



Heavy-duty workbenches are made to order in the U.S. and shipped direct.

## Custom Work Benches Built To Last

Dyco Ventures of Arcadia, Fla., builds heavy-duty workbenches, welding carts, and other parts storage solutions. Founder Peter Dyck built the benches for personal use in 2003 but quickly realized that others would benefit from the design. He began the company in 2006, focusing on helping friends and local businesses, but word spread quickly. The product line has since expanded to include parts cabinets, welding tables, upper cabinets and more.

"We also build truck toolboxes with drawers," says company representative Jadin Dyck. "They're something we stock here, but the workbenches are made to order and shipped to the customer's door."

Dyco workbenches offer 300-lb. capacity drawers, heavy-duty frames with welded square tubing, and optional cabinets and pegboards. They include a solid wood substrate under a powder-coated steel top (an optional upgrade to a stainless-steel top

is available) and heavy-duty drawers with a four-bearing glide for smoother operation. Customers have a choice of seven different drawer options for each drawer bank.

All design, construction, finishing, crafting, and shipping occur at a single location. Each workbench has a high-quality, powder-coated finish available in seven standard colors. Each arrives fully assembled and ready for use. The workbenches are built to order, so it's best to reach out directly for a quote based on your specific requirements. "Customers can fill out a quote request form online or call us," says Dyck. "Our product is heavy-duty, built for a lifetime of use, and we build it right here in the USA. Prices start at \$2,000 and can go up to around \$15,000 with custom options."

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## His Handcart Also Moves Sideways

Charles Bowen's handcart can go forward or back but can also roll left or right. His custom design is ideal for moving large materials through a narrow doorway.

"I've been a welder all my life and often wondered if I could move long tubes, steel plate or plywood sheets through a doorway without taking them off the cart," says Bowen.

Bowen gave the idea a lot of thought and devised a working solution. His handcart is about 54 in. high and about 18 in. wide with a standard-size nose plate. However, that's about all that's standard about his handcart.

Most handcarts have a simple two-dimensional frame, i.e., uprights with hand holds attached at the top and the nose plate attached at the bottom. Usually, wheels are mounted to the rear of the frame.

Bowen designed and fabricated a handcart with a two-part frame, mostly from 1-in. OD black pipe. The standard upright and nose plate are connected to a rear frame with rotating uprights and hand holds.

Short stubs on the top and bottom of both sides extend to the rear from the front frame. Each stub ends at a T.

Bowen bored out the Ts to hold 3/4-in. black pipe uprights and allow them to rotate in place. Wheels are attached near the bottom of the rear uprights. At the top of these uprights, hand grips extend to the rear and the inside of the frame. A U-shaped piece of steel slips over the inside grips and retains them in place when moving the handcart forward and back.

"When I want to move the handcart to the



Bowen's handcart has a two-part frame that allows the wheels and frame to be folded in, allowing for side-to-side movement on the wheels.

side, I remove the retainer and rotate the rear grips into the center position," says Bowen. "When I replace the retainer, the wheels are locked in the side rolling position."

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## Handmade Tool Chest Doubles As A Workbench

Dr. Al knows of many different sizes and types of toolboxes he could've bought for his personal use, but since he's an accomplished woodworker, he decided to make one of his own design.

"Mine is a combined tool chest and workbench, made out of sweet chestnut and American black walnut," Al says. "I did all the woodworking with hand tools except for a few cuts with a bandsaw and all the metalwork with power tools."

The front of the box doubles for what Al calls a shooting board for shooting square edges and miters. It has drawers holding various hand tools he uses to make simple wooden boxes.

The back of the chest has a handmade vice with a leather jaw. The uprights provide a firm surface to clamp against rather than a solid back while allowing for wood movement because of the narrow slats. The diagonal piece stops racking while he planes on the top surface of the chest. Al says the vice holds boards securely for sawing or planing on the edges and ends. Wide boards can be held by removing the middle vice screw.

The vice can also be flipped around so the leather jaw faces out and the vice screws are placed in the slotted holes. It can then be raised, providing a stop, so boards can be securely held while still giving access to the top surface.

Al says he built the box entirely with hand tools to practice his hand-tool woodworking skills. He says he learned many techniques while working on the project part-time over a year.

"This was the first project where I cut dovetails without any saw guide," Al says. "It's also the first project where I've cut those intricate dovetails on thick wood and the first project where I made wooden drawers with half-lap joints. One of the wood pieces had a blemish that Al repaired with two different Dutchman graving pieces, one a decorative



Chest opens to reveal drawers that store the various tools Dr. Al needs for box-making. Drawers are made with half-lap dovetails and brass pull rings.



Planing stops on the toolbox are made of stainless-steel flat bar welded into an L-shape.

butterfly in a contrasting wood and a discrete version for grain-matched repair.

To eliminate dust, Al finished the tool chest surfaces with a smoothing plane rather than sandpaper. He used a Scotch-Brite pad to rub surfaces between coats of finish with equal parts of pure tung oil, satin varnish and white spirit.

Al says the chest is the largest and most difficult project he's ever done, and he's extremely pleased with the results. "I even tried photolithography for the first time to etch numbers into the top of each drawer to help fit them in the right place after they're removed when the chest is in use."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dr. Al (www.cgkt.co.uk/woodwork/handtools/traveltoolchest).



Caster dollys are designed to fit a standard snowplow, allowing for easy movement around a garage or shop floor.

## Make Moving Snowplows Easy

If mounting the snowplow on your pickup takes longer than moving snow, you might want to invest \$100 in a Rol-A-Blade caster set. Each of the three small dollys has a groove in the molded poly center to hold the plow in place. The cast nylon casters (including a locking caster) on the dollys make it easy to move the plow in place to align it with the pickup.

With a heavy-duty, powder-coated steel cart and a 350-lb. weight capacity for each

dolly, Rol-A-Blade can hold plows of all sizes. It can easily move and store the plow during the off-season.

Buyers Products Company manufactures it, and it's sold through many of the Ohio company's distributors, as well as online through Amazon and other sites.

Prices start at \$100 online. Customers like the ease of movement and the plow installation on the truck, but several mentioned that the wheels could be more durable and larger.

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