

Socket Sets (Metric and Imperial)

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



Photo: SOCKETNTERAINMENT — CC BY-SA 4.0 — via Wikimedia Commons (Socket_main.jpg)

Socket sets turn nuts and bolts with 6- and 12-point sockets on ratchets, extensions and adaptors, with metric and imperial sizes from 4 to 32 mm. They make fastening quicker and safer than open spanners on accessible joints, fitting bolts of all types.

Key Features

- 6-point, 12-point and universal sockets
- Sizes 4-32 mm metric, up to 1 inch imperial
- 1/4, 3/8 and 1/2 inch drive sizes
- Ratchets with quick-release buttons
- Cases with organised positions

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Assemble and disassemble machines
- Fit and torque bolted joints
- Reach recessed fasteners with extensions
- Field and site repairs

Safe Operation

1. Select the correct socket size and drive
2. Click the socket onto the ratchet
3. Seat it fully on the fastener
4. Turn with the ratchet in the tightening direction
5. Use the breaker bar for stubborn bolts

SAFETY NOTES

- Never use sockets without the ratchet fully engaged
- Check for cracked or split sockets
- Do not use impact sockets with wrenches
- Keep the drive extension straight
- Store sockets clipped in place

Maintenance & Consumables

- Clean and oil the sockets and drive
- Check the ratchet mechanism
- Keep the sockets in their case
- Replace worn or cracked units
- Do a tool check after each job

Specification & Buying Notes

A 3/8 drive set 6-24 mm with extensions is the workshop standard; add a 1/2 drive set for heavy work. Quality sockets have rolled edges and clear stampings.