

BY CHRISTOPHER SCHWARZ, EDITOR

Stepping Down, Stepping Out

When I interviewed in 1996 to work at *Popular Woodworking Magazine*, it took me about 30 seconds to realize that I had finally found my life's work.

Ever since I can recall, I have loved both building things and writing. But until 1996 it never occurred to me to put the two together.

Somehow I talked my way into a low-level job here, and for the last 14 years I've had the best job in the world: Working in the shop and writing about it.

So why am I bidding you "farewell" in this column?

Most of you know that I've spent the last decade promoting handwork, both in this magazine and in DVDs, woodworking classes and on my blogs.

In fact, I started a small company called Lost Art Press to help promote handwork, revive forgotten texts and publish new writings on traditional furniture work.

After four years of doing that part-time, it became obvious that handwork needs a full-time advocate. I decided that I wanted that job.

So I hired myself to do it.

Why now? This might be my last chance to take a huge gamble. I just turned 43. I've paid off my mortgage. I have no debt. My spouse has a good job. My kids are out of diapers.

If I don't do this now, I might just run out of time – or nerve.

But even though I'm stepping down as editor of *Popular Woodworking Magazine*, I don't think you are done with me yet. I love this magazine almost as much as I love my wife and kids. So I hope to write for this magazine and its web site as a contributor for as long as they'll have me.



And I wouldn't worry about any large-scale changes here at the magazine – there are no plans to make it all about glue-gun crafts.

Despite the demise of many magazines, *Popular Woodworking Magazine* is in better financial and editorial shape than at any point in its history. Part of the reason is the hard work of the staff of editors, designers and builders.

But mostly we all sleep easily at night because of the support from all of you, our readers.

You supported us as we rebalanced the handwork vs. machine-work equation in the world. You pushed us to offer DVDs, CDs of our back issues, streaming video and – our latest venture – pure digital subscriptions.

Without you, I'd likely be handing you an order of fries at the drive-thru by now (like many fellow journalists). And thanks to you, I have a shot at changing how we (and our kids) turn trees into furniture. **PWM**

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Safety is your responsibility. Manufacturers place safety devices on their equipment for a reason. In many photos you see in *Popular Woodworking Magazine*, these have been removed to provide clarity. In some cases we'll use an awkward body position so you can better see what's being demonstrated. Don't copy us. Think about each procedure you're going to perform beforehand.

Highly Recommended

Somebody needs to come up with a better name for this tool than "ruler stop." By clamping this puppy on almost any ruler (or story stick), it does about 90 percent of the work done by a combination square.

And though there are several brands, the best by far is the Czeck Edge (czeckedge.com, \$31.95). Made in the United States, this tool clamps tightly, never slips and is amazingly precise.

I keep one in my shop apron and clamp it to whatever is at hand. It might not replace my combination square, but it saves me from having to walk to the bench to fetch it.

— Christopher Schwarz

