Subject: Necessary Tools
Posted by Hannah on Fri, 26 Aug 2011 07:49:46 GMT
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What are the tools that are necessary if we want to do things by ourselves? I'm thinking of buying a toolbox that has all the tools needed when I need to setup or repair things. What tools should be present in that toolbox?

Subject: Re: Necessary Tools
Posted by Siren on Sat, 17 Sep 2011 15:13:04 GMT
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I am hoping someone enlightens us, too. I am trying to put a toolbox together for my significant other, and I want to make sure the essentials are in there. He is quite a handyman, but his storage unit was broken into, and all his tools stolen. I am not sure where to begin, toolwise, and hope to fill the box with useful tools and not junk.

Subject: Re: Necessary Tools
Posted by Christy on Sat, 17 Sep 2011 16:11:23 GMT
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I am going to say a handheld soldering iron, and a router or circular saw are indispensable and overlooked tools. I am not too sure what else might be needed. Handymen, step in and advise us women.

Subject: Re: Necessary Tools
Posted by gofar99 on Sun, 18 Sep 2011 02:20:35 GMT
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Hi, It kind of depends on what you want to do. Just electronics, just speakers, home repairs, cars..... Give me some ideas on your needs and I'll see what makes sense. I have do all those and more and because of it have just about any kind of tool or test equipment in existence. We can certainly narrow it down a bit to essentials though.

Subject: Re: Necessary Tools
Posted by Siren on Sun, 18 Sep 2011 16:32:42 GMT
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I am not sure what areas Hannah needs tools for, but I need general tools. I also need ideas on tools for fixing amps and such. My boyfriend likes to buy and fix up old amps. Thanks a ton, for any suggestions.

Subject: Re: Necessary Tools
Posted by gofar99 on Sun, 18 Sep 2011 20:14:47 GMT
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Hi Fixing old amps can be both simple and difficult. I'll do the simple first. Good needle nose pliers, wire cutters, wire stripper, set of socket wrenches in the sizes from 3/16 to 1/2 inch, 25-40 watt soldering iron, some solder (I like .031 diameter 60/40 - has lead) an inexpensive digital volt meter ($25 or so), a de-soldering device (there are many types , the bulb type is probably the least costly and will work OK), standard and Philips screw drivers, for the standard ones 1/8 wide tip for the smallest and about 1/4 inch for the largest, Philips sizes of 0, 1 and 2 ought to be enough, a standard house hold type pliers and you should be set.

To do the job on more than a minimal level I would add the following: A second larger soldering iron in the 60-100 range (old equipment often has soldering to the chassis and more heat is needed), swap the 25 watt iron for a temperature controlled one (several are available for under $40 -see sources below), a temperature controlled vacuum de-solderer (see below, an analog volt meter (about $25), additional screwdrivers in smaller sizes, a set of Allen wrenches (mostly small sizes to get out set screws).

To really do it first class you need an oscilloscope (could be a PC based one), a signal generator, a better digital meter, and a tube tester. These things can cost a significant amount of $$.

Other things, an assortment of wire and heat shrink insulation

Sources: Many things can be obtained from the local radio Shack, I prefer though Parts Express and MCM on the web. For the temp controlled soldering iron and de-soldering station check Circuit Specialists (also on the web). I got great buys on both from them (about $40 each). Buy at least one extra tip for the iron just in case the model changes. Look for sales and specials on their site. You can often get a free digital voltmeter when you but certain $ amounts. The "freebee" is pretty nice meter and would cost about $25-30 if bought separately.

I hope this helps,