

# A Quick Change Toolpost Wrench

---

By R. G. Sparber

Protected by Creative Commons.<sup>1</sup>



It was a common enough occurrence. I had put up with using a heavy, open-ended wrench to tighten the nut on top of my quick change tool post for many years. It works but was a minor annoyance since the tool would not stay on the nut as I adjusted the toolpost. The wrench had two ends, so I used the wrong end half of the time.

My good friend, John Herrmann, had a far better solution. He used a box wrench with the unused end cut off and the stub nicely rounded. It stayed on the nut, and there was no confusion over which end to use—such a simple yet elegant solution.



I didn't have the correct size box wrench to modify but did have a spare socket. Since the torque requirements were modest, I silver brazed a steel rod to the outside of the socket.



---

<sup>1</sup> This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.



First, I cut a radius into the end of the rod to slightly less than the OD of the socket. The braze filled the void to provide a strong joint.

Welding would have only given me a bead on the perimeter of the joint; I'd run the risk of overheating and distorting the socket; plus, there wasn't much room for the bead.

After letting the metal cool, I sawed off the top of the socket, deburred, and buffed the tool on my 3M wheel.

I welcome your comments and questions.

If you want me to contact you each time I publish an article, email me with "Subscribe" in the subject line. In the body of the email, please tell me if you are interested in metalworking, software plus electronics, kayaking, and/or the Lectric XP eBike so I can put you on the right distribution list.

If you are on a list and have had enough, email me "Unsubscribe" in the subject line. No hard feelings.

Rick Sparber  
[Rgsparber.ha@gmail.com](mailto:Rgsparber.ha@gmail.com)  
Rick.Sparber.org