

RECOMMENDED TOOLS

Although the team has all the basic tools you'll need (ordinary hex-key wrenches and the cheap VEX open-end wrenches), you may want to acquire better tools for your own use. Also, a good toolbox provides a way to have needed spare-parts at competition.

Here is a recommended tool list, roughly in order of importance. This is by no means exclusive or required...just the opinion of one team mentor. Good quality tools are worth the cost in the long run. Get brand names like Bondhus, GearWrench, Kobalt, Klein, or Craftsman. My opinion is that items 1-3 are essential to keep your sanity; also, a good tool box: the Dewalt TSTAK system is rugged and versatile, with many options.

#1. 5/64" and 3/32" Ball End Hex Key Drivers. Either get two individual drivers, or get a whole set for a little more, and you'll be able to help assemble the field perimeter. The team has plenty of regular hex keys.

#2. 11/32" Combination Wrench. You don't need a whole set here, just the one size (but a couple times a year, ACE hardware sells a nice Craftsman set for \$9.99). A 1/4" wrench could be handy for hex standoffs, but the VEX wrench works OK for that.

#3. Pliers and wire cutters. Good pliers are needed to pull and maneuver shafts. They are helpful to hold nuts in place to get started, but use a wrench for final tightening. Cutters are needed for zip ties.

#4. Bent long-nose pliers. Handy for getting nuts into hard-to-reach places.

#5. 11/32" Nutdriver. Like the combination wrench, only one size is needed.

#6. Tape Measure.

#7. Metal snips.