

Mini test

NEW PRODUCT

Laser High Leverage Pliers 8235/8236/8327

Price: £60.89 (priced individually)

Contact: lasertools.co.uk

Rating: ★★★★★

THE Laser's price is over twice that of the Silverline, but they're available individually so if you need just one variation, you can save. They are also far bigger, which makes them more suitable for heavy-duty work, but may cause access problems.

The main reason they are more expensive is that they can apply more pressure for less effort. This was definitely noticeable when applying more torque, where they were easier on the hand and sometimes completed a job the Silverline couldn't. We liked the spring-loaded design, the thick, moulded handles and the integral thumb lock for safety when not in use. Shame there's no case to keep such pricey tools clean and safe, though.



At the double
Pricey, but high-leverage design cuts the effort needed

Laser pliers get to grips with Silverline rivals

AE Dave Pollard

PLIERS are a tool-box essential and with a set of combination, long nose and side cutters, you'll be able to cope with most situations. Laser's latest variation on the theme is its High Leverage versions and here we pit them against the Silverline VDE trio, which won our last multitest.

We looked for good build quality, comfort and practicality, including when coated in oil or grease. We wanted jaws

to move smoothly, plus we assessed grip by undoing nuts tightened to various torques. For cutting we used various thicknesses of electrical wire, and as an ultimate challenge, a Bowden cable. Storage was factored into the verdict, as was price from online sources.

For typical use the Silverlines make lots of sense, but the Laser trio was very impressive and a worthwhile investment if you have high-torque needs.

"We looked for comfort and practicality, even when coated in oil or grease"

TEST WINNER

Silverline VDE Expert Pliers Set 282501

Price: £23.05 Contact: silverlinetools.com

Rating: ★★★★★

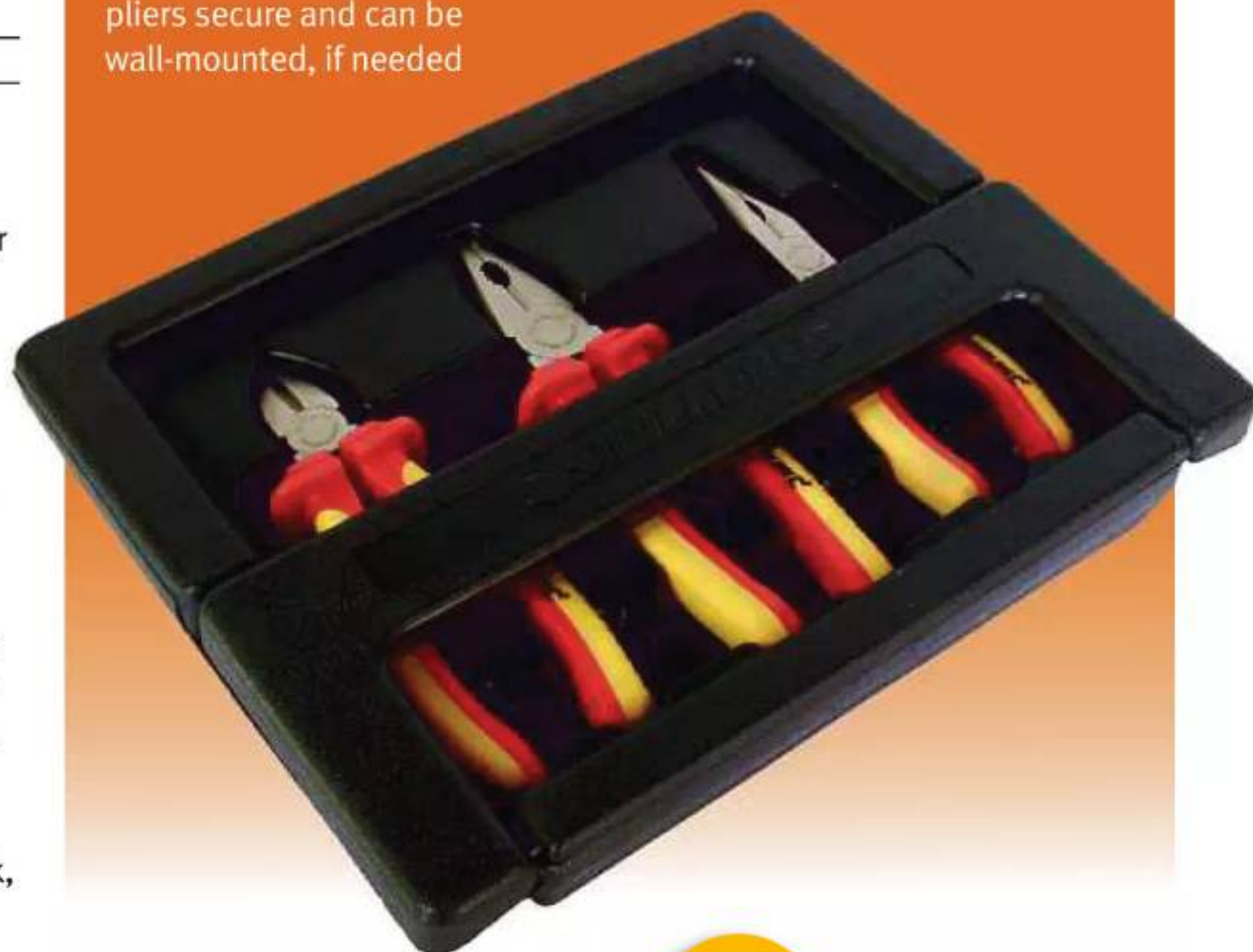
IT'S always a good start when tools come with a lifetime warranty, as these do. This set comprises the trio that's most useful for motoring DIY – combination, side cutters and needle nose. The combinations were 180mm, with the others at 160mm, the right sizes for most jobs, most of the time.

We liked the corrosion-resistant satin-finish construction, which was technically impressive and looked good. They push-fitted into a sculpted case with a fold-over flap to keep them all in place. If required, it could slot onto a couple of screws for wall-mounting, while still being easy to remove.

The soft-grip handles shrugged off the effects of oil and were very comfortable to use. They were also ideal for electrical work, because they are tested to 10,000V.

On the case

Blow-moulded holder keeps pliers secure and can be wall-mounted, if needed



books, games & apps



Jacky Ickx: His Authorised Competition History

Jon Saltinstall (Evro Publishing, evropublishing.co.uk)

Price: £95 Rating: ★★★★★

AN extensively researched book that outlines Ickx's 565 races. Across motorcycle trials, sports cars, Formula 2, Formula 1 and his Le Mans wins, followed by rally raids – few drivers could command such a tome. For the price it's as well produced as you'd expect, with great imagery.

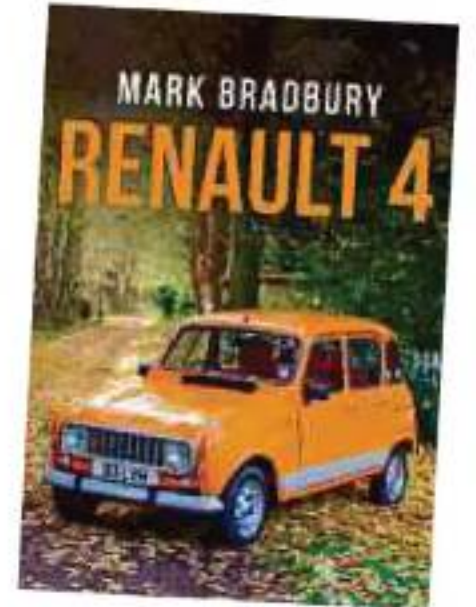


Renault 4

Mark Bradbury (Amberley Publishing, amberley-books.com)

Price: £15.99 Rating: ★★★★★

A COMPACT book about an icon of the compact car world. As with most Amberley titles, it's not extensive but is a great start to a motoring library. It's full of useful tidbits of info, as well as plenty of colour photography, and lots are more candid shots of restored cars today, rather than purely delving into the archives. Easy to read and digest, great for younger readers, but lacking the depth for serious interest.



RallyDay

Available for: iOS, Android

Price: Free Rating: ★★★★★

STILL in the early development stage, so some things might change before the final release. Early signs are good, though; this game has a lot of things we like, such as slick one-finger controls. The graphics are cutely stylised, although the backgrounds are bleak and the tracks a bit featureless. The sound effects are annoying, too, but there's nothing lost by playing muted.



App of the week



Audible

Available for: iOS, Android

Price: Free to download, subscriptions vary

Rating: ★★★★★

THIS app makes it effortless to listen to your favourite titles. The basic £7.99-a-month sub gives you ad hoc access to thousands of podcasts and audiobooks, plus one book to download and keep.

