SPANNER & WRENCH COLLECTOR

HAND TOOL PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
Inc. Reg No A0025953J

Spanner Special Interest Group Newsletter

www.htpaa.org.au No 9 August 2012

Welcome to Edition 9, Issued in conjunction with the "Tool Chest" number 105.
If you require a copy of a back issue, contact the editor (see back page). Keep the contributions coming so that the editor does not hog all the space.
If you have an email address, and would like a colour copy of this newsletter in .pdf format, contact the editor.

Contents this issue:

On Page 1 - IHC Arbor Nut Socket Wrenches by George Radion

On Page 2 - Meccano and Ezy-Bilt by Stuart Lawson

On Page 3 - 4 - Bedstead Spanners by John Hawking

On Page 5 - Spanners & Wrenches by Theo Lutgens

On Page 6 - Wallace & Tiernan by steve Bower & George Radion

On Page 7 - Shave's Patent Stump Jump Reversible Disc Plough by George Radion

On Page 8 - We have the usual housekeeping, feedback, new finds, orphaned spanners and wanted to buy / sell

International Harvester (IHC)Spanners & Wrenches

by George Radion

The socket wrenches shown below were for McCormick Deering and McCormick International GL-9-A Tractor Disc Harrows.
IHC spanners and wrenches are a huge collectable in the US and also very popular in Australia.
The ones pictured below fit different sized hex nuts, and were all issued with similar implements, just progressively upgraded models, presumably to handle our hard Australian soils and conditions.

IHC collectors will know that the AP593 is fairly common.
The P1348 is much harder to find, and the AP592 is very hard to find.
As can be seen trom the pictures Fig. 1, they were each for larger diameter arbour bolt nuts.

One can only speculate that the smallest - AP592 was not up to the job, and was quickly replaced by the AP593. This could be the reason for it's rarity.

They all have the IHC logo rather than the IH logo which was adopted during 1947. So they date from ?? to 1947.

Some US collectors have well in excess of 1000 different IH/IHC spanners and wrenches.

Gilbert Irps publishes an IHC list covering spanners, wrenches, cast iron seats, toolboxes and oilers. I can supply contact details if anyone is interested.

Fig. 1a & 1b - AP592, AP593 & P1348 Arbour Bolt Nut Wrenches, top and bottom.

Meccano & Ezy-Bilt

By Stuart Lawson

How many of us played with Meccano parts when we were a wee bit younger than we are today?
I did, and still do, although trying to make Meccano clocks is a challenge! However, if you lived in post-WWII Australia, it would have been almost impossible to obtain genuine Meccano parts. The Binns Road factory in Liverpool, England had stopped making any toys by the middle of the war, and this was followed up by an embargo on exported goods following the war.

Enter Colton, Palmer & Preston Ltd of Southwark, SA.

In about 1948 they introduced a range of Meccano-copy parts, which included the usual spanner and screwdriver. How can you tell these from the original Meccano ones? Just recently, I found a bag of Ezy-Bilt parts in a second hand shop, and it included both tools. When you see them with Meccano tools, you can easily spot the difference.

In the photograph (Fig. 2), the Meccano one is at the top. The immediate post-war Meccano spanner has a black oxide finish, but with none of the usual markings.

The Ezy-Bilt one is nickel plated and also unmarked, but the easy way to tell them apart is that Ezy-Bilt used a 5/16” nut instead of the ¼” used by Meccano. The Ezy-Bilt spanner is numbered 133 in the parts catalogue, but not illustrated.

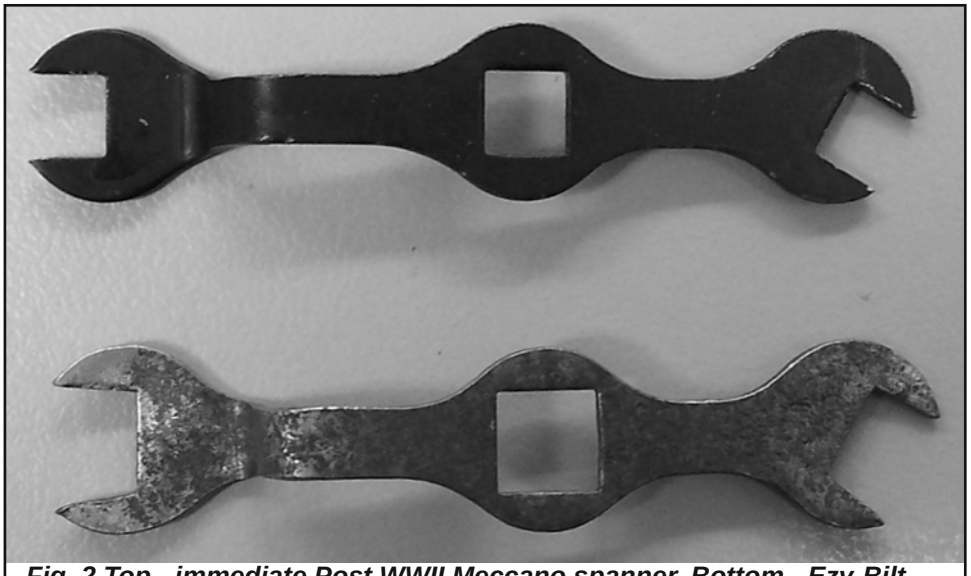


Fig. 2 Top - immediate Post WWII Meccano spanner, Bottom - Ezy-Bilt replacement made by Colton, Palmer & Preston Ltd, S.A.

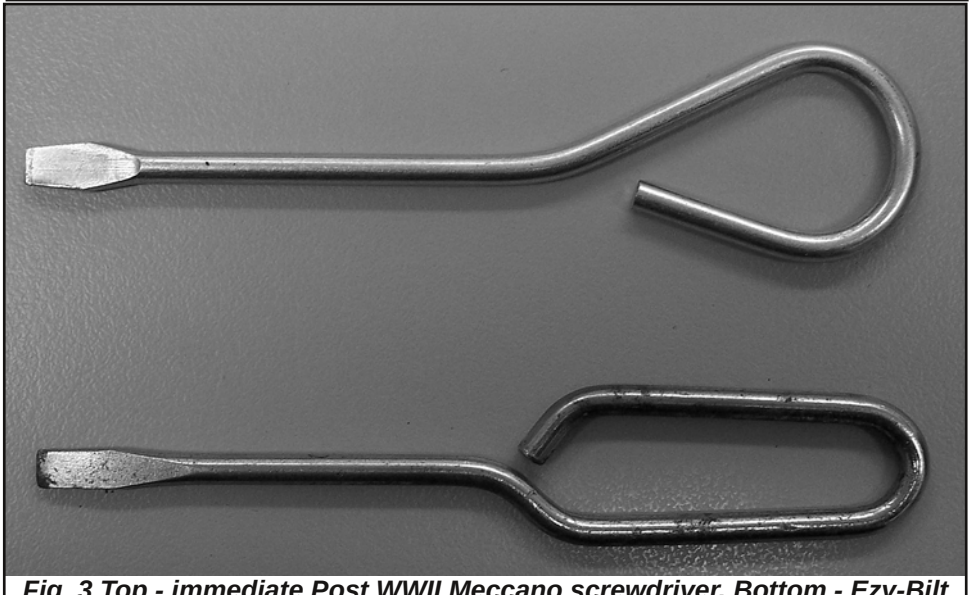


Fig. 3 Top - immediate Post WWII Meccano screwdriver, Bottom - Ezy-Bilt replacement made by Colton, Palmer & Preston Ltd, S.A.

The screwdrivers are also unmarked, but the photograph (Fig. 3) clearly show the different shape between the Meccano at the top and the the Ezy-Bilt below. Both are nickel plated. The Ezy-Bilt screwdriver is numbered 132, but is a slightly different shape to that found, probably because it is only a drawing.

At some time the company marketed them as Ezy-Bilt, with a new address of 630-632 Port Road, Kilkenny, SA and existed up until the mid- 1960's. I suspect that the combination of Meccano parts becoming available, and changing interests brought about the cessation of manufacture.

Editor - Thanks Stuart for this interesting look at an Australian version of Meccano

Finally, Stuart suggests you look at www.nzmeccano.com/Parts.php, they have a page called Parts that has all the absolute minutia on the tools that they issued.

Bedstead Spanners

by John Hawking (m)

Early “Bed Spanners” were well made and generally well marked. They appear to be made of cast iron and have the companies name well embossed or impressed. The spanners were supplied with beds and used for tensioning the bed springs. The most commonly found spanners are marked PERMAREST, MYER and VONO, plus there are two other spanners, a Foy & Gibson and unknown which are only rumoured to be associated with beds. These are included to pry information from the readers.

Permarest

Two different spanners are known and both are marked “Permarest”. One is a very old cast iron single head hexangonal socket spanner, size 5/8 inch and embossed PERMAREST (Fig. 4). There is also an unmarked example of this spanner, which is thought to be a Permarest spanner. Whereas, the other a much newer double hexangonal head socket 5/8 inch and ¾ inch, with the sockets pressure cut into 1/8 inch plate steel and PERMAREST stamped into the mid-section of the spanner. A check of the company register listed Permarest Bedding Pty Ltd, 350 Settlement Road, Thomastown, manufacturer of beds and this company could be linked to the original Permarest company. Any information on this company would be appreciated.

FIG. 4 Permarest Spanners

Myer

A spanner, similar to the older Permarest spanner is known, with Myer embossed on the spanner handle. The spanner is single socket head, 5/8 inch opening and 4 ½ mm long and appears to have been cast. It is assumed that this spanner was made for or by the Myer Retail store, which was started by Russian migrant Sydney and Elcon Myer in 1900. Myer branched out into house furnishing with the purchase of W.H. Roche and Company in 1928 and later they started producing many of their own goods. This is most likely the period when this spanner was made.

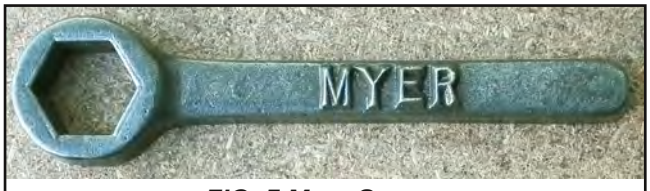


FIG. 5 Myer Spanner

VONO

Vono has been a major English bed manufacturer for over a century, except during WW11 when the company produced equipment for the British armed services. The company was formed in 1896 and has been private and public company, until bought by Starplan in 1982. Vono produced a 6 inch double hex end spanner (9/16 and 5/8 inch) and was readily recognised by VONO BEDSTEAD FITTINGS stamped into the shaft (Fig 1 x).

FIG. 6 VONO PAT FITTINGS

Foy & Gibson

A 7 ½ inch crescent handle spanner is known with Foy & Gibson impressed into the shaft and on the reverse side the word manufacturers (Fig. 7). The spanner is single open end, with a 7/8 inch jaw opening. It appears to have been cast.

FIG. 7 Foy & Gibson / Manufacturers

It is assumed that the spanner was produced by or for the retail store Foy & Gibson, which commenced at Smith Street, Collingwood, in 1882 and became a major retail store, until being taken over in 1955 by Cox Brothers (Australia) Ltd.

Unknown Makers

Two unknown maker spanners are also known, one a single open end and the other a double end socket spanner. The single open end spanner is unbranded 5 ½ inch long, with a 7/8 inch jaw and rough cast (Fig. 8). The double socket spanner is 5 5/8 inches long and the socket sizes are 5/8 and 13/16. Both spanners are commonly found, but currently can't be linked with any supplier or manufacturer. (Fig. 9). Once again this article asks the reader to come forth with any information in their possession to advance the HTPAA's Wrench Groups knowledge.

Fig. 8 - Common spanner, often seen in brass

Fig. 9 - Common spanner, cast iron

Editor's note:
There are quite a number of other unknown maker bedstead spanners (Figs. 10 & 11).

In Fig. 10 we have two cast iron open enders, thought to be Foy & Gibson at the top, below two cast iron ring spanners, similar to the Permarest spanner. One has an "F" impressed into the handle - Could it be a Foy & Gibson?

Fig. 10 - Common spanners, cast iron

In Fig. 11 are three more small cast iron spanners, which may or may not be bedstead spanners. As John Hawking mentioned above - readers are invited to examine their collections for these common small spanners and send through pictures of both marked and unmarked mystery bedstead type spanners for all to share.

Fig. 11 - more cast iron mystery spanners

The obvious reason for their abundance is that every home in the country had at least one bed, and years ago, each bed had a boxspring supporting the mattress. With prolonged use the springs would stretch and sag. To remedy this, they were supplied with a spanner to retension the spring by tightening the bolts at the head end to pull the spring tight again and provide better support for the mattress.

Spanners and wrenches

by Theo Lutgens (m).

Spanners and Wrenches never used to interest me a great deal, either for the purpose of collecting or selling. The reason: I guess I never seemed to find or see anything very interesting in this field. Maybe I was just looking for carpentry tools etc.

These days, spanners and wrenches keep me alive, because they form a large part of my trade as a second hand tool dealer.

And I still must say that I find interesting spanners and wrenches very difficult to find, especially considering that I am looking to buy tools on a weekly basis.
Recently I was given the opportunity to buy a Wiles South Australia wrench, see Fig. 12. I did buy it and was astounded that in 20 years I had never seen one before and to make it even more pleasing it was in near mint condition. I attempted to seek out some information on the company, but did not have much luck. I believe that they may have ceased trading in the late 1950's.

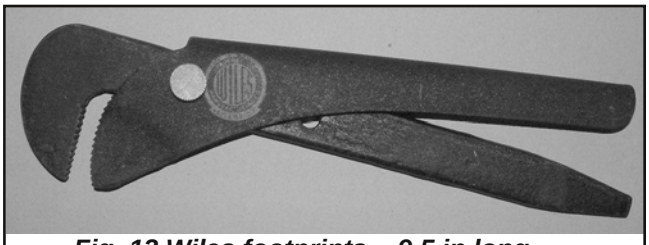


Fig. 12 Wiles footprints ~ 9.5 in long

Fig. 13 - Victorian railways apprentice made shifter.

Just recently I purchased another Spanner, actually it is a crude shifter. A heavy one at that. The interesting part is that it was made by an apprentice, Graham C Heriot in 1925 in Leongatha. His son gave me that bit of history and I thought to put it into this article so that Graham now can be famous (Fig13).

As I said before I find it difficult to find interesting spanners and there are only about 5 in my collection. Not sure how common or interesting they are, but I hope you enjoy them anyway.
My favourite one is the New Rapid No. 5 Pedalnut spanner (Fig. 14).
Another one is a small adjustable square nut wrench? I am not sure of its purpose (Fig. 15).

Mark on the stem of a New Rapid bicycle

Fig. 14 - St George Engineering Co Ltd were an English company who made New Rapid bicycles and small motor bikes which were bicycles fitted with a tiny engine. Period 1881 - 1907

Fig. 15 Bicycle shifter - D.R.G.M. 49889 (German)

And then I also have a small adjustable Schultz and Hill wrench pat. 7732. I assume that means 07.07.32. (Fig. 16)

Fig. 16 - Schultz & Hill

I now enjoy collecting spanners very much and I have seen some amazing ones at friend's places.
I am now hooked because spanners tell many stories, like hand planes and chisels they are the foundation of man. It helped us to create all that we have now.....

Editor's notes:
1.Theo also sent pictures of a drinks tray, which had the Wiles sticker on the underside.
2. The Schultz & Hill was written up in Spanner News no 2 - the patent date is 1946. There are several sizes and shapes around. No info yet as to who made them.
3. Wiles made agricultural machinery, housing and steel sheds .
Advertising held by Museum Victoria has a picture of a house, the Wiles mark and the note: "A Wiles house will solve your housing problem" c 1952.
In 1961 Wiles changed their name to Petersen WA Ltd.
Editor has a manual for a Wiles Scarifier, which has a Horwood Bagshaw (HB) adhesive label attached, over the Wiles small print. It appears that HB may have taken an interest in some Wiles agricultural stuff.
Any further info welcomed.

Wallace & Tiernan

by Steve Bower (m) & George Radion (m)

Wallace & Tiernan celebrates 50 years in Australia

by Wallace & Tiernan Products

Advertising *dated 24.03.2004*:
"FIFTY years ago this month, chemical dosing and control system specialist Wallace & Tiernan opened for business in Australia.
The Wallace & Tiernan name comes from Americans Charles Wallace and Martin Tiernan, who got together in 1909 to develop a means of introducing chlorine into water to make it safe for drinking.
First based in Gibbes Street, Chatswood the company expanded with branch offices in Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide. Agents were appointed in Western Australia, New Zealand and parts of Asia.
After 10 years of operation, premises were built to enable full local manufacturing of the Wallace & Tiernan chlorinator and feeder range. At the same time, products were imported from sister companies in the USA, UK and Germany.
Recently, the company was bought by USFilter. This broadened the product range with new industrial water treatment equipment, UV systems, odour control packages and analysers and instruments.
Now based at North Ryde in Sydney, Wallace & Tiernan has manufacturing facilities at Windsor.

Fig. 17 - W & T mystery spanner, 12 inches long

I (GR) have had this spanner marked W & T Ltd P83038 (Fig. 17) for ages, and all attempts to identify it were in vain.
Now the mystery has been resolved.

Fig. 18 - W & T mystery spanner, 6 inches long

Steve Bower writes: "I was recently given two of these spanners (P83038) and two smaller ones of the same shape. Fortunately one of the smaller ones was marked Wallace & Tiernan Australia / P8200. The other small one (6" long DOE) is just marked W&T P8200 (Figs. 18 & 19)

Fig. 19 - Wallace & Tiernan spanner, 6 inches long

There is a lot of information on this company available as they are still in business. It seems they originated in America and are now world wide, including Australia. They sell water treatment chemicals among other things. The spanners that were given to me were rescued from a skip when a shed was being cleaned out at our local city water filtration plant. Attached are photos of the two smaller ones. They seem to be zinc plated".

Fig. 20 - W & T Spanner M2195, ~ 7 inches long

Editor:
The bottom spanner is marked W & T Ltd M2195 (Fig. 20) - this is a more recent find, same initials as the others, but different serial number prefix.

No information as to what any of these spanners were specifically for, but from Steve's account, relating to some water treatment plant.

Shave's Patent Stump Jump Reversible Disc Plough

by George Radion

I have had these spanners (Fig. 21) marked S40 & S41 for some time now, and not had positive identification
I did have a small manual from Chandlers about their Shaves Patent Plough which listed spanners 40 & 41(1).

I recently purchased a later version of the same parts list dated 1937 for the Shave's plough from Chandlers.
Fig. 22 shows two pages from the later list

On the left it lists spare parts for "Old Model Ploughs", with spanners labelled 40 & 41 as per my earlier list.
On the right, the same illustration as in the 1930 version, has the spanners labelled S40 & S41.

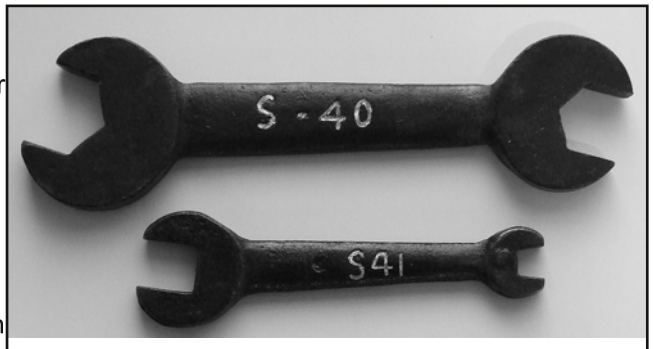
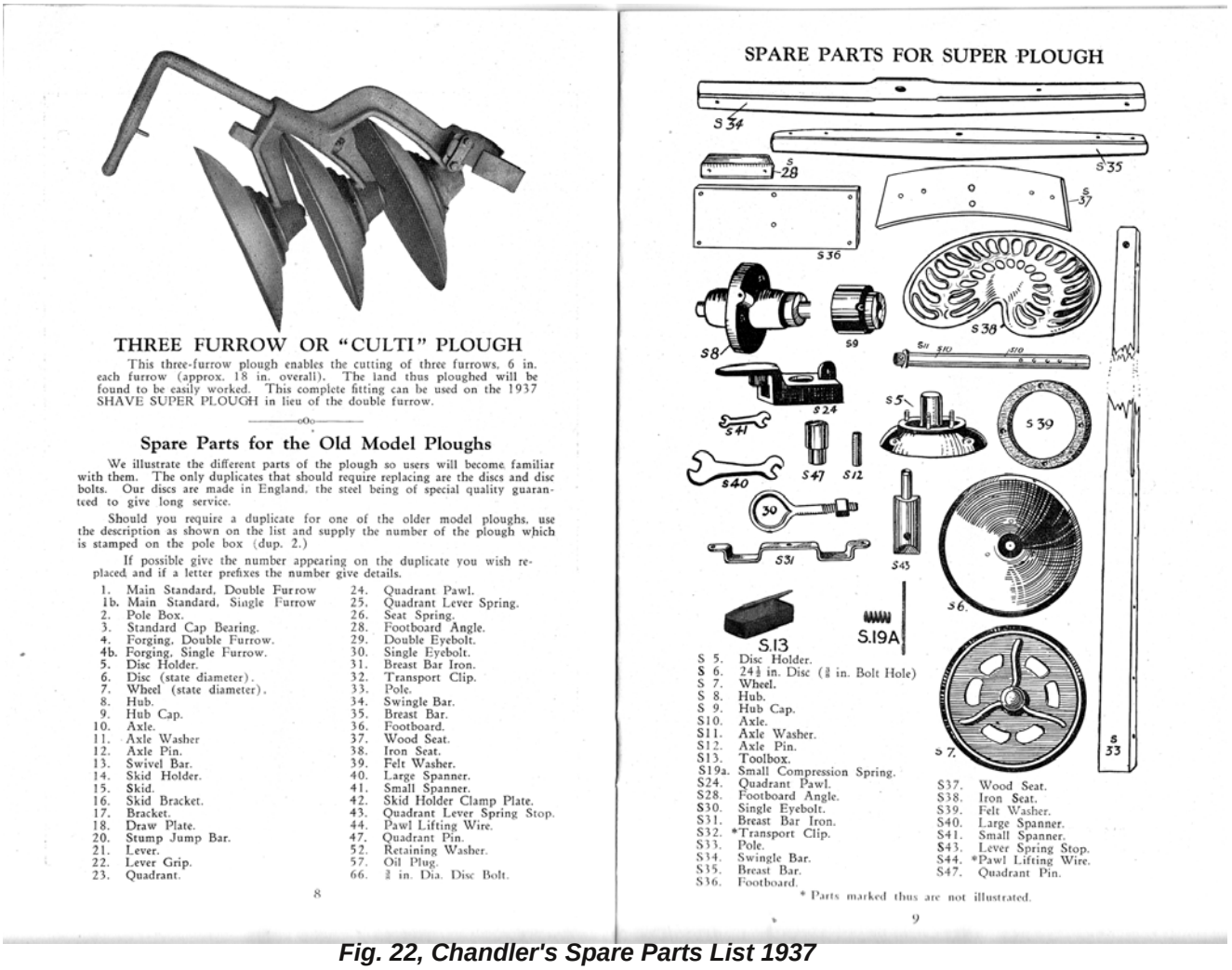


Fig. 21, Chandlers spanners no's S40 & S41

Mystery resolved!.

Somewhere in my shed I have one without the S, but it eludes me at the moment. Note also that the cast iron seat is numbered S38 - same as many H.V. McKay seats, which may indicate that they were made by McKay.

(1) Undated, but testimonials inside are dated up to 1930



THREE FURROW OR "CULTI" PLOUGH

This three-furrow plough enables the cutting of three furrows, 6 in. each furrow (approx. 18 in. overall). The land thus ploughed will be found to be easily worked. This complete fitting can be used on the 1937 SHAVE SUPER PLOUGH in lieu of the double furrow.

—oOo—

Spare Parts for the Old Model Ploughs

We illustrate the different parts of the plough so users will become familiar with them. The only duplicates that should require replacing are the discs and disc bolts. Our discs are made in England, the steel being of special quality guaranteed to give long service.

Should you require a duplicate for one of the older model ploughs, use the description as shown on the list and supply the number of the plough which is stamped on the pole box (dup. 2.)

If possible give the number appearing on the duplicate you wish replaced and if a letter prefixes the number give details.

1. Main Standard, Double Furrow
1b. Main Standard, Single Furrow
2. Pole Box.
3. Standard Cap Bearing.
4. Forging, Double Furrow.
4b. Forging, Single Furrow.
5. Disc Holder.
6. Disc (state diameter).
7. Wheel (state diameter).
8. Hub.
9. Hub Cap.
10. Axle.
11. Axle Washer
12. Axle Pin.
13. Swivel Bar.
14. Skid Holder.
15. Skid.
16. Skid Bracket.
17. Bracket.
18. Draw Plate.
20. Stump Jump Bar.
21. Lever.
22. Lever Grip.
23. Quadrant.
24. Quadrant Pawl.
25. Quadrant Lever Spring.
26. Seat Spring.
28. Footboard Angle.
29. Double Eyebolt.
30. Single Eyebolt.
31. Breast Bar Iron.
32. Transport Clip.
33. Pole.
34. Swingle Bar.
35. Breast Bar.
36. Footboard.
37. Wood Seat.
38. Iron Seat.
39. Felt Washer.
40. Large Spanner.
41. Small Spanner.
42. Skid Holder Clamp Plate.
43. Quadrant Lever Spring Stop.
44. Pawl Lifting Wire.
47. Quadrant Pin.
52. Retaining Washer.
57. Oil Plug.
66. ⅞ in. Dia. Disc Bolt.

8

SPARE PARTS FOR SUPER PLOUGH

S.13
S.19A

S 5. Disc Holder.
S 6. 24½ in. Disc (⅞ in. Bolt Hole)
S 7. Wheel.
S 8. Hub.
S 9. Hub Cap.
S10. Axle.
S11. Axle Washer.
S12. Axle Pin.
S13. Toolbox.
S19a. Small Compression Spring.
S24. Quadrant Pawl.
S28. Footboard Angle.
S30. Single Eyebolt.
S31. Breast Bar Iron.
S32. *Transport Clip.
S33. Pole.
S34. Swingle Bar.
S35. Breast Bar.
S36. Footboard.
S37. Wood Seat.
S38. Iron Seat.
S39. Felt Washer.
S40. Large Spanner.
S41. Small Spanner.
S43. Lever Spring Stop.
S44. *Pawl Lifting Wire.
S47. Quadrant Pin.

* Parts marked thus are not illustrated.

9

Fig. 22, Chandler's Spare Parts List 1937

Ebay Spanner

by Brian Read (TATHS)

Brian sent this picture of a spanner marked E. Bay on the shank and initials H. E. J. on the jaw (Fig. 23). There is no information to accompany it.

One could speculate that it designates one of several bays in some industrial concern or it could be a name E. Bay.

The initials on the jaw could be the owner's initials, or the initials of an industrial concern.

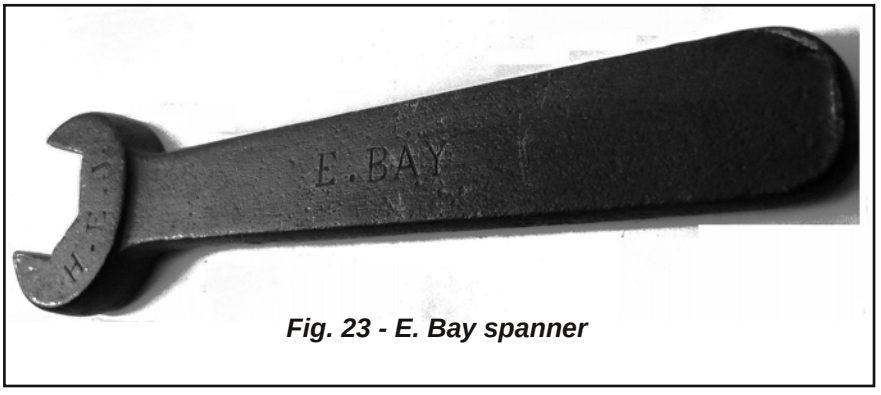


Fig. 23 - E. Bay spanner

This is all speculation, and readers are also invited to offer their ideas.

NEW FINDS / ORPHANS

Spanner # 128
This orphan looks to be a John or David Shearer implement spanner, but that is pure speculation as I have not come across it in any of my Shearer parts lists.
If anyone out there has a parts list with this one - please advise the editor.

NEW FINDS / ORPHANS

REALM Spanner.

by George Radion

This malleable iron spanner is 13 inches long, jaws are 2-9/16" or 65mm wide.
It has a size which is unclear, but measures 1-5/8WW. Also IAMD or 1AMD and REALM.
No info found - ideas invited.

An interesting blog for the Adjustable Wrenchaholic http://www.adjustable.archivist.info/?cat=7

The Old Tool Man. http://www.oldtoolman.com/
An interesting US website with hundreds of mechanics and some woodworking tools and some catalogues for sale, most at very reasonable prices.
I have not purchased here, so have no idea about the service, but if I was looking for an item to complete an American set of spanners or wrenches, this would be my destination.

Wanted to Buy, Sell or Swap Section

Wanted to buy or swap - Farm implement spanners - (named ones only please), double ended Crescent shifters, cast iron seats, machinery nameplates, parts lists and spanners for tractors, vintage motor vehicles and vintage motorbikes. Spanners marked "Ferguson, Barger, Gibbins, McKay, Buncle, Grant, Bolden, Wain & Hyland" etc, also Blacksmith made spanners with names on them. Also other interesting shifters and spanners & tool company catalogues. Tool kits and Parts Lists for vintage cars, bikes and trucks -
ring George on 0406 687 980 or email george@htpaa.org.au

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.*

Issue 9 Edited by George Radion.
Contact by snail mail: PO Box 4021, McKinnon, Vic 3204
Contact by email: george@htpaa.org.au, phone 03 9557 1178, mob 0406 687 980

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.