Intro to Sash Making 2026

Fabrication of Authentic Historic Window Sash

Course Objective

The **Intro to Sash Making** course is a five-day, hands-on immersion in the tools, processes, and geometry required to fabricate authentic historic window sash.

Students work through a structured progression of projects, beginning with simple frames and advancing step by step toward complex divided-lite sash. Each day builds on the previous one, adding new joints, profiles, and layout challenges until students understand how a complete sash is designed, milled, and assembled.

The focus is on **accuracy, repeatability, and understanding how the parts relate to one another**.

Why Sash Making Matters

Historic windows depend on complete, properly made sash.

When sash components are missing, damaged, or improperly made, mechanical work cannot be completed correctly. Accurate fabrication restores the ability to tune, balance, and return windows to service.

Sash making provides a critical form of capacity:

- The ability to replicate failed components
- The ability to support mechanical work
- The ability to keep historic windows in use

This skill is foundational, transferable, and directly applicable in the field.

How the Course Is Structured

The course is organized as a **five-day progression of increasingly complex sash-related projects**. Each project introduces new geometry, tooling, and joinery while reinforcing the skills learned earlier in the week.

Instruction combines:

- Demonstration
- Guided hands-on work
- Discussion of layout, tolerances, and common failure points

The goal is not speed or volume.
The goal is understanding how sash are made — and why.

Five-Day Course Progression

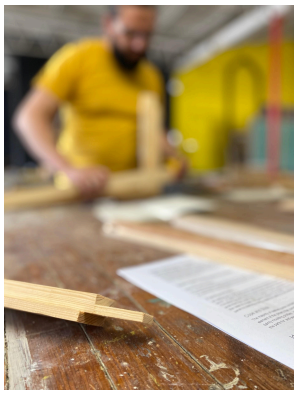
Day 1 — Screen Frame

Students begin by turning rough lumber into accurate parts and assembling a basic frame using traditional mortise-and-tenon joinery.

Focus areas include:

- Lumber sizing and preparation
- Basic millwork
- Mortise-and-tenon joinery
- Measurement and layout fundamentals

This establishes the baseline for all sash fabrication.



Day 2 — Storm Window Frame

Students add glazing rabbets and learn how offset shoulders change joinery and fit.

Focus areas include:

- Multiple methods of cutting glazing rabbets
- Reinforcing mortise-and-tenon accuracy
- Adjusting for fit and alignment

Day 3 — Casement Sash

Decorative profiles are introduced, along with the systems used to produce them consistently.

Focus areas include:

- Profiling rails and stiles
- Introduction to the Sash Factory router table
- Cope-style relationships between parts
- Relish and joint reinforcement

Day 4 — Double-Hung Window Sash

Students fabricate meeting rails and learn how sash geometry interfaces with window mechanics.

Focus areas include:

- Meeting rail construction
- Double-tenon joinery
- Pulley trough layout

Day 5 — Divided-Lite Window Sash

The final day introduces muntins and divided-lite layout.

Focus areas include:

- Muntin spacing and layout
- Fraction-to-decimal conversion
- Safe milling of small parts
- Managing complexity while maintaining accuracy

This day integrates everything learned during the week.

Relationship to Window Craft and Outposts

Intro to Sash Making is taught within the context of **Window Craft Outposts**, where fabricated sash directly supports mechanical tuning and restoration work.

Within an outpost, sash making:

- Supplies missing or failed components
- Enables proper tuning and balance
- Increases local production capacity

It is one of the core skills that allows outposts to function effectively.

Who This Course Is For

- Carpenters and builders expanding into historic window work
- Tradespeople supporting window restoration projects
- Individuals exploring Window Craft as a long-term path
- Those interested in developing sash production capacity
- Future outpost leaders building technical depth

The course assumes curiosity, attention, and willingness to learn — not prior specialization.

Final Word

Sash making is precise work, but it is learnable.

This course exists to pass on the methods, proportions, and sequencing required to fabricate sash that function properly — and to do so in a way that supports real work in historic house communities.