What’s in your tool box?
By Karl Minteer

When a repair is needed, having the right tool available is essential. If a machine is down, looking for a tool you know you have and can’t find is annoying, and it can be time consuming as well. Putting your tools in a central location where they will be easily found and returned when you are finished using them eases the process. A toolbox works well.

What’s in the toolbox varies, but here is what I recommend most sharpening shop owners have in their tool box. Quality tools may cost a bit more but if taken care of and used properly, they usually last longer. Tools with a lifetime warranty can be replaced for free if broken. At a minimum, your toolbox should have:

**Multi Meter:** You need to have a multi meter that can be used by anyone. Testing a fuse is not always as simple as just looking at it. Electrical problems can be the hardest to fix or find. Having a good meter will help greatly.

**Screwdrivers:** Good sets of both straight and Phillips drive screwdrivers in various sizes that are not rounded, broken, chipped or have been used as a pry bar, punch, or wedge to braze teeth.

**Sockets:** A set of sockets with a few extensions and a set combination wrenches, in metric and/or standard sizes. Sizes and type depend on the machines.

**Pliers:** Needle nose pliers, channel locks, diagonals, vice grips, an adjustable wrench, and a good set of Allen wrenches. A cheap set makes removing bolts harder if they round easily.

**Punches, Files, Bits:** Every toolbox should have a few punches, files, a set of drill bits, utility knife with sharp replacement blades, and a magnet on an extension. The magnet works well when a bolt or tool falls into the coolant tank.

**Fuses:** Various sizes and types of fuses used in your machines. Remember to throw away any bad fuses.

**Electric Tape:** A roll of electrical tape and an assortment of electrical connectors.

**Sprays:** Although not kept in the toolbox but just as handy is a can of penetrating spray and anti seize. Wipe up excess spray to keep it out of the coolant.

**Contact Info:** Last but not least, the phone number for the Tech that will help you thru that tough problem you cannot fix. Sometimes it is easier, less aggravating, and takes less time to call in an expert.

If you get a toolbox with drawers, it will make things easier by organizing tools and not having them all piled up in the bottom of the box.

The number one Shop Rule: If you take it out of the toolbox, put it back. Don’t leave it on the bench, or worse in the machine.