



## Issue 15, September 2021

Hi Steve R,

Well here's a bit of good news that might brighten your day: lumber prices are dropping!

As a traded commodity, lumber is priced per 1000 board feet on the wholesale market. We're talking framing lumber here, the materials used in building construction.

On May 28, 2021, the cash market lumber price hit its all-time high of \$1,515. (Yikes!) According to Fortune Magazine, *the price has since fallen 74%*, putting it back to 2018 prices. Currently, lumber is around \$400.

How this translates to retail prices will vary depending on where you live, but both Home Depot and Lowes are reporting a spike in the sale of lumber as prices drop.

And with the Labor Day weekend coming soon in the U.S., this might be a great reason to buy some wood, remove the cobwebs from your power tools, and start on one of those projects you've been putting off for way too long.

BTW, if lumber prices have had you on the fence about signing up for [The Weekend Woodworker](#), now is the perfect time to get started! You can literally make your first project this weekend.

September is a traditional time for many woodworkers to regroup and return to the shop. Kids are back in school and the summer heat is subsiding. (As a homeschool

family, we always enjoyed going to Disneyland in September... practically had the park to ourselves!)

If you've been itching to get back in the shop, but feel a little rusty and don't know what to make, might I suggest a basic box. I know, I know, I'm big on boxes. But really, it's the perfect project to fire up some idle power tools and revisit some basic skills.

A box won't cost a lot to make, allowing you to explore new techniques without fear of wasting lumber. And the best part is that there are a million different ways to make each box unique. Try some inlay, maybe get a woodburning kit and try some pyrography. How about experimenting with homemade wooden hinges? Maybe a new joinery technique? Carving? Get creative!

And I'll just dare to say it: Christmas is right around the corner. Lol, at least from a woodworker's gift-making perspective.

Have a great month,

Steve

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Hey, I want to thank all of you who have been listening to **The Woodworking Talk Show** podcast. The feedback I've received has been so positive. I absolutely love talking to other woodworkers and makers and hearing their stories.

I hope you'll give it a listen. It's perfect for listening to in the shop, car, gym, or wherever. If you haven't heard any episodes yet, I suggest listening to one featuring a guest you aren't familiar with. For me, those people are the most interesting to learn about.

You can listen to it on [Spotify](#) or any other podcast platform, or watch a [video version](#) on my YouTube channel.

Have a spectacular September!

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**The Most Basic Woodworking Project**



As mentioned in last month's Salute to Small Boxes and in the opening, a wooden box is a great project for any time of year. Here's my version of the easily customizable project, what's yours?

If you haven't yet built a wooden box, I encourage you to give it a try and let me know how it turns out!

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## Community Highlight

### Necessity Is The Mother Of Invention

It's been said that there are some woodworkers who will *actually* build projects based on a verifiable need. Yeah, I was skeptical too, but these photos confirm that the rumors are true! Here are a few fine examples of woodworking projects designed and built for a specific purpose.

***Wood projects can be used to hide or distract from undesired architectural features...***



Allyson constructed a lattice and paired it with a planter to hide an extra door and add curb appeal to her house.

***Add much-needed functionality to your home while eliminating dead space...***



Benny's fold-away shirt hanger and sweater rack

***Or simply make an everyday task a little bit easier.***



Han's mounting block to make it easier to get on and off a horse

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**This Month's Member Projects**

Check out these awesome projects built by a few of our [Weekend Workshop](#) and [Weekend Woodworker](#) members!

## BMW++



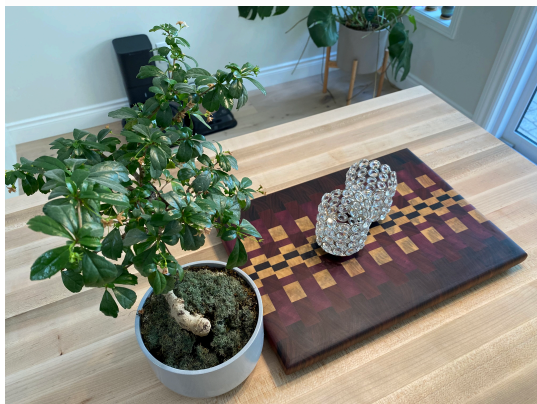
This is a prime example of a student taking one of my designs and really making it their own. The body is made of two BMW+ carcasses, which are combined under one tabletop for a huge amount of workbench space. The tabletop also doubles as an outfeed table for the table saw, and it even includes a pass-through dust collection port.

And, as if it wasn't already cool enough, 50% of this project was made with scrap wood!



## Farmhouse End Table

Farmhouse-style furniture is perfect for adding a touch of rustic flair to your abode. Chris's sturdy farmhouse end table is a great marriage of form and function, and the white frame does a wonderful job of lightening the feel of the overall piece.



## End Grain Cutting Board

The end grain cutting board is a typical rite of passage for newer woodworkers. Navid has made this one a real work of art, combining an eye-catching pattern with wood colors that really pop!

Thanks for reading,

- Steve

P.S. If you are new this month, you can read last month's issue of Notes From the Shop [here](#).

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