

COMMENDED

Clarke Pro 12-Piece Full Polish Combination Wrench Set PRO20

Price: £43.19

Contact: machinemart.co.uk

MANUFACTURERS tend to stick with a successful combination for spanner sets, and that's the case here. This Clarke offering was a podium finisher in our last test some eight years ago.

The price had gone up when we tested last year and it has increased since, but the set is well worth considering. The shafts are more comfortable than most rivals' and the tools have a reassuring weight. The set's ideal for smaller fasteners, because it starts at 6mm.



Silverline Combination Spanner Set 12-Piece SPI236

Price: £12.50

Contact: silverline.com

IT may not have the professional finish of some rivals here, but for those on a tight budget, this Silverline set will get the job done. There are compromises, such as the sizes being on only one side of the shaft, but they are visible in the snap-shut holder.

The finish is coarser than more expensive alternatives here, but the tools breezed through our tests without any problems, which not all sets can claim. Our budget choice.



Sealey Premier 16-piece Cold Stamped Combination Spanner Set AK63255

Price: £27.31

Contact: sealey.co.uk

ANOTHER set that has fared well in our previous tests, and it completes our top four. Like our champion, the Sealey set comes in an EVA foam tray designed to go in a tool chest drawer. But it lacks the Halfords' markings and you can't see the tool sizes when stored.

On the plus side, it has a bigger range of tools than others here, with it spanning 6mm to 19mm, plus 21mm and 22mm tools. All of this is at a great price for 16 spanners.



SPANNERS

You'd be nuts not to give these spanner sets a go when it comes to DIY car mechanics

WINNER

Halfords Advanced 12-Piece Combination Spanner Set 8-19mm

Price: £35

Contact: halfords.com

THIS set has an upmarket feel that is helped by the well thought-out foam holder, which is designed to go in a tool-chest drawer. Not only does it have marked slots for the tools, but there is also plenty of finger room around the open end for easy removal.

The spanners feel good to use, with more comfortable edges than some rivals and a decent finish. Our abuse tests caused them no trouble and the set offers the best balance of price and quality.



AE YOU don't tackle much when working on a car before you'll need a spanner and, while your home DIY kit may feature screwdrivers and pliers, you will need to invest in a set of spanners if you plan on much more than topping up levels.

Thanks to Draper and its quality control department, we were able to return to testing hand tools. We used Draper's specialist tools to check the 10, 13 and 17mm spanners for size.

Using DIN899 as a guide, we applied the specified torque requirement plus 20 per cent to represent misuse to the last two sizes. Size was checked again after the test, plus we looked for any distortion on the spanners.

Comfort and length were evaluated, while we looked for clear markings on each tool and any cases supplied. We also wanted to see our essential 10, 12, 13, 17 and 19mm sizes included in any sets. As always, we took into account price from online sources.

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