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How to find bolt size from spanner size

Description Spanners and Wrenches are tools designed to grip screwed together components (mainly nuts, bolts and pipe connectors) to tighten or loosen them. Spanner Sizes Modern spanner sizes refer to the distance across the flats of the hexagonal nut or bolt they would fit. A 17mm spanner therefore fits a nut 17mm across its flats and this is normally a nut to fit a 10mm diameter bolt (M10). Also, hexagonal key sizes are given as the distance across their flats and so a M10 Allen Screw for example would need a 8mm key to fit it. A table of common metric spanner and key sizes is shown opposite. Some spanners may be marked AF. This also means Across Flats but it is an Imperial size marking, or more correctly a SAE marking, associated with UNC and UNF screw threads - e.g. a 1/2" AF spanner is 1/2" across and fits a 5/16" diameter UNF nut. Similarly, some older equipment may be fitted with BSW or BSW nuts and bolt. The spanner sizes of these, by contrast, are marked with the diameter of the bolt they would fit - e.g. a 1/2" BSW spanner will fit a BSW nut and bolt of 1/2" thread diameter. A further complication is that BSW spanners will normally also fit a BSF nut one size larger - e.g. a 1/2" BSW spanner will also fit a 9/16" diameter BSF nut and bolt. For British Association (BA) threads, as used on older electrical equipment, the marked size is the thread size - i.e. a 2BA spanner would normally therefore be preferred whenever a suitable size is available. Adjustable Spanners could be used as a last resort but care must be taken to ensure they are used correctly such that most pressure is exerted against the fixed jaw as shown opposite when used with a R.H. thread (i.e. one that tightens clockwise). Spanner Types Open Ended Spanner These are one-piece spanners with a U-shaped opening that grips the two opposite faces of a hexagonal bolt or nut. They are usually double-ended, with a different-sized opening at each end slightly angled to allow a greater range of movement in enclosed spaces. Ring Spanner Also a one-piece spanner but with an enclosed opening that grips the faces of the bolt or nut making them less likely to slip - but this also limits their ability to access some nuts and bolts. They are usually double-ended, with a different-sized opening at each end and often with offset handles to improve access to the nut or bolt. Combination Spanner A combination spanner usually has an Open-ended Spanner at one end and a Ring Spanner of the same size at the other. Other combinations are also available. Socket Set Sockets are often made from Chrome Vanadium Steel and can apply much more torque and control than open ended spanners. Sets may contain as few as 10 or 12 different sizes but there can be 100's in the most comprehensive sets. Most sets contain sockets to fit both Metric sizes and also their SAE equivalents (SAE is similar to the UK Imperial sizes and sockets are marked as 1/2", 3/4" etc.). Sets usually contain, a Ratchet Socket Wrench and may also include: Extension Bars, Universal Joint, Spinner Handle and Adaptors if different size drives are used (drives are standardised at the SAE sizes of 1/4", 3/8", 1/2", 3/4" - but 1/2" drives are the most common for professional use). Shallow Sockets are the type most commonly found in socket sets but Deep Sockets are available for specific jobs if needed. Special Purpose Spanners: Torque Wrench A socket wrench is a tool that applies a precise amount of torque to a fastener, either to tighten or to loosen it. It is used in many cases during the assembly or disassembly of precision mechanical components. It is important to ensure a series of threads are tightened evenly (e.g. counter-clockwise and then clockwise). Ring Spanner Very useful for odd jobs in confined spaces where there is a small thread which is too tight to turn with fingers. Box Spanner Also called T-Box Spanner and could be regarded as the foundation of the Socket Set but these are thin and fragile which is why they are not used to access fixings in a deep or narrow hole, for example. Their light weight makes them useful in portable tool kits. Allen Keys Used to turn screws or bolt heads designed with a hexagonal socket, these are commonly available as a simple L-shaped length of hexagonal wire stock but there are also versions with plastic T-shaped handles. Magnetic Spanner Set of small pocket spanners were produced for the motocyclist to repair their bike out on the road. They were usually in B.A. sizes and often included a Feeler Gauge to set ignition points. C' Spanner and Pin Spanners Wrenches with one or several pins or hooks, designed to drive threaded collars and retainer rings etc. Bike Spanner Such spanners, stamped out of sheet, are cheap to produce and so tend to come as accessories supplied with a product. Plumbers' Basin Wrench Designed for working in confined spaces such as under a sink and used by plumbers to tighten tap connections for example. They fit only the one or two sizes used for tap connections and a self-tightening version is available. DT Online Buyers' Guide Adjustable Spanners and Wrenches Adjustable Spanner Included here are those adjustables with jaws that remain parallel and are mainly therefore intended for use with nuts and bolts. The jaws of most modern adjustables are set at an angle relative to the tool's handle to facilitate use in close quarters but not so on the older Monkey Wrench. The modern Adjustable Spanner was patented by Johan Petter Johansson in 1891. Pipe Wrench These are taken to be adjustables with self-tightening, often hardened, and serrated jaws that securely grip soft iron pipe and pipe fittings. They include Footprints (Invented by Footprint's founder Thomas R Ellin in 1875) and Stillsons (named after the original patent holder's brand name). Chain Wrench or Strap Wrench A self-tightening wrench with either a chain or strap of metal, leather, or rubber attached to a handle, used to grip and turn smooth cylindrical objects (such as car engine oil filters). Strap Wrenches rely on Friction to grip smooth objects : Chain Wrenches can also positively grip Sprockets. See also Multi-Grip Pliers and Vice-Grip Pliers DT Online Buyers' Guide pipe branch and elbow dummy support template PDF CHART FREE. Download [PDF CHART FREE](#) Stretch the tape measure across the nut's diameter to the flat-side directly across from the one you putting from. If the nut is metric, count the number of lines on the tape measure to find the measurement. If you count 9 lines, the size is a 9-mm (millimeter) nut. Click to see full answer Keeping this in consideration, how do you know what size spanner to get? The spanner size will be identify by the A/F of bolt. There are also standard size of spanner according to size of the bolt (M6, M8, M10 etc.) Secondly, what does spanner size mean? Modern spanner sizes refer to the distance across the flats of the hexagonal nut or bolt they would fit. This also means Across Flats but it is an Imperial size marking, or more correctly a SAE marking, associated with UNC and UNF screw threads - e.g. a 1/2" AF spanner is 1/2" across and fits a 5/16" diameter UNF nut. Additionally, how do you calculate nut size? Multiply the first number which is the bolt size in inches or millimeters, by 1.5 using a pocket calculator, if necessary. For example, for the numbers in Step 1, $1/2 \times 1.5 = .75$ or $3/4$, which is the wrench size needed for this standard-sized bolt. What are the types of spanner? Open Ended Spanners. Open-ended spanners have U-shaped jaws with an opening the width of the nut or bolt head. Basin Tap Wrenches or Spanners. Compression Fitting Spanner. Ring Spanners. Immersion Heater Spanners. Combination Spanners. Flare Nut Spanners. Podgers. "What Size Spanner do I need?" is a common question. The immediate answer is another question: "What type of thread does your nut have?" A "Spanner" is often called a "wrench" and is generally used to grip a nut or bolt while applying torque or put more simply to help you fasten and loosen nuts and bolts. Most common are open-ended, ring spanners or combination open / ring spanners like these: Most spanners do have their size stamped on them, but this is usually the distance across the flats of the nut and can be confusing, so we will help you to determine the size you need, and show why you should not just grab one that seems close enough. There are many thread types, Metric, UNF, BSW, BSP to name a few. And each of these thread types has their own thread specifications and also specify the distance across the flats of the nut. And it is the distance across the flats of the nut that is most important when choosing a spanner size. As shown on this diagram the dimensions labelled "S" is the 'across the flats (AF)' measurement. The jaws of the spanner should snuggly fit with little or no gap. We should also be aware that the size given to any nut is relevant to the thread type and size. So a metric M6 nut for example means the measurement 'd' shown above is (approx) 6 mm, and this 'M6 - 6 mm' measurement bears no resemblance to the distance across the flats or the spanner size required. There are many types of threads on nuts and bolts, Metric, UNC & BSP are just three that we deal with. And they all have different measurements depending on the international standard they are manufactured to. For example, a metric M6 nut is very close to an imperial 1/4" UNC thread. Measuring the thread manually you could be mistaken for thinking they are the same. And a 1/4" BSP nut may sound similar but is vastly different in size. A metric M6 nut is likely to be 10 mm across the flats, a 1/4" UNC likely to be 11 mm (and a 1/4" BSP nut would be more like 23 mm across the flats). So using a 1/4" UNC (11mm) spanner instead of the M6 spanner (10 mm) means the spanner will easily fit over the M6 nut, but it would be a little loose. As you try to tighten the nut that small gap would allow the jaws of the spanner to slip and more than likely cause you to round off the edges of the nut. As you can see, it is best to know the thread type of the nut and then choose the spanner size that will then give the best fit. Once you know the thread type and size of the nut, then it is simple to look up the correct spanner size. For metric nuts M3 5.5 mm M4 7 mm M5 8 mm M6 10 mm M8 13 mm M10 17 mm M12 19 mm M14 22 mm M16 24 mm M18 27 mm M20 30 mm M24 36 mm M30 46 mm M36 55 mm So as you can see above, once you know you have a metric M10 nut, then you can easily read off the chart then you need a spanner stamped with 17 mm. No need to guess And for UNC nuts: For Imperial / UNC nuts 1/4" 7/16" 5/16" 1/2" 3/8" 9/16" 7/16" 5/8" 1/2" 3/4" 9/16" 7/8" 5/8" 15/16" 3/4" 1-1/8" 1" 1-1/2"

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