

**sex
machines**

photographs and interviews

Sartan's Workshop
Redwood City, California

Sartan's Workshop, a place known for being committed to advancing the art of sex machines, is cluttered with kids' bikes and hedge trimmers tossed around the band saw and drill press. Sartan is really a guy named Paul, and he happily agreed to spend time with me as long as we were done by the time his kids were home from school. We hung out in his garage and his kitchen, surrounded by former domestic appliances he has converted into sex machines. A pasta maker chassis found at a thrift store had been transformed into a powerful love machine named "The Thumpstir." A spider-like, four-person machine called "The Gang Bang" sat on his family room pool table. Paul and his wife Jenny are open about their own use of machines.

The popular image of the adult industry, or anything sexual in general, has dark rooms and black curtains and kinda grungy nasty people behind it—people not in touch with the emotional factor. And it's not true. Look at us. We are average neighbors. We mow our lawn, we feed our kids healthy food, we go to school meetings. I guess we are the perverts of the world. We could be next to you in the supermarket.





I went to school for an MBA in strategic management with a minor in human resources. I moved up very quickly in my job and ended up at the director level. I had always figured that sex was the one thing that really was recession-proof. In hard times, people will still spend money to comfort themselves with life's simple pleasures. When I got laid off in early 2001, it was my time to put this idea to the test. Making sex machines for my wife and me had been a hobby. Then I turned the hobby into my real job. I've designed 153 machine designs and built 142 of those, with five more in development right now. It's more enjoyable than a typical job, and there is a market for these things.

I think it is a very common fantasy, this machine fucking fantasy thing. It really comes down to the desire to have something that can out-perform a man. There are also people who have a very personal reason to have a machine. Like the closeted homosexual guy. He's not comfortable finding someone, so this would let him try it. For a couple, it opens up a lot of possibilities sexually. Then we have people who are away from their wives. This guy was a driller on a platform, leaving his wife behind three months at a time. He told me he wanted her to be satisfied so she wouldn't cheat on him. I had one couple, he's 93 and she's 87. He's running out of steam, but she is still into it. It can allow him to participate in sex with her, participate in her enjoyment, and enjoy that himself. People share these things with me.