

Allen Key (Hex Key) Fold-out and T-Handle Sets

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



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Hex keys (Allen keys) drive hex socket screws in machines, robots and jigs, in fold-out sets for pocket portability and T-handle sets for more torque and speed. Both are essentials in any workshop with machinery, bike and assembly work.

Key Features

- Metric sizes 1.5-10 mm in sets
- Imperial sets for SAE fasteners
- Fold-out pocket and T-handle types
- Ball-end designs for angled entry
- L-keys with colour coding

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Tighten and adjust hex screws
- Assemble and service machines and robots
- Work in recessed screws with ball ends
- Portable repairs with fold-out sets

Safe Operation

1. Select the size that fits snugly
2. Seat the key fully in the screw
3. Use T-handles for torque, shorten for access
4. Push in while turning to avoid cam-out
5. Do not use extensions on the short arm

SAFETY NOTES

- Fit the correct size - a loose key strips the screw
- Keep the key point away from eyes
- Do not use damaged keys
- Be careful of the ball end under load
- Store sets in their cases

Maintenance & Consumables

- Wipe keys with an oily cloth
- Check for rounded tips and replace
- Keep sets complete in their case
- Colour-code by size if liked
- Store in a tool drawer or roll

Specification & Buying Notes

Buy quality fold-out sets for pocket portability and a T-handle set for bench work. Ball-end T-handles reach awkward screws. Cheap keys round off fast.