

News and Views from
WoodCentral.com
by Ellis Walentine

All woodworkers have the need for tools, and they have to buy them somewhere. With the rise of "big box" stores and the Internet, I suspect that tool-shopping and buying habits are changing. So, this time around, I asked our visitors, "Where do you buy tools, why do you buy the ones you do, and have your tool buying habits changed over time?"

"I buy where I can get the best bang for my buck, usually for a specific need, but sometimes I've just got to have it. The Internet has allowed me to compare prices, but if I can, I buy local."

"I buy tools via catalogs and the Internet, relying on recommendations from websites and magazine reviews. After filling my shop the Normite way, I'm now buying hand tools for specific tasks."

"My tool purchases are either an upgrade or a replacement for one that bit the dust. I try to stick with brands that I trust, and usually find a distributor within a 200 mile radius, so I can drive to pick them up."

"I'm beginning to buy more on the Internet as I can find what I really need from specialty sources. My buying has changed from what I can afford, to saving for what I really need. I don't like the idea of disposable tools."

"I bought all new major tools before I retired, and pretty much have everything I need. When you reach geezerhood, you don't need much."

"I buy where I get the best price. The Internet has changed everything. I get questions answered and make a purchase, knowing I will be satisfied. Shipping costs are a big factor in where I shop."

"My stationary power tools are purchased locally; hand tools are from catalogs and eBay. Discussing tool pros and cons on message boards is great."

"Small specialty tools I buy from catalogs, and general use tools, locally. When I need tools, I don't want to have to wait to get them."

"My tools and shop have grown with my interest, skill and budget. I started with hand power tools and moved to better quality. Now, all my major tools are upper end brand names that I bought from talking to reps at wood shows."

"I hate to see tool stores go away, but the Internet is a better place to buy many items. Find it, order it, and it's at your door in a day or two."

"I buy direct from showrooms when possible, otherwise from catalogs and on-line. Needs drive my purchases, but 'want' is usually 50% of the decision. The information superhighway makes current tool purchases a heckuva lot more informed than ten years ago."

"I have what I 'need,' and tend to buy more what I 'want.' The Internet has changed my tool buying and my work. I started with junk, went the Norm route buying all the power playthings, and am now migrating back to hand tools. I prefer to buy locally, but also use mail order."

"Price sells. Too often the local retailers employ people that have no real input about the selection."

"I have several large specialty stores and companies nearby. The good news is, I can inspect almost anything before I buy, and the bad news is, impulse tool lust buys are just too easy."

"I buy stationary tools at a regional tool supplier because they service what they sell and I like to support the local economy. I use the Internet to help decide which to buy. I tend to research the buy well, then err on the side of overbuying."

"I use catalogs as reference, but order on-line. Any purchases are largely affected by forums like Wood Central. I always ask here before I buy something."

"I have slowly changed from all hand tools to power. I would approach the gates of hell (but not enter) for a good buy. The upshot is, anytime, anywhere, ask your mom, your buddies, and the strange guy outside the laundromat. The net has made asking all that much easier."

"I buy stationary tools from woodworking stores to ensure they will remain available to me. I have learned a lot from forums and have been bitten by the hand plane bug due to the Internet."

"After reading magazines, books, and websites, I became more knowledgeable and selective. The Internet has greatly affected my habits and strategies. I originally focused on power tools; now I focus on hand tools, to my enjoyment and my bank account's detriment."

"I buy tools at all places, for all reasons, and I have a very bad case of eBayitis."

"I buy large power tools from Amazon, no sales tax/shipping. Smaller power tools are refurbished PC tools. I use jigs and attachments, so all the jig materials, I order on-line. The Internet is the main reason for my woodworking hobby."

"I buy tools locally, and over the web. I also buy old hand tools on Ebay, which is not a need, it's a sickness. On the web, I stick to five or six companies with established web presences."

"I buy most of my tools through the Internet or over the phone from Internet companies. I used to buy tools based on what I could afford; now it seems I buy what I think are the best and prolong the payment on plastic."

"I want to get equipment ahead of time, so I can have time to get proficient with it beforehand. I base my decision quite heavily on what I read on this website. If I can't find out about it on-line, that almost kills it for me."

"My tools don't have to be pretty, they just have to do the job they are intended to do. A lot of offers come to my e-mail for items I use most often...just sign up on the supplier mailing list, then pick and choose."

"Major purchases are local, or if in good shape, at auctions. Woodworking shows? No bargains there, in my opinion. I strongly support local businesses and am even stronger PRO USA made items."

"I purchase my power tools on-line. I tend to research carefully, then buy from companies I've dealt with in the past. I do not look for only the lowest price, I'm buying better quality tools, and my hand plane collection has become just that: a collection."

"All my cheap tools from past years have been replaced with better quality, and I have what I need. I do keep looking, but most purchases are for replacing consumables. Where I buy it is always more a factor of time than price."

"I am a tool fanatic and buy them where I find them. The Internet has made me an informed consumer. Now, I not only choose among all the tool brands, but among a hundred dealers for each brand!"

"I buy from Amazon.com, tool shows, or on the used market. I prefer a second hand, more industrial strength tool to a new low-quality one. My habits have changed in that I now buy the best-in-breed tool within my price range."

"I like to see and touch what I'm buying. If there is a problem with it, you can look the seller in the face and tell them to fix it. You just can't feel the heft of a hammer or feel the handles of a draw knife over the Internet."

"I don't buy from woodworking shows anymore - no bargains. The Internet makes it very easy to buy tools, supplies, etc. I generally order early in the week for my weekend projects, and they are delivered for weekend shop time."

"No Amazon for me, since prices are often cheaper elsewhere and others have free delivery too. I buy tools on sale, even if I don't need the tool. Fine woodworking tools are pure luxury."

"The Internet provides a place to check reviews and pricing, but I prefer a store where I can put my hands on a tool and take it home with me right then. My tool buying habits haven't changed: I still have a steak appetite and a hamburger pocketbook."

"I order on-line to keep as much of my money from the government as possible, adding tools as projects require. Hand tools, I buy whenever I can."

"My big iron was all bought used through newspaper ads. I'm building a 'shop,' even though I haven't done much with the tools yet. I discovered woodworking via the Internet, and I probably wouldn't be involved with woodworking if not for the web."

"My heavy tool purchases have been through a single local source. Big box stores do not carry the quality tools I am looking for. Sometimes, I buy tools for 'down the road' when my skills get there, but I have used everything I bought."

Participate in future surveys at www.woodcentral.com

News and Views from

WoodCentral.com

by Ellis Valentine

All woodworkers have the need for tools, and they have to buy them some where. With the rise of "big box stores and the Internet, I suspect that tool shopping and buying habits are changing. So, this time around asked our visitors, "Where do you buy tools, why do you buy the ones you do, and have your tool buying habits changed over time?"

"I buy where I can get the best bang for my buck, usually for a specific need, but sometimes I've just got to have it. The Internet has allowed me to compare prices, but if I can, I buy local."

I buy tools via catalogs and the internet, relying on recommendations from websites and magazine reviews. After filling my shop the Normite way, I'm now buying hand tools for specific tasks."

"My tool purchases are either an upgrade or a replacement for one that bit the dust. I try to stick with brands that I trust, and usually find a distributor within a 200 mile radius, so I can drive to pick them up."

"I'm beginning to buy more on the Internet as I can find what I really need from specialty sources. My buying has changed from what I can afford, to saving for what I really need. I don't like the idea of disposable tools."

"I bought all new major tools before I retired, and pretty much have everything I need. When you reach geezerhood, you don't need much." "I buy where I get the best price. The Internet has changed everything. I get questions answered and make a purchase, knowing I will be satisfied. Shipping costs are a big factor in where I shop."

"My stationary power tools are purchased locally; hand tools are from catalogs and ebay. Discussing tool pros and cons on message boards is great."

"Small specialty tools I buy from catalogs, and general use tools, locally. When I need tools, I don't want to have to wait to get them."

"My tools and shop have grown with my interest, skill and budget. I started with hand power tools and moved to better quality. Now, all my major tools are upper end brand names that I bought from talking to reps at wood shows."

"I hate to see tool stores go away, but the Internet is a better place to buy many items. Find it, order it, and it's at your door in a day or two." "I buy direct from showrooms when possible, otherwise from catalogs and on-line. Needs drive my purchases, but I want is usually 50% of the decision. The information superhighway makes current tool purchases a heckuva lot more informed than ten years ago."

"I have what I need, and tend to buy more what I want. The internet has changed my tool buying and my work. I started with junk, went the Norm route buying all the power playthings, and am now migrating back to hand tools. I prefer to buy locally, but also use mail order,"

"Price sells. Too often the local retailers employ people that have no real input about the selection."

"I have several large specialty stores and companies nearby. The good news is, I can inspect almost anything before I buy, and the bad news is, impulse tool lust buys are just too easy."

"I buy stationary tools at a regional tool supplier because they service what they sell and I like to support the local economy. I use the Internet to help decide which to buy. I tend to research the buy well, then err on the side of overbuying."

"I use catalogs as reference, but order on-line. Any purchases are largely affected by forums like Wood Centralways ask here before I buy some thing

"I have slowly changed from all hand tools to power. I would approach the gates of hell (but not enter) for a good buy. The upshot is. anytime, anywhere, ask your mom, your buddies, and the strange guy outside the laundromat, The net has made asking all that much easier."

"I buy stationary tools from woodworking stores to ensure they will remain available to me. I have learned a lot from

forums and have been bitten by the hand plane bug due to the Internet." July-August, 2003

"After reading magazines, books, and websites, I became more knowledgeable and selective. The Internet has greatly affected my habits and strategies. Originally focused on power tools; now I focus on hand tools, to my enjoyment and my bank account's detriment."

buy tools at all places, for all reasons, and I have a very bad case of ebayitis."

"I buy large power tools from Amazon, no sales tax/shipping. Safer power tools are refurbished PC tools. I use jigs and attachments, so all the jig materials, order on-line. The Internet is the main reason for my woodworking hobby."

"I buy tool locally, and over the web. I also buy old hand tools on Ebay, which is not a need, it's a sickness. On the web, I stick to five or six companies with established web presences."

"I buy most of my tools through the internet or over the phone from Internet companies. I used to buy tools based on what I could afford: now it seems I buy what I think are the best and prolong the payment on plastic."

"I want to get equipment ahead of time, so I can have time to get proficient with it beforehand. I base my decision quite heavily on what I read on this website. If I can't find out about it on-line, that almost kills it for me."

"My tools don't have to be pretty, they just have to do the job they are intended to do. A lot of offers come to my e-mail for items I use most often...just sign up on the supplier mailing list, then pick and choose." "Major purchases are local, or if in good shape, at auctions. Woodworking shows? No bargains there, in my opinion. I strongly support local businesses and am even stronger PRO USA made items."

"I purchase my power tools on-line. I tend to research carefully, then buy from companies I've dealt with in the past. I do not look for only the lowest price, I'm buying better quality tools, and my hand plane collection has become just that: a collection."

"All my cheap tools from past years have been replaced with better quality, and I have what I need. I do keep looking, but most purchases are for replacing consumables. Where I buy it is always more a factor of time than price."

"I am a tool fanatic and buy them where I find them. The Internet has made me an informed consumer. Now, I not only choose among all the tool brands, but among a hundred dealers for each brand?"

"I buy from Amazon.com, tool shows, or on the used market. I prefer a second hand, more industrial strength tool to a new low-quality one. My habits have changed in that I now buy the best-in-breed tool within my price range."

"I like to see and touch what I'm buying. If there is a problem with it, you can look the seller in the face and tell them to fix it. You just can't feel the heft of a hammer or feel the handles of a draw knife over the Internet." "I don't buy from woodworking shows anymore - no bargains. The Internet makes it very easy to buy tools, supplies, etc. I generally order early in the week for my weekend projects, and they are delivered for weekend shop time."

"No Amazon for me since prices are often cheaper elsewhere and others have free delivery too. I buy tools on sale, even if I don't need the tool. Fine woodworking tools are pure luxury."

"The Internet provides a place to check reviews and pricing, but I prefer a store where I can put my hands on a tool and take it home with me right then. My tool buying habits haven't changed: I still have a steak appetite and a hamburger pocketbook."

"I order on-line to keep as much of my money from the government as possible, adding tools as projects require. Hand tools, I buy whenever I can."

"My big iron was all bought used through newspaper ads. I'm building a "shop, even though I haven't done much with the tools yet. I discovered woodworking via the Internet, and I probably wouldn't be involved with woodworking if not for the web"

"My heavy tool purchases have been through a single local source. Big box stores do not carry the quality tools I am looking for. Sometimes, I buy tools for 'down the road when my skills get there, but I have used everything I bought."

Participate in future surveys at www.woodcentral.com

Woodworker West

Page 9