

Diagonal Cutting Pliers

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

Diagonal cutters (side cutters) cut wire, pins and small components with flush or beveled cutting edges at the jaw tips, essential for electronics, wiring and model work. The best cuts land flush and clean without crushing the wire.

Key Features

- Cutting edges at the jaw tips
- Bevel or flush cut styles
- Insulated handles
- Stripping notch on some models
- Sizes 110-180 mm

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Cut component leads and wire
- Trim tie and cable ends
- Cut small pins and fasteners
- Reach wiring in tight spaces

Safe Operation

1. Place the wire deep in the jaws
2. Squeeze sharply for a clean cut
3. Trim leads close to the board
4. Angle the cutters with the work
5. Keep the cut ends under control

SAFETY NOTES

- Never cut live wires
- Point the cut piece away from eyes
- Keep fingers clear of the cutting edge
- Do not cut hardened steel with wire cutters
- Store with handles closed

Maintenance & Consumables

- Clean the joint and blades
- Lightly oil the pivot
- Check the cutting edges
- Replace dull cutters
- Keep in the tool roll or drawer

Specification & Buying Notes

A quality pair with flush-cut edges and a comfortable grip covers electronics work. ESD-safe handles exist for sensitive assemblies. Cheap cutters crush rather than cut.