

SHAPERS AND MAKERS

Learn How Tool and Die Makers Drive the Manufacturing Industry



CRAFTSPEOPLE THAT SHAPE YOUR LIFE



Tool and die makers are the shapers of our world. They create the molds, dies and fixtures that shape the products you use every day. Think doorknobs, cooking pots, staplers, even your iPhone and TV. All of these products come from the molds, dies and fixtures created by tool and die makers. A career in tool and die making means a career in shaping the things that make up our lives.

BECOMING A CRAFTSPERSON

If not for tool and die makers, we'd have no manufactured goods. That's because there would be no one to make the molds that shape the products, or the tools that make other tools, or the dies used to stamp out parts. Everything you see that is formed from sheetmetal owes its existence to tool and die making. Simply put, tool and die makers make sure that things can be mass-produced. They make molds, dies and fixtures that allow thousands of products to be built every day, all day long.

provides demanding, fulfilling employment, utilizing a multitude of skills.

Tool and die makers have the satisfaction of creating something that would have never existed without their skills. And, those skills will always be in demand.

BY THE NUMBERS

Average salaries for tool and die makers

CAREER	AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME*
Entry-Level Tool & Die Maker	\$53,800
Senior Tool & Die Maker	\$79,679
Senior Tooling Designer	\$107,270
Tooling Supervisor	\$117,720

*Based on national industry average data of reporting companies in PMA's 2018 Wage & Benefit Report. Based on a 50-hour week (with time-and-a-half calculated after 40 hours). Specific wages vary by region and employer.

Tool and die makers are good at math, good mechanically and in charge of their own work. They must know how to think on their feet, find mistakes, make adjustments and use a variety of machines.

In this field, you not only use mechanical skills but leading-edge computer skills. Tool and die



Tools, dies and molds are fundamental to durable-goods manufacturing.

STEPS TO A CAREER

If a career in tool and die sounds like the right one for you, entering an apprenticeship or internship program is a great way to start. As a student, you have early earning potential and can be paid in apprenticeship or internship programs while you are in school, or immediately upon graduation. The skills you learn in tool and die are valuable no matter where you live, and these careers often come with essential benefits like health care, paid vacation and tuition reimbursement. When all is said and done, you end up in a stable career, with minimal debt and maximum benefits. Think about a career in tool and die and *shape* your future as a true *craftsperson*.

"Apprenticeship is the other college — except without the debt." — U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez

BECOME THE BEST IN THE TRADE

To become the best tool and die maker, you must be certified by the National Institute of Metalworking Skills. NIMS-certified tool and die makers represent the best in the field, and these certifications can make you an asset to any manufacturer. Learn more about training and obtaining [NIMS certifications](#).



MEET THE CRAFTSMAN

ALEX BOYDA

Tool & Die Apprentice
Anchor Manufacturing Group, Inc.



Q. What is your training or education background?

A. After high school, I attended a precision metalworking class and from there I obtained my apprenticeship with Anchor Manufacturing. Now, I am halfway through an apprenticeship program to get my journeyman's card.

Q. What attracted you to a career in the industry?

A. I first learned about the metalworking trade from a friend of mine. He talked to me about how fulfilling his job was and how at the end of the day he'd have a piece that he got to work on all day that he created, so I followed in his footsteps. It is amazing that pretty much everything we use in our day-to-day lives is manufactured by people like me.

Q. How has your career in the industry been rewarding?

A. I get to challenge myself every day and at the end of the day, I have a real sense of accomplishment and I have a skill that not many people have. I've always been a pretty curious person, and being able to go to work and take things apart and see how they work, it gives me a lot of joy and fulfillment. It's nice being a tool and die maker because I know in the future I'll be able to live comfortably, have a house and a car, and be able to provide for my family.



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