

TOOL STORAGE SYSTEMS

THINKING OUTSIDE (AND INSIDE) OF THE BOX



Talk about features! From tool boxes that keep your materials toasty warm to job site offices with TV monitors and printers, to parts bins and even a “vac-in-a-box,” this year’s latest tool storage and organizing systems have literally something for every need. Welcome to an awesome array of hot new products from the world’s leading suppliers.

RAACO

While we are on the subject of small parts storage, it is wise to look at how the Europeans have been doing it for decades. For that, we need look no further than raaco. Founded in 1956, raaco celebrates 60 years of business in 2016.

“How many times have we heard a coworker say, ‘Can anyone tell me where it is?’ or said it ourselves?” asks Peter Thomas Damberg, raaco second-generation owner and CEO. “This simple need to have things sorted can lead to delay and extra expense. Order, on the other hand, creates control, calm and results. And these are the principles that drive raaco A/S, a company that applies a systematic approach to the design and development of flexible storage systems.”

Order gives overview and saves time — because things are organized. That means a level of control that can be felt in the process and on the bottom line. Order creates results — it’s as simple as that.

Like all raaco storage products, Carry Lite cases are made according to the Design for Disassembly principle, which means that each component of the product can be replaced indefinitely, so a raaco system will never become unusable or obsolete.

raaco offers an advanced, well-proven system designed to last. Each product group is designed so that its components fit together, can be stacked, changed around and organized to suit the individual. For example: inserts dating from 1982 still fit into the latest CarryLite trays — and will continue to do so.

The system is designed to be used, with rounded corners and ergonomic handle to make it a

pleasure to work with. All storage boxes are made of strong, highly durable and impact-resistant materials. The raaco design not only means overview now, it creates reassurance and results for planning and systematization far into the future.

“raaco’s products are designed according to the DFD (Design for Disassembly) principle, which means that the products can be disassembled,” Damberg continues. “That makes it possible to replace parts that are broken, helping protect the environment by cutting down the need to throw materials away.”

raaco products are designed and made in Nykøbing Falster, Denmark, and are used in more than 20 countries, creating order in everything from small enterprises to the Airbus Group, one of the biggest companies in Europe.

ERGODYNE

An increasingly popular industry trend influencing tool box, bag, pouch, and belt design is the desire to create clever and comfortable tool storage solutions for workers at heights. While workers on the ground can get away with using tool storage solutions that are worn on a belt and have an open top, workers at heights need to be able to secure their tools in pouches and holsters that have a topping mechanism to prevent their gear from creating a falling hazard for their coworkers below.



“At Ergodyne, we design innovative tool storage solutions for workers in a variety of industries,” says Nate Bohmbach, senior product manager. “Many of our current solutions offer handy topping mechanisms to prevent the contents of a pouch from becoming dangerous falling objects. These pouches also all have convenient D-Rings on



Ergodyne’s models 5528 (black) and 5538 (orange) Arsenal Topped Parts Pouches feature a trap door top that prevents small parts from spilling and becoming projectiles from heights.

both sides that provide an easy and accessible tethering point.”

Ergodyne’s new Arsenal Topped Parts Pouch is one such product. Offered in canvas (5528) and tarpaulin (5538), these units feature a hands-free, self-closing trap door top. The 5528 and 5538 store small parts, hardware, and tools inside — preventing them from plummeting at heights when tipped, while also providing easy and efficient retrieval.

“Our newest topped parts pouch tackles one of the main causes of dropped objects at heights — small parts and hardware that cannot be tethered,” Bohmbach says. “A worker can now store these items in the 5528 or 5538 without further thought — no zipping, buckling, or string pulling.”

“Workers at heights have a million things to worry about and making sure a bag is open or closed shouldn’t be one of them,” adds Tom Votel, president and CEO of Ergodyne.

Some jobs can require a complex assortment of tools to complete. So today’s workers also want modular

or customizable tool storage solutions to quickly and securely attach to their tool belt or fall protection harness. Ergodyne offers solutions for these situations as well.

“Stop by the Ergodyne booth (310-312) at STAFDA to see the newest objects-at-heights safety solutions in living color!” Bohmbach concludes.

MI-T-M

Toolboxes are essential for every garage, workshop and construction site. Contractors and avid DIYers always have a variety of tools that need to be stored, organized and kept secure. Mi-T-M manufactures four models of heavy-duty job site toolboxes. The solid steel construction of these toolboxes keeps tools and valuables secure from theft and protected from outside elements.

“The Mi-T-M job site toolboxes range from 6.33 to 25 cubic feet of storage,” says Matt Hoefler, equipment division manager.



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Mi-T-M’s MB4830 job site box boasts 25 cubic feet of storage and heavy-duty solid steel construction with full arc-welded seams. An armored locking system ensures security and pre-drilled skids offer easy caster installation.

"They feature special tamper-proof armored locking systems for security, reinforced support skids and convenient swing-out handles. Removable tool trays and casters are available as options to customize each toolbox."

"Toolbox customization trends have influenced Mi-T-M's fabrication and manufacturing process. Private labeling is very popular with Mi-T-M job site boxes," Hoefler adds. "The private labeling program offers customers the choice of toolbox color and decal design to customize their toolboxes to meet their requirements. This customization allows their toolboxes to not only store and keep their tools secure but act as a sizeable billboard for their company."

User and application demands also have prompted Mi-T-M to design the job site toolboxes with different set up features. The standard skid feet allows these boxes to be setup in a garage or shop or bolted down in the bed of a truck. Optional industrial casters allow the toolboxes to be moved from place to place, job to job. Optional tool trays also provide additional organization and are transportable for jobs that need only select tools.

KREG TOOL

Not all storage solutions need to hold big power tools to be valuable — small parts need housing too. For them, Kreg introduces the Screw Organizer and Hardware Containers — two great new ways to store and organize Kreg screws and other hardware in the shop and on the go.

"The new Kreg Screw Organizer, model KTC25, offers a great way to store Kreg screws in a compact, easy-to-carry, easy-to-store package," explains David Stone, brand and content manager. "The Screw Organizer is also a perfect companion to the Kreg System Organizer,



Although designed for Kreg system parts, the new Kreg Screw Organizer and Hardware containers are also perfect for a wide variety of small parts. The Hardware Containers feature write-on lids.

making it easy to create a coordinated, stackable organizing system for Kreg crews and an entire Kreg Joinery System."

The Screw Organizer holds up to 14 new Kreg screw containers. Tabs on the containers nest into recesses in the Screw Organizer, so they stay put when the Screw Organizer is standing upright or being carried. A transparent lid makes it easy to see what's stored inside, and the Screw Organizer even allows new Kreg Screw containers to be stored with the lids off — without spilling the screws — when the Screw Organizer is closed and is being carried.

Kreg is also introducing new Hardware Containers. These handy containers are perfect for storing and organizing all kinds of loose hardware. They are the same durable, resealable, reusable containers that are now used to package Kreg screws. The Hardware Containers, though, have lids with a surface you can write on to easily identify what's stored inside. Available in small and large sizes, Hardware Containers fit inside the new Screw Organizer, and

in the Kreg System Organizer as well. Hardware Containers are sold in packs of four.

"The Screw Organizer and Hardware Containers offer two perfect new ways to store, organize, and transport Kreg Screws, small hardware, and other items that you use for Kreg Joinery, and they're great for general storage around the shop," Stone says. "With these new additions, plus the System Organizer, Kreg makes it easier than ever to organize Kreg gear and an entire workshop."

DEWALT

At their press event this past June, DeWalt reps let it be known that they have never been completely satisfied with their formerly licensed job site tool storage box products and finally decided, "If you want something done right, do it yourself." So they designed their own job site box line and the boxes are beauties worthy of the DeWalt name. The new ToughBox Storage Chest is designed to withstand the most demanding job sites, offering a 2,500-pound weight capacity and available in 36-, 42-, 48- and 60-inch models.

"Made in the USA with global materials and offering a limited lifetime warranty, the ToughBox storage chest is strong as it is durable,"

DeWalt's all-new ToughBox Storage Chests come in 36-, 42-, 48- and 72-inch wide versions and feature 16-gauge steel bodies and 14-gauge floors. DeWalt ToughSystem totes will nest snugly inside.



proclaims Daniel Riccio, senior brand manager, global tools and storage. "The chest is constructed from a 16-gauge steel body, a 14-gauge steel floor, and 7-gauge steel skids with four-way skid access. Further reinforcing the ToughBox's durability are 11-gauge vertical "ribs" providing additional strength and rigidity."

Built with an under-lid storage area, every square inch of possible storage space in the ToughBox is maximized while the expansive bottom area of the box allows for bulk storage of all large tools.

Cleverly, the ToughBox storage chest is compatible with ToughSystem totes to provide storage in the top portion of the box, keeping users organized and offering portability to quickly pack tools and move to the work area.

For the needs of job site security, the ToughBox is built with a full-length piano hinge, stacked and welded for security against break-ins, and constructed with a three-point locking mechanism to protect valuable tools from theft.

Additional heavy-duty features include gas struts for controlled lid opening and closing, a reinforced hat for extra lid stiffness, recessed side handles and lock housing to avoid lock cutting and a finger groove lid for easy lid gripping. A rubber grommet on the rear of the box allows electrical pass-through and a powder-coat finish in bright DeWalt yellow provides industrial durability against harsh outdoor elements.

CLC WORK GEAR

CLC's simple philosophy is, "Make the best work gear we can and keep the price reasonable." When CLC is designing a new product, everything is up for review, from the material, pattern, backing,



CLC's DeWalt model DGCL33 33-pocket Lighted USB Charging Tool Backpack uses a 20V MAX Lithium-ion battery to power its light and charge two USB devices simultaneously.

stitching, reinforcing, binding and how the fabric lays. This pursuit of "making stuff better" has made CLC an industry leader with an expanding range of products, from pouches and bags kneepads, lanyards and gloves.

The company also manufactures product for a number of leading

brands too. One example is the new 33-pocket Lighted USB Charging Tool Backpack designed for DeWalt.

This new tool bag features an internal custom-designed battery dock which uses a DeWalt 20V MAX Lithium-ion battery as a USB charging source," begins CLC's Carolyn

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Snap-on Industrial tool boxes utilize lean manufacturing visual tool control systems for "at a glance" inspection and prevention of potentially catastrophic FOD (Foreign Object Damage) hazards.

Visual tool control is probably the easiest and most cost effective way to track tools. Using foam inserts for tools, a technician can open a drawer and quickly see if everything is back in its appropriate place.

"Taking visual tool control a step further, Snap-on Industrial offers a tool box with a clear abrasion resistant polycarbonate window that gives technicians a full view of their

tools for instant accountability and asset management," explains Sean Ryan, product manager. "These mobile, single-layer boxes can hold about 100 tools and are ideal for aerospace, manufacturing and other industries where tool control and asset management is paramount."

More advanced tool boxes include keyless entry tool control, which use

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"A rigid reinforced front panel helps deter break-ins by preventing thieves from prying into the box."

Defender Series truck boxes feature a D-shaped ribbed weather strip and foam along the hinge for four-sided weather resistance and keeping tools protected from the elements. A dual dynamic gas strut supported lid makes access easy.

For those frigid job sites, the recently released Thermosteel heated storage box from Knaack is a toasty warm idea. Simply plug in the heating element when job site temperatures drop below 40 degrees to ensure supplies are safe from extreme temperatures.

"The Thermosteel is a great addition to our line of Knaack boxes," says Mike Bykowski, senior product manager. "When temperatures drop as low as zero degrees, Thermosteel can get up to 70 degrees within the cabinet. Not only are tools protected from theft, but now from weather damage as well."

Thermosteel is available on four Knaack storage chests, the models 79-H, 89-H, 79-DH and 89-DH.

SNAP-ON INDUSTRIAL

For Snap-on Industrial, the humble toolbox has evolved from simple storage to an important asset management component. Tool control is a major issue for numerous industries, as lost tools not only cost money but can pose a significant safety hazard, especially in the aviation industry where foreign object damage (FOD) is a major concern.

Fortunately, several tool control measures are available to meet every budget and application, from straightforward foam to advanced "smart boxes" that monitor and track tool usage in real time.



Whether on the job site or on the truck, the new Weather Guard Defender Series truck boxes and Knaack Thermosteel heated job site boxes keep tools and supplies all tucked in, safe and warm.

KNAACK/WEATHER GUARD

Weather Guard needs no introduction — the name is synonymous with truck boxes in many parts of the country. The company's new Defender Series expands its lineup of affordable truck box solutions for professional level protection.



KOTZ

Compatible with any storage need, the Defender Series is now available with more than 20 products across five categories, including saddle and cross boxes, all-purpose chests and lo-side and hi-side boxes.

"With four-piece welded construction and C-channel reinforced lids for professional durability, the Defender Series provides professional features at the right price," says Jeff Kotz, Weather Guard senior product manager.

"These new boxes offer heavy-duty security including push-button locks, a reinforced front panel and two dual-stage rotary latches with looped strikers," Kotz continues.

top and bottom panes to carry extra weight," says Chris Woolley, vice president, engineered storage solutions for Stanley Black & Decker. "Each drawer fully extends on ball-bearing slides and has a 100-pound capacity. The 540 series cabinets ride on 5x2-inch casters, each with a 450-pound capacity."

Proto 550 series cabinets are made with 14-, 16- and 18-gauge steel and include work stations and side cabinets. The fully-extending drawers ride on ball bearing slides that are rated at up to 200 pounds.

The 550 series cabinets ride on glass filled nylon casters that carry up to 900 pounds each. The cabinets can also be fully outfitted with either 334- or 497-piece master tool sets.

"The 560 series offers Proto's top-of-the-line features, including 400-pound-capacity drawers for the heaviest loads and lock-in/lock-out drawers with a lock/lift feature to ensure they stay shut," Woolley adds. "Customized storage dividers in each drawer keep tools neat, organized and help avoid shifting when the cabinet is mobile. Each cabinet rides on four six-inch casters (two swivel and two fixed) that are load-rated to carry 800 pounds each."

Accessories for the series include butcher block or stainless steel work tops, 200-denier nylon cabinet covers with zippers, LED hutch light kits and lock bars for added security.

Proto's 500 series industrial tool cabinets and built to heirloom-quality standards of 14- to 18-gauge steel, with drawers that support up to 400 pounds and casters that support up to 800 pounds each.

Sham. "It can simultaneously charge two devices via USB ports with a maximum of two amps shared output. The bag also has three internal charging wall pockets that will fit a tablet, a phone and/or a camera."

The bag has low-battery cut-off protection, which monitors battery voltage to avoid battery charge over-depletion.

Organizational and storage features include 31 multi-use pockets inside and two outside for organizing a wide variety of hand tools.

Ergonomic features include large pads on the back for extra comfort and to make carrying heavier loads more comfortable on stress areas of the back; adjustable shoulder straps, padded-web carrying handles, convenience handles on each end for quick "stow and go," and base pad feet that help reduce wear and abrasion.

STANLEY PROTO

Although DeWalt is rightfully proud of its new ToughBox Storage Chests and shop cabinets, Stanley Proto's new 500 Series rolling industrial tool storage cabinets are built to heirloom levels of durability and packed with features for the most discerning professionals. The line is grouped into three series, 540, 550 and 560 series cabinets.

"The 540 series cabinets are made of 18-gauge steel with reinforced



WOOLLEY





We admit we are pushing the "tool box" concept a bit with this one but Festool's new CT SYS vac-in-a-box is just too cool not to include. Plus, it is a full HEPA vac with 80 inches of water lift at 67 dBA — in a box!

integration and a low noise level of just 67 dBA. It produces 80 inches of static water lift and moves up to 106 cfm of air per minute.

The CT SYS delivers full-unit HEPA certification and full-sized performance in a compact and lightweight size. It measures just 15 9/16 x 11 5/8 x 10 5/8 inches and weighs just 15.2 pounds. Plus, it is backed by Festool's exclusive Service All-Inclusive program that includes a three-year warranty.

"The CT SYS is ideal for tackling smaller 'punch-list' tasks, yet also includes a tool-triggered activation for use with power tools," Rangoussis adds.

And did we mention it is its own box? **CS**

installation, and shrouded padlock guards to improve security."

FESTOOL

Wait, what? Is this a vacuum in a box or a box with a vacuum in it? That's the beauty of it — no one knows! What we *do* know is that the Festool CT SYS packs a high performance vacuum system neatly into the same Festool Systainer box famed worldwide for organization.

The CT SYS has tool-triggered operation, high-performance suction, self-contained hose and cord storage and can be carried by its integrated handle or worn on the shoulder by its shoulder strap.

"The CT SYS takes all of the performance of our larger CT dust extractors and packs it into our Systainer 2, making it the perfect solution for professionals who need an ultra-portable vacuum," states Steve Rangoussis, chief sales and marketing officer. "Because it's a full unit HEPA certified dust extractor, the CT SYS is the perfect choice for remodelers, painters and others needing full functionality in a seriously compact design."



The CT SYS features on-board hose and cord storage, tools, manual and automatic function, anti-static design, system

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Greenlee's Four-Door Compact and Mini Compact field offices take the command center to the heart of the job site with TV monitors, printers and laptop trays for a complete control center anywhere.

right in the middle of their job sites to support their superintendents in the job shack or back at the main office.

Greenlee has added a new Four-Door Compact Field Office (CFO) and a new Mini Compact Field Office to its field office lineup. These new field offices will help to improve job site productivity by allowing end-users to configure a customizable, electronics ready,

productivity planning station. Both are proudly made in the USA.

"Mobile field offices save printing costs as well as the costs associated with travel time back and forth to a trailer for updated prints. Greenlee's new CFOs offer users unique and convenient features that raise the industry standard," says Sara Bauer, Greenlee product management specialist.

The Four-Door CFO is designed with two top doors that open to the side and automatically lock into place when opened all the way, making the box safer by preventing the doors from unexpectedly shutting.

The Mini-CFO opens and closes with an automatic locking gas spring, exposing a larger space to accommodate up to a 40-inch monitor. Other key features include a pull-out tray convenient for a laptop or keyboard and removable bottom shelves for additional storage space.

"We incorporated feedback directly from users in the field when we developed both the Four-Door and Mini Compact Field Office boxes," Bauer adds. "As with our existing field offices, the 4D-CFO and Mini-CFO will be lined with weather-resistant stripping to prevent moisture from entering the boxes, cable pass-through holes for easy electronics

an electronic keypad or scanning an ID badge to gain entry into the box. These boxes provide a higher level of security by limiting access just to those who are authorized entry.

"For those applications that require the highest level of tool control, Snap-on Industrial offers its Level 5 Automated Tool Control (ATC) system," Ryan adds. "Its speed, security and accuracy are ideal for work spaces where minimizing FOD and maintaining tool security is critical. Level 5 ATC boxes use optical imaging technology and proprietary software to monitor and track tools as they are removed and returned — all in real time."

GREENLEE

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