

Mini Metal Lathe & Wood

by Bill Ooms

Web sites:

<http://www.grizzly.com> (my lathe is a Grizzly G8688 -- 7" swing; 12" between centers)
<http://www.mini-lathe.com> (has good reviews of other similar lathes)
<http://www.littlemachineshop.com> (good source for accessories)
<http://techtv.mit.edu/search?q=machine+shop&x=0&y=0> (metal working videos)
<http://www.youtube.com/user/mrpete222/> (metal working videos)

Accessories:

(Note: a 3-jaw chuck is generally included with import lathes -- no need to buy another)
Quick Change Tool Post Kit (LMS #2461 \$99.95)
Drill Chuck for tail stock, center drills, tool bits (LMS #1796 \$32.95)
Cut-off Blade (LMS #1929 \$7.95)
Boring Bars (LMS #1246 \$17.95)
Tail Stock Cam Lock (LMS #2018 \$29.95)
Live center for tail stock (use the one from your wood lathe)
Dial Calipers (or digital if you like)
Optional -- 1/2" diameter 2-fluted end mill (Enco #320-0090 \$7.95)

Terminology:

- The "carriage" is the assembly that moves along the bed of the lathe. It can be moved manually by rotating a handwheel, or it can move automatically at a constant speed by the lathe by engaging a "feed lever". The direction can be set to move either to the right or to the left.
- The "cross-slide" moves perpendicular to the bed of the lathe on a dovetail slide by means of a dial or crank.
- The "compound-slide" is mounted on the cross-slide and moves in a direction that is typically along the axis of the lathe, but can be adjusted to some other angle. It moves on a dovetail slide by means of a dial or crank.
- "Gibs" are narrow pieces of metal that fit between a dovetail and the adjusting screws of a slide.
- The "tool post" is where the cutters are mounted. It is convenient to have a "quick-change tool post" to make it easy to switch from one tool to another.