




A Brief Introduction To The Spark Makerspace Woodshop



Of all the Spark workspaces, the Woodshop is currently the largest, the loudest, and the most potentially hazardous. Fortunately, the Woodshop Leads are here to help you learn to use the space safely and enjoyably. Classes occur regularly to introduce tools and techniques to both members and non-members, and qualified Spark members may use the shop at any time. The most commonly asked questions about the woodshop are answered below.

Who are the woodshop leads?

Jon	Dan	Jake
		
<p>The tall skinny one</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - occasionally mistaken for a lost middle school student - often seen poking spinning lumps of wood with sharp sticks - usually found in the shop Monday and Friday evenings 	<p>The big loud one</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - used to have hair on his head then it all slid down to his chin - often seen wearing wearing full PPE while trying to talk too much - usually found in the shop Wednesday and Saturday afternoons 	<p>The elusive wizard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the wisest and most experienced of the bunch - often seen partaking in the New London arts, music, social and political scenes, sometimes all at once - usually found in the shop when least expected

What tools are available to Spark Members?

Hand tools
Routers and Router Table
Drill Press
Compound Miter Saw
Bandsaws
Bench Sander

Portable Power Tools:
- Drill/Driver
- Sanders
- Jigsaw
- Circular saw

Planer
Jointer
Table Saw
Lathes
CNC Router
Air Nailers

I want to get into the shop. What's the first thing I have to do?

The first step of accessing the Spark Woodshop is reading through the [General Rules and Policies](#). Once you've read through them, [e-mail](#) the leads. We'll schedule a time to sit down, answer questions, discuss the shop, and sign off on shop access.

Ok, but that only gets me access to the basic hand tools! I want to . . .

. . . learn to use the power tools.

Classes and instruction are available in the shop on a regular basis. Classes are open to both members and non-members, and can be found on the [Spark Eventbrite](#) page. New classes are announced on the [Spark website](#), the [Spark Facebook page](#), and through mailings from the Spark Fearless Leader Executive Director, Casey Moran. Class descriptions will usually identify which tools you will get approved for use on. We try to offer classes that cover the interests and needs of our members, so if you have an idea for a class that you'd like to see us offer, let us know.

. . . get access to power tools I already know how to use.

If you already have experience with woodworking tools, you can bypass the classes by demonstrating to use that you are competent and safe. The first step is to review the Spark rules for the tools, which are found on the [Spark Woodshop Members Area](#) website. Because Spark has a wide range of both equipment and users, we have some requirements and restrictions which may not apply to a job site or home shop. Once you've read through the Spark rules, [e-mail](#) the Woodshop Leads with a list of the specific tools you'd like to be approved to use. We'll set up shop visit, and if you can convince us that you are a safe operator on the tools, we'll sign you off for use of those tools.

. . . do a project, but don't know how to use all the tools I need.

If you have a particular project you'd like to work on, but need additional instruction on one or two tools, [let us know](#). We'll try to help you learn the tools or techniques you need to finish the project at hand. Please keep in mind that the Leads have full-time jobs and obligations outside of Spark, so expect some delay before we are able to find time for instruction.

. . . ask a question which is not answered here.

If you have any other questions, the e-mail address for the Woodshop Leads is woodshop@sparkmakerspace.org. Alternately, you can write them on a \$20 dollar bill, place them in an envelope sealed with duct tape, and mail them to:

Power Tool Addiction Treatment Fund
C/O Spark Makerspace
225 State Street, Ste 100
New London, CT 06320

We look forward to seeing you in the shop!