

A Replacement Wrench for my Atlas-Craftsman Lathe

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My lathe uses these 3/8" square locking bolts on the apron and compound. An *acceptable* wrench came with the lathe but somehow, I lost it a few years ago. Since then I've been using a 3/8" combination wrench which has also been *acceptable*.

Neither wrench really thrilled me. There were times when it was difficult to access the bolts and freely turn them, especially on the compound. The annoyance level was just low enough that I put up with it.



Then today I happen to look at a 3/8" extension plus a spare 3/8" drive universal from my socket set. The answer became clear.

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I drove the spring pin out of the universal. Then I took the female part and ran a 10-24 threaded rod through the ears. This is a proof of concept. I plan to machine a bar to go between the ears if this works out.

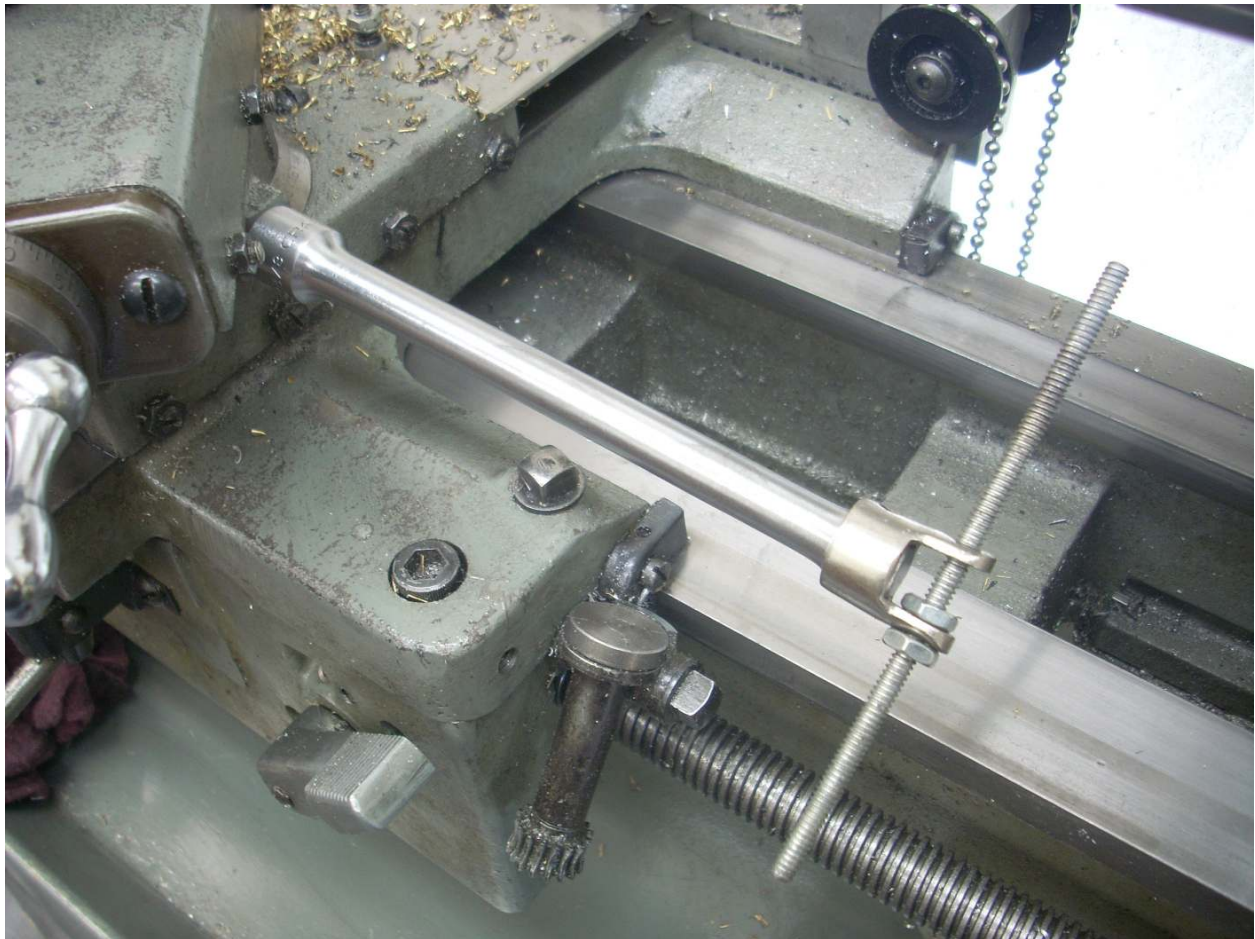
Both nuts are against the same ear because I do not want to bend the ears together.



The 3/8" extension fits nicely onto the square locking bolt and is long enough that I clear the nearby compound and tail stock.



The modified universal simply snaps on top. I can always unsnap it if I need this extension. It is equally easy to swap in a different length extension.



The tool is long enough for me to access the compound's locking bolts regardless of the angle of the compound.

I welcome your comments and questions.

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