

Making Awesome Tool Survey

The Survey ran for one week. 28 individuals responded. People were invited to participate using several channels. The majority of respondents came from a notice posted on the MA Facebook page and the Tallahassee and FSU subreddits. Other channels included MeetUp.com, direct mail to our mailing list, and a pop-up invitation on the MA website. If you'd like to see the raw data, please contact David - info@makingawesome.org.

Here are the summary results:

Question 1 - 3D Scanner

3D scanning is a technology used to create computer models from physical objects. The object is scanned and the resulting model can be manipulated in a 3D viewing program, or exported to a 3D printer. If Making Awesome acquired a 3D scanner, would you use it?

Answer Choice	%	n
Not interested	32%	7
Would take class	36%	8
Would use tool if available	32%	7

Comments:

- I would like to know how large an object could be scanned. I would like to see us go for larger rather than smaller. I would like to ultimately use it.
- It seems the only good scanners are prohibitively expensive at this point. I'd suggest holding off until the cheaper units improve
- The accuracy I would need in this tool is not present in the Makerbot digitizer.

Question 2 - CNC Mill

A CNC mill is a device that uses a 3D computer model to control a tool that cuts away material from a piece of wood, metal, or plastic. The result is a physical object created from a 3D model. If Making Awesome acquired a CNC mill, would you use it?

(cnc mill question)

Answer Choice	%	n
Not interested	0%	0
Would take class	14%	3
Would use tool if available	86%	19

Comments:

- I would also like to use it once trained.
- I would use this frequently.

Question 3 - Bandsaw

A bandsaw is a power tool that uses a continuous blade with teeth along one edge to make complex cuts in various materials. This question applies to a bandsaw used for woodworking. If Making Awesome acquired a bandsaw for woodworking, would you use it?

Answer Choice	%	n
Not interested	5%	4
Would take class	21%	5
Would use tool if available	63%	15

- Needed to work with wood lathes. Needs to be 14".
- This tool is essential for an adequate wood shop and with wood working abilities you can make tools and forms in order to work with a diverse range of medium.
- I have a Bandsaw in fine condition which I would like to donate
- It's a most basic, versatile tool. Training required, to keep it aligned and tuned. Should be large and complete.
- Every shop should have one.

Question 4 - Vinyl Cutter

A vinyl cutter is a computer controlled machine that uses a sharp blade to shapes, letters and designs from a roll of vinyl material. The resulting designs can be transferred to metal, glass, or plastic objects. If Making Awesome acquired a vinyl cutter, would you use it?

Answer Choice	%	n
Not interested	51%	12
Would take class	22%	5
Would use tool if available	26%	6

Comments:

- I would use it once trained.
- Unless folks are making signage, I'm not sure I see much of a use for this tool.
- This is a tool with a price low enough to justify a personal purchase, to me.

Question 5 - Laser Cutter/Engraver

A laser cutter/engraver is a machine that uses a high power laser to cut or engrave a variety of materials from a computer design. It's used to transfer designs to an object, or to make precise cuts. If Making Awesome acquired a laser cutter, would you use it?

Answer Choice	%	n
Not interested	16%	4
Would take class	16%	4
Would use tool if available	68%	17

Comments:

- I might use it once trained.
- Would very much appreciate having access to a laser cutter that can cut 1/4" acrylic sheeting.
- This would be a great tool to have in the shop. It's sexy and it's useful for many things - from cutting to engraving. The glowforge was just release and while it doesn't cut through thick material, it's relatively inexpensive and has a user-friendly interface.

- A tool like this could make projects like arts and crafts and signs that could be marketed to support the operations of, Making Awesome!
- This would do a lot for MA's foot traffic and general usage rate.

Question 6 - Other Tools

What other tools should Making Awesome consider acquiring?

- Staple gun
- Air nail gun
- Sliding compound miter saw - Kobolt #358938 @\$200.
- Light industrial metal lathe
- Published list of tools
- Grinders
- Troutman routers
- Metal working tools
- Full sets of high quality tools
- More modern PC's

Question 7 - Maker-in-Residence/Staff

Tools are great, but knowledgeable helpers are also a good thing. Some makerspaces have a "maker in residence" or other paid staff available to help members learn to use the equipment, and to consult on projects. What do you think about this idea?

Comments:

- I think it's a great idea. Maybe partner with the Craftsman Studio at FSU or Lively Technical School to get knowledgeable students to help out with internships for some of these positions.
- A "maker in residence" seems like a great idea.
- This would be great. As it is now, unless you nag someone or attend one of the training sessions, you're kinda left on your own with the tools. Granted, most of them are pretty easy to use. Though if someone had an interest in 3D printing, there's a considerable learning curve and going it alone is intimidating for the newcomer.
- Sounds like a great fit for me, I would be very interested in that position.
- Hard to be an expert at everything. Would prefer if these people were volunteers.
- I think that is a excellent idea! And it will help keep people interested in the program(s). I'd volunteer.
- Excellent Idea for safety & maintaining tools.

- I think this is an excellent idea and think it might increase membership. The person might also help to make sure the equipment is being used properly (and so not misused and damaged).
- Having our doors open more often with dedicated staff to do marketing, help out members, and keep the shop tidy would add value to and promote the longevity of Making Awesome.

Question 8 - Tool Ranking

Methodology - In question 8, respondents were asked to rank tool acquisitions from 6 to 1, with 6 being the most important and 1 being the least important. To provide context to the scores, the raw number of people picking each option for a specific tool were multiplied by the score for that tool. Then the totals for each tool (ranking x number of people who picked that rank) were added together to provide a total score for that item.

The tool rankings are:

CNC Machine	99
Laser Cutter	90
Bandsaw	79
Maker-in-Residence/Staff	67
Vinyl Cutter	54
Other	16

The following tools were entered as “other”

- Lathe for metalwork
- More complete wood shop
- Electronic learning kits
- Lab tools
- Upholstery tools (and class)
- Full sets of high quality basic tools
- Coffee/espresso machine

Question 9 - How familiar are you with Making Awesome?

Answer	%	n
First time I heard about Making Awesome	4%	1
Know about it but I've never been	19%	5
Visited but have not yet become a member	23%	6
Former member	12%	3
Current member	42%	11

Question 10 - Join the mailing list?

Ten respondents asked to be added to the mailing list.