

Going to a Show? Workshop? What Should You Bring?

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Most classes include a list of what the instructor is providing and what the student must bring. Here are some recommended tips and reminders.

1. Are your tools in good working order?

- Clean/dust them and confirm everything is working smoothly.
- Is it a new tool? Please practice using it and become familiar with it because the class is NOT the place to figure out how to set it up and learn how it works.
- Bring the Allen wrench, needle-nose pliers and related tools to keep your tools working properly.
- Bring spare blades for the mini saw, extra sanding discs for your mini sander, carving burs and drill bits and so on for the other tools
- Battery-operated Dremel tools run-down sooner than you think...so bring a spare battery and the charge unit...or better yet, an electric drill
- Bring a little flashlight and a Swiss Army Knife (Leatherman tool or multi-tool) will be handy to have

2. Is your name or initials on ALL of the tools and containers you are bringing? Add with...

- Duct tape, blue painter's tape, etc. and a permanent Sharpie pen
- Engrave with a mini carving bur
- P-touch label maker
- Luggage tag for the cart

3. Power strip, power cord & cord-wraps

- Bringing your own power strip makes it possible to easily connect your tools to the main outlet
- Power cords or power cord extensions for added convenience
- Cord wraps (Velcro) or heavy rubber bands help keep the cords of your tools tidy (and prevents wear and tear in the tool box)

4. Totes, bags, and containers

- If your tool comes in a hard case, use it for traveling because they usually have a molded/padded section as well as where the cord gets stored and spare parts.
- You can find customizable, padded "brief cases" for the tools (Harbor Freight), and the lid has pockets or elastic straps for your pyrography pens, hand tools and other items (for example).
- Stackable, clear plastic containers with removable lids let you see what's in there. You can use smaller containers inside it to organize and secure items from becoming a big jumble of "stuff."
- Extra tote bags for shopping and maybe boxes for bring home the class project

5. Wagons and luggage carts/crates

- Wheels make getting your gear from the car to the class (and for moving between classes or off to shopping) easier... and (usually) that means fewer trips to the car!
- The downside of carts and wagons is there is limited space at the class table and you need to be sure you're not blocking someone else's access to the seat next to you or interfering with the walking spaces for the instructors and others in your class. Good etiquette is to park your cart at the perimeter of the classroom/canopy space.

6. A few more miscellaneous, "good to have" items, to have in your Go Bag include

- Pen & notepad
- Pencil & Mr. Clean eraser
- Flexible tape measure
- Exacto knife, scissors, awl
- Painters tape