

Special Modifications to a Construction "Job Box"

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I volunteer every Thursday for the Lawrence, MA Habitat for Humanity (actually the Merrimack Valley HFH). They have a lot of tools and to keep them secure, they have a couple of job boxes.

The problem with a job box is that it is always full and finding the tool you want is usually not straightforward. The tools are in their cases, so first you find a right-looking case (usually at the bottom of the box). Then the tool in that case may not be the one that you're looking for, or there may not be a tool in the case at all. So that case gets set aside (so the next guy looking for it in the box won't find it). And so on. The box usually looks like this:



My solution is to take one of the boxes, turn it on its end and make a stand for it:



Then add drawers:





The bottom drawer is extra deep and is for battery chargers and nail guns, etc. The cord for the power strip goes out the back, so charging can be done even when the box is locked up.

I put shelves on the door for batteries, drill bits, recip saw blades, jigsaw blades, etc.



The drawers are steel: a piece of 14 ga was bent twice to form the back, bottom, and front. The sides are stitch welded on. Getting the drawers to be just the right width is critical to having the slides operate smoothly. It's easier to cut them to be the right width than to bend them to it. Full extension slides were used to ensure easy access.

Because so much steel (about 125 lbs) was added to an already heavy box, there is very little danger of it tipping over from extended, heavy drawers. I opened the top 4 drawers all the way, with the loads shown in the pictures, before the box reached a neutral point of balance. In use, a single drawer would be opened at a time, although 2, or 3, might be.

True to my nature, I bought very little to do this (8 lbs of steel and 4 slides). The 14 ga for the drawers came from the dump - they were panels on the enclosure of a big standby generator. A lot of the steel for the door shelves was from PC cases. And some I just had around.