

# 5 TIPS FOR CHOOSING BETTER TOOLS

Today's task is for tinkerers.

Open the tool chest and pull out your basic hammer, screwdriver, pliers and wrench. Are they ergonomic? How do you know?

Lest you be fooled by advertising claims, remember that a tool is ergonomic only if it fits you. The label doesn't necessarily mean it will do that. Here are a few tips from Cableorganizer.com, which would like you to shop there if it turns out that your tools are better suited to Shaq's mitts or Lassie's paws than your hands:

- ▶ The primary ergonomic goal with tools is to be able to keep the wrist straight as you work.
- ▶ Avoid tools with built-in finger grips because hands are all different, and you might hurt yourself trying to fit a square peg into a round hole.
- ▶ Look for soft handles, of foam or plastic, that give. These aren't just comfortable, they're also less likely to slip.
- ▶ Hold out your hand, palm up, fingers together and thumb against hand. Your tools' handles should be longer than your hand's widest measurement from outside of pinky to outside of thumb.
- ▶ Choose single-handle tools with bigger handle diameters (more than 1¼ inch) for big tasks, smaller diameters (¼ to ½ inch) for more delicate tasks.

