

# Introduction

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Tyco Electronics recommends that hand powered tools are used only for repair or very low volume production use. Care must be taken not to use these types of tools continuously for prolonged periods as RSI (repetitive strain injury) may result. Tyco Electronics provides a wide range of powered equipment options where medium to high volumes are anticipated

## What you need to know about Terminals

### Loose Piece

For a Terminal to be suitable for use in a hand tool it must be cut from the carrier strip it is manufactured on, and more importantly pre-formed.

We call this the loose piece (LP) version - this may have the same / different base PN and / or dash number than the strip version.

Pre-forming allows the short stroke of a hand tool to work and helps stabilise the terminal within the tool and form correctly during crimping

### Terminal Types

Terminal type descriptions are very general and can be misleading if solely used to identify suitable tooling. It is strongly recommended that when searching for a tool for your application, you establish and use a specific Loose piece PN.

### Terminal Wire Range

Each Terminal will have a specific wire range, this may be different for different dash numbers of the same base PN.

This will determine which wire / tool combinations that can be used with the terminal.

## What you need to know about Hand Tools

The procedures in the relevant Instruction Sheet must be followed to achieve optimum crimp results

### Tool Grade

A prime consideration when choosing the appropriate tool for an application.

Our hand tools are categorised into three levels; Service, Commercial and Premium, each level requiring less operator skill and care respectively to ensure a quality crimp.

A Service tool relies completely on the operator's skill to ensure that the terminal and wire are correctly positioned together and within the tool, and that the relevant specification crimp height is achieved every time.

A Commercial tool relies more on the operator's skill to ensure that the terminal and wire are correctly positioned together within the tool, but also has a ratchet or certi-crimp mechanism to ensure that that the relevant specification crimp height is achieved every time.

A Premium tool has terminal and wire positioning aids built in, along with a ratchet or certi-crimp mechanism to ensure that that all of the relevant specification parameters are met every time.

### Wire Range

The overall wire range is also a prime consideration when choosing the appropriate tool for an application. Often there will be several tools referenced to the same product but having different wire ranges.

### Tool Type

Choosing a tool type maybe driven by several factors; simply by type preference, or by the application needs itself ie a heavy duty crimp, industry specification requirements etc.

## Choosing the right tool

1. Enter your Terminal PN into the search.
  2. Establish the wire sizes that you want to use within the terminal(s) wire range.
  3. Check the db for the tool options available for your PN - Nothing available? Then contact your nearest PIC.
  4. Choose a tool based on; tool type, wire range and tool grade that best suits your application.
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