

Compact Workshop 14 — Moveable CNC Benchtop Lathe Station/Robert Lawson

Robert Lawson's Rolling Workbench

Robert sent us photos of his "Sherline Machine Shop" on a Kreg workbench with casters. He uses a spare bedroom as his "workshop," which includes other tools like a Shapeoko 5 CNC Router and an xTool D1 Pro Laser Engraver.

He tells us, "I have a 4410 (CNC) lathe with milling accessories, all on a rolling platform, which is easy to store away when not in use. A 2-ft by 4-ft benchtop fits through all doors." The lathe base is bolted to the Formica benchtop using wing nuts underneath.



FIGURE 1—The touchscreen monitor and keyboard for CNC control are seen in stowed position. In use, they are swung to the right and assume the normal right-hand position for CNC work. The lower shelf holds plastic storage crates for all the accessories.



FIGURE 2—The CNC motion controls, mounted on the back of the workstation includes a mini PC, HiCon Integra 4-motor controller with motor drivers. The control software will be Mach4, which integrates perfectly with the Integra motion controller hardware.



FIGURE 3—Documents are held in a paper clip that hangs from a cup hook. This keeps them out of the way, but instantly handy.

Details Not Necessarily Obvious from the Photos

Robert has fastened Formica to the MDF benchtop so lubricants or other fluids don't get soaked into the MDF. The Formica is not glued down; it is held in place by an aluminum angle in front and decorative washers on the sides and back. Removing the wing nuts underneath the Lathe can be done without tools, and then the Lathe can be removed to clean up any mess.

The Kreg workbench casters, when locked, neither roll nor swivel, make for a nice solid platform.



FIGURE 4

The Kreg workbench is the 20" x 28" frame size with the benchtop made of 2-ft by 4-ft birch plywood topped by MDF. Both plywood and MDF panels are

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3/4" thickness and the benchtop and shelf are made the same way. The back panel with the CNC control system is made of 3/4" birch plywood.

The white pole and two arms (shown on the right side of Figure 1) are from a dual-monitor pole product available on Amazon. The touchscreen monitor is on the upper arm and a keyboard holder (made by cutting an 8" x 36" shelf from a local hardware store) is on the lower arm (see Figure 5).



FIGURE 5—The monitor and keyboard shown in position during CNC machining.



FIGURE 6—“To the left of the Kreg workbench is my trusty Henry vacuum cleaner, ready and eager to clean up any mess.”

Thank you,
Robert Lawson