

f) Screw Collar

This style was first registered by Palmer & Sons on 17th January 1857, but without the lower extended handle. The 'screw collar' was called a 'Screw Box', turned to adjust the lower jaw by means of the attached split thread riding on both sides of the main shaft. The version as shown, which conforms to all known examples, was registered by Palmer & Sons on 9th April 1861: some are stamped with the correct date but others as '16th' or '19th' April. There appear to be two types; the earlier had a round section, straight knurled handle, 'Warranted Wrought', which suggests a more refined quality wrought iron, and a later model with a hexangular section handle and made of steel (Fig. 11).



Fig.11. Palmer and Son 'Screw Collar' Adjustables; (a) 11" round handle, (b) 11" hex-handle.

g) Screw Nut

Reacting to the bicycle and automotive boom, there was an explosion of diversity in design in the 1880s with an interesting range of tools emanating mainly from Birmingham and Sheffield. Many companies adopted the screw nut adjusting mechanism. This general term could be split into many sub-sections, with the adjuster in just about every conceivable position, but the ones reaching Australia were from the larger English manufacturers and obviously also more suited to the types of work here; the more weird and wonderful, and the authors would say more interesting, probably never strayed from England.

An early English screw nut wrench was the DELHIWRENCH (Fig. 12b), patented by the Fox Brothers on 16th July 1892, and so named after their works premises. Since this is really a retrograde design, with prototypes existing long before in America, the patent was for the method of construction,

combining forging and casting. An 1898 advertisement highlighted the fact that the "slide and screws are made of steel and handle and body of best malleable iron". This type of wrench is also found with the Domino brand symbol (a domino with three dots on one square and one dot on the other square, a brand of Thos. R. Ellin). Although the patent drawing shows the back of the jaws to be flush, some examples of the 'Delhi' and the Domino-version wrenches had a hammer head added to the upper jaw, similar to the single bar coach wrenches (Fig. 12a).

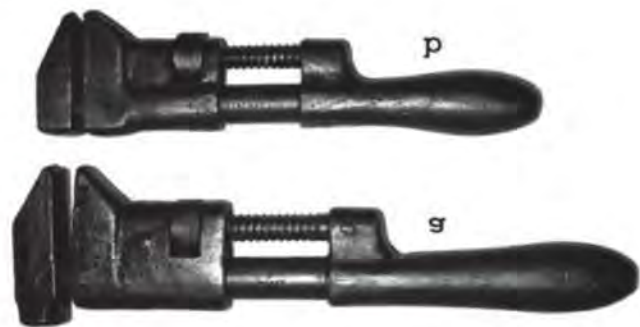


Fig. 12. Screw Nut Adjustables; (a) 10" 'DOMINO', (b) 8" 'DELHIWRENCH'

For the plumbing and associated trades, the favoured tool was the famous 'Footprint' brand by Ellin, not the infamous 'Pipe Grip' which was a true 'Wrench' in the tearing sense of the word, but the thin-sectioned adjustable, sold in seven sizes from 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ " to 18". Although the 1914 catalogue states 'INVENTED', it was actually a Registered Design No. 134675 of 3rd October 1889 by Thomas Richardson Ellin (Fig. 13). There was also the instruction "must NOT be used edge wise", usually ignored by the user! T. R. Ellin's other brand 'DOMINO' covered a variety of styles for Cycles, Motor Cycles, Tricars, Motorettes, Large Motors, Motor Buses and Farmers.