

# Portable Lathe Setup

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The setup of my Portable Mini Lathe shown in this photo has evolved over the years and I have been using it at many demos at clubs, trade shows and festivals for more than 15 years now.



Typical lathe setup and booth at a Wood Carving Show

The setup is easy to put together and dismantle and consists of a few very portable components such as: Stand, Tool Shelf, Drawer Unit, Lathe, Display Shelf on front, Safety Shield, free standing Tool Rack and a curtain to make it look presentable from the front.



Stand

The stand consists of a Black and Decker “Workmate” portable work bench (fully extended jaws) and with the clamping brackets removed and a 1” MDF Board size 28 x 12 ½” bolted to the extended jaws. An electrical outlet bar and a plywood tray are added in the bottom for convenience.



Tool Tray

A small tool tray resting on the horizontal brackets and fitting in between inside vertical support structure of the “Workmate” stand.

A secondary electrical outlet bar is mounted on the front.

Because of the structural components of the stand the tray is sloping to the back.



The Photo on the right shows the base assembly with the case for the drawer unit bolted to the top. The stand, with the step towards the front, is now ready to accept the tool drawer as shown in the next photo (open position).

Individual trays for a variety of many small turning tools and accessories are made to suit the individual requirements



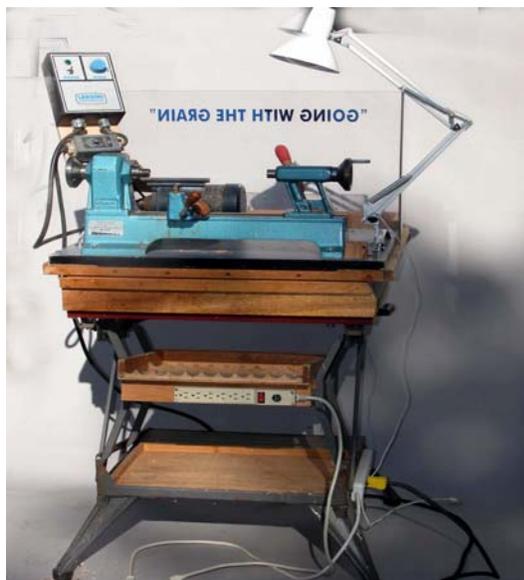
Base unit shown with open Tool Drawer

The next component is the lathe platform, which contains the Vicmark 100 Mini Lathe driven by a ½ HP DC type motor. The variable speed is achieved by a Leeson “Speedmaster” control unit which is mounted on a post just to the left of the headstock.

This is the heaviest component of this assembly and for ease of portability carrying handles have been added to the lathe platform.



The front display tray is wedged below the lathe platform. All accessories such as the Tool Rest, Tailstock, Belt Guard, Lamp and the 18” high wrap around safety shield have to be added. This assembly is shown in the next picture



The assembled portable Lathe unit

The next photo shows the optional freestanding tool rack for the larger tools required and a wrap around curtain to make this set up more presentable from the front area.

At the front area behind the curtain on the step of the "Workmate" I usually have my speaker system with a remote microphone, a must if you want to communicate with the public while wearing your face shield.



The Mini Lathe setup shown in front of my workshop

The curtain has a seam in the bottom area thru which I insert 1/2 " steelrods to keep the material stretched in a windy condition



"Clowning Around" at a recent Fundraiser event



Vicmark lathe setup in my shop

This unit is very stable and any other portable lathe can be used, but I find with the addition of the DC speed control the Vicmark 100 serves its purpose well. Without the "Workmate" stand it also serves as a secondary lathe in my shop as shown in the photo on the right