

## Performance Tool W38137

# Performance Tool W38137 3/8-Inch Drive Ratcheting Adapter

## INSTRUCTION MANUAL

Model: W38137

### INTRODUCTION

This manual provides essential information for the safe and effective use of your Performance Tool W38137 3/8-Inch Drive Ratcheting Adapter. This adapter is designed to convert any standard 3/8-inch drive breaker bar or sliding T-handle into a ratcheting tool, enhancing versatility and efficiency in various applications. It also functions independently as a thumbwheel ratchet for quick adjustments. Constructed from heavy-duty chrome vanadium steel with an oil-resistant black phosphate finish, it is built for durability.

### SAFETY INFORMATION

Always observe the following safety precautions when using this tool:

- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment, including safety glasses, to prevent eye injury.
- Ensure the adapter is securely attached to the drive tool and the socket/fastener before applying torque.
- Do not exceed the maximum torque rating of 164.5 ft/lbs (223 Nm) to prevent damage to the tool or fastener.
- Keep hands and fingers clear of moving parts during operation.
- Inspect the tool for any signs of wear or damage before each use. Do not use a damaged tool.
- Use the correct size socket for the fastener to avoid stripping or slippage.
- Keep the work area clean and well-lit.

### PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Performance Tool W38137 is a compact and robust ratcheting adapter designed for versatility. It features a 3/8-inch square drive for compatibility with standard sockets and drive tools. The red collar indicates the direction of ratcheting, and a hex bolster allows for use with an open-end or adjustable

wrench for additional leverage or fine adjustments.





**Figure 1:** The Performance Tool W38137 3/8-Inch Drive Ratcheting Adapter. This image displays the adapter's main body, the 3/8-inch square drive, and the red directional collar.

## SETUP

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To prepare the ratcheting adapter for use:

1. **Select a Drive Tool:** Choose a 3/8-inch drive breaker bar or sliding T-handle.
2. **Attach the Adapter:** Insert the square drive end of the breaker bar or T-handle into the female receiver of the W38137 adapter. Ensure it clicks securely into place.
3. **Attach a Socket:** Connect the desired 3/8-inch drive socket to the male square drive of the adapter.
4. **Verify Direction:** Rotate the red collar on the adapter to select the desired ratcheting direction (tighten or loosen). Arrows on the collar indicate the direction of rotation for the fastener.



**Figure 2:** The W38137 ratcheting adapter connected to a breaker bar, demonstrating its primary function as an extension to a non-ratcheting drive tool.

## OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

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The W38137 adapter offers two primary modes of operation:

### 1. As a Ratcheting Adapter with a Breaker Bar/T-Handle

1. Ensure the adapter is correctly assembled with your chosen drive tool and socket.
2. Set the ratcheting direction using the red collar.
3. Place the socket onto the fastener.
4. Apply steady pressure to the breaker bar or T-handle to turn the fastener. The ratcheting mechanism

will allow for continuous turning without removing the tool from the fastener.

## 2. As an Independent Thumbwheel Ratchet

1. Attach a socket directly to the male square drive of the adapter.
2. Set the ratcheting direction.
3. Place the socket onto the fastener.
4. Use your thumb and forefinger to rotate the knurled body of the adapter, turning the fastener. This method is ideal for quick, low-torque adjustments in confined spaces.



**Figure 3:** A mechanic using the W38137 ratcheting adapter with a breaker bar in an automotive engine compartment, illustrating its practical application in tight spaces.

## MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance ensures the longevity and reliable performance of your ratcheting adapter:

- **Cleaning:** After each use, wipe the adapter clean with a dry cloth to remove dirt, grease, and debris. For stubborn grime, use a mild solvent and ensure it is thoroughly dried afterward.
- **Lubrication:** Periodically apply a small amount of light machine oil to the ratcheting mechanism to ensure smooth operation. Avoid over-lubrication, which can attract dirt.
- **Storage:** Store the adapter in a clean, dry environment, away from excessive moisture or corrosive materials.
- **Inspection:** Regularly check for any signs of wear, cracks, or deformation. Pay close attention to the square drives and the ratcheting mechanism. Replace the tool if any significant damage is observed.

## TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your ratcheting adapter, consider the following:

- **Ratcheting Mechanism Not Engaging:**
  - Ensure the red directional collar is fully engaged in either the tightening or loosening position.
  - Check for debris or excessive grime within the mechanism. Clean and lubricate as per the

Maintenance section.

- If the mechanism slips under normal load, the internal components may be worn. The tool may require replacement.

- **Difficulty Attaching/Detaching Sockets:**

- Ensure the socket is clean and free of rust or deformation.
- Check the detent ball on the adapter's male square drive for proper function.

- **Limited Torque Application:**

- Verify that the maximum torque rating of 164.5 ft/lbs (223 Nm) is not being exceeded.
- Ensure the adapter is fully seated on both the drive tool and the fastener.

## SPECIFICATIONS


Model Number	W38137
Drive Size	3/8-inch Square Drive
Material	Chrome Vanadium Steel
Finish	Oil-Resistant Black Phosphate
Maximum Torque	164.5 ft/lbs (223 Nm)
Dimensions	4.49 x 1.81 x 0.98 inches
Item Weight	3.2 ounces






## WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Performance Tool products are manufactured to high-quality standards. For specific warranty information or support inquiries, please refer to the product packaging or visit the official Performance Tool website. Keep your purchase receipt for warranty claims.

For additional information and product support, please visit the [Performance Tool Store on Amazon](#).

### Related Documents - W38137

	<p><a href="#">Performance Tool 10-Inch Random Orbital Polisher/Buffer Owner's Manual (W50053)</a></p> <p>Owner's manual for the Performance Tool 10-Inch Random Orbital Polisher/Buffer (Model W50053). Provides detailed safety warnings, operating instructions, care and maintenance guidelines, troubleshooting tips, and warranty information for automotive detailing and surface polishing.</p>
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	<p><a href="#">Digital Automotive Multimeter Owner's Manual - Performance Tool W2972/W2969</a></p> <p>Comprehensive owner's manual for the Performance Tool W2972/W2969 Digital Automotive Multimeter, covering safety information, specifications, basic tests, mechanical tests, battery/starting/charging, engine sensors, ignition systems, fuel systems, and maintenance.</p>
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	<p><a href="#">Performance Tool W2976 Multilingual Diagnostic Scanner Owner's Manual</a></p> <p>This owner's manual provides essential guidance for the Performance Tool W2976 Multilingual Diagnostic Scanner. Learn how to safely operate the device, understand OBD II systems, read and clear diagnostic trouble codes (DTCs), check vehicle compatibility, and interpret readiness monitor status.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Performance Tool M582DB Air Grease Gun Owner's Manual</a></p> <p>Owner's manual for the Performance Tool M582DB Air Grease Gun, detailing specifications, safety guidelines, operation procedures, lubrication, maintenance, parts list, troubleshooting, and warranty information.</p>
	<p><a href="#">900 Peak Amp Portable Jump Starter Owner's Manual - Performance Tool W1665</a></p> <p>Owner's manual for the Performance Tool 900 Peak Amp Portable Jump Starter (Model W1665). Includes safety guidelines, operating instructions, parts listing, recharging information, and warranty details for this automotive tool.</p>





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