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Inventables Announces New Tool for Desktop Manufacturing

Chicago – October 21, 2013 – [Inventables, Inc.](#) today announced the launch of [Shapeoko 2](#), the CNC milling machine kit capable of creating precision parts and models from plastic, wood and metal for less than \$650. Inventors and designers can use the Shapeoko 2, an open source, low-cost desktop computer numerical control (CNC) mill, to bring their imagination and designs to life.

“During the second industrial revolution, it often took years to get from an idea to a finished product. Today, moving from idea to finished product can take mere hours. Digital manufacturing tools don’t have expensive set-up costs, the tool works by taking data from the computer to produce the part. This means the same machines can produce two completely different parts one after another. At Inventables we believe this – coupled with the fact that digital manufacturing tools that can make consumer products start at \$650 – are igniting this 3rd Industrial Revolution.” said [Zach Kaplan](#), CEO of Inventables. “We also believe this movement will be the primary driver of growth in our economy over the next decade. We see this happening because these digital tools give rise to a set of goods and services that were not economically viable before.”

See more at: <http://www.ideaslaboratory.com/2013/10/14/zach-kaplan-manufacturing-for-a-small-planet/>

Shapeoko 2 is a followup to the success of Shapeoko 1, the fastest selling CNC mill in the history of the world. The machine is the creation of Edward Ford, an Illinois-based inventor who launched a Kickstarter campaign for the first version with a modest goal of \$1500. He raised many times that amount and uncovered a huge demand for a low-cost CNC kit. As orders grew, he partnered with Inventables to make the kits available to a wider audience and moved operations from his garage in Dixon, IL to the Inventables warehouse in downtown Chicago. Since the release of the first Shapeoko, Edward has been working on making the design easier to assemble and use. Users of the first kit have also contributed their own modifications and improvements in the true spirit of open-source designs, resulting in a greatly improved product at the same price.

Information about the history of Project Shapeoko is available at <http://www.shapeoko.com/about>.

Inventables offers two Shapeoko 2 kits -Mechanical, and Full-, each of which can be assembled in a weekend. The Mechanical kit, which costs \$299, is designed for experienced CNC machine builders who will add electronics and modify the kit to get it running and suit their needs. The Full kit, which costs \$649, includes everything necessary to create a working machine, including tools and electrical components. Once completed the kit can be assembled over a weekend and can carve into many materials with precision once completed, including hard and soft woods, various plastics, aluminum, and circuit boards.

No machining or soldering is required with the Shapeoko kits. If you can tighten a bolt, you can

assemble the Shapeoko 2. While assembly is very simple, machine operators should be 18 years or older, or supervised by an adult. Inventables is accepting pre-orders for the Shapeoko kits starting October 21, 2013 at <http://inventables.com/shapeoko>.

About Inventables

Founded in 2002, Inventables' mission is to enable individuals to source materials in smaller sizes and quantities to build physical versions of their ideas. To solve this problem, Inventables has built a "Designers' Hardware Store" that sells materials in small shapes, sizes and quantities for desktop fabrication. Inventables believes this will streamline the process of local manufacturing. Through their website inventables.com they sell equipment and supplies in small quantities for purchase with a credit card. Inventables selection ranges from over 100 colors of acrylic sheets to 3D printers. Custom manufacturers, product designers, researchers, artists, and inventors can find the materials they need from Inventables selection of about 30,000 products. When a material from the site is needed in a large volume, Inventables assists in making connections to the manufacturer or supplier.

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Note to editors: High-res images of the Shapeoko kits are available by emailing michael@inventables.com.