

## Cooperage Bibliography

### Books in print:

Kilby, Ken, Coopers and Coopering, Shire Library, 64 pp.: slim volume (with good pictures of tools).

Kilby, Kenneth, The Cooper and His Trade, Linden Publishing, 192 pp.: more comprehensive coverage than the Shire book, including more history and technical info.

Gaster, James D., How to Make a Coopered Wooden Bucket, Winepress Publishing, 90 pp.: emphasizes use of standard woodworking tools, methods are idiosyncratic. Interesting bibliography included. Not a very good book, overall, but may be somewhat useful.

Langsner, Drew, "Making Wooden Buckets, White Cooperage, the Swiss way," Fine Woodworking, No. 40 (May/June 1983): surprisingly comprehensive coverage of Swiss cooperage. Drew did a short apprenticeship under cooper Ruedi Kohler in 1972 in the Swiss Alps. Same article appears in Fine Woodworking on Bending Wood, Taunton Press (1985). Drew went back later and made a video with Ruedi ( see below).

Langsner, Drew & Louise, Handmade, Harmony Books (1974), 192 pp.: the story of Drew and Louise's extended trip through eastern Europe and the Near East in 1971-72, living with the locals and studying their life and crafts. The final chapter is about Drew's apprenticeship with Herr Kohler, placing cooperage in the larger context of the Alpine dairy farming culture.

Salaman, R.A., Dictionary of Woodworking Tools c. 1700-1790 and Tools of Allied Trades, Revised Edition (1997), Astragal Press: lots of drawings and descriptions on cooperage and the tools used.

Gillespie, Charles C., ed., A Diderot Pictorial Encyclopedia of Trades and Industry, Vol. Two, Dover Publications, Inc.: Plates from Denis Diderot's (chief editor) Analytical Dictionary of the Sciences, Arts and Trades, published in France in 1751 and 1752. Diderot provides us with two plates of cooperage, The White Cooper (pl. 457) and The Cooper (pl. 458).

Cope, Kenneth L., American Cooperage Machinery and Tools, Astragal Press; collection of catalogs with Cope's usual emphasis on machinery, but with several line cards and catalogs from hand tool manufacturers.

Wigginton, Eliot, ed., Foxfire 3, Anchor Books: The chapter "Butter Churns" is the story of Alex Stewart, country cooper. The details of making a churn are shown. You can also see him and his work in the video below.

## Videos:

How Things Are Made: A Wooden Bucket (22 min. 40 sec.): stars Norm Pederson, the resident cooper at Historic Richmond Town, Staten Island, NY. Norm uses traditional methods and is a good teacher. This video is pretty hokey, but shows some of the work in progress. Originally published by vinestreetworks.com; their website is dead. Same material is presented better in the next video.

The Woodwright's Shop, Season 24, Episode 4: Norm Pederson with Roy making a basic bucket. This show is loaded with technical details if you watch and listen closely. This episode is not available on the PBS or UNC Woodwright sites, but can be streamed from Popular Woodworking Videos. Cost is \$3.99 for a lifetime streaming subscription to this episode (you can't download it), and quality is excellent. You can watch as often as you like for the one-time payment. Go to <https://videos.popularwoodworking.com> and click on the link to The Woodwright's Shop. Also available on the Season 24 DVD (from PopWood), which includes the excellent episode with Norm's daughter Anne demonstrating tinsmithing. Norm's website is <http://normpederson.tripod.com/index.html>. Video looked good on both PC and Android tablet.

Swiss Cooperage – Two Days in the Workshop of Ruedi Kohler, Country Workshops and Image & Word, LLC (1992, 2005): Drew Langsner went back to the Alps with a videographer in 1988. Covers same material as in Fine Woodworking article cited above. The DVD is no longer being distributed, but you can watch it in full form **for free** on Drew's YouTube channel. Go to [www.countryworkshops.org](http://www.countryworkshops.org), and click on the Books & Videos link on the left side of the home page. Scroll down a bit to "Watch these CW videos for Free!" There is a link to the CW YouTube channel. Kind of dark, but interesting (and free).

Alex Stewart - Cooper: Do a Google (or YouTube) search of "Alex Stewart: Cooper" and this video of slightly less than 12 minutes will show up. Filmed in his shop.

## Online:

Colonial Williamsburg has some videos of their coopers and their shop.

A 1909 L. & I.J. White catalog which includes cooper's tools is available at <http://www.blackburntools.com/articles/rose-tools-catalog-archives/pdfs/white-1909-edge-tools.pdf>. White was one of the giants, along with D.R. Barton/Mack Tools, in cooper's hand tools. The old Rose Tools archive of tool catalogs is available in PDF format at Blackburn Tools, and is worth a look.

Lots of videos are out there (most are about tight cooperage (brewery & distillery work), not white cooperage). The search gets complicated by the modern company Cooper Tools and the Cooper Mini.