

Garage Fab Builds



BUILDS / MACHINES / TOOLS / CULTURE / LIFESTYLE

REAL BUILDS
REAL PEOPLE
REAL RESULTS

MEET THE START 4x8 BOLT-TOGETHER BEAST

BIG TABLE.
SMALL FREIGHT BILL.

- ✓ RACK & PINION DRIVE
- ✓ 5:1 PLANETARY REDUCTION
- ✓ AUTO THC + OHMIC SENSING
- ✓ 500+ READY-TO-CUT DXFS
- ✓ SHIPS IN 2 CRATES



BOLT IT.
CUT IT.
OWN IT.



THE GANTRY
RAISED FOR 5" OF Z CLEARANCE



THE BRAINS
MACHINE-MOUNTED CONTROLS



THE CUT
THC KEEPS THE GAP DIALED

Your
build
here

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INSIDE
ISSUE 01 · 10 · 2026
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Small shop.
Big builds.

INSIDE:

- THE START 4X8 UP CLOSE
- BUILD SHEET & SPECS
- SOFTWARE SETUP
- SHOP NOTES
- YOUR BUILD COULD BE NEXT

FROM THE GARAGE

Welcome to Garage Fab Builds

REAL BUILDS. REAL PEOPLE. REAL RESULTS.

Every great shop story starts the same way: a guy, a gal, a garage and an idea that won't leave them alone. Garage Fab Builds is our monthly look at what happens next. Each issue features one build, from our own Las Vegas shop or from a creator cutting on a GFHQ machine, and shows you how it came together.

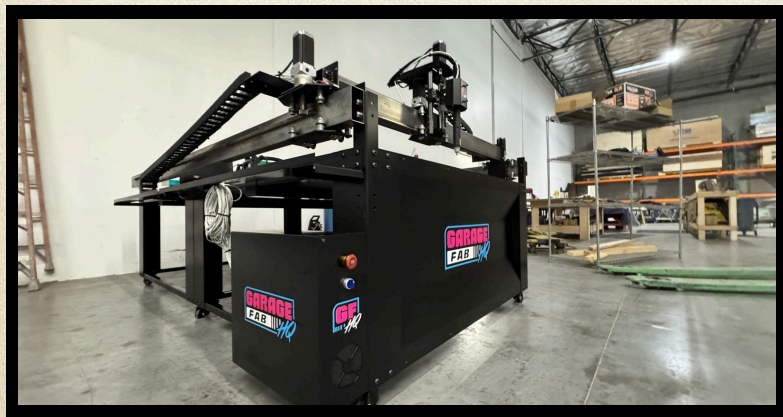
We grew up on the old magazines, the kind with grease on the pages, where the projects were real and the instructions assumed you owned a wrench. That's the spirit here. No fluff. Just machines, parts, tips and the people making them.

For our first issue we're starting where a lot of you will start: the **START 4' x 8' Raised Gantry**, our bolt-together CNC plasma table. It's the machine that proves you don't need a factory to cut like one. We'll walk through what's in the crate, how it moves, what the brains do and how to set it up so your first cut is a good one.

Got a build you're proud of? We want to see it. Tag **@garagefabhq** and **#garagefabhq**, or apply to the GFHQ creator program. Your build could be the next cover.

Here's to the small shops with big ideas.

The Garage Fab HQ crew



ON THE FLOOR: A START 4' X 8' RAISED GANTRY, READY TO CUT IN THE GFHQ SHOP, LAS VEGAS, NV.

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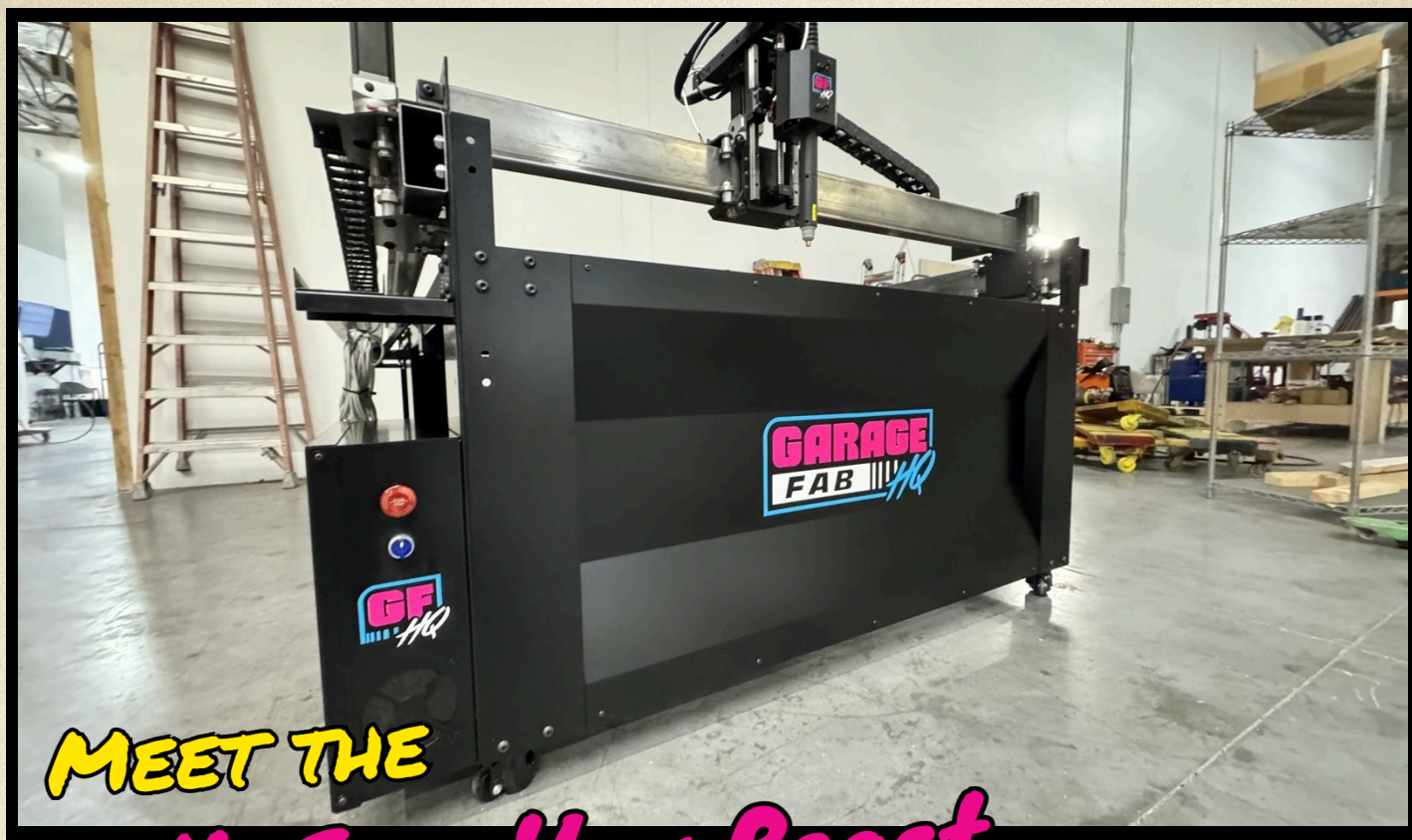
START, CORE AND PRO MACHINES FROM GARAGE FAB HQ

GET EVERY ISSUE

Garage Fab Builds is free. Join the email list at **garagefabhq.com** and each new issue lands in your inbox. Past issues live in the archive at **garagefabhq.com/blogs/builds**.



GARAGEFABHQ.COM



MEET THE Bolt-Together Beast

THE START 4' X 8' RAISED GANTRY: A FULL-SIZE CNC PLASMA TABLE THAT SHIPS IN CRATES AND BOLTS TOGETHER IN YOUR SHOP.

Big tables have a big problem: shipping. A fully welded and assembled 4' x 8' machine travels like furniture and is priced like it, too. The START line flips that. It's a modular, heavy-duty steel frame that ships in manageable sections, so you pay to move parts, not air, and you get the satisfaction of building the machine you'll cut with.

The 4' x 8' kit is the sweet spot of the START lineup. A full sheet of plate fits on the bed, the raised gantry clears your work, and it all ships in two crates by freight, or you can pick it up free at our Las Vegas, NV shop.

01 A frame that takes a beating

The heavy-duty steel frame is built to carry the water pan, a full load of material and daily shop use. Integrated supports hold the water pan across the whole cutting area, and curved slats support your material while letting slag and drops fall away.

Heavy-duty casters let you roll the table when the shop layout changes, and adjustable leveling pads lock it flat once it's home, even on an uneven floor.

"You pay to move parts, not air. Then you build the machine you'll cut with."

— The START idea

02 Motion that means business

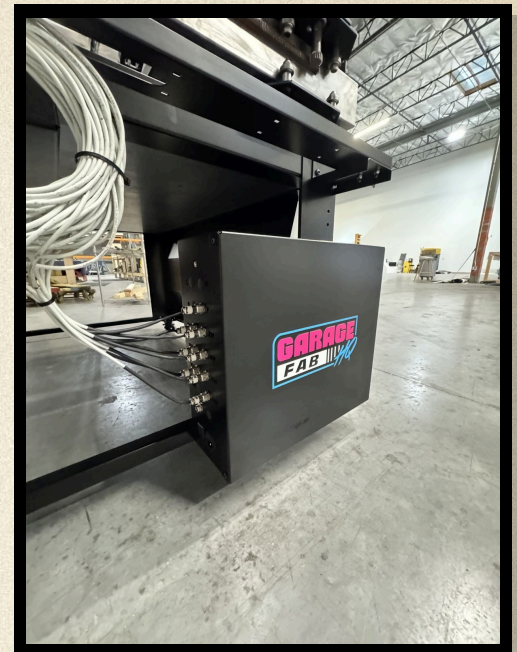
X and Y run on direct-drive rack and pinion: fast, reliable, long-axis travel that's easy to service. Each axis gets a 5:1 planetary gear reduction for more usable torque and finer motion resolution, which shows up as smoother, more controlled cuts. Z rides on a ball screw for steady vertical torch moves, with 5 inches of clearance below it for material and fixtures.

Travel runs 2 inches past the advertised cutting area in X and Y, which gives you room to reach the edges, square up a sheet and set up without fighting the limits. Automatic homing on X, Y and Z finds the same home position every time the machine starts, and programmed travel limits help protect it from overtravel.

03 Brains on board

The control system is mounted right on the machine, with the cable management fixed in place. Once it's set up, there are no loose wires snaking across the floor. On cut day the electronics do the fussy work for you:

- ✓ **Automatic torch touch-off** finds the material height before each cut for a consistent pierce height.
- ✓ **Torch Height Control (THC)** keeps adjusting while you cut, holding a steady gap even when the plate warps or moves.
- ✓ **Ohmic sensing** handles torch-height referencing when you run the pan dry.
- ✓ **A wireless gaming-style remote** lets you jog and position the gantry while you load and square material.



THE BRAINS: MACHINE-MOUNTED CONTROLS WITH EVERY MOTOR LEAD PLUGGED IN AND ROUTED. NO LOOSE WIRES.

04 Software in the box

Every START ships with a USB drive loaded with **MyPlasm** control software, **QCAD** and **Inkscape** for drawing and editing, plus **500+ sample DXF projects**, so there's something to cut on day one. Bring your own PC, or choose a pre-programmed laptop or PC kit that's ready to run.

05 Built by you, backed by us

Each kit comes with a detailed assembly and how-to manual, plus YouTube videos on setup, everyday use and improving your machine over time. Add a plasma cutter from us and it comes with the GFHQ CNC Com Cable, ready to plug in. Bolt-on extras include a laptop or PC stand, a plasma-cutter shelf and an air-filter kit for cleaner, drier air and longer consumable life.

The result is a table that does real production work and costs less to get into your shop. That's a bolt-together beast.

QUICK HITS

- ✓ Full 4' x 8' sheet capacity
- ✓ Rack & pinion X/Y, ball-screw Z
- ✓ 5:1 planetary reduction
- ✓ Auto THC + ohmic sensing
- ✓ Water pan + curved slats
- ✓ Ships in 2 crates or free pickup



UP TOP: THE RAISED GANTRY, TORCH CARRIAGE AND DRAG CHAIN.

BUILD SHEET

START PLASMA TABLE
RAISED GANTRY · 4' X 8'

The machine

BUILDER	Garage Fab HQ, Las Vegas, NV
MACHINE	START CNC Plasma Table, Raised Gantry
FEATURED SIZE	4' x 8' (full sheet)
FRAME	Modular heavy-duty steel, bolt-together
X / Y DRIVE	Direct-drive rack & pinion, 5:1 planetary reduction
Z DRIVE	Ball screw, 5" clearance below Z
TRAVEL	Cutting area + 2" in X and Y
HEIGHT CONTROL	Auto touch-off, THC, ohmic sensing
HOMING	Automatic on X, Y, Z with travel limits
BED	Water pan + curved slats
MOBILITY	Heavy-duty casters + leveling pads
CONTROL	Machine-mounted, wireless remote
SOFTWARE	MyPlasm, QCAD, Inkscape, 500+ DXFs
SHIPPING	Freight in 2 crates, or free pickup in Las Vegas

Pick your size

3' x 3'	\$4,999.99
4' x 2'	\$5,499.99
4' x 4'	\$5,999.99
5' x 3'	\$5,999.99
5' x 5'	\$6,499.99
4' x 8' (featured)	\$7,499.99
4' x 10'	\$7,999.99
5' x 10'	\$8,999.99

Prices shown with the USB software drive (bring your own PC), no plasma cutter. Plus freight from your ZIP, or free pickup.

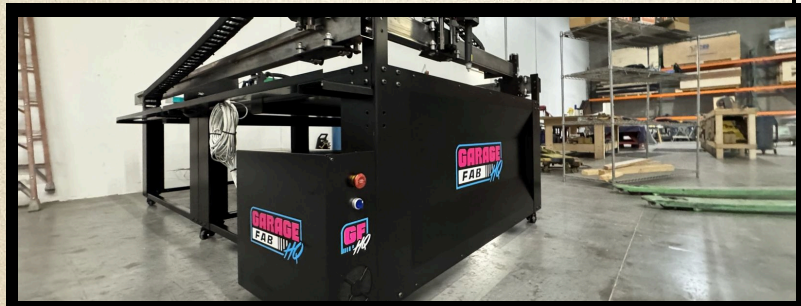
Options

- ✓ **Computer:** USB (your PC), pre-programmed laptop or PC kit
- ✓ **Plasma cutter:** Everlast or Hypertherm, includes the GFHQ CNC Com Cable
- ✓ **Add-ons:** laptop / PC stand, plasma-cutter shelf, air-filter kit

PRICE IT OUT

EVERY SIZE, OPTION AND FREIGHT PRICE IS
LIVE AT

GARAGEFABHQ.COM



FULL SHEET, SMALL FOOTPRINT: THE 4' X 8' START WITH ITS MACHINE-MOUNTED CONTROLS.



TORCH CARRIAGE: BALL-SCREW Z WITH AUTO TOUCH-OFF AND THC.

SHOP NOTES

FIVE WAYS TO MAKE YOUR FIRST DAY ON A NEW PLASMA TABLE A GOOD ONE.

01 Level first, cut second

Roll the table into place on its casters, then use the adjustable leveling pads to set it flat and stable. A level, solid table keeps the gantry happy and your cuts square, especially on a less-than-perfect shop floor.

02 Fill the water pan

Running water in the pan helps capture plasma dust and sparks and cuts down on smoke and heat while you work. It also helps keep thinner material from warping. Running dry? Ohmic sensing takes over torch-height referencing.

03 Use the extra travel

The START moves 2 inches past its advertised cutting area in X and Y. Use that room to reach the edge of the plate and square your sheet before the first pierce.

04 Feed it clean, dry air

Moisture and oil in your air line are hard on consumables and cut quality. An air-filter kit is cheap insurance for longer-lasting tips and electrodes.

05 Start with a proven file

Before you draw your own part, cut one of the 500+ sample DXF projects on the USB drive. It's a quick way to confirm your setup, speeds and pierce settings before your own designs hit the table.

SOFTWARE SETUP · WHAT RUNS YOUR MACHINE

START

CONTROL: MYPLASM CNC
DESIGN: QCAD, INKSCAPE

CORE & PRO plasma Fiber lasers

CONTROL: MYPLASM PRO
DESIGN: QCAD, INKSCAPE, FUSION 360

CONTROL: RAYTOOLS
DESIGN: FUSION 360 (HIGHLY RECOMMENDED), QCAD, INKSCAPE

LINKS AND DOWNLOADS FOR EVERY PROGRAM: GARAGEFABHQ.COM/PAGES/DESIGN (DESIGN LAB)



READY FOR DAY ONE: LEVELED, PAN FILLED, SHEET SQUARED. TIME TO CUT.

Your build could be next!

EVERY ISSUE FEATURES ONE BUILD. THE NEXT ONE COULD BE YOURS.

Garage Fab Builds is about the people behind the sparks. If you cut, weld, design or build with a GFHQ machine, from signs and brackets to trucks, trailers, boats and race cars, we want to tell your story.

How to get featured

- ✓ Tag **@garagefabhq** and use **#garagefabhq** on your builds. We repost as much as we can.
- ✓ Apply to the **GFHQ creator program** at garagefabhq.com/pages/social.
- ✓ Send photos, a few lines about the build and the machine you used.

Creator tiers

TIER 1	Community Creator Reposts, a creator discount code, early looks at new gear
TIER 2	Partner Creator Affiliate code, consumables for builds, featured spots
TIER 3	GFHQ Ambassador Sponsored content and machine partnerships, by invitation

Tiers are assigned after review. Perks are finalized with each creator.

FOLLOW THE BUILD

@garagefabhq

YOUTUBE	Builds, cut tests, how-tos
INSTAGRAM	Shop photos, finished parts
TIKTOK	Satisfying cuts in 30 seconds
FACEBOOK	News, customer builds, events
X	Quick updates from the shop

COMING NEXT MONTH

Issue 02: a customer or creator build

From first sketch to finished part: the plans, the cut files, the welds and the lessons learned. Want it to be your build? Apply now.

QUESTIONS OR BUILD TIPS?
INFO@GARAGEFABHQ.COM



Small shop. Big builds.

**CNC PLASMA, ROUTER & FIBER LASER MACHINES, DESIGNED AND BUILT BY
GARAGE FAB HQ**

START

BOLT-TOGETHER KITS. GET
CUTTING FOR LESS. PLASMA &
ROUTER, 3' X 3' TO 5' X 10'.

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