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Small Woodworking Shops (New Best Of Fine Woodworking)



Synopsis

"Small Woodworking Shops contains years of "Fine Woodworking authors' knowledge and expertise on how to make the best of a small space, often with materials woodworkers already have at their disposal. Projects for modifying garages, basements, or specially built shops to fit various needs are included.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Fine Woodworking has been publishing the best woodworking information for small shop woodworkers since 1975.

This book has its positive points, but encouraging someone who wants to create a small workshop is not one of them. Instead it tends to make you feel bad about not having 1000+ sq. ft. of space to allocate to a wood shop. They've reprinted six articles that describe wood shops, but only one fits my definition of "small." The rest describe spaces 600, 720, 1296, and two at 2400 sq. ft. I guess if you are making a "small" commercial shop, 2400 sq. ft. is not out of the question, but if woodworking is just a hobby, 200-400 sq. ft. is a more common limitation. It also has two (related, overlapping in content) articles on dust collection; one of the articles is useful, but another seems redundant. Seems like the editors were looking for filler articles. I would have given this book more stars--3 or 4--if it hadn't claimed to be about "small" shops. However I wouldn't have purchased it in

that case, because I already have general woodshop design books--and in fact almost all the information in this one I've seen in my other books. And it really is just a collection of articles rather than a coherent whole. In particular, I find "How to Design and Build Your Ideal Woodshop (Popular Woodworking)" to be much more appropriate. It talks about how to design a small workshop in much greater detail. I also have an earlier edition of "Setting Up Shop, Completely Revised and Updated: A Practical Guide to Designing and Building Your Dream Shop, which is quite good.

Great book! I read it cover to cover, twice. I'm setting up a garage shop and this saved me from some mistakes and also help validate ideas I already had. Very easy to read and follow. Good photos and illustrations.

This book is nice, but I feel it focuses too much on starter production shops geared toward power tools. It would be nice if they incorporated more information on truly small shops. It seems the smallest this one covers is a two car garage. I'd love to know what tips they'd offer for an 8x10 hand tool shop.

There is some good info in the book but really only half the book pertains to small woodworking shops. This is a general book for tips of setting up shop for all sizes - don't buy if your specifically looking for info on small shops.

I have a small woodshop which has begun overflowing. This book suggested great solutions to storage and tool layouts that conserve floor space. Unbelievable number of illustrations inspire solutions to problems in your own shop. Suggests practical things like ways to separate finishing from tool areas and practical ways to handle dust collection (vital to avoiding lung damage). Also includes suggestions on which tools to get first based on what you are going to build. Makes you want to construct a special building.

At first when I started reading the book I thought I was in store for a long treatise on how to build a professional workshop. If you are in the market for that information, I am sure this book will get you started. Where I found the book most useful was in seeing how each person used the space available. In one instance, the shop design was a professional spread with a specific location for each step of the woodworking process. In another instance, the shop design was for a professional

who had limited space. Both extremes helped me visualize how my home workshop (my garage) might be better used. I gained a lot from reading the book. Reading it is not a necessity, however. You may gain the same information the authors did by making the same mistakes as they did or you can learn vicariously from them and the examples. Now, one thing I recommend for most hobbyists; while reading the book, do not get discouraged or dismissive. Read the book for ideas about how to make your workspace more usable and more efficient. If you do, you will not be disappointed.

Great for someone starting their small basement shop.

Gives me a lot of ideas for my workshop.

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