

Error-producing meat sack

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I wholeheartedly embrace the title. It comes from Shannon Rogers' You Tube segment* on work holding for hand tool woodworkers.

There are only so many elements in play when working wood with hand tools – the wood itself, the tools and of course, the meat sack. That would be me.

Almost never (okay, never!) when something goes awry in my woodworking can the problem be traced to the wood or tools, leaving me blameless. I used the tool inexpertly, or I failed to take into account the properties of the particular chunk of lignum, or I failed to set up my work holding, or I forgot what I intended or tried to work too quickly, or, or, or...

Even if it's the tool itself that fails, it always seems to happen due to something I did wrong or not at all. Tools sit mutely on my racks until I pull them down and misuse them. They don't damage or misadjust themselves.

As for the wood, the tree was just doing its growing thing until someone chopped it down or the wind blew it over and it's not like this piece of curly maple volunteered for my misguided ministrations.

I intend to spend much of my upcoming retirement learning how to act less like a meat sack and more like someone who loves the wood and respects the tools. We'll see how it goes.

(*Shannon Rogers, the Renaissance Woodworker, episode on work holding:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3swdvJSrB8>)