

## Tools of the Trade

**Common tools you will find useful to do most repairs.**

### **Must have to start:**

- Well-lighted place to work out of the weather (not really a tool but necessary)
- Safety glasses and nitrile or latex disposable gloves
- Assortment of hand tools: wrenches, sockets, pliers, screwdrivers
- Floor jack and quality jack stands
- Hand-held LED flashlight
- Jumper cables
- Extension cords
- Common automotive fluids/oils, such as motor oils (variety of weights), automatic transmission fluids (variety of manufacturers' types), WD-40, brake fluids (DOT 3 and 4), coolant, brake cleaner, window washer fluid
- Grease gun
- Multimeter to test batteries and other electrical components
- Vacuum cleaner (best not to use the home vacuum. Just sayin')
- Cleaning supplies: dish soap, rags, carpet cleaner, glass cleaner, nylon and wire/brass brushes. Keep a variety of sizes and grades of stiffness around, including an old toothbrush
- Detailing supplies: assortment of waxes, cutting and polishing creams, tire dressing, plastic/rubber trim dressing, black plastic restorer, head light lens restoring kit, chrome/aluminum wheel polish, leather conditioner, leather dyes in common colors
- Microfiber towels
- Paper towels
- Razor scraper knife with locking blade
- Small flat magnet

- Small telescopic mirror
- Engine degreaser
- Lacquer thinner and acetone
- Zip ties (variety of sizes/colors)
- Masking tape (yellow automotive)

### **Buy as soon as you can:**

- Battery charger
- Power pack battery jumper with built-in air compressor
- Drop light and portable spotlights
- Head lamp
- 20-25 gallon air compressor, along with impact, ratchet, and tire inflation attachment. 1.5-2 HP will provide you the 90 PSI you need. More is better to recharge air tank. If you prefer, cordless battery powered combo tool kits can be purchased. But you will never regret having compressed air at the ready.
- OBD II to check code faults
- Carpet shampooer/cleaner. Again, buy your own for the garage/shop. Ignore all of the bells and whistles. What matters is suction; you need to be able to extract from material the fouled, dirty water. Everything else is fluff.
- Dual action (DA) orbital buffing wheel or variable speed buffing wheel, along with an assortment of foam pads.
- Coveralls

### **Worth saving up for**

- Pressure washer. This can be pricey, but you will love it and find about a million uses for it over the years.
- 60- or -80-gallon air compressor, smaller if you opt for cordless battery-powered tools