# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tool Storage</td>
<td>21-58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master Sets</td>
<td>59-297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom Tool Kitting</td>
<td>298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sockets, Drive Tools and Accessories</td>
<td>299-528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4” Drive</td>
<td>302-347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/8” Drive</td>
<td>348-432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2” Drive</td>
<td>433-499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4” Drive</td>
<td>500-513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1” Drive</td>
<td>514-520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insulated Sockets, Drive Tools and Accessories</td>
<td>521-527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repair Parts</td>
<td>528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact Sockets</td>
<td>529-630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precision Torque</td>
<td>631-652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrenches</td>
<td>653-776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screwdrivers and Nutdrivers</td>
<td>777-806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hex Keys</td>
<td>807-836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pliers, Clamps and Snips</td>
<td>837-880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chisels, Punches and Pry Bars</td>
<td>881-894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hammers</td>
<td>895-902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pullers</td>
<td>903-942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialty Tools</td>
<td>943-960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automotive Specialty Tools</td>
<td>961-982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plumbing HVAC Tools</td>
<td>983-998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical Tools</td>
<td>999-1034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repair Kits</td>
<td>1035-1040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanley® Hand Tools</td>
<td>1041-1265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety Training</td>
<td>1266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety Tips</td>
<td>1267-1270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specifications</td>
<td>1271-1280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index</td>
<td>1281-1360</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PROTO INTERNATIONAL SALES OFFICES

U.S.A.
Stanley Proto Industrial Tools
2195 East View Parkway, Suite 103
Conyers, GA 30013
Phone: 1-800-800-Tool
Phone: 1-770-648-9100
Fax: 1-770-648-9108
Stanley Proto Manufacturing
12827 Valley Branch Lane
Dallas, TX 75234
Stanley Proto Headquarters
480 Myrtle Street
New Britain, CT 06053

Canada
Stanley Proto Canada
1170 Invicta Drive
Oakville, Ontario Canada
L6H 6G1
Phone: 1-905-825-1981
Fax: 1-905-825-2620
Watts: 1-800-263-6292

J apan
The Stanley Works Japan
110 Sanmai-Cho
Kanagawa-Ku
Yokohama, 221-0882, Japan
Phone: 81-45-413-3908
Fax: 81-45-313-3031

Latin America
Stanley Latin America & The Caribbean
9786 Premier Parkway
Miramar, Florida 33025
Phone: 1-954-624-1100
Fax: 1-954-624-1152

Mexico
Stanley Mexico
Av. De los Angeles, 303 Local 1C
Colonia San Martin Xochinahua
Delegacion Azcapotzalco
Mexico D.F. 02021, Mexico
Phone: 011-5255-8503-5830
Fax: 011-5255-8503-8532

Australia
Stanley Australia
82 Taryn Drive,
Epping, VIC 3076
Phone: 1-613 9308 9100
Fax: 1-613 9308 0888

Singapore
Stanley Works Asia Pacific Pte Ltd
No. 25 Senoko South Road
Woodlands East Industrial Estate
Singapore 758081
Phone: 65-6752 2001
Fax: 65-6752 2697
custserv-asie@stanleyworks.com

Thailand
Stanley Works Limited
92 Moo 9, Wellgrow Industrial Estate,
Bangna-Trad Highway
Tambol Bangwua, Bangpakong,
Chachoengsao 24180
Phone: 66-38-522 264 2863
Fax: 66-38-522 377
custserv-th@stanleyworks.com

Philippines
1014 Josefina 3 St. Sampaloc,
City of Manila
Philippines
Phone: 632-906 2961
1-632 7831 8763 / 711-1162
Fax: 1-632 741-4908
1-632 711-1162
custserv-ph@stanleyworks.com

Malaysia
CT GAN Marketing (M) Sdn Bhd
No. 30-1, Lorong Tiara 1B, Bandar Baru Klang,
41150 Klang, Selangor Darul Ehsan,
Malaysia
Phone: 603-3342 1772
Fax: 603-3342 1745
custserv-my@stanleyworks.com

Korea
Sunny International
Rm# 1401, Hyesung Rezes, 1309-1
Baksuk-Dong, Ilsan-Gu, Goyang City
411-817 Korea
Phone: 82-31-932 6530
Fax: 82-31-932 6532
custserv-kr@stanleyworks.com

Taiwan
Stanley Chiro International Ltd
121 Yung-Ho Road Ta-Ya Hsiang
Taihong Hsien
Taiwan R.O.C
Phone: 886-4-2566 3211
Fax: 886-4-2566 5773
custserv-tw@stanleyworks.com

China
The Stanley Works (Shanghai) Ltd
Room 202, Building 12
No. 899 Zuchongzhi Road
Zhangjiang High-Tech Park
Shanghai, China 201203
Phone: 862161621858
Fax: 862150805101

PROT O IN TERNAT I ONAL SALES OFFICES
The Stanley Works
A FAMILY OF STRONG BRANDS
The Stanley Works is a worldwide producer of tools, hardware, storage products and security solutions for professional, industrial and consumer use. Our operations are classified into three strategic segments.

Mailing Address:
The Stanley Works World Headquarters
1000 Stanley Drive
New Britain, CT 06053 USA

Phone: 1-860-827-3966
Fax: 1-860-826-3213

Web Address: stanleyworks.com
Email Address: stanleyworks@stanleycustomercare.com

Stanley Consumer Tools and Storage
Since 1857, Stanley has produced some of the most innovative and useful Hand Tools, Mechanics Tools, Illumination tools and Storage products ever made. Among these products are the PowerLock® Tape Rule, the Instant Change Knife, the FatMax® AntiVibe® Hammer and the FatMax® Mobile Project Center.

Mailing Address:
Stanley Consumer Tools and Storage
480 Myrtle Street
New Britain, CT 06053

Customer Service
Phone: 1-800-262-2161
Fax: 1-800-643-3756

Website: stanleytools.com
Email Address: stanleytools@stanleycustomercare.com

Stanley Proto
Proto® Tools are preferred worldwide among professionals for their outstanding quality, durability, and dependability. They are used for heavy-duty industrial applications, including auto-manufacturing plants, steel and airplane manufacturing, chemical plants, refineries, general manufacturing, transportation, and fleet maintenance for trucking, transit, and aircraft. With a global distribution network, Proto® Tools are available on-the-job, anywhere in the world.

Mailing Address:
Stanley Industrial Tools
2195 East View Parkway, Suite103
Conyers, GA 30013
Stanley Industrial Tools
12827 Valley Branch Lane
Dallas, TX 75234

Customer Service
Phone: 1-800-800-Tool
Phone: 1-770-648-9100
Fax: 1-770-648-9108

Website: stanleyproto.com
Email Address: stanleyproto@stanleycustomersupport.com

Stanley Vidmar
Stanley Vidmar is a premier manufacturer of modular storage cabinets and material handling equipment. The Vidmar brand is synonymous with quality, dependability, and increased productivity.

Mailing Address:
Stanley Vidmar
11 Grammes Road
Allentown, PA 18103

Phone: 1-610-797-6600
Fax: 1-610-776-3895

Customer Service
Phone: 1-800-523-9462
Fax: 1-800-523-9934

Website: stanleyvidmar.com
Email Address: Vidmar@stanleycustomercare.com
Custserv2@stanleyworks.com (quotes)
orders@stanleyworks.com (orders)
**Contact Information**

**Stanley Fastening Systems**
Stanley Fastening Systems manufactures top-quality, innovative fastening tools and fasteners for industrial, construction and home improvement applications.

Mailing Address:
Stanley Fastening Systems, L.P.,
Briggs Drive
East Greenwich, RI 02818

Phone: 1-401-884-2500
Fax: 1-860-885-3122

Customer Service
Phone: 1-800-556-6696
Fax: 1-800-842-9360

Website: bostitch.com
Email Address: bostitch@stanleycustomercare.com
bostitchparts@stanleycustomercare.com

**Stanley Assembly Technologies**
Assembly Technologies Product Group provides solutions to the global assembly market, including the motor vehicle industry.

Mailing Address:
Assembly Technologies
5335 Avion Park Drive
Cleveland, OH 44143

Customer Service
Phone: 1-440-461-5500
Fax: 1-440-461-2710

Sales & Tech Service
Phone: 1-586-393-1100
Fax: 1-586-393-1200
Toll-Free Numbers (US)
Service: 1-877-787-7830
Sales: 1-877-709-8006

Website: stanleyassembly.com
Email Address: airprowebmail@stanleyworks.com

**CST/berger**
CST/berger is a premier manufacturer of quality surveying, construction equipment and supplies.

Mailing Address:
CST/berger
255 West Fleming Street
PO Box 359
Watseka, IL 60970

Customer Service
Toll Free US: 1-800-435-1859
Phone: 1-815-432-5237
Fax: 1-815-432-5390

Website: cstsurvey.com
Email Address: cstberger@stanleycustomercare.com

**Stanley Hydraulic Tools**
Stanley Hydraulic Tools offers one of the most complete lines of hydraulic tools in the world. The division manufactures more than 90 hand-held hydraulic tools, which are used worldwide by contractors, utilities, railroads and public works departments.

Mailing Address:
Stanley Hydraulic Tools
3810 SE Naef Road
Milwaukie, OR 97267-5698

Stanley LaBounty
1538 Highway 2
Two Harbors, MN 55616

Customer Service:
Phone: 1-503-659-5660
Fax: 1-503-652-1780
Phone: 1-218-834-2123
Fax: 1-218-834-3879

Website: stanley-hydraulic-tools.com
Email Address: hydrlwebmail@stanleyworks.com

**Assembly Technologies**

**Hydraulic Tools**
Mac Tools
Mac Tools is a leader in the professional hand tool industry distributing automotive tools and equipment in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom (Europe), and Japan.

Mailing Address:
Mac Tools
505 N. Cleveland Avenue
Westerville, OH 43082

Customer Service
Phone: 1.800.MAC.TOOLS
Fax: 1-614-755-7177
International: 1-614-755-6130

Website: mactools.com
Email Address: MACWebMail@stanleyworks.com
mactools@stanleycustomercare.com

Stanley Security Solutions
Stanley Security Solutions is a leading provider of Security Integration offering a wide array of electronic security products, mechanical security products, integration software, and installation and support services for a diverse set of industrial, institutional, and commercial facility applications.

Mailing Address:
6161 East 75th Street
P.O.Box 50444
Indianapolis, IN 46250

Phone: 1-317-849-2250
Fax: 1-877-835-1030

Website: stanleysecuritysolutions.com
Email Address: accesswebmail@stanleyworks.com

Stanley Hardware
Stanley Hardware is a global organization supplying hardware and tools for the architectural, consumer, industrial and residential markets worldwide.

US Mailing Address:
Stanley Hardware
480 Myrtle Street
New Britian, CT 06053

Canada Mailing Address:
Stanley Hardware
1170 Invicta Drive
Oakville, Ontario L6H 6G1

Customer Service Commercial Accounts
Phone: 1-800-337-4393
US Fax: 1-877-529-4254
Canada: 1-800-441-1759

Customer Service Consumer Accounts
Phone: 1-800-622-4393
US Fax: 1-877-334-6791
Canada: 1-800-361-6009

Website: stanleyhardware.com
Email Address: hardware@stanleycustomercare.com

Stanley Hardware
Stanley Hardware is a global organization supplying hardware and tools for the architectural, consumer, industrial and residential markets worldwide.

US Mailing Address:
Stanley Hardware
480 Myrtle Street
New Britian, CT 06053

Canada Mailing Address:
Stanley Hardware
1170 Invicta Drive
Oakville, Ontario L6H 6G1

Customer Service Commercial Accounts
Phone: 1-800-337-4393
US Fax: 1-877-529-4254
Canada: 1-800-441-1759

Customer Service Consumer Accounts
Phone: 1-800-622-4393
US Fax: 1-877-334-6791
Canada: 1-800-361-6009

Website: stanleyhardware.com
Email Address: hardware@stanleycustomercare.com
AMERICA WAS BUILT BY INDUSTRY. THE MASS PRODUCTION OF AIRPLANES AND AUTOMOBILES, THE BUILDING OF BRIDGES AND ROADS, THE DRILLING FOR OIL. THROUGH IT ALL, A COMPANY STARTED BY THREE BLACKSMITHS HAS BEEN THERE, FORGING AMERICA'S FINEST TOOLS FOR ITS GREATEST ASSET — WORKERS. SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE. SEE FOR YOURSELF AT STANLEYPROTO.COM OR CALL 1-800-800-TOOL.

THEIR SHOULDERS WERE BIG ENOUGH FOR AMERICAN INDUSTRY TO STAND ON.
Looking back on a century of Stanley-Proto, we discovered that the company’s history — from its days as Plomb Tool Company to today — has been intertwined with American history. When the demand for cars exploded, demand for our tools did too. When our country stormed the beaches of Normandy, our tools were there. When the U.S. put a man on the moon, our tools helped him make the journey. The history of Stanley-Proto is a rich one. One that would not be possible without American industry or the dedicated workers who built this country. One that would not be possible without customers like you.

To honor that past, we’ve included a bit about the history of Plomb and Stanley-Proto in this catalog. Because we’re proud of our history, and because you are very much a part of it.

Thank you for helping to make Stanley-Proto as strong as the tools we forge.
The year was 1907. The story was uniquely American. Three German immigrant blacksmiths — Alphonse Plomb, Jacob Weninger and Charles Williams — opened shop in a dirt-floored machine shed in Los Angeles, California, and began making and selling hand-forged tools. They named their shop “Plomb Tool Company,” because Plomb was the shortest of the three owners’ names and, therefore, fit most easily on tool handles.

With a hand-bellows coke forge, punch presses, hammers and anvils, the three blacksmiths turned out punches, chisels and awls. The primary use for these early tools was tapping lead fill into pipe seams to seal plumbing. Plomb tools were remarkably well crafted, thick and heavy, and tradesmen of the day were drawn to them almost immediately, trekking from around California to their tiny shop in Los Angeles.

Plomb was a simple manufacturer shaping steel into simple tools. But with each swing of the hammer, each drop of the press, the workers were also shaping something else: a reputation for quality, attention to detail and craftsmanship. They were forging the heart of a company that would go on to survive depressions, wars and America’s shift from a manufacturing economy to a service-based one.

In the early years, the company’s growth was fueled partly by shrewd management, including the decision by company president Morris Pendleton to add wrenches to its tool line, and partly by American industry itself. Indeed, the greatest contributor may well have been the growing number of automobiles in the U.S. In 1912, Ford produced and sold approximately 83,000 Model T cars. Five years later, thanks to modernization and a drop in price, the company produced and sold more than 700,000. That’s an eight-fold increase in production in just five years.

At the same time, aviation was taking flight. America was being wired for electricity at a dramatic rate. Agriculture, mining and manufacturing were becoming increasingly mechanized. And, of course, on July 3, 1917
the first wave of American soldiers stormed into the
Great War — taking with them newly developed
war machines.

The Plomb Tool Company found itself making the
right tools at the right time. While ensuring solvency and
the ability to keep up with the demand for its signature
tools, Plomb’s management looked for ways to capitalize
on an economy that was increasingly powered not by
man, but by machine.

Over the next two decades, Plomb grew its manu-
factoring capability and distribution incrementally
through a variety of acquisitions. The first of these was
the Paschall Tool Company of Long Beach, California, in
1928. Other acquisitions served to expand distribution
of Plomb products. In 1940, Plomb purchased the
Cragin Tool Company of Chicago and began making
tools in the Midwest. P&C Hand Forged Tool Company
in Portland, Oregon, was purchased in 1941. And in 1942,
spurred by World War II, Plomb purchased Penens
Corporation and formed a contracting company
specifically to manufacture tools for the war effort.

According to the catalogs from the late 1940s, Plomb
had manufacturing facilities in Los Angeles, Portland,
Chicago and Jamestown, New York, and distribution
centers across the country. Its main plant in Los Angeles
was 182,250 square feet in size. Eventually the campus
covered 10 acres, including two dozen buildings and
an employee’s clubhouse.

During this same period, the country experienced
volatile economic highs and lows. Unemployment in
America went from less than five percent in 1920 to
24.9 percent at the height of the Great Depression in
1933. The era was marked by a 90-percent drop in
the Dow Jones. Banks collapsed. Nearly a third of all
farmers lost their land.

Despite this, Plomb remained viable, and was able
to position itself for expansion prior to World War II.
There are few clues as to how the company survived
what others did not. A good bet is that Plomb profited
from Roosevelt’s New Deal. It is certain that workers
maintaining machinery and building dams, bridges
and roads, used Plomb tools.

Innovation may have also played a role. Plomb
introduced the combination wrench in 1933, the first
production wrench to combine a box end with an open
end. This is perhaps the greatest single innovation in
Plomb or Proto history, and it quickly became a top
seller for the company.
As equipment became more and more complex, so did the hand tools used to maintain it. The rise of the aircraft industry led to increasingly precise hand tools like this torque wrench from the late 1940s.
TOOLS CONTRACTED for the War under the WF (Wright Field) stamp were used throughout the war theaters of Europe, Russia and Africa during World War II. Meanwhile, War Finish tools marketed Plomb’s wartime involvement back home.
Our Efforts for the War Effort.

World War II pulled America out of the Depression and gave every man and woman a sense of duty and purpose. While the horrors of war played out on distant shores, U.S. factories ramped up production. For example, The Stanley Works, which would one day own Plomb, retooled entire factories in Connecticut to make munitions for the war. Plants that once built automobiles for Sunday drives, water pumps for tractors, or were idled by the economic swan dive of the ’30s, now spat out Jeeps, tanks, ships, gun turrets and bombers in staggering numbers. At peak production, the U.S. rolled out a new ship every day and a new plane every five minutes.

To entice private industry to produce for the war, the U.S. government created a loan program for reconfiguring and automating production lines. While some business leaders shrank from the opportunity, fearful of taking on debt with the bruises of the depression barely healed, Plomb president Morris Pendleton, seized on it. He saw this as an opportunity to modernize his company, build a reputation for quality and improve production capabilities. All on a grand scale.

The company contracted with Wright Field Air Force Base in Ohio for massive quantities of mechanics tools. At that time, every tank, boat, airplane, ship and truck invading Europe carried its own tool sets. On D-Day alone, 30,000 vehicles of various kinds bombarded the beaches. That’s a staggering amount of engines, wheels and tracks; and Plomb was one of a select number of manufacturers contracted to make the tools that kept them running.

During World War II, Plomb received four Army-Navy E Awards for excellence in production. Only five percent of wartime contractors were honored with one of these medals.

1941 U.S. enters World War II.

1942 Plomb earns first of four Army-Navy E Awards.

1950 A lawsuit over the right to manufacture ball pein hammers, results in company name and brand name changes. Tools are stamped PROTO.

1952 Proto Tools of Canada established to serve the expanding Canadian market.
The government loans and the work of delivering on war contracts, tuned up Plomb until it was itself a machine, employing more than 1,100 people. It perfected processes for making tools in mass quantities and making them lighter, stronger, and yet, more affordable. It built relationships with the U.S. government that would all but guarantee its success after the war. It went from the number five tool company in America in 1941 to the top tool company by a wide margin at the end of the war.

By the time the U.S. cruised into the halcyon 1950s with its interstates, speeding cars and growing wealth, Plomb (now officially Proto) was kicking into high gear, turning out tools that were lighter, stronger and less expensive than any it had ever made. It even marketed its tools as “Streamlined Tools” and touted the value these affordable marvels offered consumers. In 1941, a master set with 98 pieces sold for around $150. By 1949, that same basic set was selling for around $80. Between the increase in personal wealth and the reduction in price, nonprofessionals were able to afford quality tools for the first time in history. And that opened up new markets for Proto.

During the ’50s, the company’s sales were split between large contracts for government and private industry and in-store sales to general consumers. Pendleton had the foresight to keep the Proto brand pure, selling tools to general consumers under other names, such as Challenger. Proto remained a premium line preferred by tradesmen, from the aircraft engineers building experimental supersonic jets to the roughnecks working rigs in the oil patches of west Texas.

This stellar reputation and strong brand loyalty attracted the attention of Ingersoll-Rand (IR), which purchased Proto Pendleton. Though Proto had been, up to this time, a consumer brand as well as an industrial brand, its new parent wasn’t a consumer company. It was an industrial supplier, and it had spent decades creating relationships with governments and large industrial wholesalers throughout the world. In short order, Ingersoll-Rand jet-tisoned Proto’s consumer brands with the exception of Challenger. Production was focused on tools for the oil, aircraft and automotive industries.

Throughout the ’70s, with its connections and aggressive sales force, Ingersoll-Rand turned Proto into the world leader in industrial tools. Walk onto the floor of an aircraft plant in Seattle and you’d see Proto. Chopper out to a drilling rig in the North Sea and you’d find Proto. Visit an automobile plant in Europe and there would be Proto.

1962 Proto’s wrenches, made with cadmium-free steel, preferred by civil and military aviation and aeronautics.

1963 Protomex incorporated in Mexico to finish goods and sell in Latin America.

1964 Proto purchased by Ingersoll-Rand.

1965 Proto becomes the Brick Yard’s official wrench, launching a long association with professional racing.
SPARKS
Published by PLOMB TOOL CO.

LOs ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

April 25, 1933

Bulletin No. 112-463

Yes-Something NEW in Wrenches
POSITIVELY ELIMINATES
"S. K."

Combination "Open-End" and "Box" Wrench

"WHY didn't they think of it before?" mechanics demand—and are they enthusiastic?

O NE day, some bright soul thought of the simple convenience of putting a rubber eraser on the end of a lead pencil. Millions of minutes have been saved ever since! It was an inspiration.

An equally happy thought in our organization has just produced an equally convenient combination for mechanics—an "open-end" and "box" wrench of the same size, combined in the same tool.

This saves changing wrenches, trips to the bench and groping through tool boxes. The box end is used for "cinching or breaking" and the open end for "speed."

And as any mechanic will tell you, it saves many a painfully bruised or skinned knuckle. For too often he won't take time to change to the right type wrench. It slips and—OUCH!

These Four Sizes...

are used on 90% of motor, carburetor, manifold, clutch and universal work. The wrench is beautifully made, with full polish finish, and individually heat-treated to bring out the inherent toughness of the molybdenum steel.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1214</td>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>3.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1216</td>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1219</td>
<td>5/32</td>
<td>5/32</td>
<td>1/8</td>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>.65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Printed in U. S. A.
It is unclear who actually came up with the idea to manufacture wrenches with a box end on one end and an open end of the same size on the other. Some tool historians credit the Plomb Tool Company, but it was likely that similar tools had been created by blacksmiths for years. Regardless, it was Morris Pendleton who recognized the combination wrench for the revolutionary idea it was, and in 1933 introduced it to the automotive world. The company also made an important advancement in the wrench, setting the angle of the head at the open end at 15 degrees, a standard that remains today.

The combination wrench enabled mechanics to use a single wrench for breaking fasteners free and, with the open end, quickly turning fasteners. It saved time because users didn’t have to set down a box-end wrench and pick up an open-end wrench. It saved knuckles because the box end didn’t slip. Mechanics responded the way mothers must have responded to the introduction of sliced bread.

There is probably no way to overemphasize the impact the combination wrench must have had on Plomb’s corporate psyche, momentum and bottom line. Introduced during the height of the Great Depression, it would have provided a major boost to revenues. It would have caught the attention of both industry at large and the U.S. government, and ultimately played a role in Plomb landing industrial and wartime contracts.
In 1984, Proto caught the eye of another industry leader — The Stanley Works. Stanley had long been among the strongest consumer brands in the world with a reputation for making quality tools and innovative products. It had helped create the “do-it-yourself” wave that swept the country during the 1970s and become the undisputed leader in consumer hand tools. In Proto, Stanley saw a mirror image of itself on the industrial tool side — a successful, innovative, hardworking company that was highly regarded by its core customers. Company leadership realized that buying Proto would enable both brands to reach new markets, innovate for new customers and continue to build on their ironclad reputations. In short, they fit together like two pieces of the same socket set. And in April of 1984 Stanley-Proto was forged.

Over time, Stanley has invested heavily in Proto’s manufacturing capabilities, directly and through acquisition. For example, in 1988, the company purchased National Hand Tool from a man named Kurt Chow. With National Hand Tool, came a state-of-the-art, cold-forging production facility in Dallas, Texas. The facility enabled Stanley Proto to convert sockets from a machined product to one that was extruded or cold forged, increasing production capacity by a wide margin. The move also helped Stanley Proto improve efficiency through the use of castings and chemical machining as opposed to grinding and polishing.
From 1984 through the 1990s, Stanley Proto also introduced a large number of new products reaching a high of more than 5,000 SKUs in 1996. The company improved every aspect of the product from platings and finishes to the shape of ratchet heads to implementing Statistical Process Control for improved quality control. In more recent years, Stanley Proto introduced Torqueplus and Anti-Slip, features that help prevent the rounding of fastener heads.

Stanley also looked for ways to innovate client services. That commitment led to the creation of Vendor Managed Inventory (VMI), an idea conceived and tested by members of the Stanley-Proto’s Distributor Advisory Council in 1998 and used network-wide, today. VMI improved distributor inventory turns, while reducing procurement and inventory carrying costs through better planning for production and delivery. The results were a significant, total-cost reduction and an improvement in customer service. VMI goes hand-in-hand with another important distributor program called Quick Market Intelligence (QMI). QMI is an initiative that puts Stanley Proto product planners and sales staff in closer and more frequent contact with distributors and end-users to improve forecasting and to ensure appropriate inventories of the right tools.
Proto’s continued success under Stanley should come as little surprise. Both Stanley and Proto were brands forged by economic and political forces over the past century. Both were propelled by the combination of quality products and visionary leadership. Both contributed to the effort in World War II and benefited from the economic prosperity of the 1950s. Both have found markets at a time when physical labor in the U.S. is shrinking even as competition for every tool dollar is expanding. In many ways, Stanley and Proto have always been kindred companies on parallel paths for the better part of a century, even if they have only been connected for the past 23 years.

It is no more possible to predict what the next century will hold than it is to picture what our country’s next Ford Model T car or Boeing 707 airplane might be. But with 100 years of evidence, we can look at the history of the company that is now Stanley Proto and be optimistic about its future. The basic business tenets that have enabled the company to thrive during the past 10 decades — the ability to connect with consumers, maintain alliances with strong channel partners, continually improve manufacturing efficiency, and maintain high quality — will undoubtedly determine the company’s fate over the next 10 decades.

**2001** Anti-Slip Design prevents fastener rounding and skinned knuckles.

**2006** The Facom acquisition adds Virax plumbing tools to the Stanley portfolio.

**2006** Stanley acquires Facom industrial hand and mechanics tools.

**2007** Stanley Proto celebrates a century of making quality tools.
In certain applications, only the best will do. Which is why demanding professionals working in places like aircraft plants, military installations, coal mines and power generation facilities demand Proto. Our tools are far beyond good. Just like the people who use them.

Shown above: Micrometer Torque Wrench, calibrated and certified to +/-3% of torque reading clockwise, +/-6% counterclockwise. Retains calibration for 30,000 cycles. Available in a variety of drives, lengths and torques. Limited Lifetime Warranty. 1-800-800-TOOL or www.stanleyproto.com