

Effetto Mariposa Giustaforza torque wrench » \$175

The Giustaforza (meaning “Correct Force” in Italian) is an elegant little torque wrench that is far simpler and easier to use than most torque wrenches. Others use a square socket-wrench drive upon which you put sockets. This one, on the other hand, accepts the same little hex drive bits as a power screwdriver. This makes the drive bits cheaper, easier to replace and easier to store.

The bits are very quick to change, too. The head has a magnet in it, so you just direct the base of the drive bit toward the hex hole in the head, and it sucks it right in. Pulling the bit back out is easy, too; you are not working against a detent ball on a square drive or requiring a thumb release to let go of the bit.

Included with it are a magnetic extension shaft like on a power screwdriver and:

Hex keys: 2, 2.5, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8mm, including an additional extra long 5mm hex key for deeply recessed bolts

Torx bits: T20, T25, T30

Slotted screwdriver bits: 3, 4.5

Phillips screwdriver bits: 0, 1, 2

The 6.5-inch handle has a rotating adjuster and a graduated scale from 2 Newton-meters of torque to 16 N-m (18-142 inch-pounds) in 0.5 N-m increments. It does not have a ratcheting head, but due to its small length and 6-ounce weight, it's still easy to maneuver around in tight spaces. Similar to many torque wrenches, the head clicks over when the torque setting has been reached. The handle length and settings are perfect for stem bolts, seatpost bolts, cable-fixing screws, shoe cleats and most components on the bike. There isn't much point to the 8mm hex key, however, as parts with bolts that big (cranks, pedals) require torques of 34-57 N-m (300-500 inch-pounds), which are not only beyond the settings of this scale but also beyond what a normal human can tighten with such a short handle.

At \$175, the Giustaforza may seem pricey, but that includes all of the bits, and it is so convenient to use that you will tend to use it on all delicate bolts and may end up saving that amount in ruined parts rather rapidly. It's now distributed by CantitoeRoad.com in Fort Collins, Colorado, so you don't have to go to Italy to get one like I did.



THE SCOOP » A torque wrench that takes little drive bits
PROS » Quick, easy-to-use, compact and includes drive bits
CON » Only reads in N-m and only good for small bolts
MORE INFO » www.effetto-mariposa.com

