

# Amazing Farm Wrench Book

Everything you ever wanted to know about farm wrenches is likely to be found in one or another of P.T. Rathbone's series of Farm Wrench Books. In a project that never ends, Rathbone keeps finding more wrenches to cover.

"I did the first volume and immediately started getting corrections and additions," says Rathbone. "When I finished Vol. 2, the corrections and additions were already coming in for Vol. 3."

Rathbone sells Vol. 1 for \$60, Vol. 2 for \$50 and Vol. 3, recently finished, sells for \$55. All prices include postage. All three volumes are available as a set for \$155.

"If you are interested in farm wrenches, you need to start with Vol. 1," advises Rathbone. "The following volumes don't repeat information found in the preceding volumes. They only correct it if a mistake was made."

FARM SHOW purchased Vol. 1 to get a firsthand look, and the material covered is impressive. Entries include photos or drawings of wrenches issued by long-gone farm implement companies. Rathbone also offers histories of the companies whenever possible.

Companies covered go far beyond the standard tractor and field implement companies. The book includes wrenches from buggy, silo, cream separator, windmill

and gas engine companies. However, that doesn't begin to describe the variety of wrenches or companies in the book.

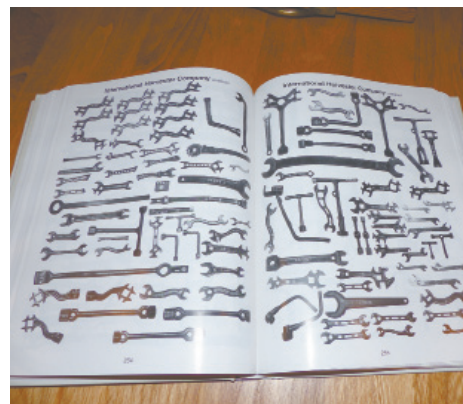
Rathbone notes that there were thousands of companies making farm equipment over the past century and a half. The challenge is finding information on what they produced and the special wrenches used to work on them.

Rathbone covers 783 companies in Vol. 1. Some, like the Aetna Company, had one wrench that lasted for 10 years and folded. The flyer reproduced by the company history shows the mower and reaper or "Aetna Self Rake" mower.

Compare that to the 8 pages of wrenches from International Harvester Co. The historical record starts with the American Harvester Co. forming in 1890 and ends with the sale to Tenneco, Inc. in 1985.

The companies started or acquired by John and Charles Deere and partners and their wrenches cover 11 pages. They include Deere & Mansur, who developed a rotary corn planter in 1877.

If the main book is interesting, the supplement is a must have for collectors. It consists of lists of wrench part numbers and the company names that go with them. The last section of the supplements includes names of companies and parts numbers of wrenches



P.T. Rathbone keeps finding more wrenches to include in his series of Farm Wrench Books.

sold at major auctions in the 1990's. Each successive volume offers an updated price guide, as well as additional companies and wrenches.

Vol. 3 is only 259 pages compared to the Vol. 1 with its 500+ pages. However, it includes 1,200 new wrenches and the histories of another 239 companies. With Vol. 3, the supplement really stands out. It matches 6,000 wrenches with their companies and gives an updated price list.

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Reader Inquiry No. 126

## He Uses Cutoff Wheel To Sharpen Chainsaw

Dull chainsaw chain? Worn files? No worries, says Matthias Wandel. Grab an angle grinder with a cutoff metal wheel. The Canadian blogger tried it when he needed to sharpen a chain. It worked so well he made a YouTube video in 2012 that has had nearly 300,000 views.

"It's critical to get the right angle and to be careful not to cut the links," Wandel notes, "and also to not hold the wheel on a chain tooth very long. You can mess the chain up fast with a grinding wheel if you make a mistake."

Despite some YouTube critics, others say they've used the grinding method successfully for a quick sharpening.

Wandel says the cutoff wheel is faster on a chain that is really messed up. But for a quick touch up, a sharp file in the hands of an experienced sharpener is better.

Wandel adds that the wheel can be quickly dressed by running the edge against a stone.

A video of the method can be seen at [www.farmshow.com](http://www.farmshow.com). Wandel shares a variety of woodworking projects, techniques and tips at his website.



Matthias Wandel uses an angle grinder with a cutoff wheel to quickly sharpen chainsaw chains.

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"It's critical to get the right angle and to be careful not to cut the links," he says.

