

Garage Door Panels Used To Finish Farm Shop

William Brauer made a good looking insulated ceiling for his farm shop using garage door panels that he got as seconds from a nearby factory. Installation was easy.

"I installed 2 by 2's at the bottom of the trusses in my 30 by 60-ft. shop and laid in the panels like a drop ceiling," says Brauer. "I used the whole door, up to 10-ft. widths. They have 2 in. of insulation sandwiched by metal panels. The sandwiching makes a rigid panel so there is no sagging."

Once they were in place, he laid another 3 1/2 in. of insulation on top and covered it with Tyvek. It helps keep his shop warm.

When he started the project, he was buying seconds from a nearby factory. That ended

when garage door retailers began buying the seconds. They were using them to replace rusted doors that were still under warranty.

"The factory stopped selling seconds altogether," says Brauer. "However, the retailers couldn't get rid of the bad doors they replaced, so I started picking them up."

Brauer traveled to dealers between Chicago and the Quad Cities to pick up doors.

"I didn't care what color they were on the outside because they were always white on the inside," says Brauer. "With their seals, they fit together real well."

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Brauer installed 2 by 2's at the bottom of the trusses in his shop and laid in garage door panels, then added 3 1/2 in. of insulation on top that's covered with Tyvek.

Giant Lazy Susan Makes Tools Easy To Find

Stephen Bashista has an organizer idea for the "not so perfect farm shop." His four-sided Lazy Susan makes it easier to find the assorted wrenches and sockets he has collected over the years.

It spins for easy access because of the tandem axle manure spreader wheel and hub he set up as the base. Beefed up with plates welded to the shaft and metal sides to create a 48-in. tall A-frame, it's durable and heavy. With a handle on the top, Bashista can move it anywhere using a loader with a chain or forks.

"I usually stick it in a corner of the shop. It turns so the tools come to me," explains the Southampton, Mass., farmer.

The two 3/16-in steel plate sides have

wrench cups - 2 1/2 to 3-in. thin wall square tubing cut 3 1/2 to 10-in long to hold various size 1/8-in. wrenches - with troughs between to hold 1/16-in. wrenches. Slotted shelves hold socket wrenches.

"I left an open space at the bottom of each cup about 3/8 in. wide to let out the dirt and welded the top and part of the sides," Bashista notes.

The other two sides are made of 32-in. tall by 20-in. pieces of 3/4-in. plywood on 1-in. angle iron bases. One side is for metric sockets and the other is for SAE sockets.

"I pre-drilled it at 15 degrees for 16D finish nails for small sockets. The pegs for larger sockets are Timberloc screws with cutoff heads at 7 in., with a small flat area ground

onto the shank side for the drill chuck to grab," Bashista says.

To make it easier to find the right size tool, he organized them by size from small to large.

"I built this in 2016 because I didn't have a good toolbox setup," Bashista says. "I had odd stuff around, and it was a mess to find them and sockets were all over the place."

When he needs to, he can move it outside to work on equipment in the yard, he says.

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Four-sided Lazy Susan spins on a tandem axle manure spreader wheel and hub that serves as the base.

"Tip-Proof" Tapered Tool Caddy

Carvel Cheves' tool caddy keeps his wrenches, sockets and other tools organized and close to the job. The cabinet sides taper from 22-in. edges at the bottom to 10-in. edges at the top.

"The taper makes it hard to tip and helps keep sockets and wrenches hanging in place," says Cheves.

Hangers for the tools are 3 1/2-in. torx screws that were screwed through from the back side. Cheves used 5/8-in. plywood for the sides.

The caddy has 3 sides, with one side open for shelves. He hangs clamps, spare tools, and supplies in that space, including a magnet tray.

"It's handy for holding nuts and bolts when I'm taking apart a piece of equipment," says Cheves.

The caddy sits on a 26-in. square base with wheels at the corners. Cheves used 2 casters and 2 straight-line wheels so he can steer it into place at a work station.

"I didn't have a plan when I started," says Cheves. "As I finished it, I looked at the top and thought, why waste the space."

He then added a 22-in. square top with raised sides to make a tray.

Cheves had an appliance service business for 39 years. When he retired, he had plenty of tools. He credits his caddy with helping keep some of them in order and close at hand.

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Cabinet sides taper from 22-in. edges at the bottom to 10-in. edges at the top. The taper makes cabinet hard to tip.

His Online Videos Teach Transmission Repair

Jim Williams teaches automatic transmission repair to anyone who wants to learn at no charge. Courses include the most popular GM, Ford and Chrysler transmissions. The 8-hr. training programs can be found on YouTube as well as on Williams' website where he also sells the parts and accessories needed to repair or rebuild transmissions.

The videos are professionally presented with the actual transmission front and center. Williams shoots them in a studio with no distracting background noise.

He is trying to do for others with video what he said was done for him decades ago. When he was 17, his transmission broke down. Unable to afford the \$500 repair costs, he bought Peterson's Big Book of Auto Repair with a section on transmissions. Black and white photos and step-by-step instructions helped him make the needed repairs. That led to a 30+ year career in transmission repair, including running his own transmission repair shop for 25 years.

"I want to show people how they can do it themselves," says Williams. "If they run into a problem or have a question, they are welcome to give me a call to discuss it."

Each video starts with an introduction that encourages the viewer that they can indeed repair their transmission. Each transmission or transmission group has its own 8-hr.

presentation. They are broken down by Part 1 Assembly and Part 2 Disassembly. Each part is divided into lessons, making it easy to watch in natural segments, drop back and review, or pick up where you left off.

While Williams likes teaching people about transmissions and empowering them to do their own repairs, the videos also serve a commercial purpose.

"If they find the videos on YouTube, hopefully, they will link to my website for any parts they need," says Williams. "If they find them on my website, I hope they will stay and order parts there."

Parts in his online store range from a \$1 E-clip for a parking rod to a \$399 deluxe super kit for rebuilding a transmission.

"People who don't have a good internet connection can order the course on a thumb drive," says Williams.

Thumb drive collections of individual or multiple collections can be ordered by phone or from the online store. Prices generally run around \$39 for individual courses.

To find his videos, just search at YouTube.com for "Transmission Bench Videos."

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