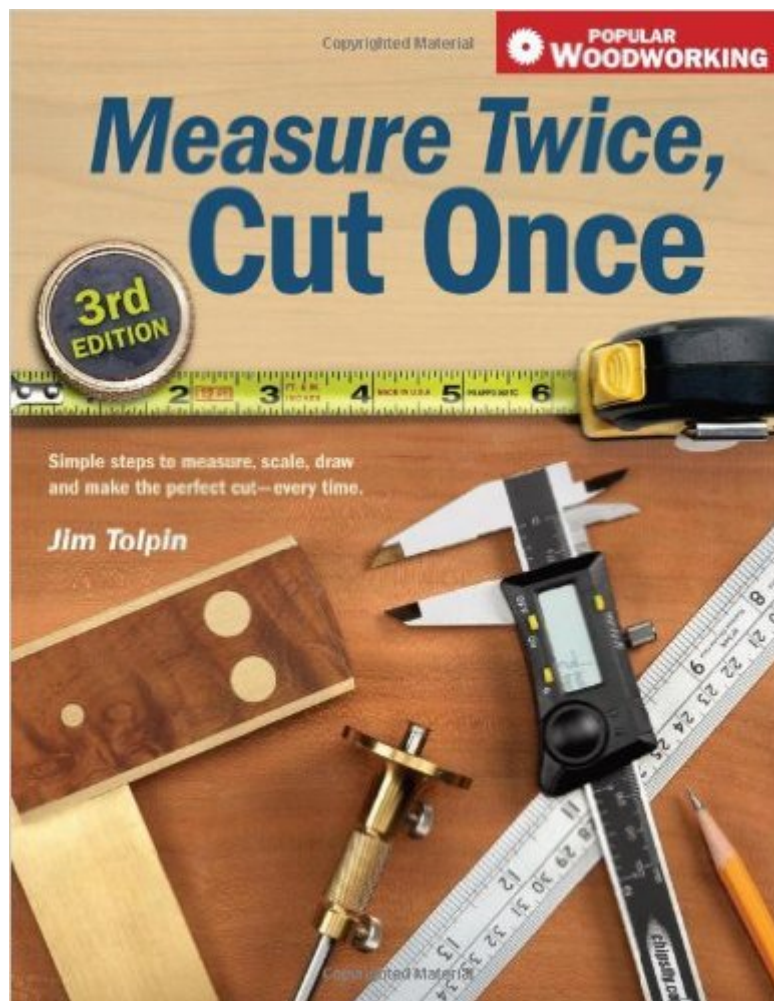


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# Measure Twice, Cut Once: Simple Steps To Measure, Scale, Draw And Make The Perfect Cut-Every Time. (Popular Woodworking)



## Synopsis

The First Book a Woodworker Needs! Professional woodworker Jim Tolpin offers solid instruction on the principles of measurement and proportion, walking you through every step of the woodworking process. From design and layout to developing a cutting list, his easy-to-follow style introduces a variety of tools (new and old) used to transfer measurements accurately to the wood. You'll learn the best cutting techniques, how to prevent mistakes before they happen, and for those unavoidable mistakes, you'll learn how to fix them so no one will know!

## Book Information

Series: Popular Woodworking

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: Popular Woodworking Books; 3 edition (July 2, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 155870809X

ISBN-13: 978-1558708099

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.3 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (46 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #240,790 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Hand Tools](#) #345 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Woodworking > Projects](#) #968 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Industrial, Manufacturing & Operational Systems](#)

## Customer Reviews

This book bills itself as a course in shop math and measurement. With a few extra chapters, it could be an excellent introduction to woodworking. Tolpin takes us through the entire process from project design and layout to developing a list of materials and cut list. He then introduces a number of layout and marking tools to transfer the measurements accurately to the wood. Next, he talks about a number of cutting techniques, followed by a chapter on preventing and fixing mistakes. The author raises an interesting point: if you can cut the work to the proper size, it doesn't matter if you have a numeric value for the dimension. There are a number of techniques such as story poles and marking devices which do not rely on numeric values, and which can be more accurate than conventional measurements. More common measuring tools are considered as well; he shows that

there is more than meets the eye even with the common tape measure. In the section on cutting to the lines, he shows a number of basic techniques on both hand tools and power tools. There is some interesting discussion here about tradeoffs between different tool choices. He also presents some simple jigs, which I am looking forward to building. The jigs here are much simpler than the ones he describes in *Table Saw Magic*. For a very small book, there is a wealth of information here which will take some time to digest. I heartily recommend the book.

This book really surprised me. I was hopeful that it didn't simply tell you how to read a tape measure. And I was right. Just about any experience level will learn something from this book but the person new to woodworking will learn the most. I'm somewhat in between beginner and moderate experience and I was impressed. You learn some really nifty tricks for getting accurate angles, finding bisecting angles, working with arcs and more. You also learn how to lay out a project to save material (and make your work easier). Believe me, you will enjoy reading this book. Well written, informative and lots of clear color photos and other illustrations. No sloppy, halfhearted drawings in this one.

I have not yet completed reading every page of this book, but it won't take me long to do so. I have only been a woodworker for a few years, but I should have read this book on day one. I've made some very common mistakes that could have been avoided had I learned the tips herein early on. VERY insightful and intuitive advice!! especially like the use of simple-to-craft jigs for simple tasks (tasks that take 3-4 times as long if you DON'T have such a jig to use). I'm buying a few copies as gifts for other woodworker friends. I heartily recommend the book. Also - just noticed a Norm Abram book with almost the same name - haven't checked it out yet, but am buying it today to compare.

Tolpin delivers an excellent piece that seems designed for intermediate or seriously aspiring woodworkers. My guess is that it would scare off novices rather quickly. I think I fit into the right target audience, and I enjoyed the book enough to read it cover-to-cover in two sittings. I will not, however, follow all his advice - at least not yet in my woodworking career. He explains great techniques for the mechanics of going from idea sketches to scale drawing, to life sized drawings. Like I said, I think my level is where the book is aimed, but frankly, the artistic part of design is where I feel the weakest, and his book doesn't help a whole lot there beyond the golden ratio. I didn't expect the book to do that for me, but neither did I expect it to spend time on drafting. Since I do not yet feel comfortable with coming up with my own detailed designs, the mechanics of putting

the designs on paper are not that useful to me yet. Further, if I ever get to that comfort level with design, I'm not sure I will need the drafting process to implement them. btw, the title for my review is based on the fact that Tolpin, like most, recommends that you keep measuring off of rulers (etc.) to a minimum and use story sticks and the like whenever there is more than one piece to cut to a particular length. Bottom line is that I would buy the book again, and would probably replace it if lost or destroyed. It would not be at the top of my list, however, and I would not give it as a gift to a raw novice who was just trying to see if s/he liked woodworking.

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