

## Grouptest

# Multitools

Multitools are the Swiss army knives of the cycling world, fixing many trailside and roadside issues to keep you rolling. **Rach Bennet** tests four



**RACH BENNET**

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**M**ultitools offer a compact and convenient way to take essential tools with you when you ride. They'll help you out of many tricky situations. Plus, they're handy for making quick adjustments to your riding position or contact points when you're out and about.

There's a wide range of multitools available. Some cyclists prefer a minimalist approach, carrying just the essentials, while others want to be able to deal with any eventuality. What you need from a multitool depends on the bike you ride, where you ride and what repairs you're comfortable handling. Of course, keeping up with service intervals and checking your bolts before every ride can help minimise the chances of needing a multitool for more than just minor tweaks and fixes.

I've put four multitools with varying functions through thorough testing in the harsh conditions of the British winter.

## Multitool functions

### Included tools

	PNW Pebble	Crankbrothers F15	Topeak Mini 9 Pro	Lezyne SV Pro 17
2mm Allen	✗	✓	✓	✓
2.5mm Allen	✗	✓	✓	✗
3mm Allen	✓	✓	✓	✓
4mm Allen	✓	✓	✓	✓
5mm Allen	✓	✓	✓	✓
6mm Allen	✓	✓	✗	✓
8mm Allen	✗	✓	✗	✗
Torx 10	✗	✗	✗	✓
Torx 25	✓	✓	✓	✓
Philips screwdriver	✗	✓	✓	✓
Flat-head screwdriver	✗	✓	✗	✗
Tyre lever	✗	✗	✓	✗
Spoke keys	✗	✓	✗	✓
Chain breaker	✗	✓	✗	✓
Tubeless tyre plug kit	✗	✗	✗	✓
Valve core remover	✗	✗	✗	✓
Spanner (8 & 10mm)	✗	✗	✗	✓
Dynaplug	✓	✗	✗	✗
<b>NOMINAL TOOLS</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>WEIGHT</b>	<b>50g</b>	<b>161g</b>	<b>74g*</b>	<b>120g</b>

\*80g inc cover

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR

### 1 Functions

Consider which tools you actually need and will use. Unnecessary functions – like a tubeless tyre plug kit if you ride with tubes – are just dead weight. Check your bike to identify the bolt sizes, plus any common issues you might encounter.

### 2 Size

Weight and size are key, whether you're carrying the tool in a pocket or stashing it on your bike. If you like to travel fast and light, a compact tool might be best. But if you're packing it in a bag, you can afford a bulkier, more comprehensive option.

### 3 Durability

It needs to hold up to regular use and outdoor conditions. Look for tools made from high-quality materials like chrome-plated vanadium steel to resist rust and prevent rounding of bolt heads. A chamfered edge helps keep bolts in good shape.

### 4 Ease of use

Some multitools can be fiddly, especially when trying to get leverage on tight bolts or into nooks and crannies. Choose a tool that fits your bike and your riding style, with enough grip and leverage to tackle stubborn bolts.



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