

Track Planning Services

BUILD a MOBILE and USEFUL WORKBENCH

Modellers need a comfortable and welcoming place to work. Modelling can be any activity from building a structure to repairing wheels on an S truck; and anything and everything in between. The basic necessities are a good chair and a desk with a nearby place for all tools, parts, glues, paints and whatever else needed for the project at hand.

The location of the modelling space – chair plus desk/bench – is a consideration, particularly when the modeller is consuming part of the house not meant for rail modelling. My circumstances are no different to thousands of modellers using an acquired part of the regular household. Our choice of space must fit with the needs of the rest of the family.

I have claimed (and been allowed!) to use part of our 2½ car garage. It is a fortuitous location in an alcove in front of the car spaces. I have a static desk with four drawers. The desk is a relic of someone's school days, with laminated world map on top, just in case I feel the need to wander. I have steel shelving for storage within close reach. My chair is a hospital type bathroom seat which I acquired from aged relatives many years ago.

All this is ideal except for the fact that I have distanced myself from family, and in some way excluded myself from the companionship of family. We all need our own space, but closeting yourself apart from loved ones for hours (or even days) is not ideal or conducive to good partner relations.

My solution was to build another work desk, able to contain rudimentary and necessary tools, glues, parts etc. The second workbench would be mobile, not take too much space; yet be able to let me work within the comfort of the lounge room, near to the afore mentioned love ones.

A Mobile Workbench for All

This project requires simple carpentry and word working skills. Not being a carpenter or cabinet maker will not restrict your ability to work with simple tools found in most home workshops.

I purchased a very basic student computer desk

with hutch. I paid the princely sum of \$5 at a local opportunity shop. The desk and hutch did not have drawers, a side cabinet or a side bench, but there was a valuable sliding keyboard drawer under the desktop. For more money, more features are available. For under \$100 there are simple student desks sold by a well-known Scandinavian provider of all things for homemakers. Another source for simple student computer desks is a popular office provider, found in every suburb.

I considered retaining the hutch for storage, but there was valuable timber planks in the hutch. Retaining the hutch would have defeated part of my purpose of building a simple workbench, for which I was able to look over the top.



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