

Proper Wrench Usage Promotes Successful Installations

Why is a proper wrench important for installing brass valves and fittings?

Using the proper wrench on a valve or fitting's designated wrench flats is key to ensuring the best possible product life and performance. Pipe wrenches or loose fitting wrenches can distort the body of a valve, breaking the factory seal and causing the valve to leak.

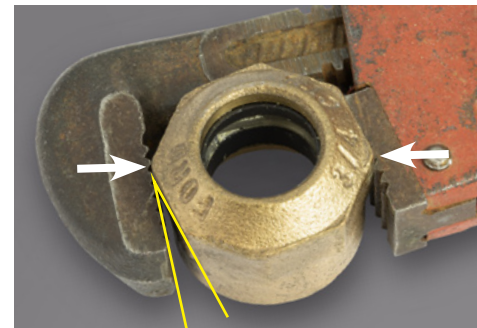
Standard pipe wrenches are detrimental because the relaxed position of pipe wrench jaws is typically 5 – 7 degrees from being parallel. This jaw position allows the jaws to more tightly engage as more force is exerted on the wrench handle. This wrench application is highly damaging to the integrity of waterworks brass.

In addition to distorting valves, incorrect wrench usage can prevent proper nut installation. An improperly fitting wrench can squeeze the nut, distort the threads, and prevent proper tightening. This may lead to leakage or pipe slippage.

Using the proper wrench in accordance with Ford® installation instructions, is the best way to avoid damaging the product and to ensure a reliable installation. A smooth jaw wrench that fully engages the wrench flats on the nut or valve is the most desirable way to install the product. The proper tools and correct techniques mean smoother installations and excellent product performance!



The photo above shows a smooth jaw wrench properly engaging the wrench flats on a valve.



Above is a view of how non-parallel pipe wrench jaws improperly engage parallel wrench flats.



This photo shows proper wrench position on a compression nut.





Pumpkin Wagon

Watercolor on paper by Jane Herzog, 759 Frederick Street, Huntington, Indiana 46750

OCTOBER 2018

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The Heater from Van Meter



Bob Feller's fame is slipping away, but folks in his hometown of Van Meter, Iowa, are not content to see one of baseball's great pitchers fade from memory. Feller was born in the little Iowa town on November 3 one hundred years ago. A museum featuring mementos and artifacts from Feller's career in baseball closed not long after the pitcher's death in 2010, but his local fans have placed some of those pieces in the town's city hall.

Feller's father loved baseball, and, according to the *New York Times*, he leveled a section of pasture and created a ball field, complete with bleachers and even a scoreboard. It must have been something like an early version of the movie "Field of Dreams." Area teams came to play against teams from Van Meter. With such a field practically in his backyard, how could young Bob Feller not have been interested in baseball?

Visits to the museum dropped off when Feller died, and other famous major leaguers who helped promote the museum stopped coming. Without visitors and without much revenue, the museum, which stood a mile or so off heavily traveled Interstate 80 west of Des Moines, soon closed its doors.

When the museum's board reluctantly sold the building to the town, some of the mementos of Feller's career wound up in Cleveland. A few of the remaining items are still displayed in what is now Van Meter's center of government. A sign on I-80 beckons die-hard fans off the road.

Feller's fastball was a key to his remarkable success as a pitcher. A scout from the Cleveland Indians spotted Feller while he was playing high school and

American Legion baseball. Feller secretly signed with the Indians when he was 16, and, bypassing the minors altogether, he pitched his first league game for Cleveland before he turned 18. In that game he struck out 15 St. Louis Browns.

One of Feller's most memorable achievements came on April 16, 1940, when he pitched a no-hitter against the Chicago White Sox on opening day. It remains the only no-hitter recorded on the first day of any season. He won 27 games that season.

Feller interrupted his career when he enlisted in the Navy on December 9, 1941, just two days after the attack on Pearl Harbor. He came back to the Indians in 1945 and by the next season he had returned to top form and was pitching better than ever. He threw his second no-hitter and fanned 348 hitters, still a club record, during his first full season after military duty.

He perfected his fastball in a day before radar guns could register its speed, but a photoelectric device once clocked his pitches at the average of 98.6 miles an hour. Particularly in Feller's day, sportswriters hung nicknames on outstanding athletes, and the pitcher's scorching fastball gave rise to terms such as "Rapid Robert" and "The Heater from Van Meter."

Cleveland was the only major league team for which Feller ever played. Over 18 seasons he won 226 games and lost 162. He recorded 2,581 strikeouts, well short of Nolan Ryan's record 5,714. Feller's strikeout total places him 28th on the major league list of career strikeouts. That puts him ahead of such legendary pitchers as Christy Mathewson (2,507), Don Drysdale (2,486) and Sandy Koufax (2,396).

by Pete Jones

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