SPANNER & WRENCH COLLECTOR

HAND TOOL PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA Inc. Reg No A0025953J

Spanner Special Interest Group Newsletter

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Sidchrome Tool Kits / Sets

Article by Dick Lynch (m) extracted from his upcoming book on Sidchrome, with additional info and pictures from George Radion (m)

Fig. 1 Early SAE A/F car kit HCK 9

Intr year	1949 Code	68/70 Code	1989 Code	Cont	Thread type	Init Pcs	With drawn	Image code	COMMENT
1957	HCK 9	468-5	-	Car kit	SAE	9	1971	50/1	For US Cars

SIDCHROME TOOL SETS AND KITS *by Dick Lynch (m), extracted from Dick's forthcoming book on Sidchrome Tools*

"Note: Tool chests (aggregations of over fifty tools) are covered in another chapter.

The definition of a "tool set" is an aggregation of less than fifty tools of different types suitable to undertake a general purpose, that is, able to be used on repair work on all cars of a certain manufacture (thread type). Similarly, a "tool kit" is a smaller aggregation, usually less than a dozen tools aimed at a specific purpose for example a home emergency kit. Sidchrome offered forty-five tool sets and/or kits between the early Fifties and the end of the century, they are covered in this chapter in order of year of appearance.

A summary table of all the tool sets and kits is below and a more detailed explanation with accompanying images to aid identification following. Derivative tables from this base that highlight number of pieces, thread type and codes are in an appendix to further aid identification.

SIDCHROME TOOL KITS for HOLDEN & AMERICAN CARS

NOTE: Codes were changed (renumbered) in 1968/70 and again in 1989
Changes to set numbers (pieces) and year involved are noted in comments

Intr year	1949 Code	68/70 Code	1989 Code	Cont	Thread type	Init Pcs	With drawn	Image code	COMMENT
1957	HCK 9	468-5	-	Car kit	SAE	9	1971	50/1	For US Cars

Given the purpose of most Sidchrome products manufactured was to work on cars, it's no surprise that the first aggregated tool kits were produced around the mid to late Fifties for working on specific makes (by country of origin thus thread) of cars and came in Whitworth (English cars), SAE/AF (Holden and American cars) and Metric threads (European/Continental cars). These were relatively simple kits with up to a dozen tools. These kits were HCK 9 (468-5), CCK 12 (470-6), ECK 9 (469-3) and MSS1 11 (467-7), a motorists presentation kit. The first three of these four kits were gone by 1971 and the last by 1980.

Variations *by G Radion*

From examples available to us to examine, the H.C.K. 9 has variations over time. In these two examples, the lids are embossed differently, with a larger foil logo at top left on the left box and a smaller central one on the right box. The foil logos on the side of the boxes also vary - see below.

Note the screwdriver with orange handle as seen on front cover: it is marked SIDCHROME and Turner Tuflite. A similar screwdriver is commonly found marked only Turner 103 and comes in toolkits of several models of Holden cars from the FX up to the late1960s. Early FX cars had a Turner 103 with a wooden handle. Not all of these kits had this orange handled screwdriver marked SIDCHROME / Turner, some had the dark red handled screwdriver by Sidchrome.

Other Sidchrome Toolkits

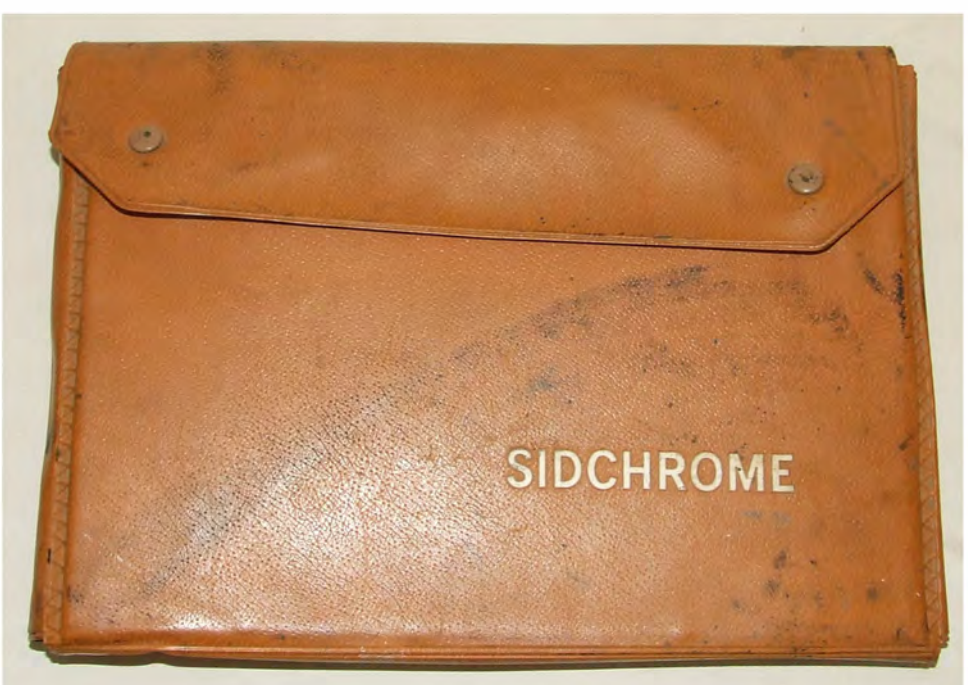
Other tool kits similar to the Kit HCK-9, for English cars in Whitworth sizes and Continental cars in Metric sizes.

1970 image of 458-5 (originally HCK 9) with Whitworth / BSF spanners for English cars

Metric car kit CCK 10, ECK 9 looked similar, for European / Continemtal cars

Sidchrome Motorists Presentation kit # 467-7.

 # 467-7 the Motorists Presentation Kit. See also page 6 for a view of contents.



Sidchrome Car Safety Kit 476-5, 14 piece This emergency kit has quite a jumble of components, from a wheel brace (uncommon #2345-4), spanners and insulated pliers, spark plug socket, multiple screwdrivers, first aid kit, trouble light and electrical tape.
It also comes with a reflective triangle and folding stand. The box is 360 x 360mm and takes up a large amount of real estate in one's boot.

The breakdown triangle comes with a wire stand to hold it upright to reflect oncoming headlights.

In addition, the lid of the box has a yellow triangle painted on it and can be used to alert other motorists to the emergency by holding the lid up in an upright position with the hinge which snaps into position.

Above - Detail of the hubcap prybar end on the 4 way brace #2345-4 in the emergency kit. In the main picture, the chisel point is hidden by the rubber bumper at bottom, 6 o'clock position.

At right - The emergency triangle with wire support for deploying on the road.

Under that is the triangle painted on the box housing the kit - the lid can be left in the up position to act an additional breakdown warning triangle

Sidchrome Kit # 444-4 (444-4) tells you it is before 1989.

This is an unusual kit containing 8 long series open end spanners (4 A/F and 4 metric), 8 ring spanners (4 A/F and 4 metric), 18 sockets (9 A/F and 9 metric) and 4 drive tools.

This kit does not appear in any of Dick's catalogues and he would like to hear from anyone who can find it listed.

Sidchrome Kit # 444-4, 38 Piece Combination Tool Set

Sidchrome Motorists Presentation kit # 467-7. [Continued from page 3]

467-7 the Motorists Presentation Kit. See also page 3 for a view of the folded kit

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Letter to the Editor *From Jim Wilson in Barwon Heads (m)*

19/2/20
When I saw the Spanner Collector newsletter (issue #39) I showed it to some of my farming friends.
They simply couldn't believe that there were spanner collectors about because to farmers they were such an everyday thing.

King Dick (spanners) are good to use in a confined space such as under a horse drawn stripper or tractor drawn header.
You can tighten the jaws to hold a split washer or even a flat washer or nut.
In which case you called a jackaroo or station hand to throw it to you to save you crawling out (from under).
As I say, they are small & compact. They are small, and take up little room.

Collecting Spanners is a bit like collecting barbed wire (there is even a barbed wire collectors "Bible", or other collectables include rabbit traps and hoes…..

Some people even collect old nails or sheep shearing hand shears, double spring handle top or older single spring tops.
……..
Lots of other notes then:
Re "King Dick" spanners, they were rarely placed in standard machinery tool boxes and had to be purchased separately.
"Throw me the King Dick was often the call"

Editor
Thanks for your letter Jim.

The King Dick fish-bellied shifter was primarily a bicycle tool and later morphed into larger versions for motor cars. The King Dick was never designed with farm machinery in mind – early farm machinery was provided with sufficient tools for maintenance and running adjustments, and as such had tools specifically designed for those purposes.

It is good to get a farmer's perspective on this additional use of King Dick shifters and their efficacy in farm use.

Regarding the other collectables you mention….there are a great many categories of collectables, it seems that whatever was made in quantity, someone is collecting.

Sidchrome Marine Kit *by G Radion*

"The 1970s saw eight new tool sets/kits added, not surprisingly a few were focused on the motorist and one for the boating enthusiast" (DL) the Sidchrome Marine kit".

Pictured at right is a Sidchrome marine kit in rare good condition.

This set is usually found in poor condition, with plastic faded from exposure to ultra violet radiation.

The contents are usually rusted from exposure to salty marine environment with many parts missing or substituted by non-standard replacements.

It is not known where this set spent its life, but going by the fine condition, it was not in a boat.

Tools in the kit are as follows:

Combination spanners: all marked SIDCHROME and with sizes:
13/16 AF, 9/16 AF, 1/2 AF, 7/16 AF & 3/8 AF

An 8 inch Crescent-type shifter

7-inch pliers and two Sidchrome screwdrivers - Phillips head and flat-bladed.

The rarest item in this set is the small pressure can on which the label states:

SIDCHROME
De-Watering Fluid

DISPLACES
MOISTURE

LUBRICATES

PENETRATES

HELPS PREVENT
RUST

65g net

Sidchrome Marine Kit [Contd]

A/F & Metric Set Combination # 437-5

There was another kit that used a similar blow moulded case to the marine kit:

A/F & Metric Set Combination # 437-5, 28 pieces, see below. Incidentally, Dick states that he could not find it in any catalogues, and he has access to most of them. If readers can help - please contact the Editor or Dick Lynch

Sidchrome A/F & Metric Set Combination # 437-5, 28 pieces

Sidchrome Marine Kit, 10 pieces

Welcome to Edition 40, Issued in conjunction with the "Tool Chest" number 136.

Contents this issue:

Pg 1 - 8 - Sidchrome Tool Kits & Tool Sets

Pg 6 Letter to the Editor (Jim Wilson) & Housekeeping

Wanted to buy or swap - Hand tool catalogs by Dufor and Austaloy (Healing). Contact G Radion

Spanner & Wrench Collector back issues: Issues 1-39 now available. $30 plus P & P, or collect at a HTPAA event by prior arrangement. Postage will be calculated for a parcel over 1 kg - call the editor.

Feedback from those who find this newsletter useful would be appreciated. ***Continued contributions are required to keep it interesting.*** *Thanks to those who have sent content, your stuff will all be used eventually.*

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Aims of the Spanner & Wrench SIG:
Promote the conservation, identification and collection of spanners & wrenches and to share information with the group to that end.