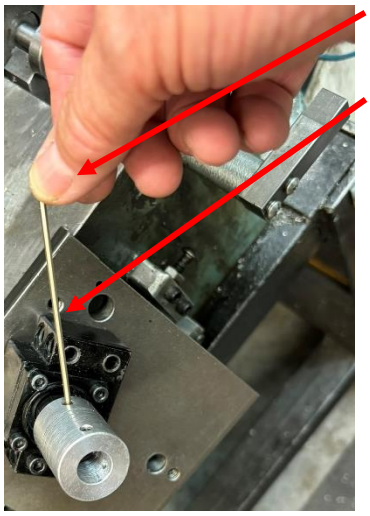
An Allen Wrench Handle, Version 1.0

By R. G. Sparber

Here is a common yet potentially problematic situation. I have a small set screw close to a surface. The set screw is tight, and I need to loosen it and then spin it out of its threaded hole. With the Allen wrench, as shown, I can spin the set screw reasonably well, but cracking it loose is a problem.



If I grab the short end and twist,
the long end will twist without moving the set screw.

My best approach is to use the short end and put up with repositioning the wrench as it strikes the surface. The second best approach is to put a small adjustable wrench on the hex body. I quickly run out of hands, trying to set that up.

I want a handle that can go on the long part of the Allen wrench. While I'm dreaming, it should accept a wide range of sizes.

Once in a while, a new tool turns out to be a new use for an old tool.

A spare 3-jaw drill chuck works well. I had to fumble with the key, but it worked.

My new Allen wrench handle is comfortable in my hands and provides plenty of leverage, plus it makes it easy to spin the set screw.

Since I needed to order some boring household stuff on Amazon anyway, why not toss in their lowest-cost keyless 3/8” drill chuck? I found one for about $7. I doubt it would hold up in a drill, but it should be fine as a handle.

This keyless chuck works well, and I don’t have to worry about losing the key.

I must remember that the chuck has two parts that turn relative to each other. When I want to tighten a fastener, I must only turn the top part of the chuck. This action tightens the jaws around the Allen wrench and then tightens the fastener.

The added leverage with these small Allen wrenches works well.

These chucks can easily accept a ¼" Allen wrench. At this size, the body does not distort as I twist the short end of the wrench.

I can attach a pin vise when I need to apply more torque to the short end of a ¼" or larger wrench. Well, of course, it is homemade using a scrap, low-quality drill chuck.

If you don't have such a pin vise, you can find a threaded section that screws into the chuck you are using as a handle. This it coveres both bases.

I welcome your comments and questions.

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