April 2024

Tools & Shop Equipment

Special manager & technician supplement

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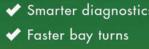






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Trucking may change, but the need for quality tools won't

Commercial vehicles and their components are always undergoing iterations, some drastic. Shops must keep pace by knowing what tools will best help technicians do their jobs, and we needs techs to let us know which products on the market get their seal of approval.

By John Hitch

s editor-in-chief of a leading (some may say the best) truck maintenance magazine, my inbox is constantly deluged with emails touting the latest and allegedly greatest commercial vehicle and automotive parts and tools. Allegedly is the key word here, as until a large enough number of a new product gets into the hands of end users, who really knows how great it is?

I've bought plenty of tools and gadgets that seemed great at first, but weren't made to last. Like the manufacturing executives who cheaped out on materials to save a few pennies, these products simply lacked integrity. It makes you appreciate the oil-soaked tools with peeling handles that still get the job done after 20 years.

We do our best to filter out the junk fit for the bin from the toolbox treasures, but over the several decades Fleet Maintenance has been in print, it's likely more than a few have slipped past. That's bound to happen when you publish several hundred a year, yet get to see and hold, let alone use, only a handful. That's why I appreciate all the technicians who test tools for us and write up their thoughts. The ones I have dealt with earnestly want to provide an honest review to help their colleagues get the best results. And they know putting their stamp of approval on a shoddy tool could lead to a lifetime of mockery in the shop.

With so many new tools coming out each month, we could use more help vetting the best of the best. We'd love to hear your thoughts, so if you want to gush or gripe about a particular tool or piece of shop equipment you use, send us an email at Review@fleetmaintenance.com. All emails will be considered off the record until we can confirm details by speaking directly with you. We also welcome requests from those who want to become a reviewer or want us to review a certain product.

We hope together we can add more integrity into the tool and equipment purchasing process, doing our part in helping fleets and shops reach new levels of safety, productivity, and uptime.

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DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS

DIAGNOSTIC TOOL PURCHASE CONSIDERATIONS

- Will the tool be used for one vehicle brand or for a range of vehicle makes?
- Method and frequency of software updates
- How detailed do you want the information to be?
- 🗹 Ease of use
- Tablet, handheld, or PC-based tool
- M Physical shape and size
- Touchscreen and screen size
- M Onboard memory capacity
- Wireless versus cables
- Functionality/capabilities
- Expandability/upgradeability
- V Quality
- M Durability
- Warranty
- **Training resources**
- Technical support
- M Brand reputation
- M Budget range/price



Detects leaks with 'natural' sound

The Tracer Products' Tracerline Marksman II, No. 9367, ultrasonic diagnostic tool converts and amplifies inaudible ultrasonic sound into audible "natural" sound. It allows users to hear sounds that signify problems such as air brake leaks, compressed air leaks, vacuum leaks, tire leaks, and much more before a major breakdown. The tool's Sound Signature Technology finely tunes the audible sound into the natural one emitted by the leak itself. The tool's 5-LED signal-intensity indicator and audible alarm easily pinpoint the exact problem source, and it can detect leaks from orifices as small as 0.004" (0.1 mm) at 5.0 psi (34 kPa) from a distance of 12" (30 cm).

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/10888313



Helps calibrate ADAS quickly The ADASLink Diagnostic Scan

Tool from **Hunter Engineering** features ADAS calibration and secure FCA gateway capabilities. This complete solution integrates with Hunter's WinAlign software, providing the technician with quick access to specific calibration procedures for more than 25 million vehicles. ADASLink guides the technician with step-by-step onscreen instruction, ensuring the calibration is completed accurately and according to OE requirements.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53079521



Gives access to truck data on the go

The Roadwarrior Diesel Decoder

diagnostic tool allows users to scan truck fault codes and make decisions on the go. It plugs into the diagnostic port and syncs via a smart device's Bluetooth, giving access to the truck's data in the app. Compatible with Freightliner, Kenworth, Mack, Volvo, Peterbilt, Western Star, and International.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53070225



Reads temps up to 1022 degrees F

The **Matco Tools Maximus Diagnostic Thermal Imager** is designed to diagnose problematic components related to heat, cold, and wear. It's able to read temperatures up to 1,022 degrees F. The thermal imager features a 320 by 240 resolution screen with dual cameras that provide optical and infrared images. It also comes loaded with a database of good/ bad samples as well as a lifetime of free updates.



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DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS



Features on- and offhighway enhancements

Noregon's JPRO Professional

2024 v1 Update features on- and off-highway enhancements so users can diagnose commercial vehicles and heavy-duty equipment in the same application at no additional cost. The update also includes increased support for Kubota engines, additional bidirectional support for Detroit Assurance, Allison transmissions, and PACCAR, as well as tighter integration between Repair Mentor and Vehicle Readiness features.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53095599



Offers all-in-one trailer diagnostics for ABS, lights, and more

LITE-CHECK'S INSPECTOR 930 TRAILER TESTER is a complete, all-in-one trailer diagnostic system which simplifies ABS, brakes, air, lights, and electrical testing. It provides the ability for a single technician to perform a full inspection in one trip around the trailer. The device tests ABS, brakes, lights, air, and electrical systems and offers clear digital diagnostic messages and the 3-step ABS process. All post-2001 PLC ABS codes are included along with latest roll stability codes.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/10724123



Offers local and remote capabilities

The **asTech All-in-One** is a comprehensive tablet-based solution with both local and remote capabilities, allowing for OEM and OEM-compatible diagnostics, ADAS calibrations, and programming on a vehicle. The All-in-One features asTech's capabilities and OEM vehicle coverage, including those utilizing the DOIP, CAN-FD, and secure gateway protocols. With the All-in-One, users can scan using 1,000+ remote OEM and local OEM-compatible diagnostic tools; conduct remote and local calibrations, initializations, and parts programming; access 400+ certified remote technicians; and access local OEM-compatible pre- and post-scan reports.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/21285266



Triggers all known TPMS sensors

The **TS7000 Smart Diagnostic** and **TPMS Scanner** from **Foxwell** features a 7" touchscreen and operates on the Android 9.0 system. The device integrates OE-level diagnostics and bidirectional tests with TPMS service functions, including TPMS health check, sensor activation and programming, and TPMS relearning. The TS7000 triggers all known TPMS sensors and offers batch programming for Foxwell TPMS sensors.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53081576



Detect service opportunities before they become problems

The MULTI-PURPOSE Refractometer and Test Strip Kit

by **Acustrip** is designed to meet service providers' diagnostic needs through test strips that evaluate antifreeze coolant, brake fluids, DEF, water, and power steering protection capacity against corrosion, in addition to the refractometer measurement of the concentration of antifreeze, DEF, windshield washer fluid, and battery acids. Larger kits are also available. Free samples of the test strips are available at the company's website.

Provides easier connectivity to iOS

The second-generation **NEXIQ Technologies Blue-Link 2** mobile vehicle interface offers improved connectivity with smartphones and tablets, specifically with iOS, to access basic diagnostic information. The compact device has greater throughput than previous versions and provides support in the development of iOS and Android solutions for vehicle communication. Blue-Link 2 supports CAN FD protocol and includes Wi-Fi and Bluetooth capabilities, and can work as a triage tool when used with the First-Link app. **For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53067168**





Self-contained, portable trailer ABS tester

The Super Ranger MUTT, No. #4300A-L4, by Innovative Products of America (IPA) is the first self-contained, portable trailer ABS tester. This advanced, oneman diagnostic tool with a built-in LiFePO4 battery troubleshoots trailer ABS and lighting systems without a truck. Its watertight enclosure with a carry handle incorporates a mounted trailer socket and internal storage for the trailer cable, battery charger, and remote control. The Super Ranger MUTT is microprocessor controlled and features stateof-the-art current sensing, computer-controlled circuit protection, live circuit monitoring with automatic fault alerts, as well as digital voltage and amperage draw readouts on a convenient LCD screen.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53068972

Supersize your alignment capabilities. Hunter's new HawkEye® XL commercial aligner measures three axles in four minutes or less. Scan or visit hunter.com/hawkeye-x



DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS



Easy access to truckspecific information

Peterbilt's ARTech software uses augmented reality and 3D modeling to display wiring diagrams on a Peterbilt truck via an iPad and key service tools such as TCS365, SmartLINQ, and Paccar Solutions Service Management. The AR tool also offers truck-specific chassis information and diagrams with a user-friendly interface that can be accessed offline. A one-year ARTech subscription includes an iPad, Apple Care Warranty, and a screen protector and protective case.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53070261



Offers hands-free, precise experience

The **HoloLens 2** from **Microsoft** is an ergonomic, untethered mixed-reality device that can lay 3D images, or holograms, over reality within the wearer's field of view. These holograms can be manipulated with hand gestures and come in several iterations: HoloLens 2, the Industrial Edition, and the Trimble XR10 with HoloLens 2. Each comes with a oneyear warranty and includes a protective carrying case, overhead strap, and a USB-C charger and cable.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53070260



Offers single-screen visual dashboards and guides diagnostics

The **TEXA USA Navigator TXT Multihub with IDC5 Truck** advanced diagnostic software provides faster and easier vehicle system access, including ADAS calibration when paired with the RCCS3 calibration system. The solution provides single-screen visual dashboards to confirm test data easily and secure the coding or pass-thru programming ability needed by today's professional repairers to complete complex projects. Operating from a TEXA tablet or laptop, the IDC5 software guides the technician through all diagnostic steps, from error detection to providing the repair solution.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53079666



For Classes 4-8 heavy-duty diagnostics

The **Launch Tech X-431 Torque HD** is a professional diagnostic scan tool that focuses on Classes 4-8 heavy-duty diagnostics and engine applications in addition to featuring a J560 PLC trailer connector for added usability. The X-431 Torque HD uses a Smartlink vehicle communication interface (VCI) that accesses various communication protocols such as CAN, CAN FD DoIP, J2534, D-PDU, and RP1210. Additionally, the X-431 Torque HD's versatility includes pre-installed software modules for new-age diagnostics systems, ADAS, TPMS, battery performance management, oscilloscope waveform diagnostics, video-scope, IMMO/key programming, and Wi-Fi printing.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/21266443

Rated CAT III 1,000V

The **Electronic Specialties EV Insulation Tester**, No. 550, is designed to check high-voltage circuits on electric and hybrid vehicles for voltage leaks to ground. It can supply 250V, 500V, and 1,000V test voltages for doing complete insulation testing. The 550 also serves as a capable volt/ohm meter with a large, dual-backlit LCD display. Additionally, the 550 is rated CAT III 1,000V for overvoltage protection. Includes six AA batteries, test leads, instruction manual, and blow molded case.





Includes ID match functionality

The ATEQ TPMS Tools VT67 TPMS and Tire

Management Diagnostic Tablet is Android-based and has a large screen, expansive memory, and a built-in camera, making it easy for users to store and manage essential customer data. The VT67 is equipped to handle features such as compatibility with the company's upcoming TPMS Cloud platform, BLE sensor scanning, and secure gateway. Like all ATEQ tools, the VT67 offers 100% OE sensor coverage as well as coverage for 20+ aftermarket sensor brands. It also includes ID match functionality, built-in email, Wi-Fi/ real-time updating, and more.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53027969



Perfect for heavy-, medium-, and some light-duty vehicles

The all-new **DPA XL** is **DG Technologies**' newest, TMC RP1210-compliant Dearborn Protocol Adapter (DPA) with current and future technologies built in for years of shop services. It is the leading tool of choice for diagnostics and reprogramming of heavy-duty, medium-duty and some light-duty vehicles and covers over-the-road, bus, construction, agricultural, military, industrial stationary equipment, and fleet vehicle segments.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53069141



Offers four key telematic elements

Thermo King's **TracKing Pro** telematics collects and summarizes data from Thermo King reefers. The program offers an energy-use dashboard to measure CO2 emissions, but is only available for Thermo King Precedent units. TracKing Pro's Benchmark Analytics Dashboard depicts how a fleet's energy use and operations compare to others in the industry, and Thermo King trailer and SLXi DRC units can receive Predictive Alert Notifications. All Thermo King trailer units can utilize Alarm Triage Insights, which offers alerts and recommended diagnostic steps.





DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS

TOOL REVIEW

Autel MaxiCheck MX900

This 8" all-systems scan tool was reviewed by Mario Rojas, lead diagnostics technician at Autobahn Performance in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Q: How did the tool/equipment function as far as saving you time?

A: It's incredibly fast. The auto detect feature was swift and a full vehicle scan can be done in a very short time.

Q: How has using this tool impacted your shop's profitability?

A: Any time a scanner is high speed it allows the technician to do more with their time which directly increases labor profitability.

Q: What kind of setup was involved before using the product?

A: There wasn't much setup at all. You sign into or create your account, update the tool, and then get to work.

Q: How easy was it to use?

A: I was already familiar with these scanner tools, so it was effortless. However, I'm sure even first-time users will be able to navigate the tool with very little assistance. Q: How was its packaging? Did it come with any accessories? A: The scanner came in a blowmolded case with only the OBD connector and charger.

Q: Was there a manual included? If so, did you use the manual, and was the manual easy to understand? A: I don't remember seeing a manual but there were instructions within the tool.

Q: What features did you like? A: It has fast speed, a portable size, and is loaded with functionality.

Q: Is there any way you could think to improve or add to this tool? A: Given the price range, this tool is a great deal. I don't think I could improve on it.

Q: What types of jobs/repairs did you use this tool for?



A: I used this tool for everyday troubleshooting of European vehicles. From BMW, Mercedes, and Range Rovers to Toyotas and Cadillacs.

Q: What's the most handy / beneficial function that streamlines the scan tool's use during diagnosis? A: The most handy function was its speed and ease of use.

Q: On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate this tool overall? Why? A: Nine, because it's well-priced, portable, fast, and loaded with bi-directional capability.

The only thing is that it is a wired setup. A wireless dongle would be a nice inclusion, but that would change the pricing.

Fleet Maintenance affiliate PTEN contributed this review.

This product was given to the reviewer free of charge by the manufacturer.

Includes 32 new brands

The Cojali Jaltest Software

23.1 Update offers new coverage and improvements across multi-brand diagnostics for commercial vehicles, agricultural equipment, OHW equipment, material handling equipment, and vessels. This new version includes 32 new



brands, 574 new models, 2,598 new systems, 1,820 new systems with technical information, 831 new systems with wiring diagrams, and more. Additionally, some added overall improvements include ordering the measurement display by the user, displaying the support information of a system display in an action, and improved parameter confirmation with more limits, conditions, and exceptions.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53098610

tablet is a lightweight, 8" rugged tablet that runs on the Android operating system. Able to handle field locations and outdoor

system. Able to handle field locations and outdoor facilities, the IP67-certified tablet offers a Qualcomm QCS6490 processor with an AI Engine, allowing the tablet to run AI use cases while maintaining battery life. The ZX80 also features hot-swappable battery technology for long days in the shop, 12GB LPDDR5 memory and can be configured with 4G/5G LTE, NFC, and barcode readers for various applications.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53098304

Rugged and built for AI

Getac's ZX80 Android

TOOL REVIEW

Prologics Sensor Simulator and 12V/24V Sensor Voltage Probe

This probe was reviewed by Phil Fournier, owner of Phil's Auto Clinic in Hemet, California.

O: How did the tools function as far as saving you time?

A: These tools, which are substantially similar in capability, save many unnecessary parts installations if used as designed. For example, too many technicians are content to read a code, say, for a vehicle speed sensor issue on a wheel, and go straight to the recommendation and installation of a wheel bearing with a sensor integral to it.

If the problem turns out to be a wiring issue or a module issue, it turns into an ethical dilemma. Who pays for the part that was installed but didn't solve the problem? Or do I return the part as "defective"? Either way, someone is being cheated and this tool can quickly and easily be used to simulate the signal BEFORE the part is replaced, which is a huge benefit.

Q: What kind of setup was involved before using the tools?

A: No setup was required for the tools.

O: How easy were they to use?

A: The basic functions of the tools are simple to use. Since the tools don't come with instructions, it seems to be assumed that the user is an experienced technician. As an experienced technician, I found the tools to be pretty easy to navigate, but I think it would be wise to at least include a simple set of instructions.

Q: How was its packaging? Did it come with any accessories?

A: The tools come in a sturdy plastic box which I wish was just a little bit larger as the leads need to be coiled up properly to fit. The only accessories are the voltage leads.

Q: Was there a manual included? If so, did you use the manual, and was the manual easy to understand? A: No manual was included. I feel they should've at least had a OR code to an online manual or have a YouTube instructions video, if they wanted to go paperless.

Q: What features did you like?

A: I like the backlit screen and the built-in flashlight on the one model. Since I'm an automotive instructor as well, I see huge benefits in using the tool to teach entry-level technicians sensor functions without having to deal with the danger of a running engine. It's also a great tool for demonstrating lab scope functions. I love the versatility of the wide and extremely precise ability to adjust the tool's outputs. It's a great improvement over my old sensor simulator tool which used basic potentiometers to simulate signals.

Q: What features didn't vou like?

A: I wish the cases were bigger. The voltmeter/ohmmeter functions are pretty basic so I don't think I would use the tool for those kinds of functions.

Q: What types of jobs/ repairs did you use these tools for?

A: I used them on a 2021 Chevy Silverado 1500 with P0521 and P0522 codes. The oil pressure indication on the scan tool varied wildly. Rather than replace the sensor and hope that was it, the simulator tool connected to the pigtail output with a specific voltage, which should have resulted in a steady pressure reading on the scan tool. It didn't, which proved the problem was not the sensor. The problem was in a chaffed harness causing the signal wire to ground out and reading 0 psi when the actual oil pressure was completely normal.

I also used the tools on a 2010 Toyota Camry with a variable displacement compressor. Using the tools to simulate the signal going to the compressor proved the problem was in the command to the compressor and not the compressor itself.

Q: Is there any way you could think to improve or add to these tools?

A: I would add an instruction sheet or, in lieu of that, a QR code linking to web-based instructions. The tools are not hard to figure out, but I

think it would be difficult for a beginner to master.

Q: On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate these tools overall? Why?

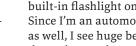
A: I give them a 9. If parts companies could convince technicians to use these tools in lieu of installing parts that may not be needed, the savings in returned parts would be enormous. As an automotive instructor, I can see almost endless possibilities to use this tool in a lab-type teaching environment.

Fleet Maintenance affiliate PTEN contributed this review

This product was given to the reviewer free of charge by the manufacturer.









POWER TOOL PURCHASE CONSIDERATIONS

- Handle shape, size, length, material
- Tool style, size, and weight
- M Portability
- Power trigger type
- Controls and switches

Ergonomics

- Does the tool have features that increase worker performance and productivity while reducing discomfort, fatigue, and risk of injury?
- How much power/ torque is required?
- Need for variable speed control
- Vibration and noise level
- Safety features
- Accessories/attachments
- Service recommendations
- **Durability**
- Warranty
- Training resources
- Technical support
- M Brand reputation
- **M** Budget range/price

For cordless tools:

- What type of battery does the tool have? Battery type determines how long the battery provides power and how much time is required for recharging.
- Consider battery voltages. Eight to 12V systems are more common for ratchets, lighting, and applications requiring lower rpm. Eighteen to 20V systems are most common for impact wrenches. Over 20V is available for extended applications such as grinders.
- For pneumatic tools:
 - Every air tool has an operational compressed air requirement measured in cubic feet per minute (cfm). Every air compressor has a maximum cfm output. The air compressor's cfm output must be greater than the cfm requirement to keep all the pneumatic tools in the shop operating efficiently.
 - Consider compatibility with existing systems.



Ergonomically designed comfort-grip

The Snap-on Band Sander, No. PTBF210, features a thermallybalanced air motor to cool internal components as well as the surface temperature of the tool. An adjustable rear exhaust directs airflow away from the work area while a built-in 10-position air regulator makes it easy to dial in the exact speed needed for a specific application. The 90-degree angle head offers tool-free adjustments and can be rotated 270 degrees for access and flexibility without additional tools. Additionally, an ergonomically designed comfortgrip handle keeps vibration to a minimum and the side handle helps keep the sander supported and controlled.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53098896

Eliminates the need for two grease guns

K-Tool International's Dual Mode Air Operated Grease Gun

offers technicians a quick way to replace ball joints, tire rod ends, sway bar links, and spacer joints with a single tool. The gun's dual mode allows for easy switching from single shot to automatic use, and the head features a bulk loader that doubles as an air bleeder. Featuring an ergonomic grip and able to fit in narrow work spaces, the tool comes with a 30" flexible grease hose and coupler and can be used with a 14 oz. grease cartridge or 500 cc bulk fill.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53098785

Offers extended length for longer reach

The **Matco Tools 16V Impact Ratchet Kit**, No. MCL16IRSK2M, features a 6" extended length for longer reach and greater access for front end engine accessories, timing covers, air cleaners, transmission bellhousing bolts, and dash work. Its 310 rpm free speed makes quick work of removing fasteners and its captured head design increases head durability and prevents head spreading. The impact ratchet is engineered to withstand 155 lb.-ft. of manual torque and 35 lb.-ft. of maximum torque.





Durable aluminum body

The **Tool Aid Turbo Tornado Blow Gun**, No. 99680, features a lightweight and durable aluminum body. It includes a 3/8" NPT male industrial style fitting with a 1/4" body and has a convenient hanging hole. The Tornado Blow Gun offers 42 scfm at 125 psi, 25-230 psi minimum/ maximum. It meets OSHA standards 1910.95 and 1910.242B. A replacement hi-glow tip also available (No. 99681).

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53098897



Low vibration reduces fatigue and improves control

The Dynabrade Nitro Series Pistol Grip Mini Orbital Denibber (DN1)

is ideal for a wide variety of smallscale sanding applications. Its 1-1/4" (32mm) diameter pad size focuses sanding effort and provides ideal control when working on small parts like vehicle hoods, fenders and doors, side-view mirrors, interior parts, spoilers, and motorcycle parts. The DN1 offers very low vibration which reduces hand and arm fatigue, and is best for sensitive workpieces or when sanding and repairing a coated surface. Compact in size, the DN1 is lightweight and allows for left or right-handed use.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53070648



Twin hammer mechanism for balance

The 1/2" Drive Composite Impact Wrench with Extended Anvil from **Ascot Supply** has a forward/reverse push button and a four-setting torgue adjustment switch for convenient operation. The tool features a compact design at only 7.2" in length and has an energy-efficient motor that ensures maximum performance and a long-lasting life. The twin hammer mechanism also provides smooth balance, while the feather trigger allows for precise speed control. Additionally, the swivel air inlet prevents the 153-12260 hose from twisting during use.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53079173

More than 1,000 hours of runtime

The **Master Proheat A-Series Heat Guns** are designed to withstand heavy daily use, with an optimized design for an improved motor life of up to 1000+ hours of runtime. The heat gun also features an easy-toreplace plug-in heating element and cordset and a new user-friendly trigger switch. The Master offers a full selection of replacement parts that can be easily swapped by the user in the field, or the user can send the heat gun in to the manufacturer to be refurbished.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance. com/53070513

Features reduction nozzle

The **Bosch 18V Heat Gun**, No. GHG18V-50N, is designed to deliver a fast heat-up time, heating up to 570 degrees within six seconds. Featured in this heat gun is a reduction nozzle, a hook nozzle to supply directed hot air for even heating, an LED work-light, a lockout switch to prevent accidental activation, and an ergonomic grip zone. This heat gun is ideal for heat-shrinking wires, bending plastic pipes, removing labels, and softening adhesives. It has two heat settings of 930 degrees F and 570 degrees F, and has a max airflow rate of 175 liters per minute for efficient heating.



POWER TOOLS



Features a variable flow trigger

The VariBlast Precision Safety Air

Gun by EXAIR provides a focused blast of air with a variable flow trigger to produce a range of force values for different applications. The lightweight air gun is available with a standard 12" or 20" extension which can also be outfitted with an impact-resistant polycarbonate Chip Shield and is compatible with various nozzles to allow configuration for unique processes. It produces a guiet 58 to 75 dBA noise level, meeting all OSHA standards for dead-end pressure and sound level exposure.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53067908

Maximum speed of 8,500 rpm

The Martins **Industries Impulse** 1/2" LW Impact

Wrench, No. MX-LW1, is designed with a lightweight composite body,

weighing only 5.2 lbs., and produces 944 lb.-ft. of torque with a maximum speed of 8,500 rpm. Equipped with a twin-hammer mechanism and with a four-position power regulator, users can seamlessly switch between power modes and adjust torque output for each task. With its ergonomic handle, the impact wrench lets users change direction with a simple forward/reverse push button for maximum control and performance.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53027972



Has reduced jumping and vibration

The Nitro Series NitroZip NZI Tool by Dynabrade is a versatile tool for surface preparation and material removal. The NitroZip comes equipped with a NitroZip Red-Tred 92255 eraser wheel for removal of adhesive-backed decals, two-sided molding tape, and lettering without damaging the clear coat. The eraser wheel has reduced jumping and vibration, resists heat buildup, and has serrations for improved cooling air flow without clogging. When equipped with a wire wheel, technicians can remove rust and seam sealers in preparation for repair or replacement of damaged vehicle components. The wire wheel duplicates a sand-blasting effect without causing surface fatigue.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53069539

Includes various versatile tips

The Sunex Tools 1/4" Blow Gun Kit, No. SXBG01K, features a compact yet industrialgrade design, providing ideal performance for a wide array of jobs. Its durable construction and versatile tips ensure readiness for any task, while the integrated EVA foam storage tray keeps users



organized and efficient. The kit is capable of handling diverse tasks with its high-volume airflow, metal housing, and improved seals. Its large-diameter venturi tip clears debris and guickly dries wet areas, and its 4.75" and 3.5" protective rubber end tube tips and a precision tip offer versatility for accessing tight spaces and detailed work.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53098612



The Milton Water & Air Industrial Power Wand, No. 171-NF11, is designed for use with both water and air in cleaning hard-to-reach areas and is ideal for use on farm & ag equipment, HVAC units, and filtration devices. The specially designed, sequenced hole pattern in the nozzle controls the spray, maximizing pressure, which can reach a maximum of 125 psi and 2.8 GPM water flow. Made with durable, lightweight material, the wand has an ergonomic handle grip and advanced 4-finger grip controller for comfort and control and measures 47.5" in length with a 1/2" tube ID.



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TOOL REVIEW

Ingersoll Rand W3111 IQV20 1/4" Compact Impact Driver

John Baumgardt, owner of Baumgardt's Auto Repair in Fillmore, Indiana, reviewed this product.

Q: How did the tool function as far as saving you time?

A: The smooth operating quickchange chuck made changing bits fast, and the charger is also a fast charger which greatly reduces time.

Q: How has using this tool impacted your shop's profitability?

A: Not having to run an air hose outside saved even more time, but being able to work on a job away from the building while still having the power of a pneumatic impact made a really big difference.

Q: How easy was it to use?

A: Pretty easy. With the battery installed, all you need to do is pull the collar on the quick-change chuck forward to insert the bit of your choice and release the collar to lock in the bit.

Q: Was there a manual included? If so, did you use the manual, and was the manual easy to understand? A: Yes, a multi-language manual was included. The writing is a bit small, and it contains the typical instruc-

tions for care and use as any other cordless tool.

Q: What features did you like?

A: The impact has great power. I think that the three speeds in forward and reverse make it easier to adjust the torque. Most impacts I've used are full power in reverse and that increases the chances of losing a small fastener if it slips out of the socket. Battery charge status lights aren't anything new, but the full halo light on the front is amazing. There are no dark spots in the front of this impact.

Q: Is there any way you could think of to improve or add to this tool?

A: It needs a way to attach a belt clip. Having a way to hook it to a pocket or a belt when you have your hands full would be nice.

Q: What types of jobs/repairs did you use this tool for? Please provide a few specific examples.

A: I used it to tear apart a few transmissions and on a couple intake manifold jobs. I also helped a buddy drywall for two days. I did both days of drywall work on half of the 2.5Ah battery included in the kit and that still left me with a 5.0Ah to use.

Q: How does this tool compare to other tools you've used like it? A: I have not used an

older version of an Ingersoll Rand cordless impact, but I have used several other brands, and this is far better. The first thing that stands out is the halo light on the front. It makes it possible to see the fastener without the dark areas. I also like the three speeds for both forward and reverse. The other impacts I've used are full power speed in reverse and on several occasions flung the fastener out of the socket, leaving me searching for a replacement. Batteries also last longer and charge much faster.

Q. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate this tool overall? Why? A. 9.8 - This impact is truly awesome.

The only downfall for me is not having a belt clip.

Fleet Maintenance affiliate PTEN contributed this review. This product was given to the reviewer free of charge by the manufacturer.

Designed with 3/8" air intake thread

The Titan Professional Tools High Flow Air Blow Gun,

No. 19393, is designed with 3/8" air intake thread. When used with thread sealant tape, this high-volume air gun allows for greater air flow and higher psi, with adjustable

pressure between 25 to 230 psi. The air blow gun has a non-slip-aluminum ergonomic handle, and the tapered high-flow tip can be directed towards hard-to-reach areas. The product includes 1/4" series plug with 3/8" NPT male thread with pre-applied thread sealant, and it meets OSHA standards. For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53098613

Delivers up to 2,100 lb.-ft.

The DeWalt 20V MAX XR Brushless Cordless 3/16" Rivet Tool,

No. DCF403B, installs aluminum, steel, and stainless steel blind rivets up to 3/16". The brushless motor delivers up to 2,100 lb.-ft. of pulling force and has the capability to pull 800 rivets per charge. Other notable features include a tool-free nose piece change and on-board nose piece storage to collect and store loose mandrels. Also available as a kit and in 1/4".

TOOL REVIEW

Milwaukee M18 FUEL 1/2" High Torque Impact Wrench with Friction Ring

The M18 was reviewed by Collin Battles, expert technician at Toyota Cleveland Heights in Ohio.

By Lucas Roberto

Milwaukee Tool calls its M18 FUEL 1/2" High Torque Impact Wrench with Friction Ring "the most power-dense impact wrench in its class," which is the mid-range category. The 7.6" by 9.35" tool uses a Powerstate brushless motor to deliver 1,100 lb.-ft. of fastening torque and 1,500 lb.-ft. of nut-busting torque when used with the 18V REDLITHIUM XC5.0 battery. Pairing it with the M18 REDLITHIUM FORGE batteries provides a bit of a boost at 1,200 lb.-ft. of fastening torque and 1,600 lb.-ft. of nut-busting torque.

The 1/2" friction ring anvil also enables seamless socket changes to get the job done quicker, according to Milwaukee.

To find out how it fares in the shop, we handed the M18 to Collin Battles, an expert technician at Toyota Cleveland Heights in Ohio. Milwaukee provided the M18 set, No. 2967-22, which comes with two XC5.0 batteries and a charger, along with the Shockwave 1/2" drive socket set. The tech used the M18 for about a month prior to providing feedback.

Battles said the M18 Fuel had "probably the most power for the price point." He pointed to the tri-LED lighting around the anvil as highly useful for illuminating hard-to-see areas, and the four control modes as highly effective for providing the right amount of torque and preventing fasteners from being over-tightened.

One of the first things he noticed is that the stout design shaved 2" off the length, allowing for easier access into wheel wells. "You can pretty much take it where you want," Battles said. The footprint, along with the lengthy operating time provided by the XC5.0 battery, has made Battles a believer in cordless impact wrenches. "The first time I used it, [the battery] lasted me a week," he said, "And the charge time is not long at all."

The veteran automotive technician "used to use pneumatic for everything, but the M18 is more mobile... You don't need 20 feet of hose to get somewhere, you can just go anywhere in the shop and not have to worry about it."

He used this M18 Fuel model for removing and refastening lugnuts, control arms, and shields.

When asked what he would change about the tool, Battles mentioned that "the weight is a little heavy for the gun and you could improve maybe a half pound." Although the M18 is a powerful tool, Battles remarked that he doesn't need that much power for his work on passenger vehicles and light trucks. While "it's very nice to have it, I would almost want it to be lighter and a little less power, and I think it would be a perfect impact gun," he said. He added for heavy-duty applications, that power would come in handy.

All in all, Battles was happy with the performance and said, "I would definitely recommend it."

Now available in blue

The Matco Tools Long Barrel Pneumatic Air Hammer - Blue, No.

MT2916B, delivers 2,300 bpm from a 3-3/3" piston stroke. The forward grip design gives the technician total control and helps maintain the chisel on the work piece. A rubber dampener helps reduce hand fatigue, shock, and vibration for ideal user comfort when powering through challenging applications. It also features a soft rubber overmold handle for a comfortable grip, an integrated chuck design for quick bit installation, and a front exhaust system that directs air away from the end user.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/21295525

Over-mold grip for added user comfort

The **AIRCAT 1/4" Die Grinder**, No. 6205, features a .3hp motor that produces 25,000 rpm. With a low weight of 0.75 lb. and ultra-compact design, measuring 4.8" in length, the 6205 provides added control and maneuverability while allowing access

into tight spaces. The variable speed throttle lever enables the user to control the tool's speed, while the AIRCAT silencing system reduces noise levels to 82.5 dB without reducing the tool's performance. Additionally, it has an over-mold grip for added user comfort, and safety lock-off throttle levers to prevent accidental start-ups.





HAND TOOL & SPECIALTY TOOL PURCHASE CONSIDERATIONS

- Tool design: Style, size, shape, weight, etc.
- **M** Ergonomics:
 - How well does the tool fit the hand?
 - Can the tool be used in a comfortable work position without causing awkward postures, harmful contact pressures, or other safety and health risks?
 - Does the balance and the weight feel right?
 - How easy is it to use?
- V Quality
- **M** Durability
- Warranty
- ✓ Product support
- M Brand reputation
- M Budget range/price



Features a built-in cutter

The Automatic Wire Stripper, No. 48-22-3083, from Milwaukee Tool features a one-handed stripping application for quick, clean cuts through 80-20 solid and 1022 stranded AWG wire. The tool is designed to cleanly strip up to 1" in a single squeeze and the built-in cutter is located in the center of the tool for optimal leverage for cuts through copper wires. Additionally, the molded grip handles offer users added comfort for all-day use.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53075693



Provides maximum access and grip force

The 13" Long Reach Hose Grip Pliers, No. 48-22-6560, from Milwaukee Tool is a single-joint plier that features a deep-reach cross handle design with slipresistant grips with a wide jaw opening and a slim profile for reaches in tight spaces. The jaws offer multi-function gripping zones for common applications like fasteners, washers, and wires, while the full pliers offer a corrosionresistant black oxide coating for increased durability. Backed by a lifetime warranty, the pliers come in 5/16", 1/2", and 3/4" sizes.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53069715



For seals 4-5/8" I.D. and larger

The OTC Large Hub Seal Puller Head, No. 600053, is designed to eliminate bearing and hub damage that can occur when a punch and hammer is used to remove the seal. The large, replaceable head measures 5.1" long, making it easier to pull seals with 4-5/8" I.D. and larger. Fits on existing 5085 hub sealer puller, not included, for more applications and leverage. Its unique pulling head design quickly and easily removes the seal in one piece. Built from high-quality, heat-treated steel, it's capable of removing hub seals on trailer and truck axles, including truck steering axles.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/21293307



Features rare-earth magnet

The 7-in-1 Impact-Rated Flip Socket Sets, Nos. 32910 and 32933, from Klein Tools include three impact-rated flip sockets in each set and six different color-coded hex sizes for easy identification (1/4", 5/16", 3/8", 7/16", 1/2", and 9/16"). Users can store flip sockets in any order or orientation on the shaft. The bit-holding design allows the 1/4" socket size to drive hex fasteners and hold screwdriver bits. The sets include a rare-earth magnet to retain fasteners for convenient and easy driving. The Socket Set, No. 32910, also features a guick-connect handle.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53081877

Features 270-degree rotating design

The Snap-on 500 Im Dual-Sided Mini Flex Light, No. ECARL032R, features a 270-degree rotating design with multiple magnets, providing technicians with the flexibility to light difficult-to-reach areas. Offering a 500 lm dual-sided output, individual switches for spotlight and bar lights, and a dimmable switch with memory, this light caters to varying lighting needs. The integrated battery gauge enhances efficiency for technicians on the go.



Features a quick-release safety lock

The STAHLWILLE Quick Torque

Wrench features the company's quick-release safety lock for rapid adjustment and a wear-resistant trigger system with a flexible rod that eliminates the need to reset and store the wrench to zero. Users can select from a wide range of interchangeable



insertable tool heads that consist of ratchet drives, open-end, ring, and square attachments for demanding applications. The torque wrench can be calibrated using the company's perfectControl calibration device (No. 7794 or No. 7706), setting the high and low limits without disassembly. Further loading the wrench after triggering does not affect the triggering mechanism and protects against damage, the company said.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53096674

No need for manual reset

The Italian-made

Beta Tools Zero-Reset Torque Wrench, No. 666, was designed to eliminate the need for manual reset to zero. Thanks to upgraded components, the torque wrench no longer has to be brought back to the minimum setting at the end of each operation cycle. The torque wrench features a bi-material ergonomic handle that is resistant to oil, fuel, and industrial fluids, a double graduation scale that offers high-visibility and easy-to-select settings, and a push-pull system for torque locking. Torque is simply set by rotating the handle to the required setting position. Additionally, the tool has a torque accuracy of ± 3% and its click mechanism can be perceived by hearing and touch.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53080138



Charges in three hours

The **SearchPoint Concord Rechargeable Flashlight**, No. MXN04015, from **Maxxeon** illuminates an area up to 1,000' away, making it ideal for a wide range of lighting needs. It offers four brightness levels and a strobe option and emits up to 2,500 lm for three hours on high and a steady 30 lm for 45 hours when on low. Crafted with durable aluminum housing, the Concord is built to withstand tough environments. The light measures 6" in length, is dust and water-resistant, and charges in three hours. Includes charging cable and carrying strap.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53075692



Repairs threads from the inside out

The ARES M14 Back Tap Thread Repair Tool, No. 10111, features a compact design with an overall length of 4-3/4". With a knurled thumb nut that offers a sturdy grip to reduce slippage while in use, its collapsible back-tap design repairs threads from the inside out, preventing metal shavings from entering the combustion chamber. The M14 x 1.25mm Back Tap Thread Repair Tool is made of premium heat-treated chrome moly steel with a corrosion-resistant zinc plating finish. It is also ideal for O2 sensor bungs and small engine applications that utilize M14 spark plugs. Also available in M12 x 1.25mm thread spec (No. 10110).





HAND & SPECIALTY TOOLS

TOOL REVIEW

Matco Tools Ratcheting Hose Clamp Pliers

Rost Motor service manager Randy Kaiser from Manson, Iowa, reviewed these pliers.

Q: How did the tool function as far as saving you time?

A: The Ratcheting Hose Clamp Pliers do a great job of grabbing and holding on to those pesky spring hose clamps that manufacturers seem to be very fond of using. Without this tool, those clamps can be very tough and time-consuming to grab, compress, and release, and just as time-consuming to reinstall. This tool cuts that time down considerably.

Q: How easy was it to use?

A: The hose clamp pliers are very easy to use. You select which side of the clamping head will best fit your hose clamp (there are two different grip ranges), slide it over the clamp, and squeeze the handles together. It has a locking ratchet mechanism to hold the clamp open, and a quick-release lever to release the tension on the clamp to reinstall it.



Q: Was there a manual included?

A: There was no manual with the pliers, just some information printed on the cardboard piece that it was attached to. It's very self-explanatory, and no manual is needed.

Q: What features did you like?

A: The pliers have two different size clamping jaws so that they can accommodate clamps from 11/16" through 3-1/8". The grip handles have a nice, rubberized coating, making them easy to grip and very comfortable to use. There is also a quick-release handle to make it very easy to release the tension on the clamp.

Q: What features didn't you like? A: So far, I haven't found anything that I haven't liked.

Q: What types of jobs/repairs did you use this tool for?

A: I used the pliers to release spring hose clamps on heater hoses and radiator hoses during radiator replacements, water pump replacements, and various other operations involving the cooling system.

Q: Have you used a previous version of this tool?

• A: I have, but they weren't nearly as nice. The handles weren't pad-

ded at all, and the latch release didn't work nearly as well.

Q: Is there anything you had questions or concerns about regarding the tool?

A: No, the pliers are well designed, well made, and do the job that they're designed to do.

Q: On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate this tool overall? Why?

A: Probably a nine. The pliers are very nice and work very well, but it's hard to be a perfect 10.

Fleet Maintenance affiliate PTEN contributed this review.

This product was given to the reviewer free of charge by the manufacturer.

Forged from one-piece steel construction

The Mac Tools Anti-Vibe Hi-Vis Ball Peen Hammers are ideal

for metal shaping and driving applications. Forged from one-piece

steel construction, the ball peen hammers offer added durability. They also feature a tuning fork design to isolate vibration and bi-material grip construction to help reduce shock. Additionally, the handle provides a textured grip for slip-resistance and increased comfort. The hi-vis hammers are available in sets and as individuals.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53059057

Comes in oil-resistant case

The **Snap-on Tools 33-pc 3/8" Drive General Service Set**, No. 233FSMBFR, includes the 3/8" Drive Dual 80

Technology Sot Grip Standard Handle Locking Flex-Head Ratchet, 3/8" Drive 3" and 6" Knurled Friction Ball Extensions, 12 metric semi-deep and 11 SAE semi-deep sockets, two bits, two pliers, the 7"

VectorEdge Diagonal Cutter, and the 10" Straight Blade Striking Prybar. The set comes in a durable foam case and offers contrasting colors to make it easy to identify tools.

TOOL REVIEW

Tool Aid Clamp Probe Set

The probe set was also reviewed by Rost Motor service manager Randy Kaiser.

Q: How did the tool function as far as saving you time?

A: This is a very unique tool. It's a couple of spring-loaded electrical probes attached to clamps. You can attach the clamps close to whatever you are trying to check, and the spring-loaded probe stays in place. This saves the time and hassle of trying to figure out how to keep the probe where you need it, and quite possibly frees up your hands.

Q: How easy was it to use?

A: Very easy to use. The clamps are a squeeze type clamp, so you just squeeze them open and clamp them on to whatever is close to where you need to test. The probes themselves are spring-loaded to maintain contact with whatever you are testing.

Q: How was its packaging?

A: The packaging is actually very nice. The clamps are in a form-fit plastic sleeve with a cardboard backing. You simply remove a couple of staples, slide the cardboard out and you are ready to go. They are easy to put back in the package if you want to store them that way.

Q: Was there a manual included?

A: There was no manual included. There were some pictures of the clamps in use on the cardboard backplate. If you couldn't figure out how to use them, you probably shouldn't be working on electrical systems.

Q: What features did you like?

A: I really like that the probes are pointed on the end and spring-loaded. This works great for maintaining contact with whatever you are trying to test. They also swivel on the clamps, so you don't have to be directly in line with your intended target. The probes also have a 4mm female end on them which seems to be the standard for most test leads.

Q: Is there any way you could think to improve or add to this tool?

A: The clamps themselves are made from some sort of plastic or composite material. I understand the thought process around electrical equipment but wonder if insulated metal might hold up better. Additionally, the probe swivels in one direction on the clamp. There were times when it would have been nice to be able to change the angle in the other direction as well. Maybe a ball and socket attachment instead of a single swivel joint.

Q: What types of jobs/repairs did you use this tool for?

A: I used the probes for electrical circuit testing under the hood and in the passenger compartment. They were handy when checking circuits originating from the fuse panel. They also worked well in making a good ground for circuit checking. With a long test lead, they work well for testing from one end of the vehicle to the other.

Q: Have you used a previous version of this tool?

A: I have used various probes before, but never any attached to clamps. These were handy in several instances.

Q: On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate this tool overall? Why? A: A solid nine. They are very nice,

and something different than I had ever used before.

Fleet Maintenance affiliate PTEN contributed this review.

This product was given to the reviewer free of charge by the manufacturer.

Includes solvent-resistant tray

The **14-pc Micro Hand Tool** Set from Mayhew Tools is

a compilation of micro line products, including pry bars, pick hooks, and screwdrivers (slotted, Phillips, and TORX). A foam tray securely stores the tools, with each part number displayed. Each tool features a durable Nylon 6 handle with alloy steel blades which are



custom heat-treated for hardness. All the tools are made in the U.S. and backed by a lifetime warranty.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53098782

Provides easier access to tight areas

The **2-piece Mini Pocket Pry Bar Set**, No. 853-06-2ST, from **Lang Tools** is designed for prying small items



apart. The blades are made from three by 16" in diameter hardened alloy steel, and the angled blade provides easier access to tight areas. Featuring an acetate handle with a pocket clip, the overall length of the pry bars are 5". Each pry bar is available individually as well as in a complete set.



SHOP EQUIPMENT

SHOP EQUIPMENT PURCHASE CONSIDERATIONS

- M Physical weight
- M Capacity
- Efficiency, versatility, productivity, etc.
- M Safety features
- Ease of operation
- **Ergonomics**
- Accessories and options
- M Power requirements
- Maintenance requirements
- Construction
- ✓ Lifecycle
- Will it fit the available work space?
- M Storage considerations
- M Durability
- Warranty
- Training resources
- M Product and technical support
- M Brand reputation
- M Budget range/price
- Mathematical Available financing

Equipped with evacuation spout

The **OEMTOOLS 9-gallon Upright Portable Oil Drain**, No. 87032, is designed for evacuating used oil from a vehicle. Users can position the 17" diameter funnel below the oil drain, adjust the drain height, and

> release the waste oil into the drain. The 9-gallon tank features a translucent green plastic which allows the user to monitor waste oil levels. Additionally, the drain is equipped with an evacuation spout and drain valve for easy waste oil disposal when the tank is full. For more information visit FleetMaintenance. com/53096542



Ideal for heating small to mid-sized spaces

Milwaukee Tool's **M18 Propane Heater** is a cordless heater rated for 30,000-70,000 British thermal units (BTU). Featuring a fast set-up time, the M18 has a variable temperature dial for output control and a forced air fan to create the best amount of heat in cold conditions. The heater is also compatible with both AC/DC power and is easily transportable with a height of 18.5" and a length of 21" and a width of 10.5". Also includes a 10' hose and regulator and a one-year limited warranty.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53067299



Easily portable and perfect for shops and garages

The **Blue 2200 Residential Floor Fan** is the first **Patterson**-designed, heavy-duty residential and commercial floor fan. Designed in the U.S. and crafted with durable components, the Blue 2200 is perfect for areas such as garages, basements, workshops, and kitchens. Weighing only 32 lbs., the floor fan is easily portable and features a 3-speed controller.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53069635



Constructed for years of safe vehicle holding

OTC from Bosch Automotive Service Solution's 12-Ton Steel lack Stands, No. S012, provide safe

Jack Stands, No. 5012, provide safe lifting for years. Featuring a pin-style stand and more contact points for safety, the S012 is a universal stand for most vehicles. Offers a max height of 27.5" and a minimum of 17.5" and has a wide base for stability. Its finish resists corrosion, and its flat base includes welded foot pads that resist sinking into soft ground.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53074713



Can be used on mild steel, stainless steel, aluminum and copper

Forney Industries' Flex 30

Plasma ST provides the ability to plasma cut, stick weld and DC TIG weld up to 3/8" thick material—all with one machine. The Flex 30 features dual-voltage input power (120V/240V), inverter technology and is generator-friendly. It's designed for use on mild steel, stainless steel, aluminum and copper. This machine is also suitable for DIY projects, farm and ranch, maintenance and repair, and light industrial work.

BENDPAK LIFTS BRING ANY JOB DOWN TO SIZE

BendPak Model **PCL-18B-6** Portable Column Lift



Certified to meet the standards of ANSI/ALI ALCTV: 2017

PCL-18B



FULL MOBILITY

SIMPLE OPERATION



ADJUSTABLE WHEEL FORKS

Bendpak is the name that fleet operators rely on because they're the toughest lifts on earth. And nowhere is that strength more impressive than on our PCL-18B series portable column lifts. With a lifting capacity of 18,000 pounds for each column and paired configurations ready to accommodate two, four, six or eight axle vehicles, the PCL-18B is ready to service trucks as heavy as 144,000 pounds. From school buses and fire engines, to agricultural vehicles and utility trucks, bendpak continues to make today's tough challenges yesterday's problems. To learn more or to shop now, visit **bendpak.com** or call us at **1-800-253-2363**.

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SHOP EQUIPMENT



Up to 12 charging profiles available

The Associated Equipment High Power Smart

Charger, No. ESS6100, charges all 12V battery types, allowing users to keep a 12V lead acid, enhanced flooded, or lithium battery at a stabilized voltage during diagnostic phases. With four operating modes—charging, diagnostics, showroom, and tester-it will deliver the charging cycle recommended for the maintenance of the vehicle. With USB connectivity, the charger is fully customizable and is OE-vehiclemanufacturer approved, versatile, and has a low profile of 5.1" in height. It supports up to 100A for 12V batteries in the diagnostic phase, requiring a standard 120VAC receptacle for use in all shop environments (optional 120A/240VAC available).

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/21277578

METALWORKING **ESSENTIALS FOR YOUR CUSTOMERS' NEEDS**



(**f@@@**@)

Seamlessly moves around shop

The ZEELINE by Milton 17-Gallon Poly Low-Profile **Oil Drain with Electric Evacuation Pump**, No.

ZELP17-EP, is a low-profile waste oil drain intended for heavy-duty trucks, RVs, automobiles, and more. This drain is compatible with waste oil, transmission fluid, and antifreezes while featuring a 115-volt electric motor for convenient evacuation of the drain pan. The drain also features a T-handle and four 4" rotating wheels for seamless movement around the shop while internal baffles help prevent oil spillage while transporting the drain.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance. com/53069626

Provides a 20.000 lb. capacity

The **QSP Heavy Duty** Alignment Stands, No. DB-20K, feature

four spring-activated casters and four adjustable feet per stand. Each

stand includes two wheel stops and has a 20,000-lb. capacity. The casters

allow techncians to move the stands around the shop easily and to disengage when minimum weight is applied. A minimum of 750 lbs. is needed to compress the springs on the casters to ensure the stand is stable. The stands incorporate turnplates and are sold in pairs.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53098697

Features a dual-chamber design

The Oni Tools Fuel System Priming Pump for Detroit Diesel S60, MBE 900, MBE 40000, DD13, and DD15 features a dual-chamber design, ergonomic handle, built-in temperature gauge, and pressure gauge. Users can also pressurize the tank manually with the handle or with a compressor via the Schrader valve to reach exact psi levels. Additionally, the priming pump has a specific fitment for priming, ensuring a tight and secure connection between the pump and the fluid source, as well as a pressure release valve for added safety.



Removes fumes and dust

The **Exento HighVac** by **Fronius** provides mobile and compact extraction and, when used in combination with the fume extraction torch, removes fumes and dust. The integrated side-channel compressor allows an extraction capacity of up to 170 m³ per hour, and the vertically mounted filter cartridge ensures particularly effective cleaning.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53069306



Self-positioning frame movement

The Autel Intelligent ADAS IA900WA Wheel Alignment and ADAS Calibration System integrates wheel alignment and ADAS calibration into an all-in-one, space-saving device. It features a folding crossbar and six in-frame highresolution tracking cameras that automatically monitor vehicle height on the shop lift, and robotic frame movement for alignment reading accuracy to 0.02 degrees. Alignment coverage is offered for U.S., Asian and European vehicles, 1996 and newer. The system guides the user through the complete process with illustrated instructions, live readings, and required tools. Alignment readings displayed on a mounted 24" touchscreen monitor mirror those on the MaxiSYS Ultra tablet enabling the technician to freely manipulate the vehicle and monitor the adjustment effects.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53079523



ZELP17-EP 17-Gallon Poly Low-Profile Oil Drain w/ Electric Evacuation Pump

- Seamless Maneuverability: Four 4" rotating wheels provide stability when moving around the shop
- Large Durable Tank: Made of durable, lightweight polyethylene. No risk of corrosion
- Low Spillage Risk: Internal baffles help prevent
 oil spillage while transporting the drain
- Versatile Evacuation: Electric Pump Kit for evacuation included which eliminates the need for lifting drain to evacuate oil
- Long Reach T-Handle: Integrated T-Handle makes moving around the shop easy, especially when loaded





www.ZEELINE.com 800.231.1525 TOOL REVIEW

Hunter HawkEye XL Alignment system

Intuitive operation offers quicker turnaround for alignment jobs.

By John Hitch

We asked Johnathon Gatton, alignment tech at McMahon's Best-One Tire and Auto Care and a Hunter HawkeyeXL beta tester since Fall 2023, to share early impressions.

Fleet Maintenance: Why did you get the Hawkeye and how did you hope it would help your business? Johnathon Gatton: We've been using the HawkEye Elite on our retail side for many years, so when Hunter announced the new HawkEye XL with the same camera technology with no electronics on the wheels, the decision was simple. We currently have 10 Hunter systems in our locations.

FM: How did you previously handle alignment work? JG: Our previous alignment system, the Hunter WinAlign





HD, used the 700 roll comp sensors. We discovered some issues with the electronics, bulky heads, and clearance.

FM: When did you get the HawkEye XL and can you talk about installation and how you planned to integrate it into your operations?

JG: Hunter took care of the installation. With how intuitive the machine is, our previous experience with similar systems, and the above-average training Hunter provided, the learning curve was very minimal.

FM: How does the HawkEye XL work and what do you like about it?

JG: The software walks you through step by step. We can enter data specific to the truck and use the manufacturer's specifications for alignment. The speed and stability of the HawkEye XL allows us to be more efficient, which in turn allows us to get the most accurate readings to provide higher service to the customer. A happy customer will be a return customer.

FM: What benefits have you seen so far?

JG: The benefits we've seen are stability of the readings, faster turnaround rate, no dead batteries, and no electronic sensor communication error. It is quick, easy, and simple to operate. The efficiency and accuracy are second to none.

FM: What would you like to see in future iterations?

JG: If the target style of the HawkEye Elite could be adapted to the HawkEye XL it would allow easier mounting of the targets. We would love to have the ability to do 5-axle units without the need for moving targets and re-compensating the machine for each additional axle.

FM: Final thoughts?

JG: We highly recommend the HawkEye XL to other consumers in the industry. It is the easiest commercial system to use and allows us to have the most versatility to meet our customer's needs. Don't let cost scare you away from innovation.

This product was given to the reviewer free of charge by the manufacturer.



Simulates realistic welding and tracks key parameters

The **VRTEX 360 Compact** by **Lincoln Electric** is a portable virtual reality welding simulator for mobile use in multiple environments. Students may select gas type, process, gas flow, amperage/voltage, and wire-feed speed in the system, which offers realistic puddle and welding sounds. The simulator also provides demos of successful welds, simulates sparks, slag, grinding, and weld cooling, and tracks key parameters like travel speed, distance, and position. The virtual bend test provides results instantly and reveals what causes a weld to pass or fail.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53082954



Maximizes space with shared columns

The PL-6000DC two-post parking lift from BendPak

maximizes space with shared columns so more lifts can fit in a smaller area, indoors or outside. The new lift includes a rated capacity of 6,000 lbs. and can be installed in a typical 8' parking space. Dual telescoping direct-drive hydraulic cylinders deliver reliable operation and lower maintenance. The platform can be stopped at various heights to fit a range of vehicles and ceiling heights and automatic load-holding devices prevent sudden free fall in the event of component failure. The lift also offers automatic locking during a power outage, an emergency stop button, and an upper limit switch.





PPE PURCHASE CONSIDERATIONS

- Meets OSHA compliance
- Adresses risk assessment
- Size, fit, and comfort
- Durability in multiple environments
- M Impact on flexibility, productivity
- Easy to clean/sanitize
- 🗹 Ease of use
- M Professional, modern look
- Material type
- Availability in men's and women's sizes



Uses BK-Anti-Fog protection

The Vader Combo, No. BKGOG-2020N, from Brass Knuckle is a face shield with built-in safety goggles that covers the entire face and protects the wearer's neck. The face shield also features BK-Anti-FOG coating, anti-scratch treatment, and is D3 rated for droplet and splash protection. With a built-in venting system and a comfortable, conditioned rubber gasket pad and elastic headband, the shield fits over most prescription eyeglasses and meets the testing standards for ANSI Z87.1+, EN166K, EN166N, EN166UV. Measuring 9.5" by 10.5" by 9.1", the Vader combo provides 180 degrees of peripheral vision and face coverage.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53067542



Repels oil and oil-based fluids

Red Kap's Performance Plus Lightweight Coveralls with

OilBlok Technology consists of tough, riptstop fabric to resist tears and stretch panels for comfort in the shop. With a breathable finish, the coveralls have elastic back inserts at the waist for flexibility and fit. The coveralls' Touchtex technology also keeps garage fluids from staining and is washer friendly. Offered in size small to 3XL, Red Kap's coveralls come in black and navy and include a utility pocket on the left sleeve and left leg.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53070367



Emphasizes comfort and flexibility

McKinney Wedge 6" Boots from Kodiak offer the flexibility and durability technicians need in the shop. Featuring a high-traction, oilresistant wedge outsole with flex grooves for better grip and a suede padded comfort tongue and flex shaft, these boots are lightweight and slip-resistant. The boots also offer Kodiak's Comfortzone LITE footbed and a Rubberlon outsole, as well as a CSA- and ASTM-approved composite toe and composite plate ESR/EH for added safety. Comes in sizes 7-12, 13,14, and 15W.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53081566

Offers touchscreen compatibility

The Magid 21G ANSI A4 Work Glove is engineered for dexterity and comfort. The glove's 21-gauge ultra-thin specialty fiber blend shell allows for a bare-hand feel and its polyurethane palm coating gives users increased grip and touchscreen compatibility. These gloves are intended for jobs that require the handling of small parts.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53075410



Features gel-like foam padding

The Tough-Flex Knee Pad Sleeves, Nos. 60628, 60629,

60630, and 60850, from **Klein Tools**, have a low-profile sleeve design that keeps the knee pad close to the user's body for comfortable all-day wear. The TPE cap is engineered to be tough and flexible for agility and protection when moving side to side on the job site. A gel-like foam padding system offers comfort for prolonged kneeling, and the durable, polyester sleeve material protects the user during rugged jobs. An elastic cuff with slip-resistant silicone helps knee pads stay in place longer. The knee pad sleeves are offered in four sizes.

TOOL REVIEW

KEEN Utility Arvada Work Sneakers

Offer carbon-fiber toes and EH-resistant outsoles

By Alex Keenan

When it comes to long days in the shop, technicians need to have footwear they can count on—or stand on, in this case. The Arvada Work Sneakers offer both the cushion of an athletic shoe and—because of the carbon-fiber safety toe—the protection of a work boot. KEEN sent me a pair of the women's version to test out.

The work sneakers

The Arvadas' asymmetrical carbon-fiber toes are 100% non-metallic and offer an unobtrusive fit for comfort and protection. The outsoles are also oil- and slip-resistant, perfect for spills during oil changes, and electric-hazard-rated against live circuits for working on electrical systems.

The insole is "compression-resisting" and offers 50% more energy return than typical EVA foam, KEEN claims, while the outer design features plastic, nylon, or concealed eyelets to protect vehicles from accidental contact. Finally, the shoe offers abrasion-resistant fabric across the top and sides of the foot.

The women's version of the shoes come in sizes 5-11 and in gray, teal, or black. The men's sneakers come in sizes 7-15 and include taupe, blue, dark gray, and black for color options.

To the test

I'm no technician, but I figured a bit of testing at my local Rage Room would let me put the Arvada work sneakers through their paces.

Before seeing how they held up in a session of smashing objects, I broke the sneakers in. They were comfortable in the heels when I worked at a standing desk and provided good arch support while on a hike. Then, it was time to put on the pressure.

My testing location was the Shatter Rage Room in Fort Collins, Colorado.

I had 15 minutes to pulverize what I could. Even before raging against the machines, I was grateful for the Arvadas' exterior durability, as the 'destruction room' floor was covered in shards of broken glass.

The carbon-fiber toes provided apt protection too, as kicking the assortment of glassware and a computer monitor did no damage to me. I was also unscathed moving across broken component pieces of a computer keyboard, a microwave, and another monitor. The abrasion-resistant



fabric protected my foot when I got tangled in an old circuit board and pieces of a lawn chair during cleanup, too.

No debris, splinters, or shavings breached the Arvada sneakers. The tread's grip was good on the pitted cement floor, and the shoes came away with barely a scuff. They were comfortable to wear and only came off my foot once (but that's more due to my lacing skills, not the shoes).

While the sneakers were lighter than a traditional work boot, they also provided less ankle support. In heavy-duty applications, a technician might prefer a boot to brace their ankles more.

Overall, the Arvada sneakers offered plenty of protection and grip for a day in the shop doing light work. At the very least, consider them rage room approved.

This product was given to the reviewer free of charge by the manufacturer.



Stretchy and flexible clothing

Milwaukee's **FREEFLEX Workwear** is made for flexibility, with gussets and a seam design that enables users to move freely. It includes the FREEFLEX Insulated Jacket and Insulated Bibs that utilize a quilted lining for work in frigid conditions. The Softshell Jacket has a brushed fleece interior, wind and water-resistant shell, and elastic cuffs.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53070220

Provides 270-degree cooling

The **Neck Fan Life3**, (No. FA12), from **JISULIFE** provides hands-free cooling with its wearable, aroundthe-neck design. Featuring low noise and a comfortable, compact design, the neck fan is bladeless and can run up to 16 hours depending on the fan speed and bat-

tery life. The fan also offers three different air speeds that provide cooling air for 270 degrees around the wearer's neck and can be recharged in 3-5 hours. Unobtrusive and light, the fan is 7.8" in length by 2.4" in width and 7.8" in height. Comes in white, green, pink, and black.



TOOL STORAGE SOLUTION PURCHASE CONSIDERATIONS

- Required storage capacity
- Size, storage volume, style, configuration, etc.
- Space efficiency
- Number and size of compartments, trays, etc.
- Organizational options and accessories
- Ease of use
- Expandability/upgradeability
- Construction and material type
- Strength and durability
- Color, finish, fit, graphics, etc.
- Portable, wheeling, or stationary
- How well will the storage solution fit in the work space or with existing storage solutions?
- How are tools and equipment safeguarded?
- ✓ Built-in locks, latches designed for padlocks, electronic systems, or other secure locking mechanisms?
- Would complete systems for tool and asset monitoring and control be beneficial?
- Additional power source for charging personal electronics and cordless tools?
- V Quality
- Warranty
- Product support
- M Brand reputation
- M Budget range/price



Available in 1,000-, 1,500-, and 2,200-lb. payload options

The CargoGlide from DECKED is a heavy-duty sliding bed platform that makes loading, unloading, organizing, and accessing gear more efficient. CargoGlide allows owners to store and easily retrieve heavy and bulky items like welders, compressors, heavy-duty tools, spare tires, boxes, and more without crawling into the back of the truck. With the pull of a lever, CargoGlide rolls forward out of the truck bed from its locked position, extending past the end of the bed by as much as 100%. CargoGlide comes in 1,000-, 1,500-, and 2,200-lb. payload options, with either 75% or 100% extension of the tray available. Constructed from powder-coated American steel and industrial, marine-grade plywood coated with a thermoplastic top sheet, the CargoGlide is available for most full-size and mid-size trucks and cargo vans.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/21270669



Includes a large parts tray

The Mechanic's Time Savers 52" 7-Drawer Heavy Duty Toolbox and Workstation features a heavy-

duty work surface with a vice mount that can be mounted in four locations. The toolbox includes a locking pry bar box and 8" heavy duty casters. It offers lots of storage space and also includes a can holder tray and large parts tray that can hold gallon jugs. The tough toolbox provides the ideal spot for technicians to work on and store their tools all in one place, the company says.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/21217234



Offers weatherproof, lockable storage containers

The **Drawer System** from **DECKED** is offered in two configurations: fullsize pickup trucks and cargo vans/ mid-size trucks. The system creates a flat load floor in the bed, while the weatherproof, lockable drawers store smaller tools and other essentials. The full-size system can handle a 2,000-lb. deck payload, while the mid-size version supports 1,000 lbs. Both offer outbound side storage and pass-through access to OE or factory power outlets.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53077943

Features two USB ports

The **Mac Tools 42" 7-Drawer Utility Cart** includes a power strip with three outlets and two USB ports, blow-molded bumpers to protect against damage, a 6" deep top compartment for storage, built-in pry bar/ screwdriver/long extension storage, and full-length aluminum drawer pulls. The lid features a stiffener and vinyl mat for use as a work surface and it utilizes gasfilled lift supports. The 7" drawer has a 100-lb. capacity, and all drawers have non-slip PVC drawer liners.





Safe and ergonomic operation

The **FoldPro Shelving** from **Safe Fleet** offers effortless shelving functionality for Transit, Sprinter, Promaster, and Box Truck vehicles. The lightweight aluminum shelves achieve 400 lbs. per shelf weight capacity, and a latch mechanism that enables one-handed operation holds each shelf in place, open or closed. When not in use, the shelves can be stowed vertically, adjustable by height for maximum safety.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53058159



Collapsible and expandable for easy storage

The **Matco Tools 9" Magnetic Collapsible Cup**, No. MM9HCUP1, is designed to hold screws, washers, nuts, and bolts. Features a soft magnet bottom base that holds parts inside the tray, as well as holds the tray to ferrous surfaces. The modular clips allow trays to be connected together in order to create sets for larger projects. The cup is collapsible and expandable for easy storage, dishwasher safe, and comes in a green, red, or orange color.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/21276716



Clear lid allows easy viewing

The Klein Tools MODbox Component Boxes, Nos. 54807MB and 54808MB, are designed to interconnect for a customized mobile workstation. A clear lid allows users to view the contents of the box and assess inventory. Additionally, the lid's stay-put design prevents the contents of one bin from moving to another. The bins are removable so users can organize smaller parts, and the boxes feature removable dividers for additional customization options. Made with impact-resistant polymers, the boxes are IP65-rated for protection against debris and rain. A one-handed system release mechanism allows for guick toolbox removal and reconfiguration, and the box comes as either a short box with a full width (4807MB) or a tall box with a half width

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53081299

Available in five, seven, and eight drawer configurations

The RSC24 Mobile Roller Cab from Beta Tools features a



reinforced ABS worktop available in several different color combinations and in five, seven, and eight drawer configurations. It offers removable drawers, protective rubber mats, two swivel and two fixed casters, and a front centralized safety lock. Additionally, it has a 1,763 lb. static load capacity and all drawers roll on ball-bearing slides.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/21277844



Available in various colors

The Cornwell Quality Tools ARCA Tool Storage lineup consists of a 57" 8-Drawer Double Bank Roller Cabinet and a 79" 13-Drawer Triple Bank Roller Cabinet, along with canopies and lockers. The ARCA tool storage features dual roll cage construction, Accuride drawer slides, a lock mechanism, 6" by 2" glass-reinforced casters, and a textured mid-gloss finish. The drawer slides operate well under load and reduce drawer droop when the drawer is at full extension. Latching also works well even if the box is on an uneven floor. The cabinet is available in various colors: ignition orange, lighting yellow, torch blue, vapor, smoke, storm, and shadow.

For more information visit FleetMaintenance.com/53057002



Charges batteries and tools while lid is closed

The **Harbor Freight U.S. General Series 3 72" Top Chest** features 12 drawers and a top compartment. A built-in power port charges batteries while the reinforced lid is closed. Drawers include full-width handles and full-extension ball-bearing slides that support up to 120 lbs. per pair. Additional features include nonslip drawer liners and a single-point barrel lock. Available in eight colors.



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