Tools for our times

Cromwell supplies the tools to keep industry working. At the heart of that mission is our exclusive Kennedy range. Jonathan Sawyers, Category Trading Manager, explains how global sourcing, sustainable innovation and customer collaboration are keeping Kennedy at the forefront of industrial tool performance.

> Every manufacturer we work with must have international ISO and BSCI certifications in place to protect the health and safety of employees, minimise environmental impacts, and provide consistent quality assurance. Our rigorous inspections for technical and ethical compliance give customers the confidence that we only work with the best manufacturers from around the world.
>
> Dinesh Kumar, Global Sourcing Manager



Kennedy has been our flagship tools brand for 40 years. Through constant refinement, innovation, and adaptation we ensure that Kennedy tools continue to deliver the levels of durability, quality, and precision our industrial customers have come to rely on. Kennedy tools are specifically designed to support customers in challenging industrial settings, across aerospace and defence, rail, transport and logistics, utilities, and general manufacturing.

Key to the enduring success of Kennedy tools lies in our global sourcing expertise, technical knowledge, and in-depth understanding of industry demands, workforce dynamics, and emerging trends.



Global quest for excellence

Excellence begins with sourcing our tools from manufacturers that meet our stringent quality, safety, and ethical criteria. Our global sourcing team works relentlessly on behalf of our customers, scouring the world for quality-assured, responsible, and performance-orientated tool manufacturers that are equal to the Kennedy brand. Consequently, Kennedy tools are now manufactured at Cromwell-assured facilities in the UK, Italy, Taiwan, India and China.

Extensive choice, exclusive designs

Every tool in the Kennedy range is adapted to meet the needs of our customers in diverse industries. For more commoditised products, such as screwdrivers and hammers, we search the market for the right quality tool and make adjustments to bring it up to Kennedy standards. For more specialised products, we ask trusted manufacturers to produce bespoke tools to our specifications.

Tools that move with the times

As well as sourcing new products, we constantly tweak existing tools in response to customer feedback or market changes. To meet the preferences of a younger engineering workforce, for example, we're launching a digital refractometer. To date, we have only offered analogue refractometers, which are preferred by more experienced engineers. With the current skills gap in engineering, and many younger people coming through, we are ensuring our products give engineers of all ages the tools they need to do their jobs well.

Sustainable developments

Sustainability has become an important consideration for buyers, particularly now that all industries must work towards their own environmental and net zero targets. Improving the sustainability of Kennedy tools has been a primary goal for many years.

One visible example is packaging, where we have significantly reduced plastic usage across the range. Traditional blister packs and shrink-wrap are being replaced with paper-based alternatives, wherever possible. Where a plastic-like package is needed, we try to find plant-based alternatives to PVC. Some products, particularly cutting tools, still require protective plastic cases. Here, we have switched from coloured to clear plastics, which are far more widely recyclable.

Kennedy tools are engineered for long-life performance, reducing the need for frequent replacement and making them inherently sustainable. We encourage customers to re-grind, re-sharpen and reuse their cutting tools, and have partnered with a company to help manage this on site. We have also introduced a carbide recycling partner, offering payments to customers when they return used carbide tools for recycling.

Our global sourcing team plays a key role in maintaining our sustainable performance too, ensuring all our manufacturers meet strict environmental standards for waste processing, emissions, recycling, and chemical disposal.

By focusing on sustainability across the Kennedy range, we are supporting our customers in industry to achieve their own net zero goals.

Work with confidence

Ever since they were first introduced, Kennedy tools have been giving engineers the confidence to work safely in the toughest industrial settings. They are durable tools that continue to move with the times and adapt to new challenges and market demands. The breadth and depth of tools in the Kennedy range means we can support people at all stages of their career, from apprentices through to experienced engineers who are masters of their trade.



> Our technical experts spend time with customers, problem solving and finding the right tools for different jobs. This helps us understand what challenges our customers are facing, which products work well and which don't. We test any potential new product with customers to get the feedback we need to refine and perfect it. So, with Kennedy, we're not just taking generic products and rebadging them in a Kennedy box, we're making products that are adapted to be the best they can be for each specific customer need.
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> Phil Sault, Category Manager



To find out more about Kennedy tools, and how our global sourcing and sustainability commitments can support your business, please read our full-length article: **www.cromwell.co.uk/info/engineering-tools-for-industry**