

CARVER TOOL

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Friday, 23 September 2005
Last Updated Thursday, 04 October 2007

One of the coolest things we saw at ASR this year is only two and a half inches long. It's a new mini-tool by Carver Skateboards, designed with everything you'd need for on-ride tuning of a Carver Board…and most other skateboards, too. The "Pipewrench" is stoutly constructed of investment-cast stainless steel, it offers 3/8", 1/2" and 9/16" sockets, plus a 1/8" Allen-key and a Philips screwdriver.

This little tool is well thought-out and very handy. It's designed so that it will set on your truck-mounting hardware (the 3/8" socket) and clear the deck of your board even if you're not running any risers at all. They've used channel-relief in the socket ends, so the tool will fit on nuts that have been abused by a loose crescent wrench. They've offset the larger sockets so that the Allen-key/Philips screwdriver will nest nearly flush with the end of the tool when stored, and they've inserted a teeny magnet to reduce the possibility the Allen/Philips piece stays in place.

Upon first seeing the Pipewrench, our reviewers all commented on the look and feel of brushed finish on the stainless steel and the crisply inset "Carver" logo on the side of the tool. One immediately grasped it as though to assemble a board (he assembles completes from his own line) and pronounced it "too small for serious work". After using the Pipewrench on several decks over the last few days, we agree: this is a "pocket tool", not one for your workbench. It's too small to develop much force or leverage and the Allen/Philips widget is teeny. However, for tuning your deck during a session, the Pipewrench is just about perfect and is several steps above other mini-tools in terms of quality of construction.

There are some wheels with too much depth to the bearings for the little Pipewrench to reach a wheel nut. For example, if you're riding Flashbacks or untrimmed 3DM wheels, you'll need another tool to get the wheel nuts off. The Pipewrench will fit Grippins, Krypto Classics, Gumballs, all the Pink wheels and more…just not the really deep-dished stuff.

Carver's Pipewrench has an MSRP of \$9.99 and is already in some Carver retailers' shops. There's also a sixth use for this tool, you can fill it up with soapy water and blow bubbles to amuse your bro who just got a concussion. If you have questions about the mini-tool or any other Carver product, you can contact them directly at CarverSkateboards.com