

Resources for Michigan Machinists

This document lists various resources of interest to home machinists located in Southwest Michigan. For the most part, an effort has been made to include only resources and places of interest which are “local,” but some exceptions have been made. The easiest way to use this document is to use the electronic version (link at bottom of page) so as to easily access linked material and to be sure you have the most recent version.

Metals Suppliers

- **Alro Metals Plus** - Kalamazoo, MI : Retail outlet for metals (drops, pre-cut, and custom cut), plastics, etc.
 - Website : <http://www.alro.com/locations/location.aspx?loc=KZ>
 - Map : [5382 Wynn Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49048](#)
 - Notes: Drops are on display in the retail outlet - easy to find stuff you didn't know you needed! The Ann Arbor location for Alro (which also has a retail outlet) is reported to have a better selection of brass and copper; the Jackson location is reported to be better for tool steel. See the Alro website for other locations and [retail locations](#).
- **Black River Recycling** - Holland, MI : “. . . angle, square, channel, pipe, flat, and I beam stock steel for purchase . . .” as well as aluminum, copper, brass, and stainless.
 - Website : <http://www.blackriverrecycling.com/>
 - Map : [11531 Chicago Drive Holland, MI 49424](#)
 - Notes : Both scrap metal and scrap items are available for sale.
- **GR Central Iron & Steel** - Grand Rapids, MI : “New and Used Retail Steel, Aluminum, and Stainless Steel Sales. All orders are cut to size and no order minimum. Walk in's are welcome.”
 - Website : <https://grandrapids.craigslist.org/mad/5400744439.html>
 - Map : [1730 Alpine Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504](#)
- **IXL Machine** - Holland, MI : Machine shop which also sells stock metals.
 - Website : <http://www.ixlmachineshop.com/>
 - Map : [117 West 7th Street Holland, MI 49423](#)
 - Notes : Scroll down the web page and click on *Steel and Material Sales* for more information on items for sale.
- **Metal Supermarkets** - Kentwood, MI : Metals of all kinds, cut to size.
 - Website : www.metalsupermarkets.com
 - Map : [4141 Barden Drive Suite 5, Kentwood MI 49512](#)
 - Reportedly : “They will cut to any length but no precut as far as I know. They do have drops but you cannot just sort through them. They will tell you if they have something close to your size and they will bring it in from another branch. They also cut shear and form.”
- **Schupan Aluminum and Plastic** - Kalamazoo, MI : Don't let the name fool you, they sell aluminum, brass, bronze, copper, stainless steel, and plastics. Visit the online “boneyard” for deals on drops.
 - Boneyard link (minimum order is \$25 for pickup and \$40 for delivery) : http://schupanboneyard.com/ps/schupan_boneyard_aluminum_and_plastics_catalog.cfm
 - Website : <http://www.schupan.com/metal-plastic-supplier>
 - Map : [4200 Davis Creek Ct, Kalamazoo MI 49001](#)

Southwest Michigan Home-shop Machinists

website: <https://sites.google.com/site/swmichhomeshopmachinists>

email: swmichhomemachinists@gmail.com

- Note: The boneyard website includes lists of available drops, which can be ordered online. If you don't find what you are looking for, check back later as the available drops change frequently.
- **Steel Supply Center** : Cold rolled steel, structural steel, tool steel (call first - 269-637-8484).
 - Website : no website, but there is a FaceBook page:
 - https://www.facebook.com/pages/Steel-Center-Supply-Co/134458096598136?fb_noscript=1
 - Map : [8480 Blue Star Hwy, South Haven, MI 49090](#)

Auctions

These are online auctions, which generally require prior registration in order to bid. When using these sites, be on the lookout for "sellers premiums," loading fees, and other extra costs. Read all item descriptions with caution and do not assume they are always accurate; inspect all items before bidding if possible.

- **Biddergy** : Maintains warehouses in Kalamazoo (map link below) and Detroit where items can be viewed before bidding, as well as numerous other auctions at various other locations. *Biddergy* is not specific to machining, but they frequently have tools or other items of interest to machinists.
 - Website : <http://www.biddergy.com/>
 - Map : [Kalamazoo Auction Center, 1919 E Kilgore Service Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49001](#)
- **BTM Industrial** : Features a weekly Tooling/Metalworking Auction and a monthly Machinery Auction.
 - Website : <http://www.btmindustrial.com/>
 - Map : [3227 3 Mile Rd NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49534](#)
- **OrbitBid** : Auctions are at client facilities (although bidding is online, with photos of items provided). Auction locations are frequently in Michigan, but may be in other states as well.
 - Website : <http://www.orbitbid.com/>
 - Map : Location varies by auction.
- **OAS International** : Auctions are at client facilities (although bidding is online, with photos of items provided). Auction locations are frequently in Michigan, but may be in other states as well.
 - Website : <http://auction.oasinternational.com/>
 - Map : Location varies by auction.
- **Repocast.com** : Byron Cntr, MI (just South of Grand Rapids) : "Items on auction are available for inspection from the time they are listed online for viewing & pre-bidding until close of business on auction day."
 - Website : <http://auction.repocast.com/home.cfm>
 - Map : [601 Gordon Industrial Ct, Byron Center, MI 49315](#)

Garage and Estate Sales

You can receive email notification of upcoming garage sales and estate sales by signing up with the websites below (free); you can also "fine tune" notifications with keywords like "tools" so you only receive notifications of interest. The notifications usually include photos of sale items so you can get an idea of what will be offered. While machine tool sales are somewhat rare, I have picked up some real bargains this way (and of course "standard" tools and power tools are frequently on offer). See the websites for more information.

Southwest Michigan Home-shop Machinists
website: <https://sites.google.com/site/swmichhomeshopmachinists>
email: swmichhomemachinists@gmail.com

- EstateSales.net
- gsalr.com : Garage and yard sales.

Events

- **Cabin Fever Expo** : Model engineering show and specialty auctions in Pennsylvania; held in January of each year. See website for details.
 - Website : <http://www.cabinfeverexpo.com/>
 - Map : [Lebanon Valley Expo Center, 80 Rocherty Rd., Lebanon PA 17042](#)
- **Michigan Flywheelers Museum** : “The Michigan Flywheelers Museum is a 501(c)(3) organization of volunteers dedicated to the restoration and preservation of antique gas and steam engines and tractors. This group of volunteers holds one of the largest annual “Antique Engine and Tractor Shows” in the state of Michigan every September.”
 - Swap Meet/ Flea Market : Held in June; see website for more information and specific dates.
 - Website : <http://michiganflywheelers.org/>
 - Map : [06285 68th Street, South Haven, MI 49090](#)
- **NAMES Expo** : Every year in April - features displays of (operating) model engines, workshops, and specialty vendors.
 - Website : <http://www.namesexposition.com/expo.htm>
 - Map : [Yack Arena - 3131 3rd St, Wyandotte, MI 48192](#)

Websites

This document is intended to be as Michigan specific as possible, so no websites are listed here. However, a list of websites and forums of interest to machinists can be found here:

<https://sites.google.com/site/lagadoacademy/useful-links#web-forums>