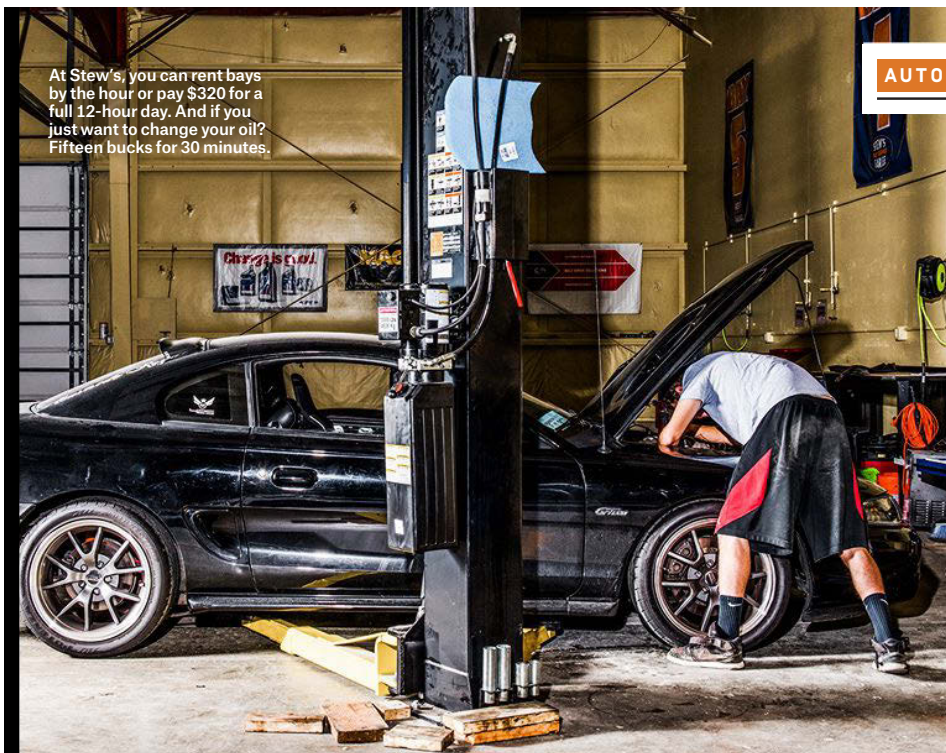




At Stew's, you can rent bays by the hour or pay \$320 for a full 12-hour day. And if you just want to change your oil? Fifteen bucks for 30 minutes.

AUTOMOTIVE SKILLS



HOW TO KEEP TRACK OF YOUR TOOLS

A new app called Share My Toolbox (available now for Apple, early 2016 on Android) lets you catalog every hammer, jigsaw, and nail gun in your collection. (A subscription-based version that offers even more features for businesses launches in December.) Friends can download it, add their own tools, and request to borrow any of yours, which are automatically tracked by the app. You can set your own loan periods and terms. The app will even bug borrowers when it's time for something to be returned. It's a great way to expand your workshop without spending any money. And a terrible way to try to make off with your neighbor's new band saw.

THE DIY AUTO SHOP

Welcome to Stew's Garage, the auto-mechanic shop that's equipped with everything but the auto mechanic. That would be you. **BY LIANE YVKOFF**

Washington state during the winter is no place to work outside on your car. But that's exactly what 21-year-old Stew Waliser had to do two years ago, when he was a broke Central Washington University freshman and needed to repair the suspension on his Toyota Tacoma. Lying on the miserable, hard ground, his head in the snow, a cold wind whipping up his pant legs, Waliser envisioned a warm garage where people could drive in and work on their cars—tools lining the walls, lifts, coffee percolating in a machine in the corner, maybe a radio playing. Local folk would come and go, helping each other out. A

community. That would be nice. So he built one.

Waliser dropped out of college and opened Stew's Garage, a self-service repair shop that anyone can pay to use. Forty dollars an hour gets you a bay equipped with either a two- or four-post lift, a dedicated 450-piece tool set, even recycling and waste disposal. And, if you need advice, Stew's has that too. (Insurance prevents Waliser or his employees from physically assisting with repairs, but they can and will give you as much guidance as you want.) Customers also have free use of compression tools and heavy equipment, including a bench grinder, a shop press, engine hoists, and a wheel balancer. There's even a place for

people to give back to the Stew's community, donating things they don't need—a slush pile of excess motor oil and transmission fluid, spare parts, and a turbocharger from a 2.7-liter Audi engine. All up for grabs.

"The point behind this shop is that it's everybody's," Waliser says. His customer base includes pizza-delivery drivers and men who wear suits to work. On warm evenings Waliser sometimes drags his worn fire pit out into the parking lot while someone runs out for hot dogs and buns. The garage is open until 9 p.m. Customers, staffers, and friends sit on folding chairs and roast their dinner, swapping advice and stories.

A community. It's nice.

GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY AT THESE DIY GARAGES

1 Stew's Self Service Garage
Kirkland, Wash.

2 Pit Row
Santa Clara, Calif.

3 Your Dream Garage
Baldwin Park, Calif.

4 DIY Auto
Westminster, Colo.

5 DIY Auto Garage
Houston

6 Hands-On Garage
Milwaukee

7 DIY Garage
Indianapolis

8 Garage Yourself
Miami

