

SPANNER & WRENCH COLLECTOR



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BSA Spanners Part 2 - Adjustable and Motorbike Spanners by Dave Akhurst and G Radion

Adjustable Spanners from Dave Akhurst:

There were at least 2 adjustable BSA marked spanners in the range #1 and #3 these had "type 1" handles (refer to previous issue (#46) of the S&WC for Type 1 description).

The #1 has the patent number 25592/07 stamped on the upper jaw and the stacked rifles logo on the lower. My assumption is there was also a #2 adjustable spanner but I am yet to find proof.

"The 25592/07 patent dates to 19 Nov. 1907 and is for a quick adjusting spanner."

Examples are highly prized by collectors and more than 100 years later are found in good condition apart from some surface rust. The reason for the good condition is that when engaged deep in the bowels of a motorbike, they could not be easily disengaged from the work. This was due to the adjusting method, where the machined thumb seat on the nose of the lower jaw had to be pushed against the spring to release it from the securing ratchet at the back.

Much more common was the Lorvis self-adjust with a pressed steel handle. It was patented by Lorvis Ltd in 1948. The patent number on the handle 32-48 is in fact Application number 32 of 1948.

The number that should have been impressed is 646942. it is not known whether Lorvis or BSA manufactured this tool"(Ref 1)

Editors note: Notwithstanding the last para. above, these wrenches are clearly stamped "Made by BSA"

Another adjustable spanner associated with BSA is the "FIRMA"

The Firma was featured in BSA motorbike parts lists in the 1920's as part number EB262, see image of the list for BSA V Twin 770 Model Years 1925,26,27 on following page.

It may have been supplied with other years / models, but this is the only reference I have.

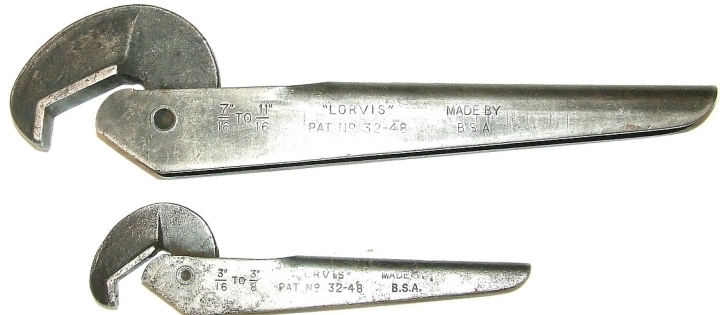
The Firma is marked "FIRMA Pat No 16676 BRITISH MAKE" on the top jaw.

It is not known who made them for the inventors Bowen & Skinner (2)

References: 1, 2 - The Adjustable Spanner by Ron Geesin.



BSA No 1 Adjustable Spanner



Lorvis spanners clearly marked Made by BSA



BSA Spanners Part 2 - Adjustable and Motorbike Spanners by Dave

Akhurst and G Radion(m)

Parts catalogue showing the Firma Adjustable and also the large block spanner featured in a picture with the smaller one below.

BSA Block Spanners

The **ubiquitous 4-Way Spanners** - no article on BSA spanners would be complete without mention of the ubiquitous 4-way spanner.

There were 2 sizes available:

Large: 5/16" & 3/8" x 7/16" & 1/2" (WW), the length of this spanner is just under 6"

This spanner is hard to find - nearly as hard to find as the BSA adjustable spanner.

Small: 5/16" & 1/4" x 3/16" & 1/16" (WW) - this spanner is available from a myriad of makers, commonly known as a bicycle block spanner.

I have identified two BSA versions of this smaller spanner as shown in the photos at bottom, both of these are about 4" long.

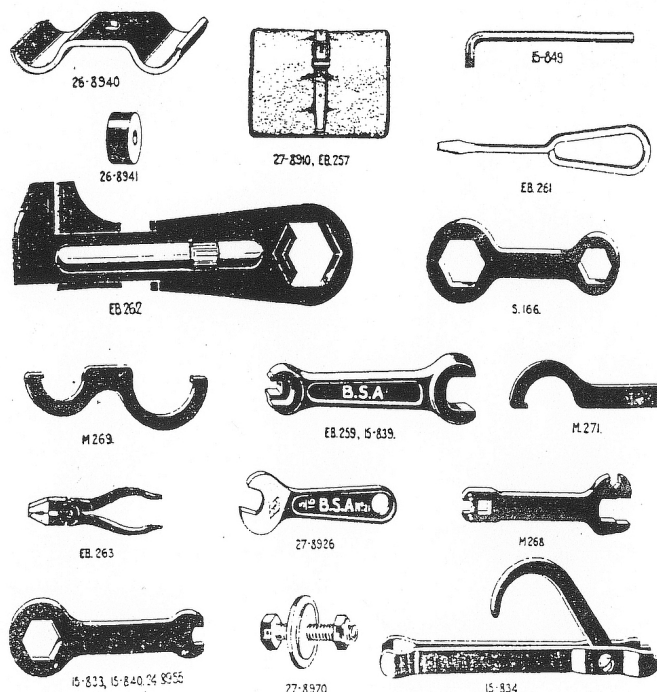
In the 1920's these were sold in a "strong leather case" as "The BSA Companion Set". The smaller combination spanner was included in many post-war BSA Motorcycle Toolkits which probably accounts for the numbers produced and their subsequent availability on E-Bay.

Mostly these are version 1 of the small spanner. I've not been able to identify which version was produced first.

I hope this article has been of interest. If anyone has anything to add I would be happy to hear from you.

Dave Akhurst – Contact: davidak23@btinternet.com or contact the Editor.

TOOLS AND SUNDRIES.



BSA V Twin 770 Model Years 1925,26,27



Above - comparison of the common BSA block spanner top (4"), with the very uncommon larger block spanner at bottom (6")



The two versions of the small BSA block spanner, showing front and back. Type 1 top, type 2 bottom

Self-adjusting (gear) type adjustable spanners/ wrenches by John Hawking (m)

James Cochran, on his patents, gave his address as Jackson, Tennessee in 1897 and Paducah, Kentucky in 1907. Sometime between 1907-1910 James founded the Cochran Pipe Wrench Manufacturing Company, possibly with William Sheffler.

In 1911 the General Office was at 78 Street and Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago. Two years after commencing, the company built a new factory at this site and commenced manufacturing wrenches.

By 1920 the company was known as the Cochran Manufacturing & Forging Company and in 1921 was sold to the Great Lakes Forge Company. (1,2) Makers of pipe - and a self-adjusting type spanners/ wrenches.

Maker of the Cochran SPEEDNUT self-adjusting (gear) wrench, which was made under Design Patent No. US48996, issued 2 May 1916 to Walter W. Taylor. However, the Patent Pending, marked on the wrenches refers to Patent US1181654, filed in 1912 and issued on 2 May 1916 to J. Eifel for a pliers-wrench that uses a similar adjusting mechanism. (3,4) The wrench was made in 6- and 8-inch sizes, however, the overall length is longer, as the 8in size measures 9in.

The early production 8in wrench has forged on the handle '8" COCHRAN "SPEEDNUT" WRENCH' (L) and 'PAT. PENDING' (R). Whereas the later production 8in wrench has forged on the handle 'TRADE MARK 8" COCHRAN "SPEEDNUT" WRENCH REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.' (L) and 'PAT. MAY. 2-1916. MADE. IN. CHICAGO. ILL. U.S.A.'.



Cochran's SPEEDNUT wrench (9in).

Alfred Harry Faram, 17 Drayton Green Road, West Earling, London applied for Patent No. 217097, on 21 August 1923, and issued 12 June 1924. (5) The patent was for improvements in or relating to adjustable spanners, where he modified the adjustment teeth of the swivel head. The spanner is a modification of Cochran's 'SPEEDNUT' patented in 1916.

Armstrong Steven & Son (Ltd) made of a version of the UNIVERSAL self-adjusting spanner, with a flared, fluted handle, which was based on Faram's Patent No.

GB217097, 1923. It was made in three sizes: No. 1, 5in; No. 2; 7 1/4 in and No. 3, 11 1/2 in and has the company figurative mark 'AS&SW' framed in a diamond forged on the handle. (5)



Armstrong Stevens & Son's UNIVERSAL, No. 2 (7 1/4in).

In contrast, many examples of the Universal found in Australia have 'UNIVERSAL' and 'BRITISH MADE PAT No 217097 or PROV. PAT No. 217097 impressed and have a non-fluted handle. These lack a maker's mark and the manufacturer remains a mystery.



Image of the impression on the handle (R).



UNIVERSAL No. 2 self-adjusting (gear) spanner (L) (6 1/2 in).

Self-adjusting (gear) type adjustable spanners / wrenches by John Hawking (m) [Contd]

Other makers also utilize the adjustment mechanism of the Universal, with slight modifications to the mortise contour and with considerable variations in the style of the handle. Several unknown makers and brands like RAPID, TWEENGRIP, FASTGRIP and E. & Co. are known and are presented.

Rapid. All have RAPID, impressed and a hanging hole. An example has the RAPID brand, accompanied by A. Patent. Two handle designs are known.

Design 1 has the handle flared outwards, and tapering to a pointed end.



Above - RAPID self-adjusting (gear) spanner, Design 1 (7 7/8 in).



Above - RAPID No.8 self-adjusting (gear) spanner Design 2 (8 3/8 in).

Design 2 has the handle tapering inwards to a bulbous end.

TWEENGRIP. The spanner has 'TWEENGRIP' impressed on the handle. It comes in a range of sizes and some examples have D.R.G.M. D.R.G.M. indicates German in origin.



Above - TWEENGRIP self-adjusting (gear) spanner (10 1/4 in).



Above - E. & Co.'s self-adjusting (gear) spanner (9 5/8 in).

E & Co. The spanner has a fluted handle and the figured example has 'E & Co. 1' impressed faintly on the handle.

MEM FASTGRIP - Metal Equipment Manufacturers Pty Ltd, makers of Fastgrip spanner, tinsnips, multigrips, hammers, shears - bench planes marked - "Pacific MEM"



Left - MEM Fastgrip - MEM is Metal Equipment Manufacturers, an Australian Company.

References

- 1 Another side of Cochran Family History. Retrieved from. <https://www.jalopyjournal.com>, accessed 18 Sep 2020.
- 2 Cochran Manufacturing & Forging Co. 1920. P 1126. Retrieved from <https://archive.org>, accessed 18 Sep 2020.
- 3 Patent No. USD48996. Retrieved from <https://www.datamp.org>, accessed 10 Sep 2020.
- 4 Cochran Pipe Wrench Manufacturing Company. Retrieved from <http://alloy-artifacts.org>, accessed 21 Sep 2020.
- 5 Geesin, R. 2016. The Adjustable Spanner. History, origins and development to 1970. The Crowood Press: Ramsbury, England. Pp 208.

Note: Text and images by John Hawking

Any information on the Rapid, Tweengrip and E & Co. would be welcome. John Hawking.

Another example is the English "Brownlow Patent" which although not strictly of a geared design, looks ostensibly very similar and can be dealt with at a later date - Ed.

New Finds:

Edelsten & Son *G Radion (m) with notes from J Hawking (m)*

A recent trip to a new Antique Mall in SE Melbourne called "2.0 Vintage Market" which occupies the former site of Caribbean Gardens entertainment and Sunday Market centre. Caribbean Gardens closed down about 2 years ago and had sat idle until November 2021.

They promoted a Swap meet to be held on Jan 3rd 2022, which was the designated public Holiday for New Years day. Something went wrong and the date was changed to January 26 at the last minute, with very little notice to sellers and buyers.

Along with the swap meet that did not happen on Jan 3rd, they promoted their "2.0 Vintage Market" which supposedly began in November 2021.

I went for a look on Jan 3rd to see what the place was about - the vintage market is a large hall, with individual sellers renting a small area to display and sell their junk and other wares. Think of "Mill Markets" and you will get a good idea of this place.

My trip to have a look around was not entirely in vain.

The hall / stalls area was only partially populated with seller stalls, but there were some interesting items on offer along with lots of stuff of little interest to me, but no-doubt of interest to others, else why would one pay good money to rent a small space and fill it with stuff from their sheds, spare rooms, storage facilities? As they say "one man's trash is another man's treasure."

I noticed a large Clyburn spanner with a maker name I didn't recognise, so I took a picture and sent to John Hawking for info.

John eventually provided the following info, mostly from Graces Guide:

Edelsten & Son, England

The Edelsten family businesses started with the Samuel Edelsten & Company, Warrington, which were pin makers in 1816. By 1928 John Edelsten & Company were pin makers at King Street, Warrington and in 1876 John Edelsten & Son, Mersey Works, St James Street, Latchford were pin, file and tool makers.

The Edelsten & Son company appears to come under the banner of the family companies and also known under the name E & S Edelsten, which is found stamped on tools. Edelsten & Son combined with Thewlis & Griffith, Warrington to form Thewlis, Griffith & Edelsten Ltd, in 1907 and later in 1920 became part of Sheffield Steel Products, however financial troubles continued and the company went into voluntary liquidation in 1921. Makers or factors of files to clock makers tool and a factor of spanners.

Known is a straight handle transverse rack and worm Clyburn type, which has the inverted 'T' mortise contour, has numbers on the jaws and has 'EDELSTEN & SON' impressed on the handle. The mortise contour style and the numbers on the jaws suggest J. Carter Sons and Company, Manchester, near Warrington, as a possible maker.



Edelsten's Clyburn type, straight handle (16in).



Edelsten Mortise detail

New Finds: *G Radion [Contd]*

E Womersley

A large double ended "S" shaped spanner, 24 inches long with Jaws 7/8 x 1-1/8 (WW) marked E. WOMERSLEY. I found E Womersley listed in the Australian Manufacturers Directory of 1916, as a coach builder in Lubek, Vic.



R McSwain or R M Swain - Orphan

A 22.5 inch S shaped spanner marked R McSwain or possible R M Swain.

No luck in finding information on this maker.



Feedback: From Bruce Hewitson (m)

Bruce found some info regarding Pass & Co, Denton - a spanner pictured in issue 45 (Aug 2021, P3)

"With regards the **E.Pass & Co.** ring spanner in issue 45, some time ago there was a similar spanner for sale on Pic Click UK, and I had never seen or heard of the name so tried to look up the company details, but could only find a couple of references in Graces Guide. Bruce writes:

E Pass & Co Drilling machine



E Pass & Co adv 1954

A new Adjustable wrench from Bruce Hewitson

"New/old purchase on E-bay September last year, 9" Long. The only markings on it – COMBO PAT 4-22-19. I searched through DATAMP and could not find a listing for it at all so then went to US Patent full Text Database and went through the patents for 4-22-19 some 780 patents for that day, took several nights to open up each of the patents in turn. Finally found it US Patent No. 1,301,674 issued to Robert B Ferguson of Los Angeles, CA.



Ferguson quick adjust US Pat no 1,246,000

I then sent the information on the patent and Photos through to DATAMP. Last week I received a thank you letter from Stan Schulz for sending the pictures and patent details through to DATAMP, Stan included a copy of an earlier patent issued to **Robert B Ferguson** on Nov 06, 1917 USPN 1,246,000, he also said that he had never seen one before and had no idea it existed".

From **Steve Sullivan (m) & Secretary SAHTA** sent to Editor and member Bruce Hewitson.

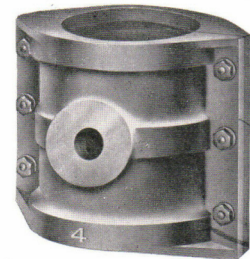
I was sorting and cleaning some spanners earlier this year and put aside two open ended Hinsdale brand spanners with **unusual fractional sizes** (see photos).

I found this reference to Hinsdale: <http://alloy-artifacts.org/hinsdale-hindsight.html>, but am seeking more information as to what was the intended purpose for these uncommon sizes?

Note I purchased another Hinsdale this morning with 45/64" size on one end. I would appreciate your thoughts. Regards, Steve

E. PASS & CO.,
Split Collars and Socket Clips
FOR

Repairing
Cracked or
Broken Mains,
and Connecting
Large Service
Pipes to Small
Mains.



SPLIT COLLARS

Repairing
Cracked or
Broken Sockets,
and Strengthening
Drawn Spigots.



SOCKET CLIPS.

STATION WORKS
— DENTON, Lancs. —

E Pass & Co Postcard 1924



From Bruce Hewertson:

I have some similar Hinsdale wrenches with the

uncommon $\frac{7}{64}$ " markings, which are marked on the plain earlier HD Industrial type wrenches.

I believe that their appearance is related with the general confusion that surrounded wrench sizes/standards around the 20's & 30's, including the influence of English whitworth and European metric wrenches of the day.

Hinsdale's possible answer to this dilemma was to introduce a series of industrial wrenches that were all marked in the $\frac{7}{64}$ " range which would cover all patterns/standards of wrench sizes in use, Thus minimising the range of tools marked for the different standards around the world.

There was an advert that I uncovered in a 1948 Hardware age magazine that stated " Hinsdale wrenches are made in every size for every purpose"

I can find no other reference to verify or disprove my thoughts on this conundrum, and would be very interested to hear what George knows of this issue.

Reply From Editor

Not only Hinsdale spanners have those strange markings, I have seen others.

There is a clue to the answer on the AlloyArtefacts website:

The practice in the early 1900's was in some cases to mark the "oversized allowance size" compared to the "Service size" (or nominal size) This is because all spanners have an size allowance slightly larger than the nut so they can fit over the nut.

Eg, according to the standard: ASME/ANSI B18.2.2 1987 (R 1999) for a 1inch nut which was precisely 1.0000" across flats, the spanner jaws need a 0.006" (6thou) allowance - this would have been similar in the early days or else engineering would not have worked. The measurements marked with "oversized allowance sizes" were later dropped.

This is how I understand it, Ed.

Welcome to Edition 47, Issued in conjunction with the "Tool Chest" number 143.

An electronic index of spanners covered so far is available from the Editor

If you have an email address, and would like a colour copy of this newsletter in .pdf format, contact the editor.

Contents:

P1-2 **BSA Spanners Part 2 - Adjustable and Motorbike Spanners** by Dave Akhurst and G Radion (m)

P3-4 **Self-adjusting (gear) type adjustable spanners / wrenches** by John Hawking (m)

P5-6 New Finds - Edelsten's Clyburn, Womerseley "S", McSwain "S" spanners G Radion (m)

P7 Feedback - **E Pass & Co,** A new wrench - 1919 **Ferguson Pat Quick Adjuster** Bruce Hewitson (m)

P7 - 8 Strange Fractional sizes on Hinsdale spanners - S Sullivan (m)

*Feedback from those who find this newsletter useful would be appreciated. **Continued contributions are required to keep it interesting.** Thanks to those who have sent content, your stuff will all be used eventually.*

This Issue Edited by George Radion.

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Aims of the Spanner & Wrench SIG:

Promote the conservation, identification and collection of spanners & wrenches and to share information with the group to that end.