

The Home Mechanic's Tool Dictionary

DRILL PRESS: A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching a metal part out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, splattering it against that freshly painted part you were drying.

WIRE WHEEL: Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench at the speed of light. Also removes fingerprint swirls and hard-earned calluses in about the time it takes you to say, "*Oh drat!*"

ELECTRIC HAND DRILL: Normally used for spinning pop rivets in their holes until you die of old age.

OXYACETYLENE TORCH: Used almost entirely for igniting various flammable objects in your garage. Also handy for igniting the grease inside the wheel hub you want the bearing race out of. (See Vise-Grips)

WISE-GRIPS: Next generation Pliers. Also used to round off bolt heads. If nothing else is available, they can also be used to hold metal while welding and transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

HYDRAULIC FLOOR JACK: Used for lowering an automobile to the ground after you have installed your new brakes, trapping the jack handle firmly under the bumper making it's removal impossible. (See 8 foot 2 x 4)

EIGHT-FOOT LONG DOUGLAS FIR 2 x 4: Used for levering an automobile upward off a hydraulic jack handle.

TWEEZERS: A tool for removing Douglas Fir wood splinters.

PHONE: Tool for calling your neighbors to see if he has another hydraulic floor jack.

E-Z OUT BOLT AND STUD EXTRACTOR: A tool ten times harder than any known drill bit that snaps off in bolt hole of part turning it into a paperweight or door prop.

TROUBLE LIGHT: The home mechanic's own tanning booth. Sometimes called a drop light. It's main purpose is to consume 40-watt light bulbs at about the same rate that 105-mm howitzer shells might be used during, say, the first few hours of the Battle of the Bulge. More often dark than light, its name is bit misleading.

PHILLIPS SCREWDRIVER: Normally used to stab the lids of old-style paper-and-tin oil cans and splash oil on your shirt; but can also be used, as the name implies, to strip out Phillips screw heads.

AIR COMPRESSOR: A machine that converts energy produced in a coal-burning power plant 200 miles away into compressed air that travels by hose to a Chicago Pneumatic impact wrench that grips rusty bolts last over-tightened 40 some years ago by someone at the corner gas station and neatly rounds off their heads.

PRY BAR: A tool used to crumple the metal surrounding that clip or bracket you needed to remove in order to replace a \$.50 part. (See Craftsman screwdriver)

CRAFTSMAN 1/2 x 16-INCH SCREWDRIVER: A large pry bar that inexplicably has an accurately machined screwdriver tip on the end opposite the handle.

HOSE CUTTER: A tool used to cut hoses too short.

HAMMER: Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer nowadays is used as a kind of divining rod to locate the really expensive parts nearest the object we are trying to hit.

DAMMIT TOOL: Any handy tool that you grab and throw across the garage while yelling, "DAMMIT" at the top of your lungs. It is also the next tool that you will need.