

Siegen 12pc Soft Grip Screwdriver Set

Price: £17.95 Rating: ★★★★★

Screwdriver type: 5 SL, 3 PH, 4 TRX Contact: sealey.co.uk

BEST BUY BRIGHTLY colour-coded in red, blue and orange, these tools make sure you never pick the wrong one, and there is a good selection of types across slotted, Phillips and Torx. We like the spread of sizes, from 200mm slotted to a couple of useful stubbies, and found the handles comfortable, with grippy, nobby sides and similar sections at the base so that the forefinger and thumb don't slip. At £1.50 each, the price is reasonable and our only niggle is the lack of a case.



Silverline General Purpose Screwdriver Set 12pce

Price: £11.75 Rating: ★★★★★

Screwdriver type: 6 SL, 3 PH, 3 PZ Contact: silverlinetools.com

RECOMMENDED TYPICALLY, Silverline leads on price, with the cost per 'driver of just 98p. Yet this is a comprehensive set, which includes slotted, Phillips and Pozidriv sizes. We like the rubberised handles, which are grippy and comfortable to use, while featuring coloured sections within the blue to identify them. Handle holes and magnetic blades are also plus points, and the indents at the base of the handles prevent oily fingers slipping. It would have been good to include more than one stubby and, as with the Siegen (left), there is no case.

SCREWDRIVER SETS

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AS with many tools, buying a set is often the best way to go, and screwdrivers are no exception. It's certainly a cost-efficient option, whether you're building your collection from scratch or replacing those you've damaged or simply worn out.

For motoring applications, slotted, Phillips, hex and Torx (star) are probably the most useful types, with Pozidriv being more common in the home. Some sets include a selection of 'driver bits and hex keys as well as the screwdrivers to cover a wider range of fasteners. But which are the head turners? We got to grips with eight sets to find out.

Halfords Advanced 8 piece Screwdriver Set

Price: £12.50 Rating: ★★★★★

Screwdriver type: 4 SL, 4 PZ Contact: halfords.com

THIS Halfords set is very well made and the colour coding is particularly effective, with red or yellow tops and a series of coloured dots down the handles. Handles are soft but grippy, with the sizes clearly marked and with smooth and shiny plastic tops, which make applying pressure easier on the palm. The tapering handle design does mean that the grip is compromised in high-torque situations, especially with greasy fingers. We'd have preferred Phillips over Pozidriv, but we like the inclusion of twin stubbies.



Silverline Soft-Grip Screwdriver Set 18pce

Price: £13.46 Rating: ★★★★★

Screwdriver type: 4 SL, 4 PZ, 10 precision Contact: silverlinetools.com

AGAIN, Silverline is among the least expensive on test, although these 'drivers do feel a bit low rent, with plenty of plastic flashing on the handles. Although the sizes are marked on one side, there is no colour coding. The plastic rack keeps everything together and can be set on the bench or wall-mounted. The precision drivers – two slotted, two Phillips and six Torx – could be useful, particularly for smaller electrical items, and the main 'drivers include a couple of stubbies, but with Pozidriv rather than Phillips for crossheads.

