

Tales of a Toolbox

Let me introduce myself...

I'm a 1948 Snap-On model KR-56 tool chest, sitting on a 1948 KR-377 Coaster-Cab (with the added KR-437 drawer kit in the lower compartment).



I was built in Kenosha Wisconsin, and purchased by a 19-year old mechanic recently graduated from the Pullman Tech automotive program in Chicago, Illinois. His name was John M. Delke. Here's a few pictures of me from the catalog...

Snap-on ALL STEEL ROLL CABINET
with features that make it mechanics first choice!

ROOMY TOOL CHESTS
KR-56 Roll Chest: Overall measurements are 28" wide, 12" deep and 18" high. Drawers are arranged to provide the most convenient storage for hand tools. Has 2 extra strong trunk type handles. All drawers are fitted with "one-way" slide rails. Chest falls out of the base on 2 reinforced steel low friction heavy-duty roller wheels and tumbler type feet. Top has three tool compartments: 3-1/2" deep, one is 20" long, another is 20" wide and the third is 18" wide. There are three small drawers at the end. One is 11" deep and 11" high. Ideal for holding calipers, micrometers, gauges, and other instruments, etc. There are two drawers on the left side, one is 17" deep and 17" wide and another drawer is 17" deep. These drawers give you plenty of room for larger wrenches and hand tools. Two compartment accessories KTR-1 Tote-Tray, (Note: trays are not furnished with chest). Red enamel finish. Shipping weight 99 lbs., net 85 lbs.

EASY MOVING ROLL CABS
KR-350 Roll-Cab: This big, roomy Roll-Cab is designed as a replacement for roll chest drawers alone. The 16", roomy drawers and lower compartment will hold large equipment. The front panel folds in place to protect wiring conduits and make use of the top under the drawers which can be set into optional size of 30" long, 18" wide, 20" high. Two heavy-duty rollers on the front edge. Overall height is 4' high. Deep compartment is 25" long, 17 1/2" wide, 8 1/2" high. All drawers have the "one-way" feature described above. Spot welded construction, extra heavy gauge steel is used to give greatest rigidity and durability for hand tool service. Red, enamel painting, (2 wheels, 2 feet). Roll-on Red Enamel finish. Net Wt. 14 lbs., Sh. Wt. 14 lbs.

KR-356 Roll-Cab Combination: For greatest convenience we recommend this combination of KR-350 Roll Cabinet and KR-356 Tool Chest.

TOTE TRAYS
KTR-1 Tote-Tray: A convenient tray for holding these tools that are actually in use. It has a built-in socket tray and fits into the top compartment of the above chest. Size is 20" x 18" x 1 1/2" deep and 1 1/2" high. Has a sturdy carrying handle. Roll-on Red Enamel finish.

New Snap-on Coaster Cab Universal Midget Kit

Modern! Convenient! Practical!
Rolls Right to the Job—No Lost Time Hunting for Tools

KR-377 Coaster Cab: This sturdy construction provides convenient storage for all your tools from Midget units to big angle and gear pullers. Overall measurements are 28" long, 18" wide and 20" high. For the mechanic who wants the best at a moderate price, here is the best in tool in distinctive styling, size and construction. Make it a tool you will be proud to own.

Get the most out of your floor and bench space... stop taking up valuable room with unattractive, old-fashioned hanging up inefficient wrenches... micrometers, your shop with roller handle convenience... handle all your tools and later put them back in the spot where they are needed... ruggedly built of heavy steel, electrically welded for greatest strength.

Easy Drawer, Easy Drawer
Angie drawer slide for drawing and level handle, easy long sliding bars and cut slippers. For extra convenience drawers are fitted with "one-way" slide rails to easy opening and closing and to prevent drawers from sagging or falling out.

**See drawers 11" high, 11" wide and 3" high.
See drawers 12" high, 11" wide and 3" high.
See drawers 14" high, 11" wide and 3" high.**

A "one-way" front panel replaces the lower compartment and slides into a rack under the lower drawer when bench is in use. One padlock locks the entire cabinet. Heavy, extra-duty metal top provides plenty of smooth working surface for all right of the job. Drawer handles, (2 wheel, 2 feet) roll right off the job. Drawer casters, (2 wheel, 2 feet) roll right off the job.

Your "Coaster-Cab" evenly and quietly in even, baked at high temperature. The attractive red enamel finish that you will really like is baked on, too. In addition, modern built convenience handles, (2 wheel, 2 feet) roll right off the job. This cabinet is in use, your shop would be glad to do for any price because of its increased efficiency if makes possible.

Net weight 143 lbs., Sh. Wt. 143 lbs. This cabinet is suitable either assembled as shown or knocked down.

Built to Hold Complete Assortments of Small Tools for Ignition, Carburetor, Radio Service, etc.
KR-65 Universal Midget Kit: Just the kind of a small cabinet you have always wanted or you need now. It's small but it's only 11 1/2" high, 7 1/2" wide and 5 1/2" high. That's a small size for a tool cabinet! Universal Midget Kit Chest. Actually you will save in small cost by obtaining the tools of small tools for it is well known that these small tools are lost, "borrowed" or misplaced. They are never found until you need them again. Protect them in this Midget chest which is so arranged that there is a definite place for every tool. When you finish a job and start packing up your tools, you will naturally notice if one is missing and can look for it immediately before it is forgotten.

Easy to Find the Tool You Want
There has never before been a box so ideal in its design and construction for use by radio, power, tractor and maintenance, diagnostic, electrical, inspection and refrigeration service... any man who has a lot of small tools he wants to safeguard. There are no drawers in this chest, no top to remove, no top section as shown in the picture... simply comes back on a specially designed top which remains in the entire contents of the lower compartment. Every tool is immediately visible at eye level. Any tool can be removed without tumbling around it and it is placed in its immediately visible at eye level. Any tool can be removed without tumbling around it and it is placed in its immediately visible at eye level. Any tool can be removed without tumbling around it and it is placed in its immediately visible at eye level. Any tool can be removed without tumbling around it and it is placed in its immediately visible at eye level.

Steadily Built—Governmentally Guaranteed
Exceedingly well made of heavy gauge steel with spot welded construction throughout. Equipped with two sturdy drawers and easy-to-carry metal handle. A number 1 type lock is provided on chest over the locked and the contents secured. Based on red enamel finish. Once you have suggested your next chest in this chest, you will never think of carrying them anywhere else.

Tales of a Toolbox

My 1st shop was the Borden Dairy repair garage, where we worked on light & medium duty delivery trucks. This was back when you got your milk delivered to your house, the bottles in a rack, and placed in a galvanized box on your front porch.

After that we got a job as a mechanic at Zweifel Ford, in Evanston Illinois. We worked there for many years, and we got a reputation for doing fast, but quality work.

One of our off-hours specialties was hopping up the Ford Flathead V8's of the time, and we got the nickname "Stroke". It was said it was because we knew how to have a crankshaft off-set ground properly (increase the stroke), and assemble the engines so they'd live.



Another thing we got involved with was the recent purchase by Zweifel of one of the 1st in the area's "Bean Visualiner" alignment racks. John and I quickly became some of the best front-end guys in northern Chicago-land. This reputation let us to another interesting adventure – working on the Muntz "Jet" sportscar.

When "Madman Muntz" moved production from Glendale CA, to Evanston IL, and started using Lincoln engines and Ford sedan steering gear on the Jet, nobody at the factory could get the front-end aligned properly. Our reputation made its way around town, and because Zweifel had a "Visualiner" rack, we worked on several of the new Jets to get a baseline setting for the assembly workers. There are quite a few stories of how late at night the Evanston Police blocked off McCormick Blvd. in Evanston so John could make some high-speed runs to road test the cars. These were the days!

Tales of a Toolbox

Here's a picture of a Muntz Jet.



This is where my story starts to take a sad turn. John progressed in his career, eventually becoming a Service Manager, then moving into sales. He no longer made his living turning my wrenches every day, and I was moved into the home garage. We still worked together, but only doing occasional oil-changes, and minor repairs on the family cars. The day to day excitement was over for me. We moved many times, but never back into a real shop.

John eventually realized one of our dreams, and opened our very own car dealership in 1970. I was very excited when we moved to Crystal Lake IL, but my new home was a storage closet in the dealership. Occasionally one of the mechanics would raid one of my drawers for something, but that came to a stop when John found my keys and locked me up.

The dealership closed in 1976, and we were on the move again. This time to Park Ridge, IL. I got a spot of reasonable honor in the family garage again, and we worked together doing repairs on the family cars.

Around 1980 things started looking better for me. John's son got interested in cars, and we started working together. These were good times. Young John cleaned me up, organized me a little, and we worked on a lot of cars together.

But again, things change. John Jr. grew up, and moved away to MN in 1984. Not long after that I moved (again) to a garage in Mt. Prospect, IL., and "big" John & I were back together, occasionally doing oil-changes and maintenance again.

About 1996 there was a big change for us. John (Sr) and I moved to Minnesota to be close to John Jr.! I was still in the family garage and doing minor repairs, but occasionally John Jr. would visit and borrow one of my tools for something he was working on.

Tales of a Toolbox

I had a big shock in April of 2008. My longtime partner died. We had 60 years together.

I moved again, into another family garage, but was barely used. It was better than the closet in the dealership, but not by much. I'd found out that John Jr. had his own toolbox, and had little use for me and my tools. He'd come by from time to time and borrow something, but I pretty much sat in the corner collecting dust for 9 years.

In 2017 there was another big change in my life. The house I was in was sold, and I had to move – again – but this time I was moving back with John Jr. into a workshop called “The 40-Watt Garage”!

I've got my own special spot in the shop, right next to one of my much younger siblings. (He's a young buck only in his 30's but we seem to get along...)

John Jr. recently cleaned me up again, and went through my drawers and cabinets. He found some things that I'd forgotten I had sitting in me, and some of the specialty tools “big” John and I used in our hey-day.

I hope you enjoyed my story.