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The Spruce / Jacob Fox Best for: General tightening and loosening of a wide range of fasteners. Due to its versatility, the crescent or adjustable wrench is a popular option for DIYers. These wrenches have an open end that can be adjusted in size by simply turning a screw located at the rear of the jaws. This makes it possible to fit a crescent wrench to fittings and fasteners of various sizes instead of searching for an open-ended wrench compatible with the fastener. Credit: The Spruce / Jacob Fox Best for: Repairing/dismantling bikes, pedal carts, or pedal boats. The name of the pedal wrench is very appropriate, given that this type of wrench is designed specifically for working on pedals. You can most commonly find pedal wrenches in bicycle repair shops, though some fairground maintenance crews may also use these wrenches to repair or maintain pedal cars or pedal boats. Credit: The Spruce / Jacob Fox Best for: Tightening or loosening hexagonal or square nuts and bolts. A box-ended wrench has two closed ends of slightly varying sizes so that each end can be used to loosen or tighten fasteners of different sizes. The user simply slides the end of the wrench over the nut or the head of the bolts and then turns in the desired direction to apply force. Due to the closed-end design, box-ended wrenches can better grip fasteners than open-ended wrenches without slipping or stripping the fittings. Credit: The Spruce / Jacob Fox Best for: Bike maintenance and repair. A common addition to bike repair shops, dog bone wrenches are sometimes referred to as dumbbell wrenches due to their dog bone or dumbbell shape. This type of wrench has a narrow handle stretched between two bulky heads. Each box-shaped head has a flat top surface. Most dog bone wrenches are made from chrome vanadium steel, which gives them strength and durability. They are typically used to adjust the chain tension on bicycles. Credit: The Spruce / Jacob Fox Best for: Fast, powerful, pneumatically driven, tightening and loosening. One of the more expensive types of wrenches is the impact wrench. This type of wrench looks similar to a drill with a bulky body and a trigger. It drives the head of the bolt. However, instead of drill bits, the impact wrench uses sockets of various sizes based on the size of the target fasteners. The wrench connects to an air compressor to drive the sockets, allowing it to apply a high level of force at high speed for either tightening or loosening. Credit: The Spruce / Jacob Fox Best for: Gripping rods and plumbing fittings. With a name like a plumber's wrench, the tool's purpose isn't difficult to guess. This type of wrench is used on pipes, plumbing fixtures, and fasteners. It has a set of jaws shaped like hexagonal nuts, which can be controlled by opening or closing the handles, similar to the way pliers work. Adjust the jaws' opening with a slide bolt to better grip larger pipes or fittings. These tools, also known as channel locks, are highly useful for a wide variety of plumbing projects. Credit: The Spruce / Jacob Fox Best for: Removing fan clutches on vehicles. The specialized fan clutch wrench only removes fan clutches from cars, trucks, vans, and other vehicles. This type of wrench has a U-shaped opening on one end that allows the removal or installation of a fan clutch quickly. These tools may also have a square opening at the other end that can be used as a clutch holding tool, while another wrench is used to turn the hex nut. Continue to 13 of 25 below Credit: The Spruce / Jacob Fox Best for: Gripping round or circular objects. The strap wrench is designed to tighten or loosen round or circular objects, similar to a strap-style oil filter wrench. This type of wrench has a rubber, fabric, or metal band or chain that extends out from the handle and then threads back through the handle to create a closed loop. Fit this loop over a container lid or a round plumbing fitting, then tighten the loop to grip the object. The jaws of each end are the same size and shape, but each end has an opening, like an open-end wrench. The difference between the fixed and movable jaw is that the opening in the fixed jaw is much narrower than the opening in the movable jaw. The design creates areas between the jaws and the hexagonal fasteners, making it easier to grip and apply force to these fittings without the wrench slipping. Credit: The Spruce / Jacob Fox Best for: Working under sink basins. Barely recognizable to most as an actual wrench, a basin wrench is an odd tool designed for disconnecting faucets underneath a sink. The wrench has a long, T-shaped handle that extends down to a head with a curved jaw that resembles the top of an "S." This wrench lets you access the faucet fittings under the sink without stretching or climbing. However, these tools don't offer the best control, so in many cases, a plumber or DIYer will use a plumber's wrench or plier wrench instead of a basin wrench. Credit: The Spruce / Jacob Fox Best for: Tightening fasteners to a specific torque level. Torque wrenches are intended for working on vehicles, machinery, and other projects requiring high precision. These tools tighten fasteners to a particular torque level, ensuring the fitting is not too tight or loose for the application. They are commonly used in automotive repair shops and can come in several varieties, including manual and digital models. However, torque wrenches are not made to loosen fasteners. Using them can damage the torque wrench, forcing you to recalibrate the tool or replace it with a new torque wrench. Continue to 21 of 25 below Credit: The Spruce / Jacob Fox Best for: Working on fasteners in tight spaces with various sizes. A socket wrench is a well-known tool used by automotive professionals and DIYers. Depending on the size of the nut or bolt, the wrench can use a variety of different-sized heads. To switch the head, just pull the socket off of the wrench, then push a new socket over the drive square at the end of the wrench. This type of wrench is especially useful for working in tight spaces where there is no room for an open-end wrench. Similar to socket wrenches, ratcheting wrenches are designed with a ratcheting function that allows them to engage and apply force in one direction, then disengage and turn freely in the opposite direction. This wrench does not need to be removed from the fitting and repositioned for each turn. Ratcheting wrenches look similar to box-ended wrenches, except that the end has a ratcheting device inside. The mechanism improves the tool's efficiency and makes it easier to work on nuts and bolts in tight spaces, where it would be hard to readjust the wrench for every turn of the fastener. Credit: The Spruce / Jacob Fox Best for: Applying pressure to the fitting. However, the wrench's teeth tend to leave minor scratch marks and indentations behind the metal. Pipe wrenches are excellent for large fittings and fasteners, but they aren't intended for smaller fasteners because the bulky size can make it difficult to grip a fitting with a small surface area. Credit: The Spruce / Jacob Fox Best for: Difficult-to-reach nuts and bolts in various situations. An open-ended wrench is one of the more recognizable types. It has two open ends that are typically slightly different in size, allowing the wrench to be used on a wider range of fittings. Due to their general-purpose design, standard tool kits commonly include multiple open-ended wrenches in various sizes. The long neck allows for open-ended access to a nut or bolt, while the other end provides additional leverage. Credit: The Spruce / Jacob Fox Best for: Loosening and tightening filters. Another special wrench, oil filter wrenches, are specifically designed to loosen and tighten oil filters. Though automotive professionals and experienced DIYers often use them, they're rarely found in most home toolkits. These tools have one short arm that wraps around the filter and the other tightly grips the filter's base. Chain straps and metal straps are used to hold the filter and the strap-style oil filter wrenches that form a tight loop over the filter to allow it to rotate or loosen it. Before purchasing a new wrench for the workshop, consider the various projects you typically handle at home or work. Select a wrench based on the specific task you need to accomplish. If you are fastening standard nuts and bolts, choose an ordinary open-end wrench, like a crescent, open-ended, or box-ended wrench. You may need an oil filter wrench, fan clutch wrench, or torque wrench for automotive repairs. Ratcheting and socket wrenches can also help loosen or tighten fasteners in hard-to-reach locations. In contrast, more specialized wrenches, like basin or pedal wrenches, are only required for specific jobs. Once you know the job, check the wrench size to ensure it suits the fasteners you are working with; otherwise, you may invest in a product that cannot be used for the project. In this article, you will learn what are types of wrenches and how to use them? With pictures. And also you can download the PDF file at the end of this post.

For fastening and loosening bolts and pipes, apart from the spanners different types of wrenches are used. Most of these wrenches are adjustable, with different opening ranges. Apart from that, screwdrivers are also applied to tightening and loosening any given job screw. Furthermore, check out the types of hammers and types of spanners used in the workshop. In the workshops, usually, the following types of wrenches are used. Don't Miss: Different Types of Measuring Tools and Their Uses Following are the 31 types of wrenches and their uses. According to the Standard Types of Wrenches Pipe wrench Chain wrench Socket wrench Torque wrench Ratcheting wrench Oil Filter wrench Combination wrench Adjustable wrench Impact wrench Crowfoot wrench According to the Special Types of Wrenches Pedal wrench Monkey wrench Pliers Wrench Strap wrench Plumber's wrench Wrench Tap wrench Hammer Wrench Key Cone Wrench Garbage Disposal Wrench Tension Wrench Spoke Wrench Spanner Wrench Read Also: 12 Types of Spanners and Their Uses [Complete Guide] with Pictures As per its name, this spanner is used to fasten or dismantle pipes and their units. Its jaw is made of forged tough steel. On its movable jaw flat threads are cut and on its fixed jaw, a plate is joined with a groove in it. A knurled round nut is fitted in this groove. On revolving this nut, the movable jaw increases or reduces the size by moving up or down. A spring is fixed between the fixed and movable jaw, which helps in the proper grip of the job. Pipe wrenches are made of 6, 9, and 18. To fasten or dismantle pipes or round joints of a larger diameter, a chain wrench is used. When the job is held in the wrench it is revolved. A plate having cuts in its mouth is fitted, which is joined with a rivet. Chain draps the job very strongly. The socket wrench (or ratchet) uses a ratcheting mechanism to allow you to quickly tighten or loosen the nuts or bolts without removing the wrench from the faster. This type of wrench is available with 1/4, 3/8 (most common), 1/2, and 1 drives, you fit just the right size socket you will need at the top of the drive. If an obstacle is found while turning the handle, you can reverse the course just to give yourself room and then continue working. These types of wrenches are made to provide a certain amount of torque without overtaking or tightening. This can be different types of combination wrench, the ratcheting wrench has at least one end inside which is a ratcheting device. This wrench permits you to turn the wrench to tighten or loosen without removing the wrench handle hitting an obstacle after each turn. This makes it very easy to work in tight areas. Related: What are the different types of screws & their uses? The oil filter wrench is actually of four different styles, which are used primarily in the automotive industry. The chain strap and metal strap style filters apply a loop to protect the filter casing. Finally, a socket-style filter wrench resembles a cup, which consists of chopped parts. These fit under a filter cap and are used with a ratchet handle. The combination wrench consists of one side being a closed-loop for hexagonal or square nuts, while the other end is an open U-shape. It is often used for hard nuts, the closed-end loosens the nut so that the open end is used to quickly finish it. Like sockets, a combination wrench is commonly sold in a kind of wrench size. They have an open end with a spiral screw that is fixed and opens or closes the crescent as you turn it. These are some of the most common wrenches available and the most widely used types. This is also known as a crescent wrench. For this purpose, it can perform the same basic function as a whole set of combinations or an open-ended wrench, although it needs more area due to its thicker size. The air impact wrench uses an air compressor during the cordless impact wrench utilizes a rechargeable battery. This is also known as an air wrench or air gun. It is used to resemble a cordless drill in appearance. This wrench uses high torque to remove stubborn nuts or bolts. They are a great option for handling many nuts, although they are a poor choice for any job that requires accuracy. There is no handle for this open wrench. Rather, the single head is manufactured to attach to a ratchet handle and socket extension, permitting it to fit in tight positions. When you do not first want to remove the surrounding parts, they do a lot of work to handle the bolts located deep in the body of the machine. Read Also: 23 Different Types of Metals and Their Properties [Explained] When you have heard that someone has mentioned these special wrenches, chances are you will never own them. They are used for very specific functions or simply are not in common use outside of certain industries. Which are described below. The pedal wrench consists of a round tip, usually with one or two U-shaped recesses. These types of wrenches are used to repair the pedal. Therefore, it is most commonly used in bicycle repair shops or for fairground rides like a pedal boat. It is also like an adjustable spanner. Its bigger jaw is built with a handle itself. The other jaw is movable on which threads are cut as in the pipe wrench. Its jaw is of plain surface like that of an open-end spanner. These can be adjusted with a round nut. It is also used as a screw wrench. A plier wrench consists of flat-edged jaws at an angle and each is attached to a handle, which is joined by a bolt. The names may not sound familiar, you may have used them at some moment in your life. A bolt slides between two or more positions of an opening on the upper jaw, providing the wrench to be arranged to fit in different sizes of heads. The name evolves from the way this tool is gripped, which is similar to a pair of pliers. When we hold pipes and round joints with pipe wrenches it leaves some bruising scars on the jobs. Therefore strap wrenches are used where damage is caused if such scars are made by the wrenches. A leather or canvas belt is provided which is rolled around the job and tightened with the buckle. With the help of its handle, the pipe is revolved. The jaws of the plumber wrench are shaped like hexagonal nuts. It is similar to the design of the pliers wrench. The jaws are adaptable to fit a type of pipe fittings. It is particularly used in plumbing for work on pipes and fixtures. Checkout: Different Types of Axes & Their Uses [How To Use Them] This tap wrench is like a key, which fits the square drive of the tap, used to cut the female thread (such as the inside of the nut). These wrenches can be T-shaped or have a double-handle bar with an attachment socket in the middle. The spud wrench has fallen out of common use was this open-wrench spike at the opposing end used to line the holes on the pipes. It has since been rendered obsolete by the plumbers wrench, even though it can still be found in the occasional toolbox. The top jaw of the alligator wrench is serrated, while the rear is smooth. The alligator wrench was mostly identified due to the way it gripped the nuts. The handle of an hogger wrench is quite similar to a pointed fang than a modern pipe wrench because most of these were primarily manufactured in order to handle square-headed heads, whereas now it has become rare to see them in the real life. Basin wrench is a type of wrench which consists of a long T-shaped handle in a curve along with a serrated jaw. The main purpose of these types of wrenches is to tighten or loosen the heads under the sink and toilet. These wrenches are consequently also termed as faucet wrench. An armors wrench is referred to as a single-piece wrench which consists of a C-shaped, serrated head and involves a square slot or a hole in order to attach the ratchet handle. These types of wrenches are usually used to tighten or loosen the heads under the sink and toilet. These wrenches are consequently also termed as faucet wrench. 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