

Wire Strippers and Cutters

DT Workshop Equipment Reference — D&T / STEM resource for school workshops | Hand Tools



Photo: Zahi9202 — CC BY-SA 4.0 — via Wikimedia Commons (Milwaukeewirestripper.jpg)

Wire strippers remove insulation from wires without nicking the conductor, in automatic, manual and self-adjusting styles, while combination cutters trim wires flush. They are the most used hand tools on any electronics bench.

Key Features

- Automatic self-adjusting models
- Manual indexed strips for set gauges
- Combined strip, cut and crimp tools
- 10-26 AWG typical ranges
- Insulated handles

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Strip hook-up wire for soldering
- Prepare wires for crimp connectors
- Trim leads and wires flush to boards
- Remove insulation from cable ends safely

Safe Operation

1. Select the wire gauge or adjust the jaws
2. Place the wire in the correct slot
3. Squeeze and pull the insulation off cleanly
4. Check the conductor is not nicked
5. Trim the stripped length to fit the joint

SAFETY NOTES

- Never strip live wires
- Keep fingers clear of the cutting jaws
- Do not use strippers on armoured cable
- Close and store with the blade shielded
- Replace worn tools that nick conductors

Maintenance & Consumables

- Clean the jaws of insulation residue
- Check the adjustment screw holds
- Oil the pivot lightly
- Keep a spare pair at each bench
- Check the spring action works

Specification & Buying Notes

Self-adjusting automatic strippers are the easiest for students. Buy a pair per bench plus a couple of manual indexed ones for exact stripping. Add replacement blades when available.