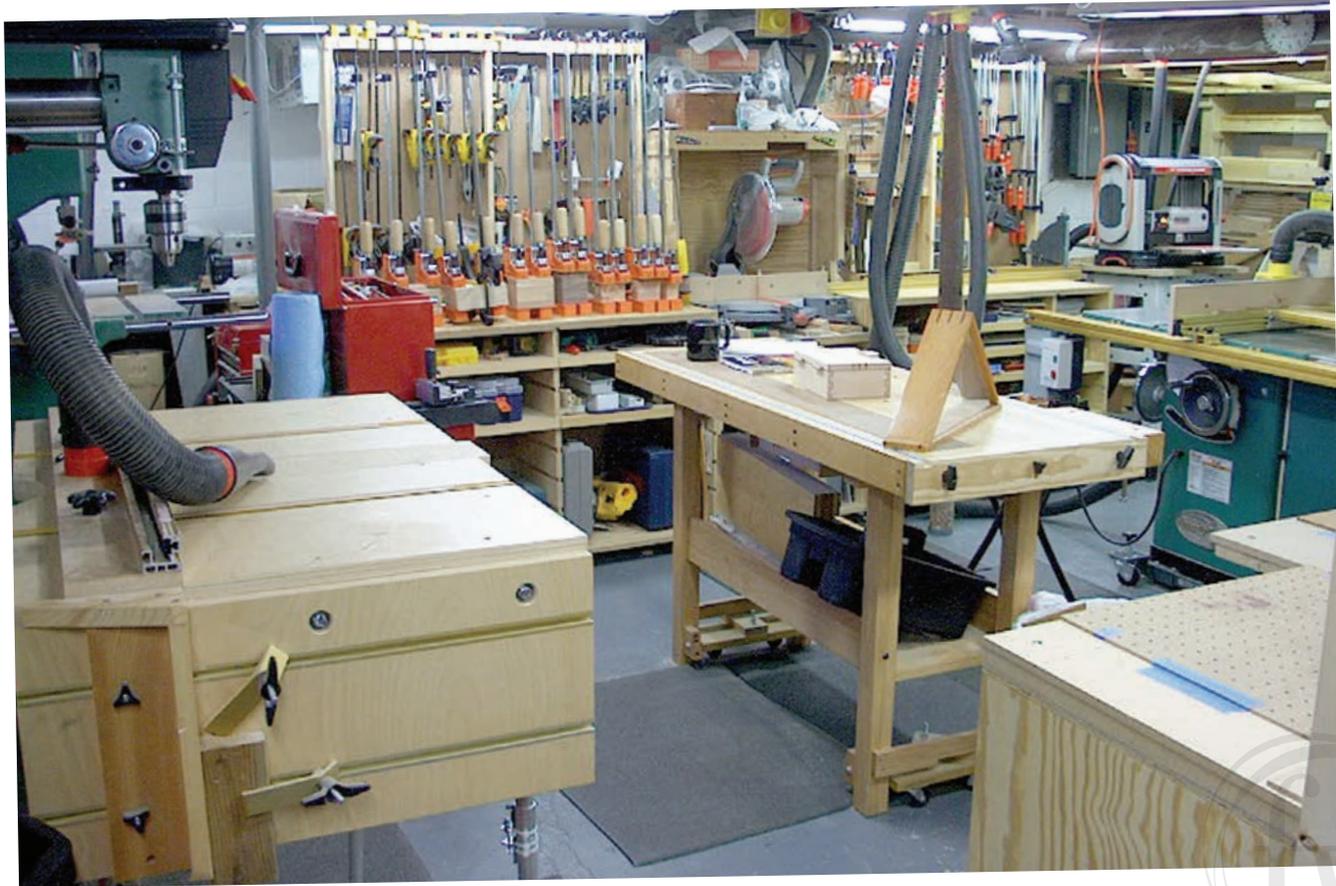




# A TOUR OF TOM ROSATTI'S SHOP

West Springfield, MA



Woodworking Hobbits and job shoppers think circular. My home basement hobby shop layout is wonderfully circular. The center of the circle is the workbench. All my furniture, craft, and home improvement projects are one-of-a-kind products, not lending to a production type of layout. After each milling operation, I would typically find myself back at the workbench to check a measurement, do a hand tool operation with a chisel or plane, check a fit with a mating part, or perform a dry-fit assembly operation.

**M**y shop has two requirements of portability and dust collection. All large power tools, benches, tables, and cabinets ride on wheels. I can easily move the 12'- long CMS or RAS work station by myself. Every power tool is connected to the vacuum dust collection system. The collection system works well enough to allow time to save for a dream air dust collection system.

Heaven must have a workshop ... Or is heaven in my workshop? Yea, here or there, I am in heaven.



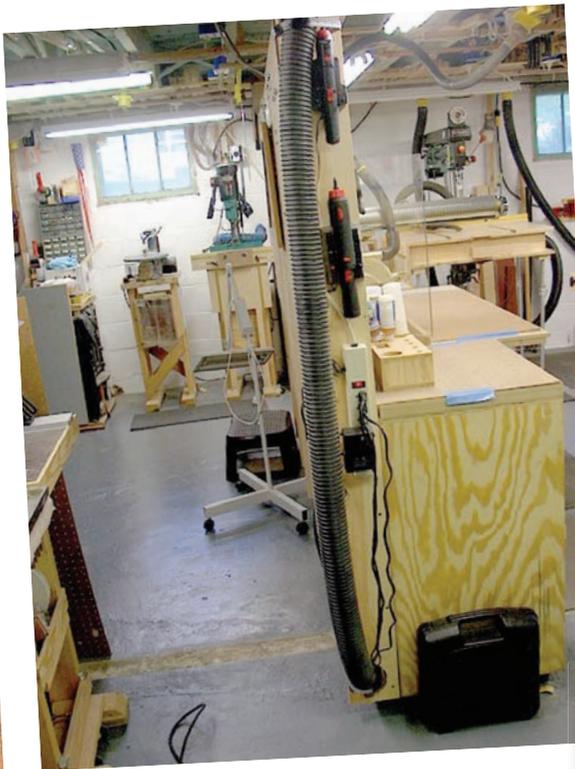
This is my dimensioning station and wood storage area. The dimensioning station consists of a panel cutoff table, an 8" jointer and a 13" planer. The panel cutoff table is shown in the cutting position, adjusted 35° off the wall. The construction of the panel table is that of an open sided torsion box. It will hang horizontally from the ceiling for easy access to the storage shelves behind it. Cutoffs are stored on the 8" shelf. The table also hangs vertically to open up a 5' x 10' area in front of it, useful for temporary storage or alternate assembly area. The ply, lumber and jig storage is hidden behind the white peg board clamp rack, shown in the right hand corner.



For glue-ups, I attach a glue-up clamp rack to the table. The table is ideal for dimensioning ply and large items like 26" taper cuts, which would require a jig on the TS and is too long for a RAS cut.



The wet-and-dry sharpening station is on the outer circle, where the occasionally used tools reside.



Behind the RAS station, there is an 8' x 6' open space assembly area, the future home for a height-adjustable torsion-style assembly table. Moving Northwest is the scroll and jigsaw station at the far end of this picture.

*To be productive it's important to locate hand tools and accessories quickly, and to have clutter-free work stations. Everything has its home. Before leaving the shop, dust and tools are properly stored.*



The mortising and drilling stations are right of the scroll and jigsaw station.



The workbench, shown above, is on fold-away wheels and features dogs, T-track for hold down clamps, adjustable end stop, side stop, tool tray with cover, and two vises.



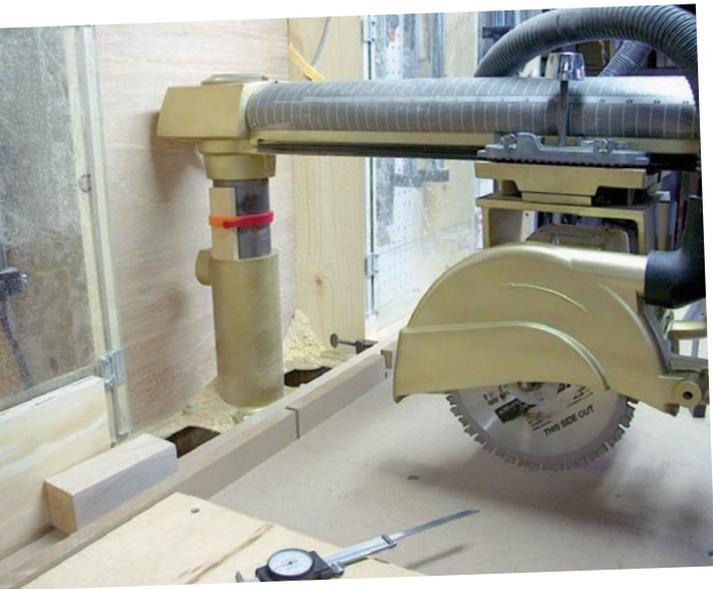
The CMS workstation provides peg hangers for tools, measuring instruments, and other accessories. The top edge is a clamp rack. Also, its table top has a track with tape measure and stops, providing for repeatable precision cutoffs. The open cabinets make it very quick to retrieve portable power tools, chisels, and other items. It serves my short-term memory well as a continual reminder of where things are stored.



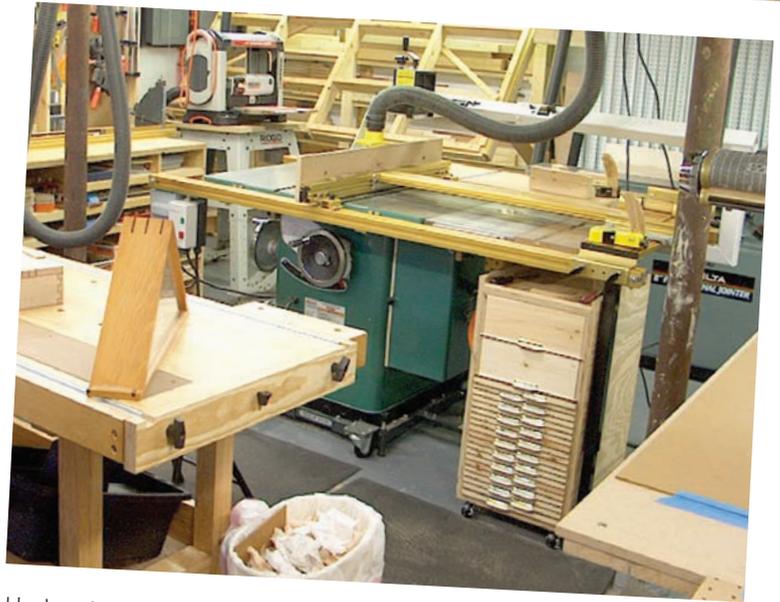
This picture shows the RAS work station, also with open cabinets, pegboard hangers, and clamp rack. Like the CMS station it has a dust collection shroud. The RAS table has an imbedded steel bar grid to keep it flat. The RAS station includes a dust free battery charging station that contains three battery chargers.



The radial drill press utilizes a horizontal and vertical table combination (see first picture, far left). The top table has a sacrificial cutout and a split fence inclusive of a tape measure guide. The fence slides forward in a T-track that also includes two tape measure guides. Upper and lower dust collection is included. The vertical table has an adjustable fence and T-track for clamping.



The dust shroud shown in place on the radial arm saw.



Under the TS/RT is a 22" drawer blade cabinet, which contains all my 7", 10", 12" and dado blades and safety devices.

My shop is my haven. It's taken years of enjoyment putting it all together. As you can see, I purchase moderately priced tools, restore old tools and build some, like the down-draft table. All approaches are part of a fun hobby. Old hand tools are great finds at auctions and flea markets. I really enjoy the nostalgic feeling when using them.



The sanding station includes my concept of a sanding down draft table that houses the sander. It's shown in use here. No roundover or divots with this unit. The ROS or belt sander can mount into this down draft table.



I like learning new techniques. The four boxes at left are done with a Porter Cable dovetail jig. The (center, rear) sea chest was made with a shopmade box joint jig. The center jewelry box with an Incra jig. The candle box was done with the band saw and hand chisel. The other two are band saw boxes.

*Before I had a finishing room, I stuck to hand rubbing tung oils, shellac, and extra thinned varnish. Now with the finishing room I can spray and better control dust and odors.*



My daughter Kayse requested a gate leg table with high stool seating. I designed it with a Shaker influence and touch of fair curve in the gate leg. My wife Cheryl and son Kelly also benefit from my hobby shop. Kara, my oldest daughter, is a woodworking artist and makes furniture for me.