

Handel Leaf Desk #2

Mark Levin

Mark Levin's well-known Leaf series, a form he's been exploring for more than 20 years, poses challenges many woodworkers never have to face. Namely, how do you handle a blank for the top that weighs more than 450 lb. after it's been glued up yet must be moved constantly as it is whittled down to size?

Answer: An overhead hoist. It's one of many pieces of equipment in Levin's 2,500-sq.-ft. shop 25 miles east of Santa Fe, N.M., where he works alone. "After graduating college and suffering through that purity stage where everything had to be done by hand," Levin writes, "I'm now at the other end. If I can't do it with machinery or power tools, I don't do it. It's rather liberating, like never being constipated."

Levin studied woodworking at Northern Illinois University under Bobby Falwell, a graduate student

of Wendell Castle, Levin's favorite furniture designer. Sculptors Constantin Brancusi and Isamu Noguchi also have left their marks.

The idea for this desk came from a collector who suggested it would make a good addition to Levin's ongoing Leaf series. He says he hesitated over concerns about scale and cost but has since gone on to make two. A third is in the works.

Size: 38 in. deep, 70 in. wide, 30 in. tall

Materials: Walnut

Finish: Deft Danish oil

Contact: www.marklevin.com

