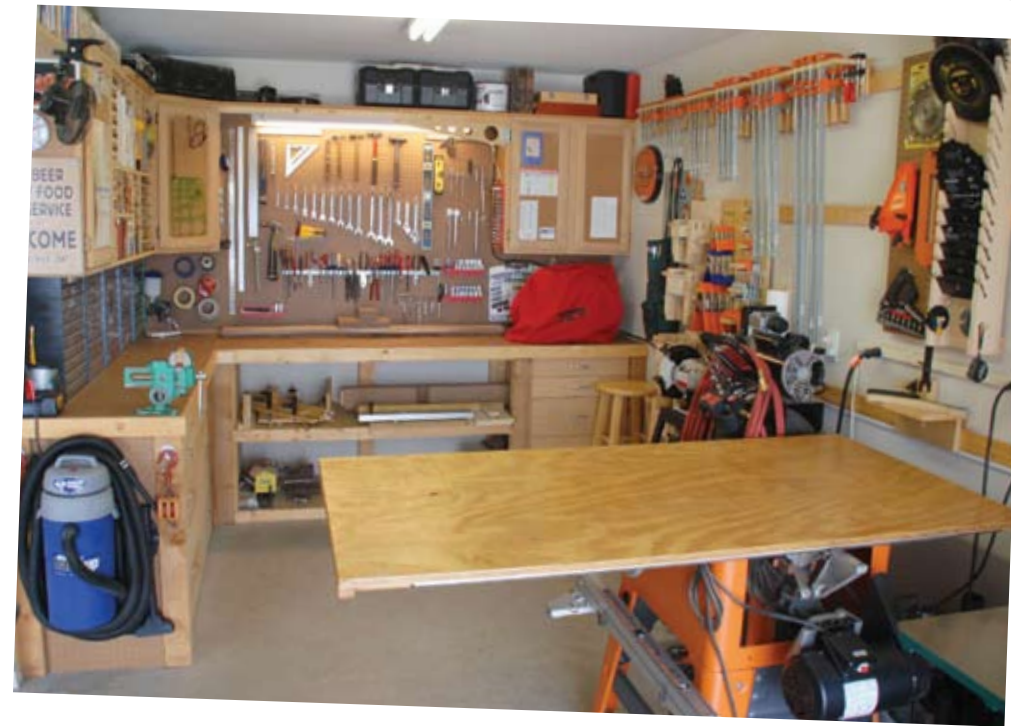


# A TOUR OF RICK SPRINGER'S SHOP

Owasso, OK



Here I am, the proud owner of a small shop. As you can see, my shop is small, one bay of a three car garage. It's great when the weather is nice and I can open the door and enjoy the outdoors and the light. During the winter, with the door closed, it can feel more like a cave. But that doesn't stop me from being out there.



Although small, the shop is efficient. Everything is portable. All the equipment is on wheels for repositioning. And the wall mounted organizers are hung on cleats and can be repositioned as equipment is moved around. I've always heard you can never have too many clamps, but the real challenge is to find enough wall space to hang them.

I've often been accused of being a little anal about my tool/shop organization. My daughter's favorite past time is to rearrange the tools on my bench just to aggravate me. I don't understand her sense of humor.

I am an engineer for a manufacturing company in Tulsa but in my free time I'm an amateur woodworker. There is nothing more relaxing to me than to spend time in the shop (although free time is becoming increasingly hard to find).

I am relatively new to woodworking, having been at it for only about two years now. I have learned my hobby by building jigs, fixtures, and storage units for the shop. With every organizer or storage unit I build I try to incorporate different joining techniques and features. My family and friends began asking if I was ever going to build anything other than jigs and fixtures so I had to finally move on to some more challenging furniture projects. I still get some of my greatest enjoyment from adding to the shop.

As you can see from the photos, most of my equipment comes from Grizzly tools. Grizzly has a warehouse in Springfield, Missouri, which is about a 2-1/2 hour drive from my house. I use this distance as an excuse to bring home a pickup load on every visit ("Really honey, I need to bring home two or three tools to make the trip worthwhile").



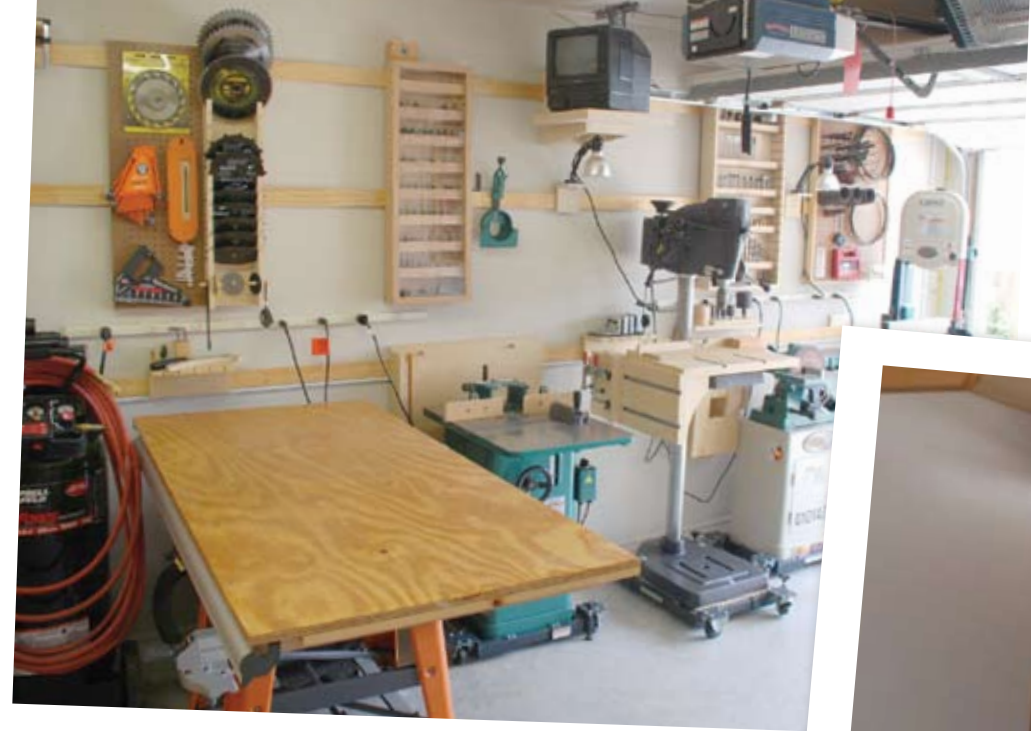
Did I say it was in one bay? Well, except for what overflows into the next bay. My wife has made it clear that my car will be the first to be parked outside if I encroach any farther into her side of the garage. Maybe she'll trade the two car side for my one.



Looking from the second bay into the first. Yes, "Cold Beer" does get tested here, and tested, and tested...



My magazines and books are stored in an otherwise unused area above the door. I keep waiting for this to fall under the weight. Looks like I'll need to expand this unit soon.



Many of the wall-hung organizers shown here were recreations from plans in various magazines and woodworking books. I usually take creative license in adapting them to my particular needs (or moods). Obviously, the shop is a work-in-process — as it should be.



Obviously every flat surface needs to be used in a small shop. My table saw doubles as an assembly table when not in use. I have also inset a router table between the rails to save space.



All drawers were designed and built utilizing removable dividers so they can be easily reconfigured as I add to my tool collection. Remember, every new project should require a new tool.



Smaller tools are stored within easy reach and set up as needed. I use a flat shelf which I pull out from under my miter-saw station to position the planer when needed. The shelf is on drawer slides.



Note the ingenious (at least I thought it was at the time) use of mailing tubes for dowel rod storage.