

REQUIRED TOOLS

By Roy Bardowell, CDDC

This article is specifically targeted toward garage door and operator installers.

I have traveled with many door technicians when they required my expertise. One thing that annoys me is the lack of proper tools that many technicians refuse to carry. If you do not carry the proper tools and replacement parts it will become difficult to provide the best service. Not having all the tools required only hurts the technician in many ways.

First it takes more time when you lack the proper tool. Time is money, so it is important that you shorten the time needed to provide a good service call.

Secondly, you want to look professional when in front of the homeowners. Homeowners are not only looking for fast fairly priced service, they also want to have a good experience. This means looking as professional as possible.

One of the most important tools when doing residential garage door service is to have a solid pair of winding bars.



Typical winding bars start out from C12 carbon steel in a .625-inch diameter. For residential garage doors the bars will be about 18 inches long and one end will be turned down to a 1/2-inch diameter. For commercial

garage doors the winding bars will be about 21 inches long and one end will have a 5/8-inch diameter. The best set of winding bars will be a 5/8-inch diameter with one end turned down to 1/2 inch. A pair of bars described would apply to residential and commercial spring winding bars.

An 8-point 3/8" socket is also very helpful when tightening or loosening the RED square head winding cone set screws. These same RED set screws are also found on the pair of cable drums. That means there is a minimum of 8 square head set screws on every garage door. Having the special socket for this task makes adjustments easier for sure!



For those doing commercial door service the list of required tools is longer. The most common tool ignored is an ohm meter or volt meter.

Commercial door operators are often connected to high-voltage and it is so much safer if you can verify the voltage has been turned off before doing any service. The main reason for not having a tester is not knowing how to use one. I have shown dozens of technicians the proper use of a meter, but there are still hundreds of technicians who are not familiar with how to use a tester.



My best suggestion for those who wish to learn how to use a meter is to ask around for those who know how to use a tester and ask them to help you. It is always safer when you have supervision anytime you are placing your hands near high voltage, especially in the beginning. After a couple of successful readings your fear of electricity will disappear. Even-so you must always be extra safe around electricity.

Now GO GET EM!

Roy Bardowell, CDDC, is a member of the tech support team at Micanan Systems. He served as Operations Manager at Guardian Access & Door Hardware until 2012. He has been in the door and operator industry since 1973 and is known as one of the industry's most experienced operator technicians and trainers. Roy received the IDEA Commitment to Excellence award in 2008 and IDA's Jerry R. Reynolds Volunteer Service Award in 2017. Contact him at roythedoorman@gmail.com