

SAIL AWAY

Thinking of woodwork? Be inspired by the work of Elise Cameron-Smith

There is nothing quite like working with wood. Its natural beauty and the uniqueness of each piece let you make some truly wonderful creations. You don't have to have loads of tools to get started, either, just use what you have, or you won't get started at all! Elise's sailboats are the perfect inspiration to set you on your way.



ABOUT THE MAKER

Elise Cameron-Smith is a woodworker, sculptor and furniture maker based on the south coast of NSW. After studying design, she realised she loved the practical side and did a fine furniture-making course. Full of knowledge and tools passed down from family members, her signature creations are whimsical wooden boats. For more info, or to buy one of her creations, go to elisecameron-smith.com.au.



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EASY STEPS TO WOODWORK SUCCESS



1 Start with a plan

Draw the shape of your creation on the timber you are working with. For larger projects using multiple pieces of wood, do a plan on paper so you have a clear idea of what you are heading towards.

2 Cut out the shape

Elise is using an industrial bandsaw, but you can cut curves using a jigsaw. To make straight cuts in timber, a circular or mitre saw are invaluable tools.

3 Sand parts smooth

A belt sander is the perfect tool to quickly remove excess timber and roughly shape it. If you're using another type of sander, make sure the work is firmly clamped to the bench. In all cases, start with a rough sandpaper to quickly shape the timber before moving on to finer grades. Finish by hand sanding using super-fine sandpaper.



4 Bring it together

To join parts together at right angles without any visible fixings, such as nails or screws, use dowels. They are short, circular pieces of timber that go from one piece through to the other, sitting inside holes drilled for the dowel. Use PVA glue in the holes in the dowel and also where the two pieces meet.



5 Mix up materials

Adding a variety of different materials into your design not only increases interest, it also highlights the beauty of the timber. Elise uses raffia around the sides of her boat, a brass rod for the mast and vellum leather to create the sail.

6 Don't forget to have fun!

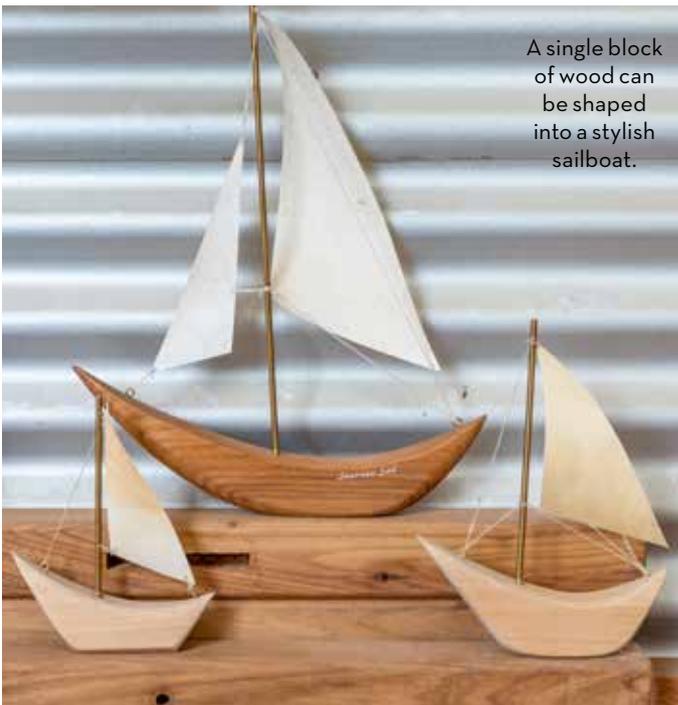
To make her boat ready for a party, Elise has glued small triangles of leather to a length of twine and tied it to the front of her boat.

More inspirational ideas

You don't have to get started with a three-piece project such as Elise's sailboat. By shaping a single block of wood, you get the feel for your tools and what you can achieve with them.



Work with the grain of the timber and let it guide you as you work.



A single block of wood can be shaped into a stylish sailboat.



Shell or sculpture? The only limit is your imagination.