Compact Workshop 11—Boxed Lathe and Mill/C.B.

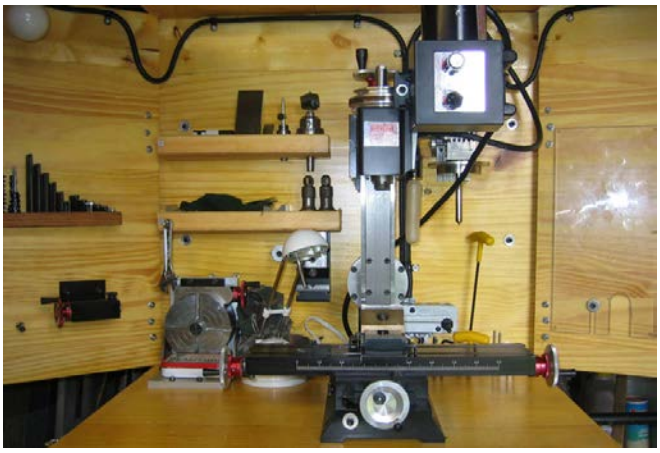
Photo 1

Photo 2

The lathe box closed (1) and open (2). Notice the light above the lathe and the custom power feed with universal joint in the lower left-hand corner. All the accessories are accessible once the box is opened for work.

The mill box closed (3) and open with a detail of some of the tool storage blocks on the inside of the door. Electrical boxes keep the wiring safe, and a built-in light makes it easy to see what you are doing. The mill X-axis has a handwheel at both ends of the table.

Photo 3



I set my lathe and mill up in enclosed wooden boxes because they are in my garage and it helps both keep them clean and free up bench space. I have modified my lathe with a home made power feed. The mill I modified by purchasing an extra feed wheel and replacing the feed screw with a longer one so I could feed with either my right or left hand.

I set the lathe up on a one-inch piece of wood, which makes the handwheels easier to use. I should have done that with the mill, and I think I will. I intend to re-build the mill enclosure to be a bit bigger, as I didn't allow enough space for some of the accessories Sherline makes.

The tool holders you see are just scrap pieces of wood. I drill the holes needed for the tooling, and then coat the wood in oil. I use oil liberally on everything because my shop isn't heated. I use 30 weight motor oil and slather it on everywhere.

I didn't use anything to mount the machinery on, just bolted it to the wood. The enclosures do not increase the vibration or noise that I've noticed. I did mount handles on the boxes to make them easier to carry, but they are bolted down, and I haven't yet taken them anywhere. I cut off the power cords and ran them into electrical boxes. I ran lights around, as you can see.

I use my Sherline machines for home repair, repair and modification of other shop tools and for firearm work (that's my hobby).

—*CB*

RETURN TO THE WORKSHOP PAGE