

A TOUR OF DAVID THIEL'S SHOP

Maineville, OH

I've been in big shops and little shops, but this one is my smallest. In a one-car garage attached to my condo, I actually have all the tools I need. The car won't fit, but the girls' bikes do.





With a 7'-long traditional cabinetmaker's bench (left over from my father's custom woodworking company) and a hanging cabinet made from scrap sassafras and plywood, I have a comfortable little corner to work in. And, of course, Paige Davis is there to keep me company.

Over my 12 years with *Popular Woodworking* (both the magazine and now the book division) I've always had access to an embarrassing number of woodworking tools and machines, but I've always maintained a shop at home. My current one-car shop is smaller than ever, but I'm proud to say I have every tool a wood shop could need. Granted, things are tucked away until needed, and most of the tools are on casters to make movement easier, but it's all there!

The garage is wired with 110 and 220. No heat or air, but during the warmer months an open garage door and a couple of fans make things comfortable. In the winter a space heater and an extra sweatshirt do the job.

The trickiest part is where to do assembly. That's when the table saw gets a sheet of plywood on it and becomes a work surface. Lumber storage is also a little tight, so it's much more of a "just-in-time" inventory arrangement.



Yes, those are shoes hanging on the wall. About ten years ago a *Popular Woodworking* reader sent in this "drill holster" tip and I've had a wall of shoes from that day on. I still think it's a terrific idea. My goal is to have a drill for every application so I'll never have to change a bit or screw tip. Half way there!



While not the size equipment I'd love to have, a 6" jointer and 13" portable planer (with roller stand, very important for a one-person shop) can handle the great majority of woodworking tasks. A Grizzly dust collector hooks to the tool in use at the time. Conveniently, the small shop space makes it only necessary to shift the hose. And yes, there's a mortiser tucked away in the corner.



The car that doesn't fit in the garage. The sacrifices we make for our hobby. The license plate makes sure that all my neighbors know where to go to borrow a hammer, drill or whatever.

When I started planning out this garage shop I knew that storage space would be critical and tried to use every space available. Amazingly, once I had everything in the garage, I found that I had storage space that I wasn't using! Guess that means I still have room for more tools. Oh darn.



Some simple storage racks and cabinets from Lowes make ample room for all the portable power tools and more. The shop radio is perched at the ready to keep things hopping.



The 10" cabinet saw does take up a lot of room, but honestly the space is pretty comfortable. You can see the minimal lumber storage top left, and the little bit of room for sheet goods below. Of course that space is also shared with Christmas decorations. Note the planer, horses and half a dozen other tools tucked out of the way beneath the bench.



A 14" bandsaw (on wheels) and a 10" sliding compound miter saw with fence extensions (on a great rolling storage cart) share space with the "garage" storage shelf above.



With all those drills stuck in shoes, there have to be a bunch of chargers. A leftover bathroom cabinet serves as home base, and also has drawers to hold my 17 pairs of safety glasses. I'm not kidding. Guess I'm addicted.



I built this rolling cart for the magazine and couldn't part with it. It stores the majority of the small supplies, sharpening, sanding and more. Tucked behind the left door is a benchtop drill press. Behind the right door (next to the clubs) is a small combination belt/disc sander.