

BASIC STATS

What is(are) your name(s)?

Casey and Jessica Friday

What do you do for a living?

[Web Development](#)

How many people do you/will be living in your tiny house?

Two Adults

What part of the country do you live in?

San Antonio, TX

How many square feet is your house?

~152 ft² with a 56 ft² loft

When did you start your build?

August 2012

Is your house complete?

No. We have a completion goal of 1 November 2012.

Have you been documenting your tiny house build and if so, where can people find that information?

caseyfriday.com

BACKGROUND

Why did you decide to build?

Jessica first developed an interest in Tiny Houses. I was hesitant at first but soon became extremely interested. We recently commissioned Scott Stewart of Slabtown Customs to build our tiny house, but he turned out to be a flake, and we were very lucky to [get our money back](#). (I also worked my ass off to get that \$7,300 deposit back.)

After going through that terrible two-month fiasco, we basically lost all faith in everyone without 'Home Depot' or 'Lowe's' in their name. (We later lost faith in Home Depot, too!) So we decided to just build the damn thing ourselves.

What was your life like before your tiny house? Were you fairly active, have you always had 'projects' going on? Were you fairly sedentary and looking for a change? Did you tend to work too much? (This question is an effort at trying to figure out WHO gravitates to the tiny house lifestyle)

I worked as an Electrical Engineer for a DOD contractor for 18 months after graduating from college. 18 months was just enough for me to get bored, so my wife and I moved to a new state for about 8 months. During my tenure as a full-time EE, we took many vacations, and we really love traveling in general.

We are both generally healthy people. I'm a [big proponent of P90X](#), and we both eat well due to [our food intolerances](#). We enjoy being outside, and I work very long days on the house (sometimes 8-10 hours in >100° heat).

How did you come to hear about the movement, figure out it was right for you and and get started?

Jessica found out about the movement long ago via Jay Shafer, and we finally went to a Tumbleweed Workshop in Boulder, January 2012. We've long wanted to live in a Tiny House so that we can direct our income at huge savings, and the workshop combined with a bad builder-for-hire experience led to our desire to build our own house.

What is/was your design inspiration?

[Tall Man's Tiny House](#)

TECHNICAL

How do/did you find the time to work on your house with a job, kid(s), relationships, AND building a house? Did you do anything special to keep the balance?

I work as a web developer, and my wife works at the house where we are building our tiny house, so although it's a delicate balance, it's possible for me to do a web development job and then switch to building for a nice chunk of time. When I get out to build, I generally spend all day working on the house.

Have you run into any problems with your local codes? How did you solve them?

Nope.

Where did you get the tools that you use? Were they yours, borrowed, rented etc.?

Allen J found my site via Wonder Wash YouTube videos and my wife's site, and he decided to donate 40 pounds of tools to our build. I killed one of the drills he donated while drilling holes in the steel of the trailer, but the impact driver he donated has been worth its weight in gold.

Since starting, I've purchased three new drills, a circular saw, a pneumatic nailer, a framing hammer, and quite a bit more toys from Lowes. [I love getting deals](#), but during this build I'd rather pay up front for quality tools than look for cheap or free tools.

How long did (are you expecting) construction to take?

I'm expecting this build to take 3-4 months. We will absolutely be living in our Pico House in 2012, with an optimistic move-in goal of 1 November 2012.

Have you/were you able to stay on schedule?

Absolutely. We took a 5-day vacation to rest our minds/bodies, and I still intend on finishing the house in record time.

What is/was the most time consuming portion of your build?

So far, it really felt like building the floor and wall joists took the longest. Home Depot really screwed the pooch on our insulation order, which held back the finishing of the floor for a couple weeks. We fired them and got it done, and everything since then has really been going swimmingly.

What is/was the most limiting factor for your build?

It hasn't kicked in yet, but the most limiting factor - if it does indeed crop up - will simply be my inability to keep pushing my body to work after doing four 10-hour days in a row. An easy fix would be to work less hours each day.

Is your house on a trailer? If yes, how do you attach to the trailer? How do you move your tiny house? (Do you have a truck, do you hire it done?)

Our house is on a trailer. I attached the floor frame to the trailer with 16 carriage bolts, inserted through the floor joists and the trailer's frame. We'll likely rent a truck when we need to move it, because I'm a hot hatch type of guy - no trucks for me!

Do you have accessory houses/dwellings that you use to supplement storage/working/living?

No. Just the Pico House.

Where did you get your plans?

We're doing what my friend Allen calls a 'design and build'. Build some of it, design some more, build some more. It's not terribly efficient, but it is going up quickly. The overall design is inspired by the Tall Man's Tiny House, but we designed the whole thing ourselves.

Have you consulted any 'professionals'? (structural, mechanical, plumbing, design etc.)?

Yes. My wife's uncle is a contractor in Florida who builds million dollar homes, and I've called him a handful of times to ask small questions about suggestions for materials, etc. My friend Allen J also studied carpentry at college, so he's offered up some crucial tidbits of advice during the build.

Are you insuring your house? With who?

We will absolutely be insuring the house. If I were to sell the house after building it, I would likely sell it for approximately \$40,000. Having worked at USAA for three years, I know the importance of insurance for a primary domicile. I don't know who it will be insured with, but we will absolutely be finding an insurance provider to purchase renters insurance at a minimum.

Have you been using any sponsorships to help fund your house? How do you go about finding that sponsorship?

We have not used any sponsorships, and I don't know that we will be. I like the idea of getting stuff for free, but I don't know that I'll get off my ass and actually ask someone for it.

SPECIFICS

What sort of items do you have for cooking?

We might do that for our appliances, like the [gas range/stove](#).

Are you tied to the power grid or are you off grid?

I haven't designed it yet, but the plan is to run the house completely off of solar power from a device that I build, much like the SolMan.

Are you going to have a washer and/or dryer?

You might know me as the [Wonder Wash guy from YouTube](#). We will be using the WonderWash and MiniSpinner (along with a clothesline) for our laundry needs.

Where does your water come from?

We will have a regular RV water hookup. We'd like some sort of water retention system, but that's pretty unrealistic outside of an earthship type dwelling.

What kind of toilet are you going to have?

We will be using a 5-gallon bucket as a compost toilet.

What do you use for a heat source if anything?

We won't need a heating source in Texas, but if we decide to move the house somewhere cool, we'll likely get a cheap propane or electric heater from Lowes.

What are some of the space savings tricks you used?

Our kitchen will be one big bag of IKEA sorcery.

What do you have for insulation?

We are using R-MAX foam insulation, purchased from Lowes.

Where are you planning to park your tiny house?

We will start out on some land near where we currently live in Texas. We'll likely take the house to Colorado for the summers, and my dream is to move to a vineyard in California.

PERSONAL

How much will/did your tiny house cost?

I'm not quite sure, but I'm estimating it will cost about \$15-20k to build.

What is/was the most expensive part of your house?

So far, the trailer is at the top at \$3,400, while the windows/skylights come in second, at about \$3,000. The windows are ballin, by the way.

'Best' injury story (worst injury)?

I was changing my double-edge safety razor blade, twisting the head off while holding the shiny new Japanese Feather blade with soapy hands, and I slit my thumb open. Oh, you meant while working on the Tiny House?

What has been your biggest accomplishment with your tiny house?

Sheathing the roof. Jess' dad helped me. Good lord that was hard to do.

What is/will be the biggest benefit to living in a tiny house?

I'm really looking forward to the cozy feeling of living in less than 200 ft². The fiscal benefits will be lovely, but I'm more looking forward to the paradigm shift in lifestyle.

Is there anything you'll miss about living in a standard house? What will you miss the most?

Nah.

What has been the scariest part about building your own house?

Working on the roof/the ladder is relatively nerve-wracking. I'm not looking forward to installing the roof felt and roofing material.

If you could change one thing about your house what would it be?

It's too soon to tell.

Did you have cash in hand to complete your build, pay as you go or take out a loan to construct your house?

We're paying cash to build our house.

Have friends and family been skeptical or supportive of your ideas?

Very supportive.

Is there anything else you would want other people to know about your house and build?

The size of our house won't lead to any compromises. I will be installing a [50 lumen pico-projector](#) with a [60-watt 7.1 simulated surround sound soundbar](#). We'll be able to watch movies

on a 50" projector screen while relaxing in hanging hammock chairs. We will really have the most innovative tiny house ever built.