

Portable Work Area Addition
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I read W0DKM's "portable service cart for ham equipment" hint with great interest (H&K QST September 2005). What a great idea! In my case, I like to re-build boat-anchor ham gear, and my lab work area is not big enough for these old behemoths. So I've been using our kitchen table for these projects, which has the opportunity to cause marital stress! Plus, I have to move my test equipment over to the kitchen table as well when it is time to align or troubleshoot the radio. But the service cart idea makes for a great portable work area addition, as can be seen in the photo. The cart I use is a three-tray 16" x 30" inexpensive cart available from Harbor Freight (www.harborfreight.com), part number 6650-6VGA. The list price for this cart is \$49.99, but it frequently goes on sale for as much as \$15 less. As you can see, I inverted the top tray so as to give me a flat area to work on. The lower trays are great for holding parts and test equipment. The cart is spec'd to hold up to 300 pounds of equipment. And it is often easier to swing the cart around to get to different sides of my boat-anchor radios than it is to manhandle the radios across a normal table. Finally, since my electronics lab is in the family room (yes, the family room), I can easily wheel my work to another room and close the doors over my lab when company comes over.



HRO-50T1 "work in process" on Harbor Freight cart snuggled up to the author's lab area. Note the inverted top shelf, and the Eico tube tester on the bottom shelf! When the cart is out of the way, the folding wooden doors (left doors seen) close off the lab and make the family room presentable.