

GRASS ROOTS

TECH BARN

with: Jimmy Rivers

The Racer's Toolbox



Racing karts are mechanical in nature. Mechanical things require tools. What tools are necessary? Do I need a huge box full of tools, or just a few wrenches? Well, those questions



and more are the subject of this month's article. We will help you to fill your toolbox with the tools required to perform the job you need to do, and cover your bases without getting too carried away, which is something we all seem to have tendency to do.

Nothing is worse to me than having to work on something and not having the tool, or correct tool for the job. At the track if that happens, fortunately we usually have neighbors that we can lean on to borrow that wrench or other tool to get us through. However, if you are like me, I will only borrow something once. After that, I will have my own resting comfortably in my box until it is needed again.

Let's break our tools into several different categories. The first one is the tools we need to work on the kart itself. Anything we will need to completely disassemble the kart, we



want to list. I will also add a couple of items that will aide in making repairs to crash damage at the track. We will break another into an Animal and Flathead engine section, with the tools needed to maintain the engine at the track, and to perform general maintenance issues. Our final category is the basic tools and gauges that we will use in our "at the track setup."

Kart Tools

- Full set of wrenches, from 1/4 up to 13/16
- Socket set, preferably 3/8 drive, from 5/16 up to 13/16
- Allen (Hex Key) socket bits, 3/16 and 1/4
- Set of loose Allen (Hex Key) wrenches
- Screwdriver set, various size blades, Phillips and Straight
- Slip-joint pliers, also known as channel locks
- Side cutter pliers, or wire snips
- Small pair of pliers
- T-handle Allen Wrench set
- Ball peen hammer
- Dead blow hammer or rubber mallet
- Assortment of small pin punches
- Safety wire pliers

I personally recommend having duplicates of your most popular wrench and socket sizes. 7/16, 1/2, 9/16, and 3/4 are very common sizes on today's karts, and many times two wrenches



are needed at the same time to do the task at hand. Sometimes as well, the tools you use the most tend to get temporarily misplaced, and having a spare helps keep the ball rolling.

Specialty Tools

- Hacksaw
- Extra long screwdriver or pry bar
- Cordless Impact gun (Essential !)
- Cordless Drill and bit assortment

Engine Tools - Flathead

- 3/16 Balldriver
- 5/32 Balldriver
- Cutoff 3/16 Allen wrench
- 13/16 Spark Plug socket or wrench
- Inch- Pound Torque wrench
- 5/16 Nutdriver

Engine Tools - Animal

- 5 mm Balldriver
- 10 and 11 mm wrenches
- 5/8 spark plug socket

Of course we haven't duplicated some of the tools from the list of Kart Tools that are essential in the Engine area.

Track Pit Tools

- Durometer
- Air Gauge
- 1/4 wide tape measure
- Silver and black markers

Duct Tape

Step two in building a good toolbox is to properly organize your tools. This makes finding a tool a quick job, plus it helps you keep up with missing items. Always invest in quality



tools, and take care of them. Quality tools will be around for a very long time. As time goes on, your box will likely get much larger, and expand well beyond what is listed here. This is what I consider to be the minimum needed to be self sufficient at the track.

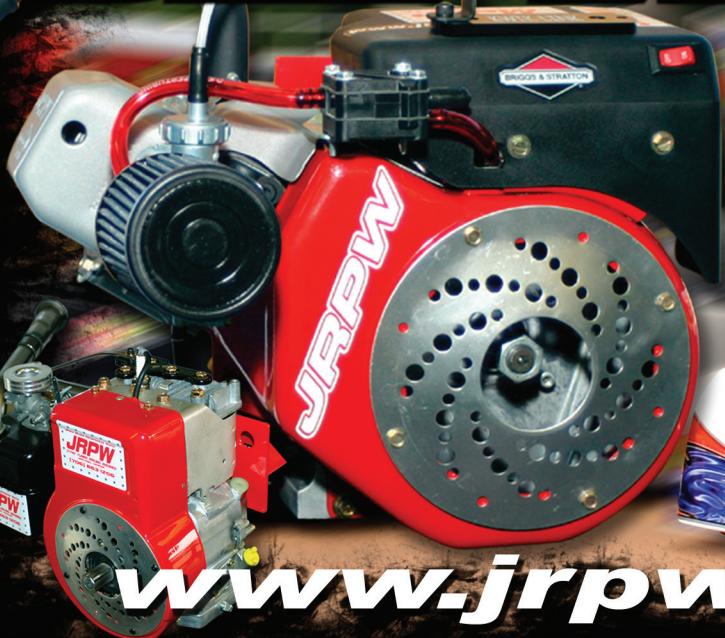


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