

RAY, YOUR CAREERSONA

The Master Technician

A precise, steady problem solver who pairs deep trade know-how with methodical diagnostics.

Realistic · Builder

Investigative · Thinker

Enterprising · Persuader

Interest code RIE

After twenty-five years in residential construction as a finish carpenter, you bring an exceptional eye for detail and craft to the table. Rebuilding an 1890s staircase so well that "you can't tell what's original" speaks to a high standard of workmanship. Now, your focus is shifting toward applying that deep trade knowledge while protecting your physical well-being.

You are looking for a path that reduces heavy lifting and cold outdoor conditions, focusing instead on "using my know-how without wrecking my knees." Your quiz profile shows a steady, practical mindset that aligns naturally with technical maintenance, inspection, and precision diagnostics, where your care and craftsmanship remain front and center.

Your strengths

High standard of craft

Your pride in seamlessly restoring an 1890s staircase demonstrates patience, exactness, and deep pride in quality work.

Strong practical problem-solving

Scoring highest in Realistic interests indicates you naturally connect with mechanical systems, tools, and tangible components.

Consistent personal discipline

You identified strongly with order and promptness, noting that you like order and get chores done right away.

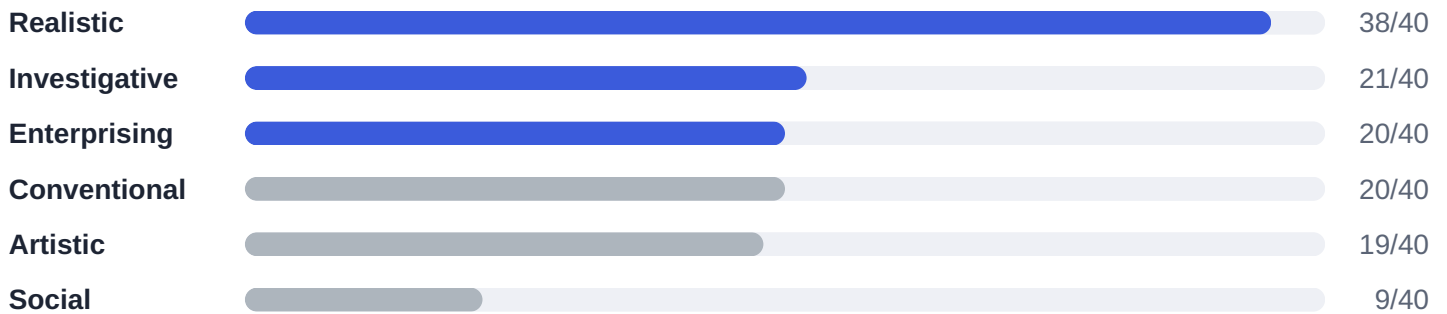
Calm, steady disposition

You describe yourself as calm, even-tempered, and relaxed most of the time, which helps keep technical tasks methodical and safe.

Autonomous execution

Your preference for significant freedom on the job shows you work best when trusted to run with a project independently.

What you like doing



Scores from the 60 work activities you rated (0 = strongly dislike all ten in an area, 40 = strongly like all ten).

Your interest profile is led by Realistic pursuits, complemented by Investigative and Enterprising areas. This combination means you gravitate toward concrete, physical work with mechanical equipment and testing devices, but you also appreciate diagnosing problems and organizing the effort required to fix them. You strongly liked activities such as building cabinets, testing the quality of parts before shipment, and assembling electronic parts. Together, these scores show you thrive when diagnosing how complex physical systems operate, troubleshooting faults systematically, and applying hands-on fixes without having to perform constant, brute-force labor.

How you work

Extraversion

You describe yourself as balanced between reserved and energised by quiet time and outgoing and energised by people.

Agreeableness

You describe yourself as balanced between direct and focused more on tasks than on feelings and warm.

Conscientiousness

You describe yourself as organised and quick to follow through.

Emotional steadiness

You describe yourself as calm and even-tempered.

Imagination

You describe yourself as balanced between practical and down-to-earth and curious about ideas and imaginative.

In daily work, you bring a high degree of conscientiousness and emotional steadiness. You describe yourself as an organized person who prefers order and follows through on commitments immediately. Paired with your calm and relaxed nature, this means you approach complex technical problems without getting easily rattled. You maintain a balanced social style, comfortable working on your own or coordinating with others as needed, and you prefer clear, practical tasks over abstract theory. When handed responsibility, you take ownership of the outcome and see it through thoroughly.

Where you'll likely do your best work

You do your best work in an active environment where you can stay on your feet and move around without enduring freezing temperatures or heavy bodily strain. Ray, you thrive with substantial day-to-day freedom, preferring supervisors who trust your competence rather than micro-manage your schedule. A clean mechanical plant, workshop, or climate-controlled facility with predictable routines suits you well.

Your top career matches

Chosen from more than 900 U.S. occupations for how well each job's typical activities, work style and setting match your answers, within the training you said you're open to. Pay is the U.S. national median from the Bureau of Labor Statistics; it varies a lot with location, experience and employer.

Stationary Engineers and Boiler Operators

#1 match

Interests 92%

Work style 69%

Setting 90%

Your strong Realistic score and desire to use practical trade know-how align well with operating and maintaining mechanical building systems. The work keeps you active indoors, troubleshooting equipment and running routines without the constant heavy framing or freezing weather of residential sites. Your natural preference for order and steady follow-through supports the structured monitoring these systems demand.

MEDIAN PAY (U.S.)

\$78,620/yr

OUTLOOK 2025-2035

Average

OPENINGS PER YEAR

3,200

TYPICAL EDUCATION

Post-secondary certificate

What you'd do

- Operate or tend stationary engines, boilers, and auxiliary equipment, such as pumps, compressors, or air-conditioning equipment, to supply and maintain steam or heat for buildings, marine vessels, or pneumatic tools.
- Activate valves to maintain required amounts of water in boilers, to adjust supplies of combustion air, and to control the flow of fuel into burners.
- Monitor boiler water, chemical, and fuel levels, and make adjustments to maintain required levels.

Worth knowing: Shift work is common in facilities that operate around the clock, which may mean occasional night or weekend schedules.

First step this week: Look up local municipal licensing guidelines or facility operator certifications through CareerOneStop.

Also called: Auxiliary Operator, Boiler Operator, Boiler Technician (Boiler Tech), Operating Engineer · [Details on O*NET OnLine](#)

Control and Valve Installers and Repairers, Except Mechanical Door

#2 match

Interests 91%

Work style 70%

Setting 87%

This work relies heavily on testing, calibrating, and maintaining precise mechanical governors and regulating devices. You indicated an interest in testing parts before shipment, and your decades of precision craftsmanship translate smoothly into careful diagnostics. It keeps you on your feet and moving while demanding far less brute-force lifting than custom carpentry.

MEDIAN PAY (U.S.)

\$74,340/yr

OUTLOOK 2025-2035

Average

OPENINGS PER YEAR

3,600

TYPICAL EDUCATION

High school diploma

What you'd do

- Record maintenance information, including test results, material usage, and repairs made.
- Install, inspect and test electric meters, relays, and power sources to detect causes of malfunctions and inaccuracies, using hand tools and testing equipment.
- Calibrate instrumentation, such as meters, gauges, and regulators, for pressure, temperature, flow, and level.

Worth knowing: You may have to work in tight crawl spaces, utility closets, or around pressurized lines that require strict safety adherence.

First step this week: Search O*NET OnLine to compare the specific daily tasks and meter-testing tools used by utility control technicians.

Also called: Control Valve Mechanic, Control Valve Technician, Electric Meter Technician, Instrument and Electrical Technician (I and E Technician) · [Details on O*NET OnLine](#)

Electrical and Electronics Repairers, Powerhouse, Substation, and Relay

#3 match

Interests 90%

Work style 67%

Setting 85%

Bright Outlook

Inspecting and testing substation switches, relays, and circuit gear rewards a methodical mindset and steady problem-solving. Your calm temperament fits high-voltage settings where double-checking schematics and taking pride in exact work are essential. It also satisfies your Investigative interest in diagnosing how components function together.

MEDIAN PAY (U.S.)

\$103,020/yr

OUTLOOK 2025-2035

Much faster than average

OPENINGS PER YEAR

1,800

TYPICAL EDUCATION

Post-secondary certificate

What you'd do

- Inspect and test equipment and circuits to identify malfunctions or defects, using wiring diagrams and testing devices such as ohmmeters, voltmeters, or ammeters.
- Prepare and maintain records detailing tests, repairs, and maintenance.
- Consult manuals, schematics, wiring diagrams, and engineering personnel to troubleshoot and solve equipment problems and to determine optimum equipment functioning.

Worth knowing: Safety protocols are uncompromising, and learning complex industrial wiring schematics can involve a steep technical curve.

First step this week: Check your local community college course catalog for short, non-degree introductory certificates in electrical circuitry.

Also called: Electrical and Instrumentation Technician (E and I Technician), Electrical Technician, Instrument and Control Technician (I and C Technician), Instrumentation and Control Technician (I and C Technician) ·

[Details on O*NET OnLine](#)

Model Makers, Wood

#4 match

Interests 94%

Work style 67%

Setting 83%

Your accomplishment rebuilding a historic staircase shows a deep standard of woodcraft that aligns directly with building patterns and precision mock-ups. This role honors your strongest Realistic interest while moving you into a controlled workshop environment away from outdoor chill. It allows you to produce intricate assemblies from drawings without hauling framing timber across rough job sites.

MEDIAN PAY (U.S.)

\$56,550/yr

OUTLOOK 2025-2035

Decline

OPENINGS PER YEAR

100

TYPICAL EDUCATION

Post-secondary certificate

What you'd do

- Read blueprints, drawings, or written specifications, and consult with designers to determine sizes and shapes of patterns and required machine setups.
- Fit, fasten, and assemble wood parts together to form patterns, models, or sections, using glue, nails, dowels, bolts, screws, and other fasteners.
- Verify dimensions and contours of models during hand-forming processes, using templates and measuring devices.

Worth knowing: Positions are specialized and concentrated in specific manufacturing hubs, which may limit the number of immediate local openings.

First step this week: Browse specialized manufacturing job boards to see what CAD or blueprint-reading proficiencies regional pattern shops request.

Also called: Builder, Craftsman, Jig Maker, Model Builder · [Details on O*NET OnLine](#)

Electrical and Electronics Installers and Repairers, Transportation Equipment

#5 match

Interests 91%

Work style 68%

Setting 85%

Bright Outlook

Installing and diagnosing mobile electronics, navigation units, and control equipment allows you to work hands-on with tools in a sheltered setting. Because you prefer substantial autonomy on the job, troubleshooting wiring runs and fine-tuning sensors gives you independent control over the final product. It uses your eye for detail without subjecting your joints to the wear of heavy construction.

MEDIAN PAY (U.S.)

\$84,890/yr

OUTLOOK 2025-2035

Faster than average

OPENINGS PER YEAR

500

TYPICAL EDUCATION

Post-secondary certificate

What you'd do

- Inspect and test electrical systems and equipment to locate and diagnose malfunctions, using visual inspections, testing devices, and computer software.
- Reassemble and test equipment after repairs.
- Confer with customers to determine the nature of malfunctions.

Worth knowing: The work often involves contorting into tight cabs, engine compartments, or boat consoles to run delicate wiring.

First step this week: Review basic mobile electronics installation standards and technician credentials listed on industry association portals.

Also called: Critical Systems Technician, Electronic Bench Technician, Electronics Mechanic, Locomotive Electrician · [Details on O*NET OnLine](#)

Motorboat Mechanics and Service Technicians

#6 match

Interests 95%

Work style 69%

Setting 86%

Bright Outlook

Servicing marine engines and mechanical components taps into your top-ranked hands-on interests and methodical diagnostic style. You can apply your mechanical intuition to troubleshoot misfires and align drive systems while staying active around boats and marina workshops. It offers a clear, practical rhythm where you can evaluate issues calmly and execute repairs independently.

MEDIAN PAY (U.S.)

\$57,550/yr

OUTLOOK 2025-2035

Faster than average

OPENINGS PER YEAR

2,600

TYPICAL EDUCATION

Post-secondary certificate

What you'd do

- Start motors and monitor performance for signs of malfunctioning, such as smoke, excessive vibration, or misfiring.
- Document inspection and test results and work performed or to be performed.
- Mount motors to boats, and operate boats at various speeds on waterways to conduct operational tests.

Worth knowing: Marina work tends to peak heavily in spring and summer, leading to intense seasonal workloads followed by slower periods.

First step this week: Visit a local marina or boat repair shop to ask a service manager which entry-level certifications they value most.

Also called: Boat Mechanic, Boat Motor Mechanic, Boat Rigger, Marine Mechanic · [Details on O*NET OnLine](#)

More careers to explore

Industrial Machinery Mechanics

\$64,520/yr

Maintains industrial machinery in climate-controlled plants, drawing on your mechanical aptitude without the physical exposure of residential sites.

Much faster than average

Avionics Technicians

\$82,280/yr

Focuses on clean, highly disciplined electronic diagnostics on aircraft systems, matching your calm nature and high conscientiousness.

Much faster than average

Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians Pairs testing procedures and fabrication know-how to assist engineering teams, providing indoor hands-on work with zero heavy demolition.	\$82,890/yr Much faster than average
Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians Demands strict adherence to maintenance procedures and precise inspections, utilizing your patient attention to detail on mechanical systems.	\$79,870/yr Faster than average
Coating, Painting, and Spraying Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders Applies your eye for pristine finishes to running automated spray equipment inside organized industrial paint booths.	\$48,250/yr Average
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers Offers focused, independent fabrication work with metal components in dedicated shop environments, sparing your knees from constant stair climbing.	\$53,750/yr Slower than average

Things to watch

Because you are used to working independently, you may need to consciously communicate progress to team members who rely on regular updates.

Your preference to avoid heavy strain could tempt you to overlook roles that involve brief, manageable physical effort in controlled settings.

Transitioning into electronic or instrument diagnostics may require learning unfamiliar digital interfaces that feel less intuitive than traditional hand tools.

Your 90-day plan

DAYS 1-30

Explore Roles and Align Skills

Clarify target paths and document how your craft background connects to indoor mechanical and maintenance trades.

1. Use O*NET OnLine and CareerOneStop to compare the physical demands, typical work settings, and credentials for Stationary Engineers and Boiler Operators versus Control and Valve Installers.
2. Draft a skills-based resume that highlights blueprint interpretation, fine measurement, and systematic problem-solving while minimizing general demolition or heavy labor.
3. Reach out to an established stationary engineer or facility maintenance supervisor through a professional association or personal network to conduct an informational interview about daily site conditions.

DAYS 31-60

Targeted Training and Field Research

Build technical fundamentals in electrical or mechanical systems and test your interest through hands-on engagement.

1. Visit your local public library or community college to identify short-term, evening, or weekend courses (under six months) in basic electricity, boiler basics, or schematics reading.
2. Enroll in a low-cost foundational module or workshop covering multimeters, circuit testing, or pressure valve maintenance to complete a practical skills step.
3. Conduct a small hands-on trial project at home or in a community workshop, such as wiring and calibrating a benchtop low-voltage control circuit or rebuilding a small mechanical pump assembly.
4. Connect with an instructor or department head at a trade program to ask about regional employers hiring entry-level technicians.

Application and Transition Strategy

Pursue realistic roles that leverage your discipline and trade experience in controlled physical environments.

1. Assemble a portfolio featuring photos of your most meticulous work, including projects like your historic staircase rebuild, to show prospective employers your standard of finish and accuracy.
2. Target entry-level openings in facilities, utility service, or marine maintenance, tailoring your cover letters to emphasize your high conscientiousness and autonomous work habits.
3. Attend a regional trade meet-up, union hall open house, or public workforce center event to speak directly with hiring coordinators about upcoming technical openings.

Ray, your decades of finish carpentry prove you possess the patience, sharp eye, and steady discipline that technical employers respect. By shifting toward roles like boiler operations or valve maintenance, you can protect your physical well-being while continuing to solve tangible problems. Take that first step this month, and put your hard-earned trade wisdom to work in a setting that sustains you.

About this report. Careersona combines the work activities you rated (from the O*NET Interest Profiler), short personality statements from the public-domain International Personality Item Pool and your answers about work settings, then compares them with U.S. occupation data. It's a tool for exploring options, not a scientific diagnosis, and it can't promise any job, pay or outcome. Writing assistance by AI, based on your answers.

This product includes information from the O*NET Career Exploration Tools by the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (USDOL/ETA). Used under the O*NET Tools Developer License. O*NET® is a trademark of USDOL/ETA. Careersona has modified all or some of this information. USDOL/ETA has not approved, endorsed, or tested these modifications. This product includes information from the O*NET 31.0 Database by the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (USDOL/ETA). Used under the CC BY 4.0 license. O*NET® is a trademark of USDOL/ETA. Careersona has modified all or some of this information. USDOL/ETA has not approved, endorsed, or tested these modifications. Personality items come from the International Personality Item Pool (ipip.ori.org), which is in the public domain. Pay and outlook figures are U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data (Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, May 2025; Employment Projections 2025-2035) as published on O*NET OnLine. [Modifications and disclaimers](#).

Report SAMPLE-P06 · careersona.com · support@careersona.com