

SPANNER & WRENCH COLLECTOR

HAND TOOL PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION OF
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Spanner Special Interest Group Newsletter

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No 48 May 2022



Self Adjusting (Gear Type) Adjustable Spanners / Wrenches

This topic was featured in the previous Spanner & Wrench Collector, No 47 Feb 2022)

Further examples have been supplied by Bruce Hewitson (m).

1 – Cardot, French self adjustable type, with the French patent granted 1927-12-09.

Eugene Cardot's "PERFECT" 28" has an S shaped handle and the head is geared as can be seen in the bottom left picture.

There have been several others with this design, for example Hans Dorn Patented Swivel Head Wrench (Pat no 301,945) shown in S&WC no 8 of May 2012 - (ie 10 years ago to the month). Patent Drawing shown next page.



Cardot's Patented Geared Head self adjusting wrench

2. Webb & Hildreth Pipe wrench – similar Rack & Pinion, but with a return spring. US Patent No. 874,269, Dec 17, 1907.

This is a most intriguing style of swivel headed wrench. The gearing engages a rack and pinion to open and close the jaws when the head is swung around.

A patent drawing is shown overpage to help explain the mechanism.

The rack engaging the pinion on the dynamic jaw is shown in action in the picture bottom left.

The handle boasts two patents: Feb 6 (19)06 and Dec 17 (19)07.



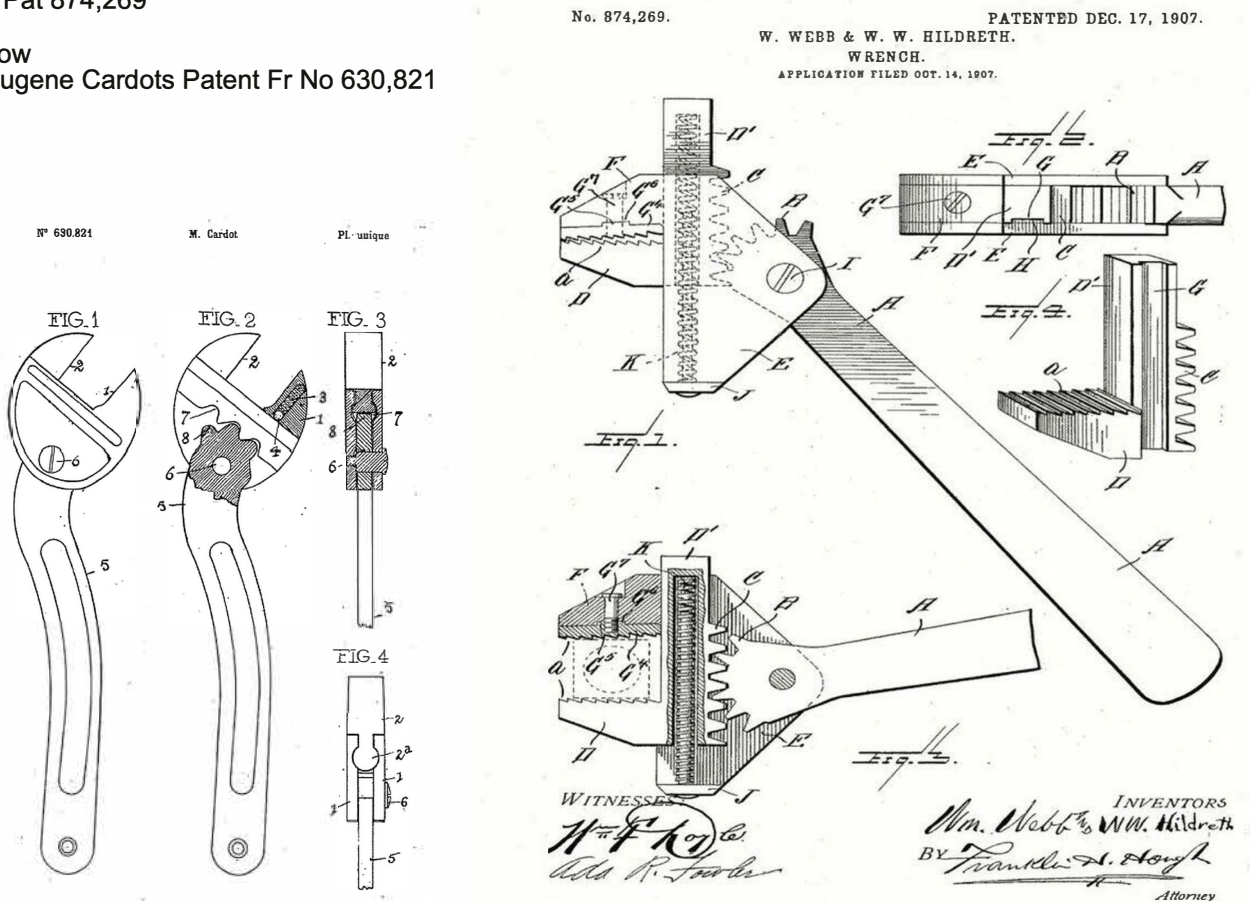
Webb & Hildreth Pipe wrench

Webb & Hildreth Pipe wrench [Contd] by Bruce Hewitson (m)

Webb & Hildreth's Wrench patent at right
US Pat 874,269

Below

- Eugene Cardots Patent Fr No 630,821



Another item from Bruce Hewitson

Following up on The **E Pass & Co of Denton** write-ups in issues No 45 & No 47.

They made large drilling machinery and no doubt lots of other items.

Bruce has supplied a picture of their chain Pipe wrench, quite a heavy and solid item with a long chain for manipulating larger diameter pipes.

Shown below left is an enlargement of the alloy name plate riveted to the handle which reads:

E PASS & COMPANY LTD
DENTON LANCs



New Finds:
Shell - FG NAPPER by G Radion (m)

The Bung wrench at right was obtained from a South Aust member.

It is marked SHELL FG NAPPER. It has a semi-circular protrusion below the round end for 44 gallon drum bungs. It is the third petroleum marked agent wrench and the second of this configuration I have seen, the other being the complicated design marked "Harris of Parkes", which is a rather fancy multi function wrench.



See immediately below.

It is marked "HARRIS WRENCH Pat Appd For 529/38/". In the centre of that are words to this effect "WOODS & ROOKE NSW DISTRIBUTORS PEAK HILL".

The only information I could find was in Trove, the entry in Dun's Gazette for October 11, 1937 reads:

"WOODS & ROOKE (Walter J. Woods and Ernest J. Rooke), Caswell-st., Peak Hill, stock and station agents. On 23/8/37 Ernest J. Rooke retired. Reg. 22/9/37."

Ref: Trove: Dun's gazette for New South Wales.Vol. 58 No. 15 (October 11, 1937)



This is a massive sized Petroleum related wrench. It measures 20.5" (520mm) long and 6" (150mm) at the widest point,

There is a sliding sleeve on the end to the right - in the up position it reveals a slot / cleft and in the down position it has a socket of approx. 1" square. There is also a fixed socket mounted on the centerline of approx 3/4" AF. The box end is a tight 3" hexagonal and a further slot on the end with two different sized open jaws on the top and bottom of the box end.

It would appear that this is a universal drum bung wrench, designed to arm the user with every conceivable size wrench one could encounter when dealing with drums.

The proprietors were stock agents and no doubt stocked fuel in drums as well as stock supplies.



Most farms would have collected fuel in 44 gallon drums from the fuel agents and dispensed it on farm with hand pumps to meet the needs of their various petroleum fuelled plant and vehicles.

If anyone can supply any more info on these fuel wrenches, please contact the author.

New Finds

From Sean McConnell (m) in NZ

Sean send through some pics of an unusual wrench he wanted some information about. It has a swiveling box / tube on one end of a handle and a counterweight on the other end. The pictures will explain it better.

Now Smithco was a new name to me so I set about researching it. I will describe the process / references I used to finally track it down, as it may be helpful to some of our readers.

The Spanner being in new Zealand, I first checked "The History of Farm Implements in NZ: by Evans. - Nothing.

So I looked through the American farm wrench bible - Rathbone vols 1-4 - no mention.

Next I looked in the 5 volume set of mostly advertising by Ken Arnold - a massive resource of farm info - still no answer.

Next a look in the Phillips & Simpson book - "Old Farm Machinery in Australia" - bingo - there is a "Smithco Friction Lift Co" mentioned.

Next to the NLA Trove online search - and I found some references in 1929 to 1934 of the said Smithco Friction Lift. see advertising extract from Trove at right

Daily Commercial News and Shipping List (Sydney, NSW : 1891 - 1954)

- Wed 21 Dec 1927, Page 5
- REGISTERED COMPANIES.
- Smithco Friction Lift Pty., Ltd.—

Capital: . £2000. Directors; B. , A. Smith, D. Harvey and C. F. Tozer. (Melbourne, 15/12/27).

The Actual advertisement found was dated 20 September 1929, and the address was: 501 Lt Collins St, Melbourne. Works at Sherwood St. Box Hill. [Note that one of the Directors was D Harvey presumably of Daniel Harvey Implement works in Box Hill]

In my many years of collecting farm wrenches, I have not come across this company or any of their items. The short timeframe of their existence (probably shortened by the Great Depression) would make their items rather scarce.

The blurb in the adv reads like this:

"No ropes or levers required. Invaluable in uneven country"

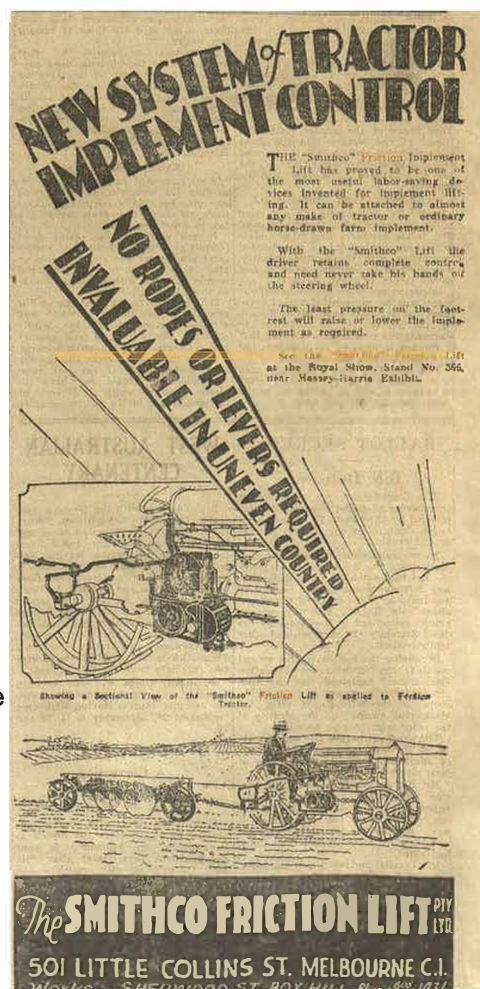
"The Smithco Friction Implement Lift has proved to be one of the most useful labour-saving devices invented for implement lifting. It can be attached to almost any make of tractor or ordinary horse-drawn implement.

With the Smithco Lift the driver retains complete control and need never take his hands off the steering wheel.

The least pressure in the foot-rest will raise or lower the implement as required.

See the Smithco Friction Lift at the Royal show stand no 366 near Massey-Harris Exhibit."

The advertisement shows the Smithco Friction Lift fitted to what looks like a Fordson model F tractor ploughing with steel wheels.



New Finds [Contd]

Metz Bicycle Wrench by G Radion (m)

This little wrench with the superfluous protrusion at the back of the head was granted a Design Patent no 29,520, dated October 18, 1898.

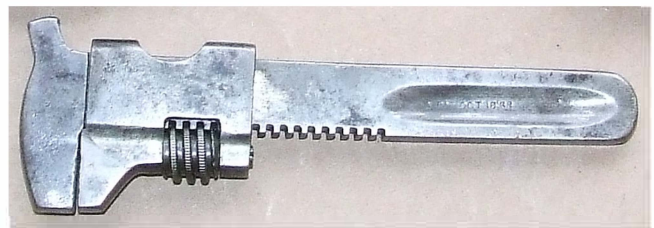
"The leading feature of my new design for wrench-frames consists in the design as here in shown and described.

As shown in the drawings, the lines of the front and lower portion of the head 5 incline outward and downward at angles from the face 7 to form the rectangular extensions 6.

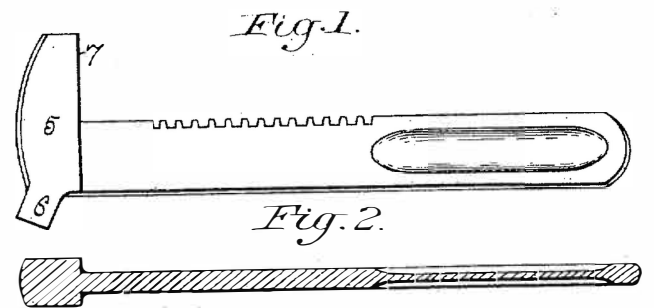
What I claim is The design for a wrench-frame as herein shown and described.
CHARLES H. METZ."

This looks to be one of the many designs invented to provide some sort of novelty in order to get a design patented just for the sake of it.

It is really too small to serve as a hammer, but being offset at an angle, makes it ever so slightly different from normal hammer wrenches - ie a vanity patent.



Pictured is a small wrench with only the patent number and date



Extract from the Metz Design Patent no 29,520, dated October 18, 1898.

Ryco Lock Grips G Radion (m)

"In 1936, Bill Ryan set up his own company W L Ryan Pty. Ltd to begin importing filters.

As a direct consequence of the Americans entering World War II in the Pacific Basin, it became impractical to continue importing and the decision was made to manufacture filters in Australia to meet major wartime requirements." ref Ryco Filters website.

Ryco Filters are still in production today, bigger than ever according to their website.

Somewhere along the way Ryco made a limited range of tools branded Ryco. It is not known to this author if they were made in house or just rebranded.

W L Ryan had a store in Elizabeth St Melbourne at the top end. They had all sorts of tools and car replacement parts for sale. I can remember visiting years ago when the overhead "flying fox" change dispenser was in operation.

These images show two versions of Ryco multigrips. They are hard to find and are prized by collectors of Australian made tools.

Pictured at right and below - views of the two versions of Ryco lock grips in my collection.



"Yank" Footprints [revisited], by G Radion , (m)

In SWC Issue No 7, Feb 2012, Warren Hewertson did an extensive analysis of Footprint pipe grips and some lookalikes by Bleckmann, Blosta and RYTOS. Brief mention was made of the "YANK" a different Footprint pipe / nut wrench.

Warren described it thus: *"The "Yank". This may be described as an inverted wrench. The long lower arm is the u-shaped lever. The short multi-socketed arm is the captive forged lever"*.

Warren was describing the larger of the two pictured at right. Now another smaller version has turned up.

The inscription on the wrenches reads "ADJUSTMENT Rd 55701" on the dynamic handle and: "THE YANK" on the fixed handle.

This means that the adjustment mechanism exhibits enough novelty to warrant a Registered Design. The only novelty I can see in the adjustment mechanism is that of the staggered holes for the removable pin to enable greater jaw widths.

Note that the jaws, although serrated, are sufficiently parallel when adjusted correctly to serve as a nut wrench also. And the overall design of the wrench is quite novel.



A note from Graeme Plaw (m)

"George, A Philatelic friend of mine was clearing out his late brother's shed.

He showed me two items that previously belonged to his father.

An adjustable wrench and a micrometer.

These were left behind in Papua New Guinea in 1945 when the Japanese fled an area up North in PNG.

His father picked them up and bought them home after the war".

Graeme thought the Footprint type nut wrench might be home made by the Japanese forces. After a request to clean the wrench and send more pictures, it was seen to be numbered like a similar Footprint marketed wrench made in England.

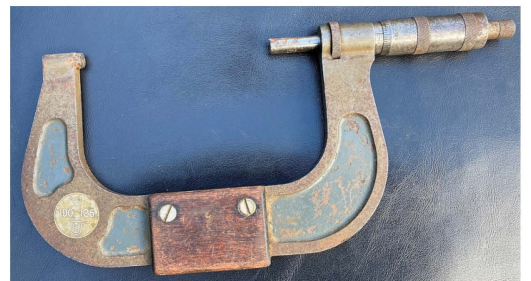
Graeme agreed that this may have been a captured wrench when the Japanese forces invaded, and left behind when they evacuated.

Top wrench image - original wrench in found condition

Centre wrench image - original wrench after a cleanup - hard to see in this photo, but there is a number on the top jaw, in a similar position to wrench image 3

Bottom wrench is a commercially made Footpring nut wrench (GR coll'n) Note that this model comes in about 5 sizes.

Right: Micrometer used by Japanese forces in PNG.



Footprints [Contd]

While on the topic of Footprints, TATHS member Richard Jones sent some pictures to pass on to Warren Hewertson in response to his article about Footprint Pipe wrenches in issue 117 of the Tool Chest.

Sadly Warren is no longer with us, but I have shared Richard's picture with our readership, as Warren would have done.

Richard's Footprints range in size from 22 inches down to 6 inches. The second from bottom is a ring-in made by CK, the rest are Footprints by TR Ellin.

There are even smaller sizes found at times.



Members' Collections:

From **Sean McConnell** in NZ (m)

Sean has a great interest in Turner tools. Shown below are some items from his collection, taken some time ago - by now he could probably show a bigger spread.

Now granted there is not a spanner or wrench in sight, but many of our SWC readers also collect both Australian made tools and or concentrate on certain makers - Turner satisfies both of these criteria.

If readers would like to share some of their collections, we may use their pictures at times when space permits.

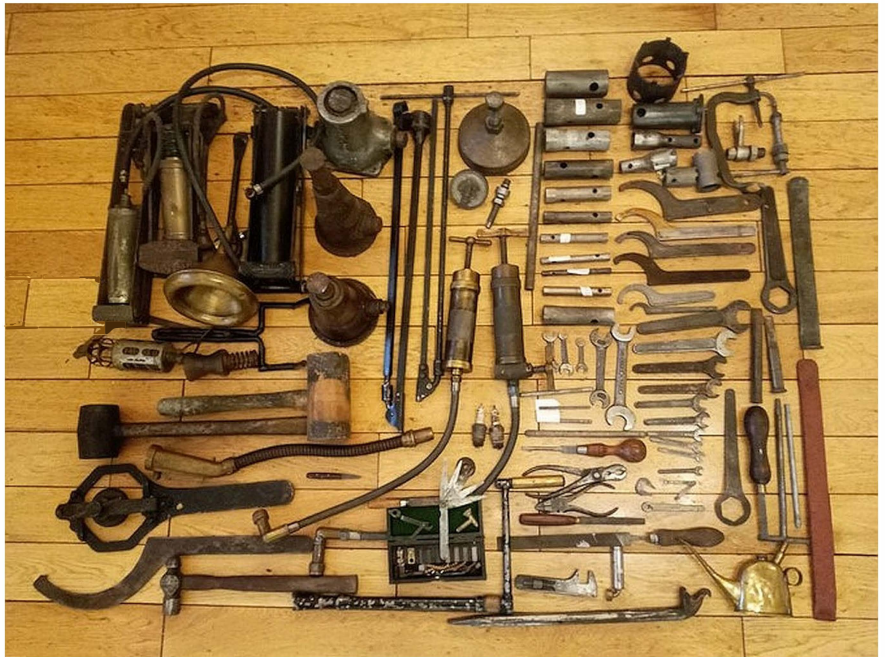


Rolls Royce (RR)Tools G Radion (m)

Pictured at right is a spread of tools as supplied with Rolls Royce motorcars in the 1930 - 40's.

Most RR tools are numbered with RR numbers, but items like grease guns, jacks and the hub tools are not so easily identified, they were supplied by makers from current stocks at the time rather than being specifically made to RR specifications.

However, RR enthusiasts have researched and recorded the specific details of the relevant tools for each model, so owners are able to seek the right tools to complete their restoration.



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Pg 8 Rolls Royce tools - G Radion (m)

Pg 8 Adverts & Housekeeping

Welcome to Edition 48, Issued in conjunction with the "Tool Chest" number 144.

Keep the contributions coming so that we can cover a broad range of topics.

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

Wanted to buy or swap - Stanley Roller Ratcheting screwdrivers.

Double ended Crescent shifters, Australian cast iron seats, agricultural machinery nameplates, parts lists and interesting spanners for agricultural, vintage motor vehicles and vintage motorbikes.etc, also other interesting shifters and spanners & tool company catalogues from Australian, British, American and Continental makers etc. Contact G Radion

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.

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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.