

Getting the Most Out Of Your Workshop

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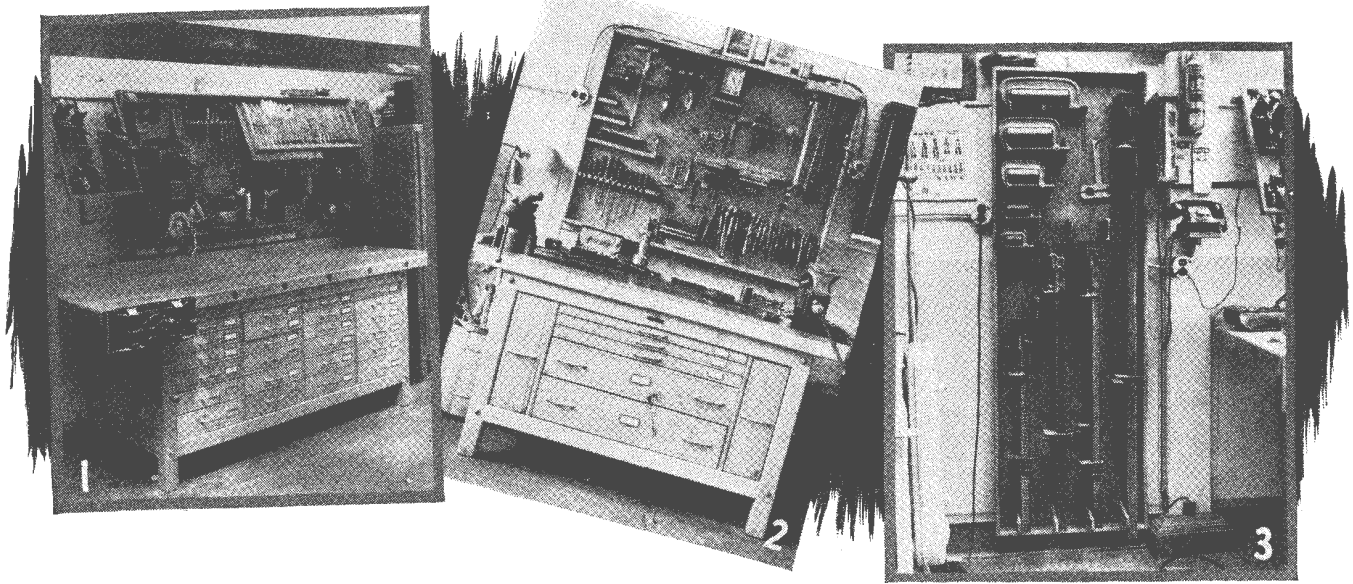
Edited & Digitally Reprinted By
James R. Walker
PO Box 2907
Escondido, CA 92033-2907

Editor's note:

While this information is over 65 years old and the language has a slightly different tone, it is still relevant to anyone who has a workshop. It is simply too valuable to sit collecting dust. This is the reason we are making it available.

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1. Workbench and panel with tools placed for accessibility. 2. Another workbench and panel. Note shallow and deep drawers. 3. Case for storing all types of clamp when not in use.

Getting the Most Out of Your Workshop

By JOHN E. OLIVERAS

It is a distinct pleasure for the home of the Philadelphia Home-workshop Guild to submit for the approval of all homecraftsmen, plans, pictures and ideas that have been adopted in this workshop. Let it be understood by all who read this article that this is really a homecraftsman's shop, and that all equipment and cabinets shown were just a short time ago in his private home which was only of average size. Thereby, discrediting anyone who would say that such methods of arrangement are out of the question of the home workshop.

It is the purpose of this article to instill in every craftsman, the pride that goes with having a neat and efficient arrangement in his shop. It is not my purpose to show a large collection of tools, but,

rather how these tools can be arranged to their best advantage. There are several important things that should be considered before arranging any tool in a fixed place. First—consideration should be the ease with which each tool can be taken for immediate use. There is no pleasure in using tools when you have to wrestle with them in order to get them out or off their respective holders. This results in the bench becoming cluttered up with tools, simply because, if you have a hard time to get them off you will lay them all over the bench rather than set them back in place, thereby leaving yourself no room to work.

Second thought should be that some tools are generally used on all jobs; such as chisels, planes, squares, hammers, punches, hand drills, hand saws, etc.

These particular tools, if at all possible, should be arranged on a panel directly behind the bench as shown in accompanying photographs. This method also helps to keep bench clean, and at the same time is very handy to set a tool in a rack or holder that is not complicated. Another thought to consider is that some tools hang in good advantage, and other tools cannot be made to hang without looking completely out of balance. Tools should be segregated according to their ability to be hung or placed on a rack; or will they lay in a drawer. To illustrate this point I refer to picture of auger bits in drawer. Here is a tool that is really hard to put in a hanging position. Since the shanks are tapered square and vary as to size they tend to hang in all positions but straight. On the other hand if you drill, a block and insert them bit end in,

you have to use too much effort to get them out, especially when the block shrinks. This is a point I can't stress too much. When setting tools in permanent position always keep in mind that it is not so much how good looking they are but rather how handy. Hanging tools should be hung so that they will come off with a minimum effort and yet secure enough that they will not fall off on the slightest provocation.

It is also the writer's opinion that tools pertaining to different machines should be kept as close to each machine as possible. This brings down to a minimum, amount of unnecessary steps wasted; makes for more efficient operation of each, and you are more apt to use the right tool for each job rather than the handiest thing near.

Most machines are set up more or less in a permanent position, and as most of these machines are definitely wall machines, such as the Jig Saw, Band Saw, Drill Press, Lathe, and Sanding Machine – handy individual wall racks placed directly behind or just off to the side will add immeasurably both to the efficiency and looks of one's shop. Let us take the drill press for instance. Most all men who have them have plenty of accessories. Besides regular drills, there are router bits, mortising bits, spur bits, plug cutters, shaper cutters, plus extra quills, and adapters, etc. Most men I think will agree that a drawer is no place to keep drills if you have any amount of them. The same applies to the other items mentioned, it's a simple matter to make a good drill stand, for all that is necessary is a piece of hard wood preferably maple, - or if at all possible a piece of metal is to be preferred. In the case of wood, it will be wise to remember to drill all holes the

next size larger. This allows drills to fit holes loose enough yet not sloppy. The reason for this is obvious. If holes are drilled same size as the drill, when the wood shrinks, you will have a hard time getting them out. This does not apply to metal. You may drill same size hole for each drill. When block has been all drilled you can very readily mark each size on the block by means of a set of steel numbers about 3/16". This is very effective where the wood is used.

After stamping all numbers, take a finely sharpened pencil and follow the outline cut by stamps. This will make the numbers stand out; then apply a couple coats of shellac. The same procedure applies to all drill press accessories and finally all mounted together on a wall board near the drill press will be a source of real satisfaction to you, and will command from your friends such comment as to make the efforts really worthwhile.

Compare the ease and convenience of working from this tool rack near your drill press, with the other alternative of having all accessories mentioned in one drawer marked "Drill Press Accessories."

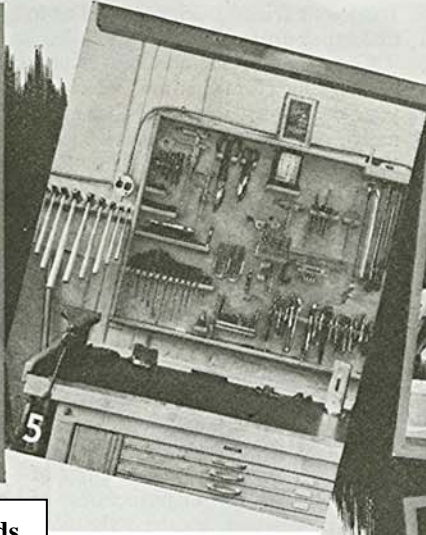
Then there are tools that are much abused, and never given any real recognition, such as files for metal. Yet to the metal worker what tool is more important? It is common practice, even in the better regulated machine shops, to have one file drawer near each vise that would measure approximately "4 to 5" deep and 15" wide x 20" long. The inevitable result is, files are piled one on top of the other, which all manufacturers of files will tell you, shortens the file's life. Add

to this the inconvenience of going to the bottom for the right file, and how many will, rather than take the first one handy?

Like everything else, each file has a particular use. As an alternate to this common practice, I offer what I consider a practical arrangement of files. Note that instead of a deep drawer it is very shallow, deep enough to handle only one layer of files. Files are placed so they will not shift around when the drawer is opened or closed. The strip in center of drawer is very simple. It is notched the width of each type of file, thereby keeping them in order. There is also a jig sawed strip that is inserted under the file right at the ferrule end of handle. This strip keeps files from shifting forward, thereby presenting at all times an orderly array of files with no possibility of choosing the wrong file.

These are the things that one should bear in mind when planning to build benches or other cabinets. Also make provision not to build all deep drawers, or all shallow ones, but, rather take stock of tools on hand, and allow for reasonable expansion.

It is hoped by the writer that this thesis on shop arrangement is not interpreted by any reader that he thinks there is only one right way to arrange a shop. Nothing could be further from a fact. There are many ways to do things right. This article is meant to show one way it can be done.



4. Panel detail showing methods of holding lathe tools.
5. Hammer rack and panel show ease in selecting tools.
6. Drawer detail showing rests for wrenches. Note depth.
7. A shallow drawer fitted to hold tap and die equipment.
8. Drawer fitted with rests to keep files from touching.
9. Each bit has an individual rest, marked for size.
10. Lathe tools are within easy reaching distance of lathe.
11. Wall case constructed to hold drill press equipment.
12. Same wall case with door closed. Note proximity to drill press.

