

Craftsman Socket Evolution 1947-2011 Part III: National Hand Tool /Stanley 1982-1991

Codes

EE- National Hand Tool 1982- Dec. 30 1986

EE- Stanley Dec. 31 1986-1991

History

In 1982 Sears added National Hand Tool to manufacture sockets and drive tools alongside Easco for unknown reasons (possibly because Easco may not have been able to keep up with demand). The National Hand Tool code was EE. On December 30, 1986 Stanley purchased National Hand Tool and took over their contract. During this time National Hand Tool/Stanley was making a series of round head ratchets ("Craftsman Ratchets" in the catalog) that were made in Taiwan but the majority of them were unmarked with a manufacturer code and a country of origin in an attempt to make people think that they were U.S. made. They also made sockets in Taiwan, with the model number under "CRAFTSMAN", instead of made in USA, and under the EE was the country of origin. The good thing is though, that they don't seem to be as common as the U.S. made sockets. The Taiwanese tools are one reason why I think Stanley's contract lasted only 9 years, but the primary reason was probably because when Danaher purchased Easco in 1990, they increased production capabilities and there was no more need for Stanley.

Manufacturing Process Used

National Hand Tool used a cold extrusion process that they had acquired when they bought Thorsen tools. When Stanley bought NHT in 1986, they also acquired the equipment for this process. I haven't been able to find a patent for this process as of yet.

Design

EE sockets had thicker walls, and were wider and longer in most cases than Easco sockets. This is possibly a sign of lower quality steel being used, but I have no proof to back that claim up. Interestingly, Stanley never put a knurled band on metric sockets. National Hand Tool/Stanley's production remained the same with no changes to the overall design.

Images

Stanley vs Easco



On the left is an EE 17mm and on the right is a -V- 17mm. The EE is about 1.15 inches while the v series is about .99 inch.



These are the same two sockets. The walls are noticeably thicker on the EE and it is also wider than the -V-. The wall thickness on the EE is .092 and the -V- is .0465 inch. The width on the EE is about .95 and the -V- is about .87 inch.

Stanley vs. Danaher



On the left is an EE 14mm and on the right is a Danaher G 14mm. Again, the Stanley is taller, measuring at about 1.02 inches while the Danaher is about .97 inch.



Same two sockets. Again, the walls are thicker and the socket is thicker on the Stanley. The Stanley is .8 inch wide and the Danaher is about .77 inch wide. The walls on the Stanley measure at .096 inch while the Danaher is .059 inch.

EE Taiwanese Socket



As you can see, the country of origin and the model number locations are switched.

(Not my picture, from eBay.)