

TRIED 'N' TESTED

Sealey VS0347 Brake Pipe Spanner

AVAILABLE FROM:

Sealey stockists nationwide,
see www.sealey.co.uk

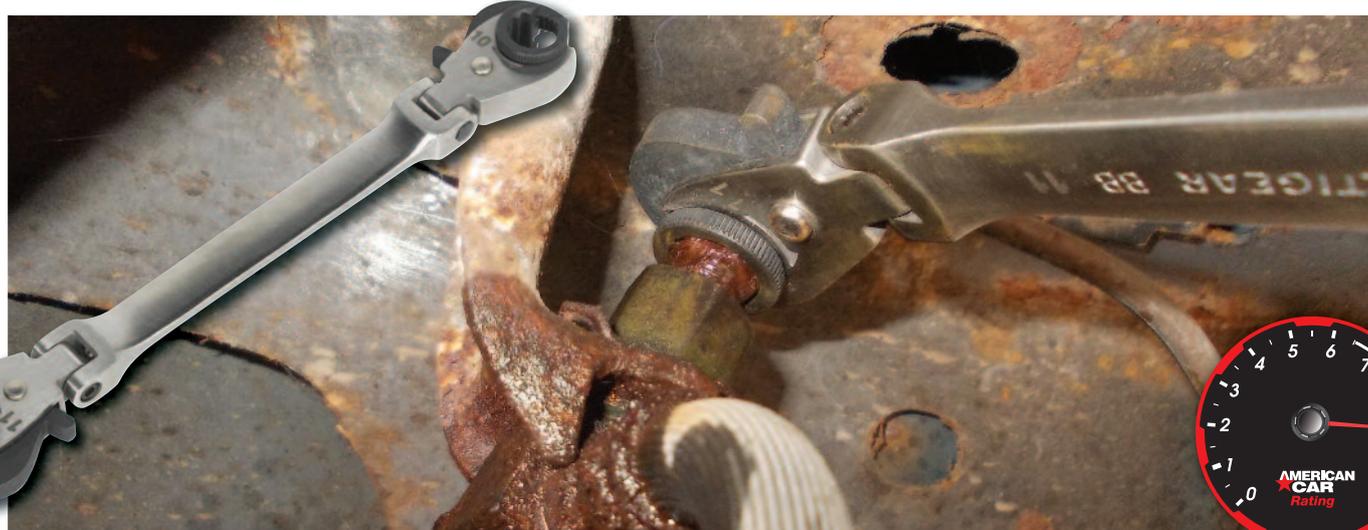
Brake and fuel pipe unions can be the bane of your life, especially if they're steel or mixed steel and brass. The flare nut corrodes to whatever it's screwed into, and the pipe corrodes to the nut. Use an open-ended spanner and you'll probably find you've suddenly got a round flare nut and your knuckles are bleeding; use a

cheap flare nut spanner and you'll find it flexes and either lets go or rounds the damn thing off anyway, thereby proving itself to be about as much use as tights to a mermaid.

Could this be the magic answer? It's a flare nut spanner from Sealey, with a nice, forged C-shaped double-hex, 10mm at one end and 11mm the other (so

7/16" is pretty much covered), with a cunning ratcheting mechanism. Spin the C-shaped hex to allow it to pass over the pipe, slot it into place, and go for it. It grips the flare nut well, and I tried it on flares that hadn't been touched in 25 years and it opened them all without damage, though I did soak them in Gibbs lubricant beforehand.

It could well be the answer you require, and it's now an indispensable part of the toolbox. The only downside is the bulk of the C-shaped hex - it's pretty deep, which is great for ensuring a good grip but can be a bit of a faff in tight spaces. It's not a tuppenny piece, but feels well made, and the first time it gets you out of the schtuck you'll consider it money well spent.



TRIED 'N' TESTED

Purple-X Rust Stain Remover

AVAILABLE FROM:

Rustbuster,
www.rust.co.uk



This is strange stuff. It's designed to remove rust marks from almost any surface, and when the trial sample turned up at HQ, they all decided that I should try it. For some reason, they seem to think that rust features more prominently in my life than more prominently in my life that everyone else's. Sadly, they're right.

I decided to test it on a rusty patch on the old El Camino. I didn't have to look far. Around

the rear window, rust has started beneath the window trim and has left long, brown streaks running down the white paint. I got an old toothbrush, scrubbed on some of this Purple-X and left it to work. It turned a deep shade of purple, accompanied by an unearthly smell, and I gave it another scrub around with the toothbrush. Later, I rinsed it all off with a bucket of water. Bang! And the rust streak is gone. The

strange saggy outline in the picture is the paint, nothing to do with Purple-X.

The Rustbuster guys reckon this works on everything from steel and aluminium to concrete and GRP, will clean rust marks off chrome without damaging the finish, and is pH neutral. It seems like this could be very useful stuff to have around, even though I didn't know I needed it until I'd tried it.

