

The Res-Q-Rench

A new spin on an old standby



PHOTOS BY CARL AVERY

Rescuers can bust out a tempered glass window with Res-Q-Rench.

Task Force Tips (TFT) of Valparaiso, Ind., has created a different way to attack an old problem. Although many departments know the company for its work with high-flow, automatic fire nozzles, this time the product is the Res-Q-Rench, a lightweight, rustproof, multi-use folding spanner wrench that can enhance your personal arsenal.

This tool does more than help loosen hose couplings. Like the spanners I first used in the 1970s when I started in this business, it's a personal pocket tool (PPT). The tool is a folding spanner, seatbelt cutter and window breaker. It's a device that can hold a door ajar, shut off gas, turn your O₂ tank valve and pry open a window.

The wrench is made of injection-molded yellow and black nylon. Closed, it's 8¼ inches by ¾ inches by 1¼ inches thick. Open, the wrench is 12¾ inches long. The tool weighs 5 ounces.

THE EVERYTHING TOOL

Designed for today's challenges, it can work on LDH, which is a special asset. Traditional-style spanner wrenches might not be up to the task of working with LDH. In addition, this is a tool that, on one call, can help make up a supply line, extend a handline, bust out a tempered-glass sliding door and block open a stairway door. On another call, it could open up windows at a car wreck, slice the seatbelt to free an accident victim and cut clothing to treat injuries. It

could also help control a gas leak. Yet this tool folds up compactly and fits easily in a coat pocket.

Task Force Tips created it when principals Stewart McMillan and Rod Carringer had a brainstorming session on the way home from an exhibition. After finding



With the Res-Q-Rench, firefighters no longer need a crowbar to pry open a window.



The spanner can shut off a gas line.

some open time on one of its plastic-injection machines, the TFT team put on its MacGyver hats. The result is the carbide-tipped Res-Q-Rench. After building a prototype, the project went into production in record time.

The tool has multiple uses, yet it folds up compactly and fits easily in a turnout coat pocket.



Seatbelts cut easily with the tool's sharp edge.

PHOTOS BY JAC



The tool makes it easier to connect a hose coupling.

EASY TO USE

I carry one of these little beauties in my turnout coat. So far, its performance has been as expected. The size and shape of the tool seem right, fitting my hand well. This is especially true about the seatbelt-cutter feature. It provides a comfortable, strong grip for slicing through seatbelt webbing. Res-Q-Rench works well on rocker-lug-type handline couplings, and 4- and 5-inch Storz locking-type connections.

The tool sells for about \$25. For a few bucks more, TFT will customize it by laser etching your name or department on the spanner. About the only thing the Res-Q-Rench doesn't have is the heft of the old brass spanners we used to carry.

Take a look at it and see what you think. You can check it out on the Web at www.tft.com.



It's a multi-use tool that fits well in small areas.

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