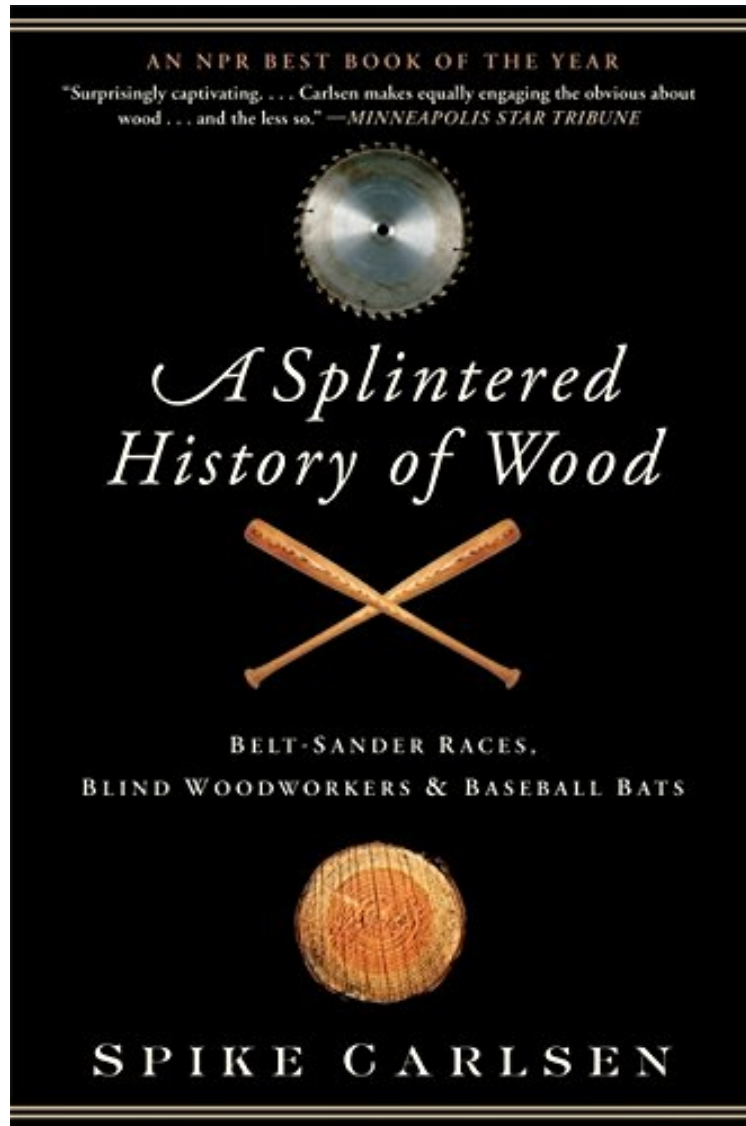


[Ebook free] A Splintered History of Wood: Belt-Sander Races, Blind Woodworkers, and Baseball Bats

A Splintered History of Wood: Belt-Sander Races, Blind Woodworkers, and Baseball Bats

Spike Carlsen

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#122274 in Books Spike Carlsen 2009-08-18 2009-08-18 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .97 x 5.311, .75 #File Name: 0061373575432 pages A Splintered History of Wood Belt Sander Races Blind Woodworkers and Baseball Bats | File size: 18.Mb

Spike Carlsen : A Splintered History of Wood: Belt-Sander Races, Blind Woodworkers, and Baseball Bats before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Splintered History of Wood: Belt-Sander Races, Blind Woodworkers, and Baseball Bats:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A fun casual read but boring / meandering at times By StryderThis

book is a light survey of different wood-related topics. With the large popularity of this book, I was expecting a great read; something with Ken Burns documentary quality, in book form. While the book delivered in some respects, it failed in others. I agree with the other reviewers who say that the narrative is meandering and leaves the reader wanting to know more. Depending on your personal interests, you may find some sections interesting, others boring -- I know I did. While I enjoyed certain sections (e.g., the ones on George Mira Nakashima, the Spruce Goose, and wood as ancient support structures/piping), others (such as belt sander races) I found unnecessarily lengthy. A good writer/editor could have made those boring sections more interesting even to the casual reader. Perhaps a good gift for the burgeoning woodworker as a fun read over Christmas holiday break. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Enjoyable Read By Jayme Purchased as a gift for my son as have a paperback copy from the author and thoroughly enjoyed it. Enjoyable reading for any woodworker. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Book of Wonders By Mark VI don't know what the negative reviewers have in mind, except that they seem to be professional wood people who prefer an academic wood volume. For me, a hobby woodworker (boat, furniture) this book is a book of wonders. Not only do we get the scope of woodwork through history and now, but we also get the fascinating details of varieties of wood, their properties and values, and the strange and wide-ranging uses to which they have been put. However, I am deducting one star because of the author's frequent cutesy-wootsy writing style that he must think is funny, but really only irritates. Because of this penchant for verbal acrobatics I would have put the book down early on, but the subject matter is so interesting I just held my nose and ploughed through it.

A Splintered History of Wood is a passionate and personal exploration of nature's greatest gift: wood. In the successful tradition of books such as Salt and Cod, writer and carpenter Spike Carlsen explores the history, versatility, and special appeal of something we use everyday but take for granted in this comprehensive and dynamic history of wood's global impact and its personal significance to people in all walks of life.

From Publishers Weekly Carlsen (Reader's Digest Complete Do-It-Yourself Manual) gives a solid history of wood as he travels the world, analyzing the vast number of uses of a mundane natural resource. In doing so, Carlsen also uncovers the wide variety of personalities that work with wood every day, from the chainsaw artist appropriately named the Wild Mountain Man to the blind cabinetmaker who can see things with [his] fingers that you may not see with your eyes. He uncovers places where wood golf clubs are still manufactured today; explains which type of wood is best for a baseball bat; takes readers through the painstaking process used to make the beautiful Stradivarius violins and Steinway grand pianos; he also demonstrates how the gondola is a floating work of efficiency and ergonomic art. At one point, Carlsen visits a company in Maine that produces 50 billion toothpicks and 12 billion wooden matches each year. Carlsen includes photographs throughout this engaging and exhaustively researched work. (Sept.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From School Library Journal Adult/High School Carlsen explores our reliance on wood from numerous angles. A carpenter, woodworker, and author of dozens of books and articles on home improvement, he knows his subject well, and his love and respect for trees and all things made from them are evident on each page. The author includes just enough of the science of trees and wood, and of the technology of wood products and woodworking, to inform but not burden lay readers. Numerous stories add immeasurably to the book's appeal. Readers are told how a Steinway piano is built, why a Stradivarius violin is so special, about the role of the long bow in military history, and how pens and pencils evolved. In addition, there are discussions of the offbeat, including a full-scale (and functional) Ferrari carved of wood, the 36-year remodeling project known as the Winchester House, a staircase with no visible means of support, and the use of wood forensics in the Lindbergh kidnapping case. Carlsen explores the extraordinary variety of woods on our planet, the profession and hobby of fine woodworking, the tools used to work wood, and the many uses of it in our lives in music, sports, shelter, furniture, weapons, and transportation. The volume ends with a word on the highly complex issues surrounding human use of the world's forests and the consequent effects on the global environment. Black-and-white photos are included. Thoroughly researched, thoughtful, and entertaining. Robert Saunderson, Berkeley Public Library, CA Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Who knew wood could be this fascinating? Who knew that perfectly preserved, enormous pieces of wood, dating back 50,000 years or more, are being pulled out of New Zealand bogs? Who knew that the oldest piece of nonpetrified wood is about seven million years old? Who knew that there exists a large, diverse, and rather enthusiastic group of wood connoisseurs who can tell you everything you want to know, and even more besides, about the differences between the various types of wood (and there are a lot of varieties)? According to the author, a carpenter, woodworker, as well as a writer, wood has had an enormous effect on world history and on the evolution of humankind. Clearly, when you think about it, he's right: wood can be made into a toothpick or a city; it can be used for building things or making art; and it has survived as long as human beings themselves. As Carlsen tells the story, wood is a wondrous thing. --David Pitt