

HAND TOOLS



Channellock Xtra Slim Jaw adjustable wrenches are 40 percent thinner than a regular wrench of the same size and have up to 20 percent greater jaw capacities.

BRINGING BACK THE JOY OF WORKING WITH YOUR HANDS

Hand tools keep getting more versatile, easier to wield and safer in repetitive use. The latest generation hand tools presented in this article prove that the category continues to innovate and that these 10 top manufacturers have end-users in good hands.

CHANNELLOCK

"Hand tools today are generally better designed to help the user access hard-to-reach areas while being more comfortable to use and more progressive in their appearance," begins Ryan DeArment, vice president of sales and marketing for Channellock.



DE ARMENT

"This year Channellock introduced a new line of Xtra Slim Jaw adjustable wrenches. They are 40 percent thinner than a regular wrench of the same size and have up to 20 percent greater jaw capacity. The innovative design of these wrenches offers extra reach and versatility without sacrificing quality and reliability."

Channellock tools are designed to fit both the job and the technician. The Channellock E Series line of pliers features several sizes of cutting, long nose and combination/linemen's pliers. They have a sleeker, slimmer design so users can reach into tighter spaces and they are equipped with XLT, Xtreme Leverage Technology.

"With XLT, 40 percent less force is needed to make clean, accurate cuts compared to other companies' high-leverage pliers," he adds. "One of the best aspects about Channellock tools is dependability, so when we change something, we make sure it's a needed change that will make the users' jobs easier."

In 1965, Channellock received a patent for the conical surface created on the cam side of the pliers when undercut. In 1984, Channellock received another patent for the PermaLock fastener for its tongue-and-groove and slip-joint pliers.

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“Our pliers haven’t changed drastically over the years, but each innovation we achieve is a measurable one that keeps Channellock Inc. positioned as an industry leader,” DeArment states.

DMT DIAMOND MACHINING TECHNOLOGY

DMT has been proudly fulfilling the needs of contractors and DIYers since 1976 with premium “Made in the USA” diamond sharpeners that help them keep their tools and knives in peak condition. As it approaches its 40th anniversary in 2016, DMT continues to respond to its customers’ demands as well as to evolving market trends.

“Hand tool consumers and the industry are clamoring for dependability, durability, safety and convenience,” says Mark Brandon, DMT president. “We remain dedicated to manufacturing 100 percent of our products here in the United States in Marlborough, Massachusetts. This commitment allows us to maintain the highest standards so that all DMT products are built to last with the finest materials and workmanship.”



BRANDON

DMT’s DuoBase with MagnaBase Adapter can be used with all DMT bench stones, and answers the demand for a bench stone base that offers greater flexibility and ease when sharpening knives and tools.



DMT’s new DuoBase with MagnaBase Adapter answers consumer demand for a bench stone base that offers greater flexibility and convenience when sharpening knives and tools. It can be used with all DMT bench stones, especially DMT’s Dia-Sharp line. The base’s magnetic adapter holds stones securely while providing for quick and easy grit changes along with safe knuckle clearance and stability. Plus, its highly-engineered resin construction meets the concern for durability.

“At DMT, we plan to keep innovating products that address market trends and consumer demands,” Brandon adds. “That’s how we’ve built our business and earned our reputation.”

H.K. PORTER

Since 1880, H. K. Porter has built an unsurpassed reputation for quality, strength and durability. Now part of the Apex Tool Group, H. K. Porter’s extensive line of products includes manual cutters, hydraulic cutters, pneumatic cutters and accessories. That tradition continues with its new versatile Powerlink Bolt Cutters.

Developed using advanced computer-aided design, the new bolt cutters feature a double compound action system that requires 30 percent less effort than traditional bolt cutters. High-performance steel handles provide extra strength and power for each cut, while specially engineered center cut blades deliver industry leading blade durability.

“H.K. Porter raises the bar with these new Powerlink Bolt Cutters,” says Jason Wirth, product manager for H.K. Porter. “End-users can rely on this tool to make powerful cuts with less effort than before, allowing them to complete tough jobs quickly and efficiently.”



WIRTH



Powerlink Bolt Cutters from Apex Tool Group’s H.K. Porter division have a double compound action that cut with 30 percent less force than traditional bolt cutters.

The precision-ground, induction-hardened cutting blades make the Powerlink Bolt Cutters easy to use on various materials, such as bolts and screws, chain, strapping steel, tire chains, wrought iron and more.

The dual Powerlinks are forged for superior strength and reliability, making this the ideal tool for production facilities, maintenance and repair operations, utilities, oil and gas operations and construction sites. Powerlink Bolt Cutters are available in two handle lengths: 18 inches, which cuts up to 9/32-inch HRC 48 materials; and 24 inches, which cuts up to 5/16-inch HRC 48 materials.

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Klein's All-Purpose Pliers are built of forged steel with induction-hardened cutting knives for maximum durability. They can shear screws and strip, cut and loop 8-16 AWG solid and 10-18 AWG stranded wire.

KLEIN TOOLS

Klein Tools has been designing, developing and manufacturing premium-quality, professional-grade hand tools since 1857. The majority of Klein tools are manufactured in plants throughout the United States and are the number one choice among professional electricians and other tradespeople. One prime example is Klein's All-Purpose Pliers, a more durable wire stripping tool that also has the functionality of a long-nose pliers.

"The All-Purpose Pliers can strip, cut and loop 8-16 AWG solid and 10-18 AWG stranded wire, plus it has screw shearing holes," says Tim Duitsman, senior vice president of product and quality. "These pliers are built of forged steel with induction-hardened cutting knives for maximum durability and long life. The hot-riveted joint



DUITSMAN

also ensures smooth action and no handle wobble. This tool is spring-loaded for self-opening action and features Klein's dual-material Journeyman handles that provide a firm grip and added comfort."

Klein's Switch Drive Handle System easily alternates any accessory with a power groove between a power tool and hand tool.

"While the use of power drills for fastening is on the rise, the ratio of hand tool vs. power tool use is 50/50," Duitsman observes. "Klein's Switch Drive Handle System allows you to switch between a power drill and hand tool, minimizing the number of tools and saving space. The patented quick release mechanism in the handle secures any accessory with a 1/4-inch hex so you can move quickly from a power drill to a hand tool while maintaining the strength and performance found in a traditional Klein fixed-blade screwdriver."

KNIPEX

"Can you imagine a manufacturer receiving product data directly from an electronic chip on a pair of diagonal cutting pliers; keeping track of the number of cuts and even how much force was needed to make those cuts?" asks Todd Shumate, executive vice president of KNIPEX Tools.



SHUMATE

"I can see that happening someday, further in the future, but today, trends in hand tools are more focused to application use and quality innovation. For example, there is a push for higher quality multi-tools that perform a wide range of applications compared to a tool designed for just one application."

The KNIPEX Electrical Installation Pliers effectively combine the reaming of conduit pipe, cutting cable and wire, pulling, looping and stripping wire, along with crimping wire in one tool.

"Innovation, driven by improved quality and function, is why National brand producers permeate to top of mind with professional users," Shumate adds. "KNIPEX continues to do this, especially in the pump plier product family. The new Cobra QuickSet pliers jaw size adjusts with a simple sliding action to provide the perfect gripping capacity and stays set in that position for repetitive use."



Knipex multi-purpose Electrical Installation Pliers ream conduit, cut and pull cable and loop, strip and crimp wire. Cobra Quick Set Pliers jaws adjust with a simple sliding action that stays where it is set.

This new feature is perfect for working in confined or hard to reach areas where access to the nut, bolt or fitting is difficult and/or in a situation where the push-button cannot be activated.

MIDWEST TOOL

"Midwest Tool continues to see reliability and safety as driving factors in the hand tool market, but as demand for tradesmen services increase, hand fatigue and repetitive motions are common challenges," observes Chuck Loparo, national sales manager.



LOPARO

Midwest Tool commissioned an independent pro-based focus group to learn what features and benefits are important to tradesmen. What culminated from the focus groups was a need to address the concern of hand fatigue and repetitive motion. Midwest Tool introduced the



Midwest Tool's Kush'n-Power Grips are manufactured out of copolymer resin to a specific softness that allows the grips to conform to the user's hand like a well-fitted pair of gloves.

Kush'n-Power grips to address this challenge.

Kush'n-Power Grips are manufactured out of copolymer resin to a specific softness allowing the grips to conform to the user's hand like a well-fitted pair of gloves. The non-absorbent material and indented ribs have a soft touch and feel, preventing hand or finger slippage without feeling tacky.

"Midwest Tool & Cutlery Company has been designing and manufacturing premium-quality, professional-grade hand tools since 1945," Loparo states. "All Midwest aviation and tinner snips are manufactured in Michigan with locally sourced materials and components — and we own numerous product design and utility patents that enhance the performance of our products."

RAZOR-BACK

After extensive research in the landscape and construction fields, Razor-Back's product development experts determined the most important areas for improvement when it comes to professional tools are safety, durability and ergonomics. To address these concerns, a new line of striking tools from Razor-Back Professional Tools improves upon the most common issues experienced with sledgehammers, pick and cutter mattocks and wood splitting mauls, such as head-to-handle connection, handle breakage and secure, comfortable grip.

"Razor-Back tools are built tough to withstand the most difficult jobs and some of the harshest working environments," says Jim Maffei, director of marketing for The AMES Companies, Inc. "We heard our customers loud and clear when they expressed the importance of having equipment engineered with user safety and product durability in mind. Today, professionals can expect that from this line of tools."

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New Razor-Back striking tools feature patented, steel-anchored connections between the fiberglass handles and heads and three-layer overprotection with large poly boots, exterior poly on the handle and a vibration-reducing inner fiberglass rod.



The new Razor-Back striking tools feature a patented, steel-anchored connection between the fiberglass handle and head for maximum and secure head retention; ergonomic and balanced handle design with a larger, baseball-bat-shaped handle and textured, non-slip grip to improve control.



"These new Razor-Back striking tools feature three layer overstrike protection, including a large poly boot, exterior poly layer on the handle and an interior fiberglass rod, which increases handle durability and dampens vibration; and a fiberglass reinforced lanyard hole," Maffei adds. "We are so confident in them that Razor-Back Professional Tools are backed by a lifetime warranty."

STANLEY DEWALT

Building upon the synergies of its multiple brands, DEWALT's three newest hand tools are durable 8-, 10- and 12-inch Push Lock Pliers designed to accommodate the largest nuts, bolts and pipes used in a range of construction applications.

"These new DEWALT Push Lock pliers have longer and wider jaw openings accommodating larger pipes and fasteners for heavy-duty applications," explains DEWALT product manager Matt Grella. "With a pinch free, bi-material grip and drop-forged steel construction, these pliers are designed for maximum control and comfort, even on the toughest jobs."

With jaw openings up to 15 percent longer and wider than the leading competitor, DEWALT Push Lock Pliers accommodate up to 48mm hexagonal nuts or 45mm round pipes (10" model) making these pliers ideal for heavy-duty applications. The Push Lock button is designed for one-handed operation and only needs to be pushed to open the jaws, enabling the precise size of the opening to be set one-handed.



DEWALT Push Lock Pliers have jaw openings up to 15 percent longer and wider than the leading competitors to easily adjust to wider bolts and nuts. STANLEY FatMax Simulated Diamond Tip Screwdrivers bite into screws for better holding power.

In screwdrivers, STANLEY's new FatMax Simulated Diamond Tip Screwdrivers offer longer tip life over standard professional screwdrivers.

"The new FatMax Diamond screwdriver series from STANLEY brings innovative industrial grade, diamond grit technology to our screwdrivers for superior tip fit and anti-cam-out properties," Grella adds. "Screwdriver tips take a beating, and over time become less effective at staying seated in screws. To help reduce slippage and harden screwdriver tips, these new screwdriver tips are encrusted with a simulated diamond sand composite that bites into screws for easy screwdriving and removal, especially of stripped screws."

SNAP-ON

"There's no doubt that falling objects are a real danger on work sites," begins Ed Liss, product manager, Snap-on Industrial. "According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), being struck by a falling object is the third leading cause of workplace fatalities. And dropped objects are more common than you think. Nationwide, there are about 130,000 recorded incidents every year. That figure equals more than 350 dropped objects every day; and that's just the number recorded."



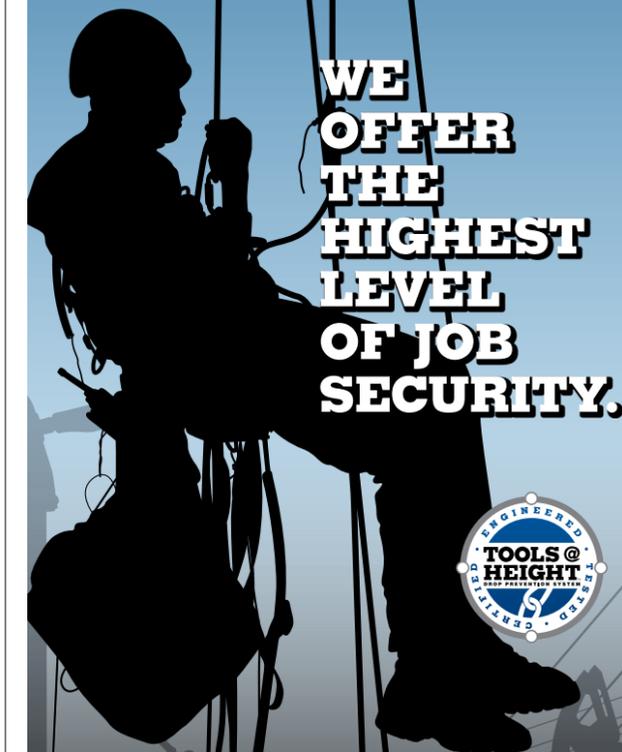
Snap-on Industrial Brands is working to lower that number by placing safe, professionally-designed tethered tools in the hands of contractors.

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Snap-on's Tools at Height tethered tools program has grown to include more than 1,000 tools and related items, each engineered to maintain or improve the functionality of the tool when tethered.



**TOOLS @
HEIGHT**
DROP PREVENTION SYSTEM



WE
OFFER
THE
HIGHEST
LEVEL
OF JOB
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Help Lower Their "At Height" Risk

Tools@Height from Snap-on Industrial brands are designed to keep your customers safe and their assets secure thanks to purpose engineered attachment points. This drop prevention system, from the original tethered tool experts, improves safety and productivity while preventing fatal injuries and costly foreign object damage.

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Wiha's SoftFinish Pop-Up Bit Holders allow onboard storage of 12- or 70-mm bit inserts. The popular SoftFinish Comfort Grip series tools are easy on the joints and extremely wear-resistant.

Snap-on Industrial Brands' Tools at Height system is unique in that its tethering devices do not interfere with the normal function of the tool. That's because the attachment points are engineered to maintain or improve the functionality of the tool when tethered, not added as an after-thought. All system components are tested to perform safely, based on the weight of the tools and the application, and they are certified to perform as advertised.

"With more than 1,000 tethered tools and items, there is a difference when it comes to tethered tools," Liss says. "Specify the original innovator in tethered tools — Snap-on Industrial Brands' Tools at Height."

WIHA TOOLS

Wiha Tools offers more than 5,000 premium hand tools. Its most recent products reflect Wiha's goal of producing the best tools that allow users to work more efficiently, functionally and ergonomically.



"Wiha has had huge success with its SoftFinish 'Comfort Grip' hand tools, which are easy on the joints and extremely wear-resistant," begins Paul Allen, vice president and general manager. "One of Wiha's newest stars is the SoftFinish Pop-Up Bit Holder."

Users can store 12mm insert bits in the SoftFinish Comfort Grip handle or 70mm Insulated SlimLine bits in the SoftFinish 1,000-volt Insulated handle. Energy saving and comfortable screw fastening is possible thanks to an ergonomic, unique handle design.

"BiCut SuperCut SoftFinish Comfort Grip Pliers are another Wiha success," Allen adds. "They come in three SoftFinish styles; Soft Grip, Two-component Industrial SoftGrip and 1,000-volt Insulated Industrial Cushion Grip."

BiCut SuperCuts do the job of two pairs of pliers with up to 50 percent less hand strength required for cutting.

Users can double the power at the press of a button and switch one-handed between two cutting strengths.

BON TOOL

"Masonry walls were first built in 7500 BC and concrete construction has been around nearly as long," begins John Bongiovanni, Bon Tool vice president of sales. "Though many of the tools we manufacture today were developed centuries ago, we still believe innovation is the cornerstone of Bon's success."



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Bon Tool was founded on the strength of the "Corner Pole," the Masonry Guide alignment system developed and manufactured by Bon nearly 60 years ago.

"But we understand that we do not need to invent new products to make an impact in our industry. We are constantly looking for ways to improve on the design and



Bon Tool's patent-pending 3D-designed "Wave" Comfort Grip Handle features an arched back, finger grooves and co-injection molding in what Bon believes is the best handle on the market.

function of our tools, and ways to improve manufacturing techniques to provide the best quality control, improve our efficiencies and exceed our user's expectations."

One example is Bon's new patent-pending "Wave" Comfort Grip Handle, introduced in 2015.

"The way we developed the Wave handle reflects the many changes in the way we do business," Bongiovanni adds. "We saw the need for a better comfort grip handle, but getting it to the marketplace involved processes beyond the imagination of my grandfather, who founded this company. We utilized 3D prototype printing, modeling and detailing, and included an arched back, finger grooves and co-injection molding. We are confident that the finished product is superior to the competition." **CS**

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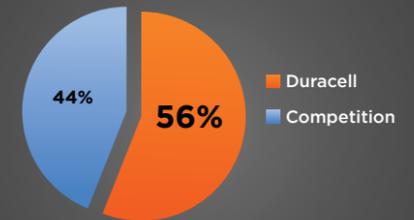
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