

Pipe Wrenches (Stillson Wrenches)

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

A pipe wrench (Stillson) grips round pipes, rods and fittings with self-tightening serrated jaws, turning and holding them for plumbing and mechanical work. The harder you pull, the tighter it grips - but it marks soft surfaces.

Key Features

- Sizes from 200 to 900 mm
- Self-tightening serrated jaws
- Hook jaw and heel jaw adjustment
- Heavy steel bodies
- Comfort grips on handles

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Turn and hold pipes and fittings
- Loosen seized pipe joints
- Grip round stock and studs
- Plumbing, gas and machine work

Safe Operation

1. Open the jaws wider than the pipe
2. Engage and tighten the adjustment nut
3. Pull the handle to lock the grip
4. Keep the jaw angle at about 15 degrees
5. Re-set the jaws as the grip tightens

SAFETY NOTES

- Never use a pipe wrench on nuts and bolts
- Do not use it as a hammer or lever extension
- Check the jaws grip before pulling
- Keep fingers clear of the jaw joint
- Store with the jaws open slightly

Maintenance & Consumables

- Clean the serrations with a wire brush
- Oil the adjustment thread
- Check the spring and hinge
- Store hanging on a peg
- Replace worn jaws

Specification & Buying Notes

A 350 mm and a 600 mm pipe wrench cover most work. Quality steel jaws bite hardened only when set right; cheap wrenches slip on round pipe.