

Measuring, striking, and turning tools

Measuring and layout

Tool	Used for
Tape measure	Flexible; long distances, wire runs, clearances
Steel ruler	Short, precise measurements; a straight edge for marking and cutting
Micrometer	Very precise thickness or diameter of small parts: wire, bolts
Caliper	Inside and outside diameters, as of pipe; thickness
Depth gauge	Depth of holes and slots; also spark plug gaps and tire tread
Level	Whether a surface is level (horizontal) or plumb (vertical)
Measuring wheel	Long distances quickly: roads, runways
Steel square	Marking and checking 90° angles
Protractor	Measuring and marking other angles

Wrenches and sockets

Tool	Used for
Open-end	Grips two sides; for tight spots where it cannot turn fully
Box-end	Surrounds the bolt head for more grip and torque
Combination	One open end and one box end
Adjustable	One jaw fits many sizes
6-point socket	Most contact; for stubborn bolts, least rounding
12-point socket	Fits on at more angles in tight spaces
Impact wrench	Compressed air for fast, high-torque work on big bolts

Sockets reach recessed bolts a wrench cannot

Hammers, mallets, and punches

Tool	Used for
Claw hammer	Framing and carpentry; the claw pulls nails
Ball peen hammer	Metalwork; the round peen shapes metal and flattens rivets
Sledgehammer	Demolition, fence posts, breaking concrete
Rubber mallet	Strikes without marring; assembly, dents
Dead blow mallet	Seating parts with little bounce-back
Wooden mallet	Woodworking; driving chisels
Center punch	Marks the starting point for a drill
Pin punch	Drives out rivets and pins
Brass drift	Aligns parts without sparks or marring

Screwdrivers

Tool	Used for
Flat-tip	Slotted screws
Phillips	Cross-shaped screws; more grip than a flat tip
Torx (star)	Six-pointed star; high torque with little cam-out
Robertson	Square tip; holds the screw and resists slipping

Cam-out: the tip slipping out of the screw head; more points of contact make it less likely