

**BEST  
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## Silverline 868818

Not the cheapest product in the group, but certainly the cheapest one that anybody would thank you for! Again, this kit is really an extended socket set. But the socketry supplied is very impressive: 1/4in, 3/8in and 1/2in drive ratchets, sockets covering 4-27mm and 3/16-1 1/16in AF, and even 12 deeps. More importantly, all the ratchets and sockets are very nicely finished and eminently usable. Much the same can be said for the six spanners supplied. Covering 10-19mm, these are a step-up from the short, budget-range offerings usually found in these kits. There are no pliers or standalone screwdrivers included, but 17 socket-mounted bits more than compensate.

PRICE	<b>£63.77</b>
CONTACT	<b>01935 382252</b>
PRICE from	<b>www.silverlinetoolbox.co.uk</b>
WEB	<b>www.silverlinetools.com</b>
PERFORMANCE	<b>9/14</b>
IS IT WORTH THE MONEY?	<b>6/6</b>
OVERALL SCORE	<b>15/20</b>

## Draper 02364

PRICE	<b>£83.52</b>
CONTACT	<b>023 8049 4333</b>
PRICE from	<b>www.ccw-tools.com</b>
WEB	<b>www.draper.co.uk</b>
PERFORMANCE	<b>10/14</b>
IS IT WORTH THE MONEY?	<b>5/6</b>
OVERALL SCORE	<b>15/20</b>

Essentially a comprehensive socket set with a few spanners added for good measure, this only just fits into our toolkit classification. But, being part of Draper's Expert range, what is supplied is damned good – professional quality, in fact. Ten spanners cover sizes 8-17mm, but when we get to the socketry, that caters for AF as well – specifically 5/32-13/16in alongside 4-20mm. Both 3/8 and 1/4in drive ratchets are supplied, plus a multitude of extensions, accessories and 23 deeps. There are no pliers or extras, but 24 bits and a driver tool provide screwdriving duties.



## Sealey AP9243BBCOMBO



This set feels like the result of a bizarre episode of *Supermarket Sweep*, set in the Sealey factory. You get the (rather nice) three-drawer topbox, and then an assortment of tool sets grabbed from Sealey's budget Siegen range. Consequently, no attempt has been made to organise the contents inside the case. As for what's provided, quality varies hugely. The 11-piece spanner set, for instance, is excellent, as is the combined Maglite-style torch, complete with built-in magnetic pick-up tool. But the tiny 1/4in drive socket set, covering just 4-13mm, is disappointing, and the screwdrivers supplied feel a bit on the small side.

PRICE	<b>£90.66</b>
CONTACT	<b>01284 757500</b>
PRICE from	<b>www.ccw-tools.com</b>
WEB	<b>www.sealey.co.uk</b>
PERFORMANCE	<b>9/14</b>
IS IT WORTH THE MONEY?	<b>5/6</b>
OVERALL SCORE	<b>14/20</b>

## Spending little, buying wisely

As we've already mentioned, financially speaking, full toolkits make a lot of sense. Sometimes that's because you are simply being rewarded for buying in bulk, just as with any other form of business. But there's also a tendency, amongst some suppliers, to pile the kits high with either very basic ranges of tools or tools of – dare we say – questionable quality.

- With this in mind, what is worth buying and what's not?
- From what we've seen here, metal toolboxes/chests are no different, in terms of quality or size, to items you'd normally buy on their own.
- Remember that, as a rule, sockets only break if seriously abused. Cheap ratchets are often fragile, though. If you're planning to use some of these toolkits seriously, you'll probably need to splash out £10-20 on a decent ratchet.
- Although sockets tend to be tough, cheaper ones are not especially nice to use. To get around using inferior grades of steel, socket walls are often made very thick. Sometimes to the extent that tackling nuts and bolts close to obstructions – such as by manifolds – becomes impossible.



One of the easiest ways of spotting dubious quality is excessively fat socket walls, like here.

- Socketry accessories can often be weak points too. Particularly extensions and adapters in 1/4in and 3/8in drive sizes.
- Cheap spanners tend to be okay from a durability point of view, but ring walls are sometimes excessively thick – like cheap sockets – and sizing isn't always especially accurate. This is often most noticeable on open-end jaws. Though filing, or making use of a bench grinder, can often fix this.
- Budget screwdrivers tend to work okay in the short term, but less well hardened tips will distort relatively quickly. It's also unlikely that budget screwdriver kits will be full size, or boast handles that are particularly well designed from a grip point of view.