

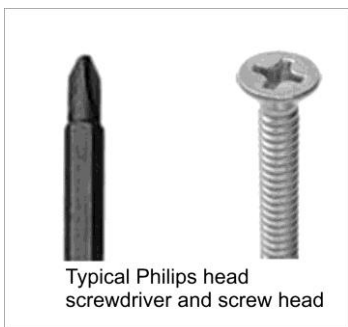
Small Tools

What to write, what to write. It's getting harder and harder to come up with something to write about within the bounds of 'maintenance'. My neighbor and friend, Fred Petito came up with the idea of explaining the use of small tools because there are many women in the community that live alone and may never have had the need to use tools before. Fred is the fellow that does the crossword puzzles for the Legend. Imagine that, one guy sitting down and figuring them out. I always thought it was a group of retired professors in some university basement taking out their frustrations on us normal folk. Anyway, back to small tools. I recommend you have in your home a flat blade screwdriver, a Philips head screwdriver, a slip joint plier, a small claw or carpenters hammer, an adjustable wrench and a utility knife. Believe it or



not, one of the toughest tools to use is a flat blade screwdriver. The blade must be sharp and square and the right size. If the screwdriver you have in the house is one your husband got from his father who got it from his father and open paint cans and chip cement with, get rid of

one. If the edge is not flat and sharp you will strip the screw head. You will also



hold the screwdriver at an angle and don't put pressure on it. A Philips head screwdriver is a

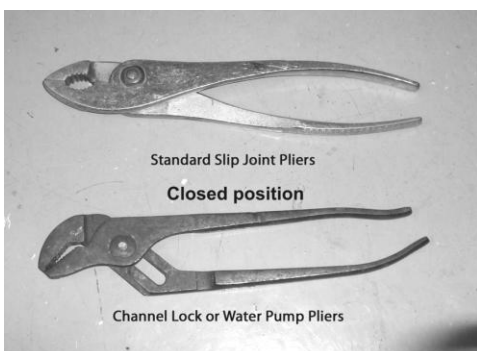


used it to it. Buy a new strip it if you enough little easier to

work with if you hold it straight and keep constant pressure on the screw head as you turn it. But you must make sure the screwdriver is straight or you will strip the screw slots. A

good slip joint pliers is also a handy tool to have around the house. There is the standard

pliers and the Channel Lock or water pump pliers. If you only want or have one, I recommend it be the water pump type as it grips a little harder when turned in the right direction. This is a good time to remind you that almost all common



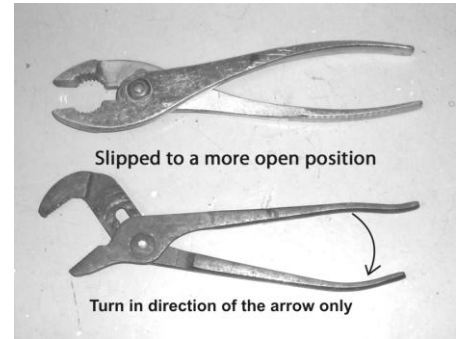
screws have right hand threads. This means they go clockwise to tighten and counter clockwise to loosen, or as known in the trade, "righty tighty and lefty

loosey". Be sure to hold and turn the water pump pliers and or the

adjustable wrench the right way or they will slip. The water pump pliers

should be in a position in the adjustable grooves that allows you a good grip

and leverage when you squeeze on the handles. The adjustable wrench should be tightened with the knurled piece so it is snug against the sides of the bolt or nut you are working on. If the wrench cannot be tightened or is sloppy, get a new one, it will not affect your kid's inheritance all that much. Again, be sure the solid part of the wrench is on top taking all the pressure, the bottom or adjustable part is just to keep it tight against the nut or bolt. A claw



hammer is a must for hanging pictures and chasing husbands or boyfriends. The hammer end is for driving nails and the claw end is for pulling them out when you find you put the nail in the wrong place. A utility knife is another



tool that comes in real handy. Besides cutting carpet, linoleum and other heavy duty tasks, it can save your nails (and your arms and back) when opening all those cartons you are getting from QVC and HSN. Only open the blade as deep as or just a little deeper than you will need to cut through the tape or cardboard. Great for cutting open those beautifully wrapped but impossible to open products that have the hard clear plastic around them also. Lock the blade in position while you are using it and pull the blade back in when you are finished. Nothing like reaching in the drawer and grabbing a razor blade!



People have been telling me they cut my articles out and saving them. They are always available on the Fairways web site or mine, www.bellboatbob.com

Bob Mattsson 2010