

Mobile Tool Chests

Like myself, most of you probably do your model building in constricted spaces. I personally do my work in a small guest room in the house. Because of this, I needed to have my tools and supplies stored in mobile tool chests on casters so they can be positioned in places to provide optimal access to my stuff and be able to have them pushed out the way when necessary.

While there are commercial mobile tool chests available in many sizes and prices, I decided to modify a 5 drawer wheeled cart called a **“Winsome 20519 Halifax Storage/Organization, 5 Drawer”** purchased from **Amazon**. This cabinet is small enough to fit in my workroom and has a height of 26” allowing its top to be useable as a work area while I am sitting down. To expand the top to accommodate small power tools, I screwed a 1/2” x 31” x 24” sheet of plywood to the top and applied 1” tall x 1/4” thick slats to 3 sides to prevent stuff from falling off. The front edge is installed flush with the front top edge of the cabinet so as not to block access to the drawers below (Fig. 1).



Figure 1

Because I needed some way to store modeling paint bottles of taller heights such as those from Vallejo paints, I hung a couple of **“Woodriver tilt bin”** storage boxes purchased from **Woodcraft** (<https://www.woodcraft.com>) on a 2 ft x 2 ft sheet of plywood hung on the side of the cabinet. The bins have a 5.5” depth that can accommodate a wide variety of model paint bottles. Color recognition is accomplished by putting a dab of each color on the top of each bottle cap. With the

bins, I can divide the colors into primary color categories such as reds, browns, blues, etc. for each bin. A deeper shelf is left at the bottom for taller containers of mostly solvents. A thin wood strip at the bottom prevents the containers from falling out.

Another mobile tool cabinet was made from a **Plastic Storage Cart with 6 drawers** (Figure 2) purchased from **Office Depot**.



Figure 2



Figure 3

Remarkably, a type of wooden kitchen utensil divider from **Bed Bath and Beyond** (Fig. 3) fits perfectly into the drawers with no wasted space!

For those with carpeted floors, the casters on these tool carts may not roll around very well. This problem can be improved upon by laying large sheets of thick cardboard-like material on the floor to provide a hard surface. These sheets will also protect the carpet from falling drops of paint, glue and solvents as well as make lost small parts easier to find. A variety of 4' x 8' sheets of construction cardboard are available from **Home Depot** in their lumber department for very low prices (\$10-\$20).