat parts together before you go full scale. Partial prototypes are the key to cutting perfectly flush plywood joinery with a CNC router. Use a small test piece to coordinate your material, machine settings, and digital file.

Gary Rohrbacher is an architect, professor, and partner in Filson and Rohrbacher, an architecture, design and research practice. He co-founded AtFAB in 2010 to produce designs for digital tools and networked manufacturing. Since then, nearly 10,000 AtFAB furniture pieces have been downloaded worldwide. AtFAB has been featured in *The Economist*, *The Atlantic* and *Make:*, and can be found in the permanent collection at Centre National Des Arts Plastiques in Paris.

Anne Filson is an architect and professor. Prior to co-founding Filson and Rohrbacher and AtFAB, she practiced architecture at renowned international firms and worked as a design strategist for IDEO. When she's not designing and making digitally fabricated furniture and objects, or envisioning future environments, she teaches architecture, design thinking and entrepreneurship.

Anna Kaziunas France is the Digital Fabrication Editor of *Maker Media* and the Dean of Students for the Fab Academy program. Formerly she taught the "How to Make (Almost) Anything" rapid prototyping course in digital fabrication at the Providence Fab Academy (at AS220). She is also the co-author of *Getting Started with MakerBot* and she compiled the *Make: 3D Printing* book. She loves Providence, Rhode Island and is in the process of scanning and printing it.

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