

# Clifton 600 Straight Flat Spokeshave

The Clifton 600 Spokeshave's quality and ease-of-use impress **Dan Watson**

**S**traight out of the box, the new Clifton 600 Straight flat bottom ten-inch Spokeshave, made by Thomas Flinn & Co of Sheffield, looks like a quality item. In use it does not disappoint.

The iron is 3mm thick and adjustment to set the desired depth of cut and edge angle is very easy. As a green woodworker, I have often become frustrated with my carbide spokeshaves and deserted them in favour of a sharp drawknife. This tool though, is truly different, and after some fine adjustment it produced some lovely long, curly shavings.

Clamped in my shaving horse, I decided to test the Clifton on an old chair leg, turned on my pole lathe many years ago. To put it through its paces, my plan was to make some nice flat facets with the aim of working the round leg to a hexagonal shape. With the iron set to take thicker shavings at first, removal of wood was easy. As I drew closer to the finished dimensions, reducing the depth of cut resulted in a smooth finish with a polished surface

to the work.

Supplied almost shaving sharp, the iron is certainly keen enough to carry out most tasks, but edge aficionados may want to spend a little time on some extra honing. I was genuinely impressed with my first use of the tool and its performance from the word go. My next step will be to give it a quick hone and then strop the edge to a mirror finish before working more ash chair legs. I am also planning to try using it for some finishing cuts on my hand carved bowls.

In summary, an extremely nicely made tool, very easy to use, that gives a good quality finish. I am sure this Clifton Spokeshave will become a firm fixture in my tool kit. Highly recommended!

The Clifton 600 Straight Spokeshave was made and supplied by Thomas Flinn & Co, £85.56. There are also curved, convex and concave versions.

■ [www.flinn-garlick-saws.co.uk](http://www.flinn-garlick-saws.co.uk)

**Dan Watson's** skills encompass coppicing, bush crafts, hurdle making, bowl and spoon carving and constructing timber frames of green oak. He is the northern England agent for [woodlands.co.uk](http://woodlands.co.uk).



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