

VIRTUAL SHOP HOP BY RON ZANINI

I have a 900 sq. ft metal building that is dedicated to my woodcraft. My wife and I built the thing from a kit. The building is weather-tight and criminal-proof (I hope). Bad side of the metal building is that it is hard to hang things -- electrical, dust collecting and shelving. But, you see from the pictures that those problems can be overcome. The total cost in 2001 was about \$13,000, plus sweat equity.



Most of you probably know I mainly build small decorative boxes. Keep that fact in mind when I describe the different sawdust-making tools. MY work is more production-line.

Ok, *the Sawdust-Making*: I have taken three 10-inch contractor-size table saws and connected them to make one long table saw. One saw has a ripping blade, one saw has a crosscut blade, and one has a combination blade used for smoother cuts. All three saws share the same fence.

I really do not like to change blades, and so now I'm even thinking about getting one more table saw for a dado setup.



The shop also has three band saws. One is an old American Standard 36-inch band saw. This is used to mill logs into manageable lumber. This saw came to me in a round-about way from Hanford High School. When Bob Sansom was in high school (how long ago was that?), he actually used this same saw. There is also an 18-inch band saw which is used to resaw my veneers and a 14-inch band saw with a $\frac{1}{8}$ " blade that is used almost like a scroll saw.



The 15-inch planer has been retrofitted with a Byrd Helix cutter. Man, what an improvement! The old Boise-Crane jointer is a champ and has a helix cutter ordered and on the way.



The two things that I would really like to describe are the modelers' saw with a 4-inch blade, and the modelers' drum sander. Incorporated in the boxes I make is a great deal of fine inlay. With the modelers' saw I can make a 1/32" cut without the saw eating the small parts. Although this saw looks like something from Harbor Freight, believe me, it is way past that, being designed and built one at a time by a machinist turned model maker here in the USA. The fence and miter are machined to be "dead on." The 6-inch modelers' drum sander allows me to create very uniform and thin veneers. And, for *the Dust Collection*: Instead of running vacuum pipe all over the shop I have opted for small dust collectors for each of the following groups--table saws, jointer and planer and sanding group.

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Works for me.

The trouble with having given myself a larger shop area is that I use all the space. Wish I had made it even bigger! You are welcome to come on up to Springville any time to see for yourself.

See Ya, Ron Zanini.