

Custom storage for your tools

Want to protect your tools from scrapes and keep them organised? This easy to cut tool foam allows you to create your own custom storage to ensure your tools stay right where they should



With many power tools now supplied in stackable interlocking boxes with internal housings to keep things secure, it leaves the hand tools as poor relations. But with some of the more expensive hand tools cherished equally, it's now the case that you can line out any tool box, chest or drawer with this excellent tool foam and cut out shapes to suit all of your prized possessions to keep them secure.

Easy cutting

The foam is constructed from thin welded layers of around 5mm each, allowing you to cut to the desired depth and peel out the layers according to the depth you want to sit them in. The foam is also dense enough to cut easily without deforming and also offers excellent support to protect and secure the tools.

It can be cut with any craft knife, but ideally a long-bladed one works best as you can get a straighter, deeper cut if needed. You can buy the foam as a starter kit complete with a knife and a long-nosed marker pen to trace around the tools, or the pen and knife as a separate kit.

Marking and cutting is a cinch: it cuts really easily with a sharp blade and if you cut to the inside of the line, you achieve a snug fit.

The knife is also great for using as a depth stop: by sliding the blade out to the depth you require, it clicks into the position so that you only cut as deep as needed.

Once you've cut the outline, it's simply a matter of peeling out the layers to the cut depth.



The resulting recess should now be deep enough to take the tool



Position the tools on to the foam to find the best position



Slide the knife blade out to the depth you want the tool to sit in

The base of the cut-out can look a little ragged as you have to split through a weld, but if you want to achieve a clean look, then it's easy to cut the top layer from the waste piece and put it into the base for a clean finish.

Conclusion

If you want to keep your tools secure, then this foam, especially in the smaller sizes, is a bargain, and it also allows you to easily spot if something is missing if you fit the foam into tool boxes to use out on site or around the home workshop.

You can get also get a fair amount of tools onto one piece of foam if you lay it out well; the chisel set I used for the review took up less than 300mm square.

The foam is available in A1, A2, A3 and A4 sizes (the same as paper) and in two thicknesses: a five layer 30mm version and a 10 layer 55mm-thick version. **GW**



You can cut a thin sliver off the face side of the waste, which can then be used to line the bottom of the recess for a clean look. The resulting recesses keep all of your tools securely in place



Draw around each tool using the long-nosed marker pen



Cut around the mark, ensuring to keep to the inside of the line



Slide your finger in and peel out the cut layer

Specification:

- ▶ **Foam sizes:** A1, A2, A3 & A4
- ▶ **Foam thicknesses:** 30mm & 55mm
- ▶ **Typical prices:** Starter kit – £8.70 (including knife, pen and two small pieces of foam); A2 (420 × 600mm – as reviewed) 30mm foam – £8.14; A3 (420 × 600mm – as reviewed) 55mm foam – £15.61; pen and knife kit – £8.10
- ▶ **Web:** www.toolovation.co.uk

THE GW VERDICT

PROS:

- ▶ Great for keeping tools secure; easy to cut

CONS:

- ▶ None that spring to mind!

- ▶ **RATING:** 5 out of 5