

2.77 Seek and Geek #9: Self-adjusting wire stripper

I recently discovered my new favorite hand tool: the self-adjusting wire stripper. Watch this video (<https://youtu.be/Sibk-n4GSNc>) to see it in action. As a temporarily one-armed person, most machines and tools in a shop or electronics lab are difficult for me to use right now. Soldering is fairly easy with one arm, but stripping wires puts force all the way through the shoulder and is painful. This was a problem, until I found these wire strippers that self-adjust to the size of the wire, cut the sheath, and pull it free, all in one grasping motion of one hand.



The tool is a five-bar linkage with some added features. During the first half of the squeeze, the gripper jaw on the left is spring-loaded downward, so that it grips the wire tightly but can adjust to the wire gauge while the cutting jaw is completely disengaged. As you squeeze the tool more, the cutting jaw, which is loaded with a stronger spring, severs the sheath. Finally, the last third of the squeeze pulls the large center spring, allowing the jaws to separate and pull the sheath off the wire.



Three steps to stripping a wire.