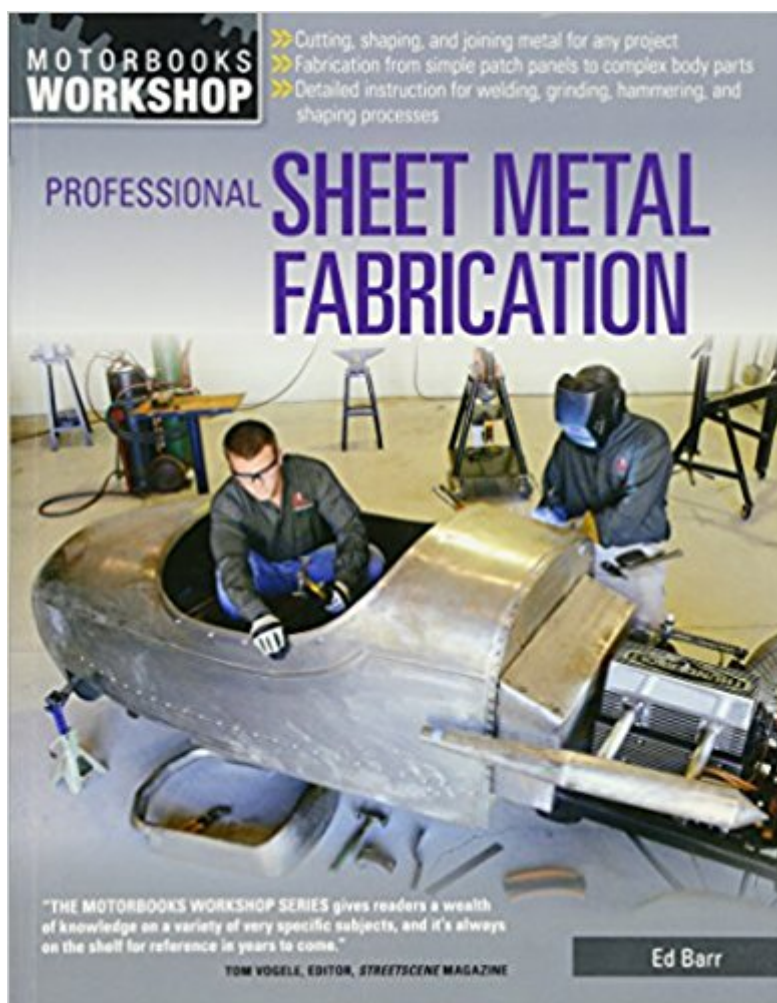


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# Professional Sheet Metal Fabrication (Motorbooks Workshop)



## Synopsis

Professional Sheet Metal Fabrication is the number-one resource for sheet metal workers old and new. Join veteran metalworker Ed Barr as he walks you through the ins and outs of planning a sheet metal project, acquiring the necessary tools and resources, doing the work, and adding the perfect finishing touches for a seamless final product. From his workshop at McPherson College-home of the only accredited four-year degree in automotive restoration technology-Barr not only demonstrates how the latest tools and products work, but also explains why sheet metal reacts the way it does to a wide variety of processes. He includes clear directions for shaping metal using hand tools, the English Wheel, the pneumatic planishing hammer, and other machines, and discusses a variety of ways to cut and join metal through welding, soldering, brazing, and riveting. Dent repair and automotive patch panel fabrication are covered in detail. Readers are also given tips on copying shapes and building foam, wire, and wood station bucks to use as guides during shaping. This is truly the most detailed enthusiast-focused sheet metal how-to book on the market. Whether you're a metal hobbyist or experienced professional, you're sure to find something new in Professional Sheet Metal Fabrication.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Of all the skills required for old car projects, manipulating metal is the one most closely regarded as a black art, one not easily conveyed in print. It's refreshing then to find that Professional Sheet

Metal Fabrication" author Ed Barr appears to possess that rare combination of highly defined skills along with the acumen to present them in a manner that absolute beginners can understand and use. At just past 300 pages, a lot of ground is covered, and this in-depth manual could well become your go-to resource." - Hemmings Motor News

Ed Barr teaches welding and sheet metal restoration in the Technology Department at McPherson College in McPherson, Kansas. Barr has been restoring cars and creating metal sculpture since he was a teenager. Barr graduated from the University of the South in 1991 and pursued a career in art museum administration after receiving an M.A. degree from the University of Kansas. Barr then served as director of the Mulvane Art Museum at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas. Barr earned a B.S. degree in automotive restoration technology from McPherson College and subsequently worked at Vintage Restorations Ltd. in Union Bridge, Maryland, where he restored British cars. He resides in McPherson, Kansas.[www.mcpherson.edu/academics/autorestitution.php](http://www.mcpherson.edu/academics/autorestitution.php)

My first impression of this book was, "Wow! This is a lot thicker than I expected." I had not heard of Ed Barr prior to ordering the book, but I had heard of McPherson College, where he is an instructor. McPherson is a real-deal, four year accredited institution that offers several degrees in automotive restoration. This book contains the quality and depth of information that you would expect from someone that teaches in such a program. Professional Sheet Metal Fabrication contains a good balance of information on fabricating from scratch and restoration. Both hand shaping techniques and shaping with power tools are covered. There is a pretty thorough section on using a Dake power hammer, for example. The thing that I like about all of the "how to" sections is that they're clearly written by someone who is an expert sheet metal worker instead of a writer describing what they've seen someone else do. This really separates this book from several others that I own. In a lot of cases, he describes what can go wrong and how to fix it, which can be really helpful. The book is well illustrated with color photos, many of which show the work of the author's students. The author is also really good about citing the originator of particular techniques or tools, which is pretty refreshing. I recommend this book highly to anyone looking for a good reference on tools and techniques used in sheet metal shaping.

This is a very nice book! It is thick, has plenty of pictures, and goes through pretty much everything you will need to understand to get started with sheet metal fabrication. By getting started I mean it explains which tools you will need, and a few you should avoid. The Author talks in detail on how to

use the tools. Now just so we are clear, you cannot become a metal master by reading a book. But this book is a good starting point and you will need to practice the techniques in the book. After some practice you can get pretty good at metal working, and for your needs that may be enough. I don't know what you are aiming for, maybe to make some rust repair panels, fabricate brackets, etc. Maybe you want to be able to create flawless body panels? If so, this book will get you started and then you probably need to progress on to other areas, books or hands on training, to get to the level you need. But either way, this book is a great start. I have learned quite a few things from books and from people skilled at metal work over the years. I still find myself wanting to learn more. That is why I picked up this book. There are a few books I have come across over the years where I was pretty disappointed due to the lack of detail in the book, but this one is much more thorough. I am quite satisfied with this book.

Regardless of what you're forming this is the bible of sheet metal how-to. The techniques in this book can be applied to any vehicle or anything else that you want to form out of sheet metal. The instructions and photos complement each other perfectly. Ed Barr knows his stuff and after reading his book so will you.

I have been very impressed with this book. It covers all aspects of panel fabrication from an honest opinion on what tools to buy and what tools don't really work. It looks at different welding methods and many methods of how to form shapes in sheet metal. I have purchased many books on the subject and find this one to be one of the best.

This thing is like review notes of David Gardiner's "Learn the Art of Traditional Sheet Metalwork" (Which I can't recommend enough), but with personal insight. Instead of being able to show you via a video the author uses an array of adjectives, similes and examples for you to know how delicate or "ham fisted" to pound away. Not many technical book authors can explain detailed changes in pressure and directions and clear and simple to understand as this one can. Thinking of forming sheet metal (including complex curves) without an English wheel? Get this book. Thinking of forming with one? Still get it. The key is as easy as pie analogies of how metal flows that really make sure that you understand that this is simple work (you just have to be aware enough to recognize key areas and potential problems)

I spent five days in a Kent White metal working course. Since that time, I have not had the time to

work on my restoration projects. I was looking for a good text to review Kent's class and maybe pick up a few tips. This book exceeded my expectations. Ed Barr is well known as a metal worker and teacher. This book is well written and illustrated with good in focus pictures. Shows a good shop layout and covers the basics and advanced metal shaping techniques. I highly recommend it.

Great product. Thanks.

Being a High School shop teacher, I needed a good book for my students to read. LOTS of pictures, simple to follow instructions and good solid content. I ordered this book and was so pleased with it that I ordered one for my home library... read the book from cover to cover and then ordered ANOTHER for my brother in law!! I'm a believer!

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