

Slip-Joint Pliers

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



Photo: Internet Archive Book Images — No restrictions — via Wikimedia Commons
(Canadian_forest_industries_January-June_1913_(1913)_(20340155160).jpg)

Slip-joint pliers have a pivot that slides between two positions, giving a wide or narrow jaw opening for gripping flats, round stock and fasteners. They are the general-purpose gripping pliers that every toolbox and bench holds.

Key Features

- Two-position slip joints
- Serrated flat jaws
- Cutters on many models
- Insulated handles
- Sizes 150-250 mm

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Grip nuts, bolts and pipe
- Hold flat and round materials
- General workshop gripping
- Bend and hold wire

Safe Operation

1. Slide the joint to the jaw position needed
2. Grip the work securely
3. Turn or hold as required
4. Cut wire at the joint cutter
5. Release and re-grip as needed

SAFETY NOTES

- Do not use on live electrics unless insulated
- Keep fingers clear of the jaw gap
- Do not use as a hammer or pry bar
- Check the joint holds position
- Store with handles together

Maintenance & Consumables

- Clean the joint and slide
- Oil the pivot lightly
- Check the jaw serrations
- Replace worn pliers
- Keep in the tool drawer

Specification & Buying Notes

A good pair of slip-joint pliers with a positive stop suits general use. Quality steel and a firm joint matter. Keep a pair at every bench.