

Woodworking Tips

Total garage makeover



Bore bones to beautiful

When Ed Walker and his wife, Nan, got their Cypress, Texas, home in 2003, his work was cut out for him. He wanted to make a lot of improvements to their home, but to do that he needed a workshop, and with only a bare garage he had to start from scratch. "The garage was totally unfinished," he recalls. "Bare rafters on the ceiling, you could see tar paper through the open studs; the floor was just rough concrete where everybody had parked for years."



Workshop specs

TYPE: Detached garage connected to house with covered walkway.

SIZE: 21'5"×23'6" (505 sq. ft.).

CONSTRUCTION: 2x4 frame with drywall and panelling interior.

FLOOR: Epoxy-coated concrete.

HEATING & COOLING: Wall-mounted heater/air conditioner combo unit.

ELECTRICAL: 100-amp service.

LIGHTING: Four 4-tube fluorescent fixtures, plus task lighting.

DUST COLLECTION: 1 1/2-hp, 110-volt JDS collector with 1-micron canister filter.

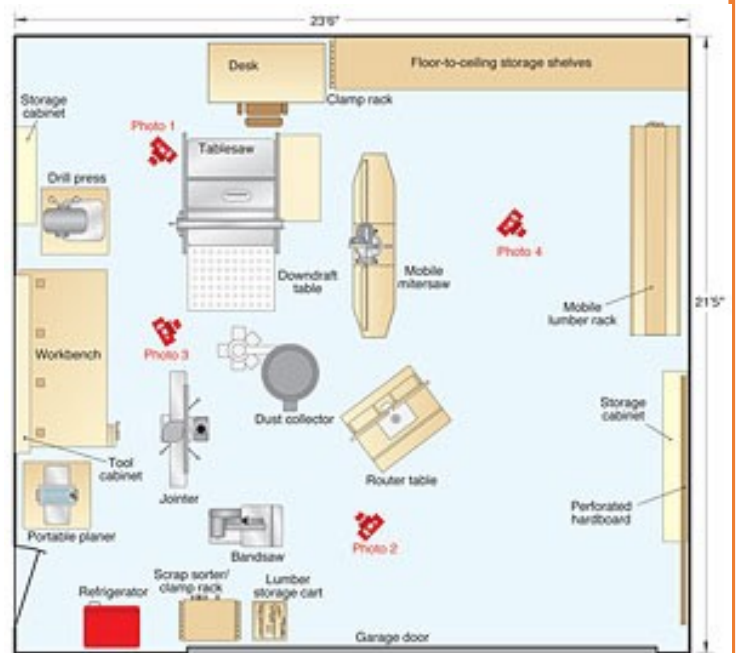


Dust-collector manifold

Dust-collector central

A dust collector with a canister filter and an elaborate ducting system forms the nexus for all of Ed's major tools.

When Ed Walker bought his home in 2003, the inside of the garage offered little more than open 2x4 framing, a single wall outlet, and one ceiling light. He brought it up to date with panelled walls, a dry-wall ceiling, an epoxy-coated floor, and 100-amp electrical service.





Let the sun shine in

On moderate days Ed enjoys opening the garage to enjoy a pleasant breeze and lots of natural light. And a wall-mounted combination heater/air conditioner helps out with extreme temperatures the Texas weather throws his way. Although detached from his home, the shop connects to the main house with a covered walkway. Note that Ed finds room for a few yard tools just inside the garage door.

Tricked-out tablesaw

Ed's fully tricked-out tablesaw features several shop-made improvements, such as an overarm guard and dust-collection hose (see Slide 13), and a downdraft sanding table in the right extension.



On-the move lumber rack

The original plan Ed used to build this rolling lumber rack called for an overall length of 6'. Ed stretched it to 7', added a row of bins on top for tools, screws, and clamps, upgraded the swivel casters to 4", and redesigned it to incorporate additional storage for short stock in the center. "Because I made it longer than the one in the book, I added space to put some shelves in the middle of it," he says.

Drill-press cabinet

Because the drill press and planer cabinets serve a similar purpose in his shop, Ed designed them identically. He used 3/4" birch plywood for the cabinet and doors, and 1/2" ply for the drawer boxes. "The drawers don't have slides or hardware," Ed says. "Instead, I cut oversized hardboard bottoms for the drawers that slide on dados cut into the inside of the cabinet."



Dust-collection manifold

Ed is highly sensitive to wood dust, but didn't want to drop down ducts from the ceiling. Instead, he adapted an idea he saw—where else?—in a woodworking magazine that described a central configuration that would keep duct runs as short as possible. Ed's version of a dust-collection manifold reminds him of a common Texas oil-field rig called a "Christmas tree," and in it, he dedicated six 4" ports to his major machinery. A seventh port at the top of the tree accepts 2 1/2" flexible hose that he can connect to his drill press, extend to his workbench when using a handheld router, or attach to a vacuum nozzle for general shop clean-up chores.

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Although the original plans for the wings didn't call for it, Ed trimmed the corners to allow more manoeuvring room around his tools. With the support wings in their folded position, Ed can access the rolling workbench he uses as an outfeed table for his table saw.



For his router table, Ed mated a commercially available tabletop with fence and aluminium router mounting plate to a shop-built rolling cabinet that draws ideas from several magazine articles. Ed favours 4" casters for all his mobile tools because of their practicality. "They're a lot easier to roll around," he says. "And, to be honest, they make the cabinets a lot easier to sweep under."



Ed based the design for his scrap sorter on a WOOD® magazine plan, but modified it for double duty as a mobile clamp center. Internal "steps" help sort longer stock vertically by length, while the steps create side compartments of varying depth for shorter cutoffs. For the bar clamp racks, Ed laminated 3/4" poplar to create 1½" stock (something he does for a number of his projects).



Based on another WOOD magazine plan, Ed's overarm table saw blade guard easily swings out of the way as needed, while the articulated arms holding the blade-guard shroud allow it to be raised and lowered. Ed opted to use a clear-plastic shroud that covers the blade and channels sawdust into the attached hose and the dust collector. The original WOOD magazine plan for this project is available for purchase at woodmagazine.com/dust-hood. To further improve his table saw, Ed also built a plywood cover for the machine's rip fence that incorporates feather board hold-downs, plus small storage compartments for shop accessories such as pencils and tape measure





TAURANGA MODEL RAILWAY CLUB (Inc)

HOBBY SHOW 2014

3rd/4th May

TO ALL PROSPECTIVE EXHIBITORS

The Tauranga Model Railway Club (Inc) will be holding its 2nd two day Hobby Show at Memorial Hall, Queen Elizabeth Youth Centre, Corner Devonport Road & 11th Avenue on the 3rd & 4th of May 2014 and cordially invites you or your club to attend

With this letter please find enclosed a Registration Form, which you are invited to complete and return by 1 April 2014, please carefully consider your requirements because it is expected hobby show to be very popular and it will prevent alteration to your display site in particular please note the following points

Late table and site configuration changes cannot be accommodated.

Display space and demonstration area will be provide free of charge

All participating clubs will be provided with one free trestle table to promote their club activities. You can sell products or raffle items providing that they are for your own clubs funds, If extra tables are required for the sale of items it will incur a charge of \$25.00 per trestle table.

Selling space (i.e. trade or commercial use) in units 1800 x 760 will be available and charged out rate of \$25.00 per unit. This is irrespective of whether the organiser provides the tables or the seller provides their own.

As the name Hobby Show implies, the purpose of the event is to display and demonstrate hobbies. Priority will be given to groups who encourage a-hands on approach. Stalls set up for the purely for selling unrelated items will be asked to vacate the show.

Set up time is scheduled for 6pm to 9pm on Friday 2nd May 2014 and 7.00am on Saturday 3rd May 2014

The show will be open to the public from 10am till 4pm Saturday and Sunday. Exhibitors will be responsible for the own security and staffing of displays

The club will provide, tea, & coffee each day during the show

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Club/Guild Newsletters;

This Club/ Guild aims to assist members to improve their woodworking skills. Not all such activities occur in our Club premises, and some activities or events are promoted through this Newsletter and others directly to members in some other ways, but they are still Club/Guild activities, please support them. These activities may include personal and group tuition of members by other members (we all try to help one another for the benefit of the Club/Guild in this way) sessions in member's workshops, wood-gathering, events promoting our activities to members of the public, and other such activities and events.

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