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## MAKERS SPACE MAKING WAVES

Have you heard that new Chevrolet commercial about how great things are born in American garages?

It's no doubt that our minds are constantly working to invent and improve every day things that surround us. However, what happens when our thought process and ideas surpass the technology that is readily available in homes. There are not very many people who have an entire garage equipped with every latest and greatest piece of technology.

So, how do we continue to invent and improve when the average home does not have the space or the budget to carry every tool necessary for improvement?

Simple. We create something that allows us to create, i.e. we create the Makers Space.

The Makers Space is an area, usually a warehouse, stocked with industrial equipment that is up to date with the most current technology. It provides everything from woodworking tools to metalworking to crafts, such as sewing machines, etc. Instead of paying huge sums of money to own each piece of equipment needed to create and invent, all one has to do is rent the equipment needed for that specific project.

While Makers Spaces cater to the inventor and the DIY home project-maker alike, the easy accessibility to



# MAKERS SPACE MAKING WAVES *CONT.*

While Makers Spaces cater to the inventor and the DIY home project-maker alike, the easy accessibility to technology has shown an increase in inventions and entrepreneurship across the country. Start-up businesses that want to decrease the initial overhead cost of operation can rent equipment vice buying it, which allows them to make more profit and grow at a faster rate.

Check out this excerpt from NPR:

## High-Tech Maker Spaces: Helping Little Startups Make It Big

Maker spaces have become hotbeds of technological innovation and entrepreneurship. Now, governments, universities and big corporations are taking notice — and beginning to invest in them. Tom Panzarella, the CEO of a startup working out of maker space NextFab Studio, says the space helps his Philadelphia business “appear like a very large company.” “You’re not these two guys in a garage building a robot, right. You have your 21,000-square-foot production space; the boardroom here is really nice if we need to have meetings,” he says. “We look a lot more established than we really are.”

NextFab’s 350 members pay for access to a million dollars’ worth of tools, including high-end machines like laser cutters and 3-D printers that they could never afford on their own. Members also benefit from the synergy found here, where accomplished people work in close proximity. Panzarella’s company, Love Park Robotics, produces software used to drive electric wheel chairs. He’s used 3-D printers here to make parts. And when Panzarella wanted to attach video cameras to a wheelchair, he hired a mechanical engineer four doors away...

All of this is lowering the cost of entry for entrepreneurs. Mark Hatch, CEO of a chain of maker spaces called TechShop, says the old model meant that an entrepreneur had to spend \$100,000 or more to produce a prototype for a new product. Now it’s a fraction of that.

In addition to increasing profitability for entrepreneurs, the Makers Space initiative also allows businesses to rent storefronts and storage within the warehouse. This feature is particularly helpful for people using the show for crafts and home DIY projects. Business owners are able to invite clients in to view their products in a professional and creative setting—and likely one with much more room and equipment than a garage. The Makers Space initiative is rejuvenating creativity across the country.

With the latest and greatest technology right at your fingertips, only one question remains:

*What will you make?*

## TRENDING APPS



### GOOD READS

This is all about book recommendations. If you're looking for an honest opinion on a book you may read, or you want to share your thoughts on a title, then this app is the place to do it.

[Read More](#)



### ANY.DO

This stylish productivity app allows you to create task lists and save notes. It deeply integrates into your phone, supports cloud syncing, and it's easy to share lists across devices.

[Read More](#)



### MINT

Mint is our favorite money management website, but it also has a kickass app. Mint can keep track of multiple bank accounts or credit cards to help you stay on budget and out of the red.

[Read More](#)

## PINTEREST AND THE DIY MOVEMENT

According to TrendReports, DIY is one of the top trends of 2014. People everywhere are creating projects as simple as home office organization and as complex as full home renovations.

Pinterest owns a great deal of responsibility for the sweeping DIY movement. Anyone can access trendy and functional blueprints for almost any type of project. The website offers everything from sewing and wedding crafts to bathroom remodeling and furniture building.

The benefits of Pinterest DIY projects are two-fold, though I consent that there are probably many more positive outcomes. The two main benefits are as follows:

1. Save Money/Make Money

If you are making things for yourself, DIY projects are usually the most cost effective way to go. That was not always the case before the Makers Space movement, but now you can rent equipment instead of buying new tools for each project. For the mom building playroom furniture or the bride making centerpieces, every penny counts. DIY allows you to make beautiful projects without breaking the bank.

Additionally, if you are in the business of selling projects (and maybe setting up shop in a Makers Space), then your low creating expense will lead to a higher profit margin for your products. So, you're saving money by creating the project yourself, and in turn you're making more money when you sell it by increasing your profit margin.

# PINTEREST AND THE DIY MOVEMENT *CONT.*

## 2. Customize

If you are creating something, you can entirely customize the project to fit your needs. Likewise, you can offer custom-made products to your clients—a service not provided at most box stores. This ability is especially handy when creating things for your own home. For example, if you are building office storage spaces, you want the colors to match your current office and inspire creativity. With a DIY project, you have the ability to create something that fits both categories and works perfectly in your office—and you can do it for a fraction of the normal cost.

Whether you are new to the DIY movement or have been building for years, I encourage you to check out Pinterest and find projects that speak to your creativity. Regardless of your skill level, you can find a project that works for you.

Happy creating!

## MAKER'S CORNER

### EASY



### LADDER SHELVES

### MEDIUM



### PLATE STORAGE RACKS

### HARD



### WOOD BURNING ART