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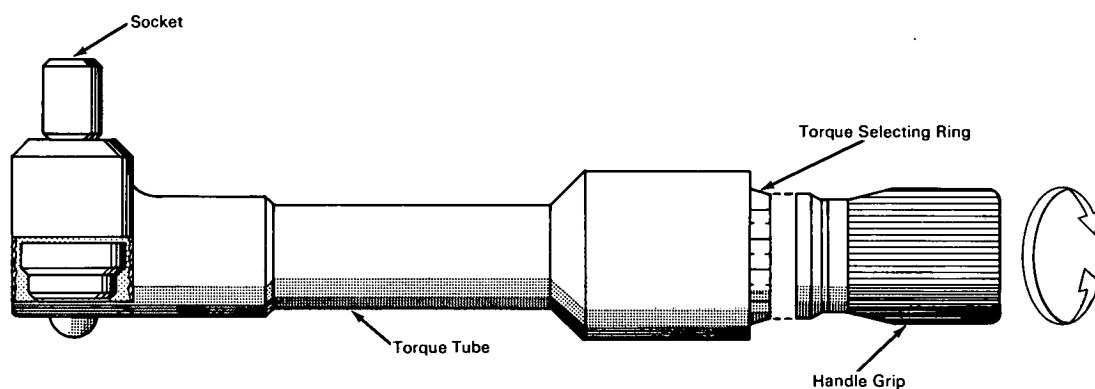
Brief 66-10011

NASA TECH BRIEF



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Torque Wrench Designed for Restricted Areas



The problem:

To apply a given amount of torque to a fastener in a restricted area. In certain applications, wrenches that employ straight-line leverage to apply torque cannot be swung in the necessary arc. In other applications, restricted areas make it impossible to read the torque indicator on the handle.

The solution:

A wrench that applies torque when the handle grip is twisted, much like the application of the throttle on a conventional motorcycle handlebar. The wrench handle length may be any length without affecting output torque since it is not used as a moment arm.

How it's done:

The input torque is applied by twisting the handle grip which is connected to an output worm gear through an adjustable, torque limiting slip clutch. A torque tube transmits the force through the grip and is supported by radial and thrust bearings to maintain proper alignment of the gears. A conventional worm gear in the tool head drives a worm wheel with a short shaft that engages the socket for tightening

the fastener. A torque-selection ring on the handle grip is set to the desired value and it adjusts the release point of the slip clutch.

Notes:

1. Maximum output torque for this device is approximately 300 inch-pounds.
2. Inquiries concerning this innovation may be directed to:

Technology Utilization Officer
Lewis Research Center
21000 Brookpark Road
Cleveland, Ohio, 44135
Reference: B66-10011

Patent status:

No patent action is contemplated by NASA.

Source: E. Russell Fagerberg of
Lockheed Missiles and Space Company
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Lewis Research Center
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Category 05