

# Tips My Dad Says

Words of wisdom from our maker dads. Pin this up in your shop so that the collective wisdom o' dad is always close at hand.

- ✔ If you don't have time to do it right, when will you have time to do it over? -dscotthep
- ✔ There is nothing more expensive than a cheap tool. -David Stevens
- ✔ Rust, fire, and explosions are the same process, taking place at different rates. -Mark Crane
- ✔ Whenever I'd got overwhelmed, my dad would say: "You know how to eat an elephant, Kevin? One bite at a time." -Kevin Devaney
- ✔ If you don't have the right tool, make the right tool. -Pat Fizenberger
- ✔ If it's stupid but works, it isn't stupid. -Balloondoggle
- ✔ If it ain't broke, take it apart and have a look at how it works, then put it back together, and if it still ain't broke... hooray! -Lindsey Boardman
- ✔ Don't tell your mom. -Gary Sanders
- ✔ All that crap you collect is worth nothing if it's not organized so you can find what you need when you need it. -Ka1axy
- ✔ Never tap a gauge harder than you would tap the bridge of your nose. -David Seitz
- ✔ Force it to fit, paint it to match. -David Seitz
- ✔ If at first you don't succeed, get a bigger hammer. -David Seitz
- ✔ Don't be afraid to ask for help! -Megan Durant
- ✔ My father (a lawyer) told me: "Company culture is driven from the top — if it's the people who make the product, you're good; sell the product, you're OK. If the accountants take over, look for another job, and if the lawyers take over, run as fast as you can! —Alden Hart
- ✔ Unless size is an impediment, bring the broken part with you when seeking a replacement. -Andrew Plumb
- ✔ Estimate the time, expense, and number of supply runs required for a project intuitively. Then triple it, and plan accordingly. -Sean Ragan
- ✔ Teaching a good work ethic, teamwork skills, and diligence is just as valuable as showing someone how to use a drill press or a soldering iron. - Libby Bulloff
- ✔ Never point out a problem without providing a few alternative solutions. —Richard Gould
- ✔ The joy of making something with your hands is the greatest feeling there is! -Kelly Hollar

This list is boiled down from responses to an internal MAKE staff mailing, asking for dad tips, and a discussion on the MAKE website. See the entire discussion, with over 130 entries, here:

<http://bit.ly/kW3jRB>