

WHAT'S IN YOUR TOOLBOX?

BY ROB PILIGIAN

For several motorcar seasons now, I've been asked on occasion what tools I carry in my motorcar toolbox. Many in the hobby believe that they should carry a plethora of tools to overcome any breakdown that may occur on a trip while others carry the bare minimum, if any, in the way of tools, expecting other people to perform repairs for them, on the spot. Let me say, I generally fall towards the "carry some tools" crowd while not overloading my motorcar with rarely-used tools or equipment. The list below is what works for me, what works for you may be completely different and you should stick with what you know and trust. With this in mind, here we go:



I use a surplus military ammunition box to carry my tools. It's watertight, has a nice handle, is very sturdy and can take the abuse of riding the rail.

From left to right:

A set of combination wrenches ranging in size from 1/4" up to 7/8", in a heavy-duty pouch. Wrenches carried loose will become a problem, the pouch helps keep track of your own wrenches during a breakdown when other people are helping.

A set of hex wrenches

Several brake pins

A timer blade

Some anti-seize to apply to spark plug threads

A small pipe wrench and yes, it's been used

Two sets of feeler gauges, one leaf and one pin

A points file

A roll of high-quality electrical tape, not homeowner cheap stuff

A roll of thread sealant tape

A spark clip-on tester

Several jumper leads with alligator ends, some insulated, some not

Various screwdrivers that can be abused along with a 6-in-one screwdriver

A small pick

A socket wrench handle and two different size spark plug sockets (for the plugs in your car(s))

A good-quality wire end crimping tool

A pair of needle nose pliers

A pair of slip-joint pliers

A 10" adjustable wrench

A VOM

A packet of crimp wire terminals with some wire tie wraps

A segmented vee-belt



Yes, everything fits nicely inside.

In the more than 30 years on the rails with NARCOA, this set of tools has helped to repair more than a few cars. Yes, I could add tools...but this works for me. Of course, the amount of spare parts carried along is a topic for another time.