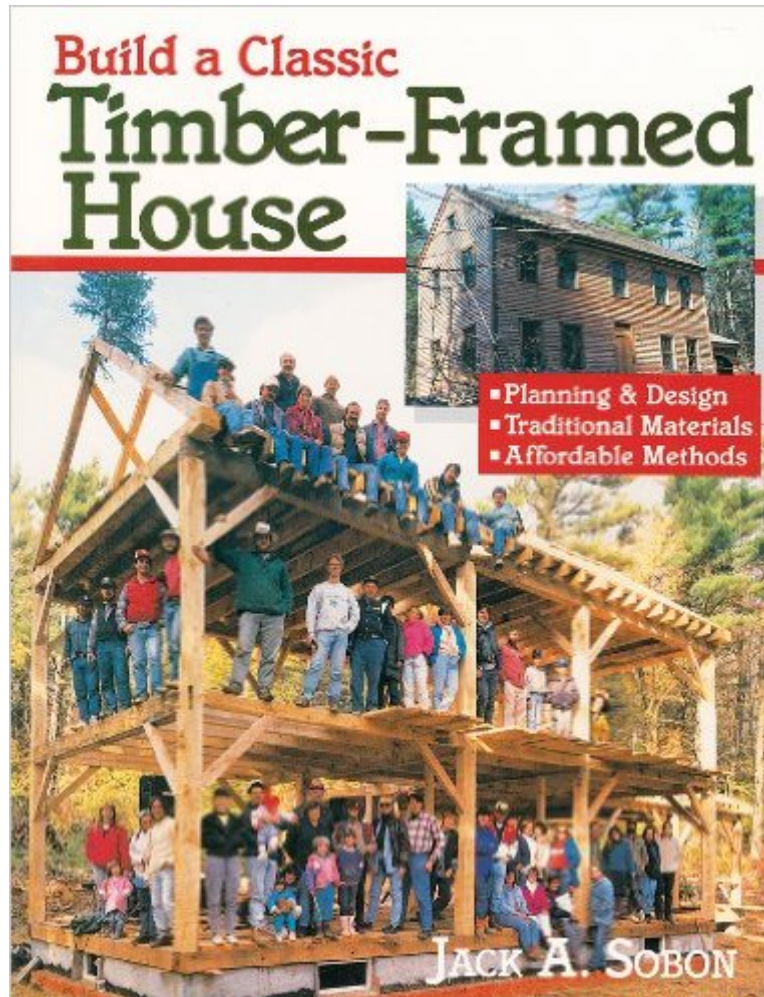


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# Build A Classic Timber-Framed House: Planning & Design/Traditional Materials/Affordable Methods



## Synopsis

Build a classic, enduring, and affordable home. With Jack A. Sobon's careful guidance, you can construct your own timber-framed house in the traditional hall-and-parlor style. From felling trees to cutting timbers, and frame construction to door selection, you'll find Sobon's professional advice and hand-drawn illustrations invaluable. Whether you're a first-time builder or a seasoned contractor looking to expand your repertoire, you'll find answers to all your timber-frame questions. Open the front door and walk into the home of your dreams.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This was my first look at timber framing and this book was a great primer. It explains the history of timber framing, the terminology, the how to's of getting started. I wish it would have had more suggestions for finishing the house after the frame is up, but it definitely gave me a good foundation and the confidence to give it try.

The plans, photos, patterns and details in this book can be used as a step-by-step guide to building a New England hall-and-parlor house. It's also a designer's guide, a history book and a great introduction to the craft and art of timber framing.

Jack Sobon does a great job walking you step by step in building your own house. It is one of the

best sources out there for learning traditional timber framing technique. A must read for anyone interested in learning how the early framers built the barns and houses we love today. Expect hands on information and theory for the practical end of getting the house frame built. Expect a well focused instructional manual that is light and entertaining to read.

Overall, this book was a big disappointment. It's an interesting read about a guy's experience building a house, with some photos and information about the process. However, this book is NOT detailed enough to guide someone through the building of their own home. It's not even detailed enough to replicate the joints used in this specific application - there is a lot of missing information. Furthermore I specifically bought this book because I heard that it had joist and rafter span tables in the appendices, which it does not. So basically, don't expect too much from this book, apart from a nice read, and you won't end up disappointed like I did.

I'm a little surprised nobody has compared this book to Sobon's earlier book in 1984: "Timber Frame Construction: All About Post-and-Beam Building", which is also available here on . I read the earlier book in my local book store yesterday. I then bought this book for my Kindle today, on a whim. While the first book left me intrigued, it didn't provide much detail. This book provides much more detail. It seems Sobon has matured over 3 decades. He writes about building codes, electricity (though still briefly), and provides more information about engineering (though still briefly), like load requirements and provides some formulas and examples. Being an engineering type myself, I'd like to see more detail in that area. Being a woodworker, I'm a little happier with the added detail regarding joints, flattening, milling, etc. It's still an introduction, not an end all manual, but I think it's a better introduction. I prefer this newer book. It's a great read.

This is a superb guide to making a traditional hall and parlor style timber frame. It is a solid effort from beginning to end, and lays out every joint in the frame in clear detail. The frame is beautiful, sturdy, and modest. It is for the most part extremely historically correct which means it has excellent style and shows a sense of taste and proportion that is extremely comfortable to live in and with. Unlike many of the new breed of timber framed vanity cathedrals, with miles of exposed timbers and acres of glass, this is a house that will always look dignified and beautiful, and doesn't follow any whims or trends. I also like Sobon's adherence to traditional techniques (clapboard siding...shingle roofs...wood heat) and his suspicion of stress-skin panels. He thinks a house should breathe, and rightly so. This book will not walk you through the foundation, or the wall coverings or roofing, but it

will give solid suggestions and point you in the right direction. The frame, however, is covered in exquisite detail.

I've just finished reading this book and it is very good. It does expect that you have some basic woodworking skills to understand the processes that are referenced and to know that a peg should "sound right" when it is driven enough. There is some basic engineering covered although you will be required to perform many more calcs to comply with local codes if you intend to build the sample house or a design of your own. I would highly recommend this book to anyone looking to learn more about building a green wood timber frame with hand tools and draw pinning. It's just an excellent read with plenty of diagrams and illustrations. The book contains references to many excellent books to read in addition to it. Two of note are "Timber Frame Construction: All About Post and Beam Building" by Jack A. Sobon and Roger Schroeder, and "The Passive Solar Design and Construction Handbook" by Steven Winter Associates. There are other strong references regarding timber identification and selection, tools, and many others. Use this book as a springboard into timber framing and you won't regret it.

Purchased this book prior to a Rocky Mountain Workshop to build a 12 x 16 frame in a week. This is the perfect book for a beginner to understand the scope of timber framing, tools, joints, process. I will be buying the companion book since it does have some unique content. Also check out workshops at the Hancock Shaker Village taught by Sobon and Carlon. If you long to learn the craft, start by reading this book.

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