

Re: The aging of the amateur

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.astro.amateur/2004-11/1011.html>

From: Chris.B (*chris.b_at_mail.dk*)

Date: 11/07/04

Date: 7 Nov 2004 07:28:28 -0800

Middle age is like a second childhood. With more pocket money and the time and space to play with your toys properly.

The problem I find is that the fire of youth to build things from scratch is gone. I had to do it back then because there was no money. Now it's simply easier to buy something than to make it. Despite the skills, tools and materials one has picked up over the decades. The vast hoard of things that will come in handy are now better arranged. On proper shelving in plastic storage boxes in the huge shed I built alone. But it all still goes unused! Waiting for that special project.

I'd have given my right arm for all of this skill and equipment 40 years ago. And 30 years ago. Even 20 years ago. If you're going to build something. Then do it when you're still young. No matter what it takes. You'll learn skills you never knew were in you. Woodwork, metalwork, fibreglass lay-up, optical work, concrete mixing, writing design software. The list is endless. Few hobbies offer such a range of skills to be learnt with your bare hands and a library book at your elbow.

Regards
Chris.B