

WORLD'S LEADING TRUCK PUBLICATION

World's Leading Truck Publication

# Truckin'

## IN YOUR FACE!

30-Inch Wheels  
On A Laid-Out  
Silverado

Factory-Backed 540 HP  
Supercharger Install



Truckin'

**TESTED:**  
BEST GLOVES  
FOR MECHANICS

**DIRT CHEAP:**  
500HP V-8 BUILT  
IN YOUR GARAGE

**OUT TOW/HAUL  
A SUPER DUTY  
WITH YOUR F-150**

**4,000-MILE  
TORTURE TEST:  
GMC DENALI HD**



**TRUCKINWEB.COM**  
VOLUME 39-NO. 11, 2012  
\$5.99  
DISPLAY UNTIL 12/11/2012

**7 ESSENTIAL UPGRADES  
FOR YOUR FIRST TRUCK**

# Best Gloves for Mechanics

## You Only Have Two Hands—Protect Them

**I**t's only a matter of time when you're working on your truck. Whether you're trying to bust a stubborn bolt loose, forgetting how hot the radiator hose was, or grinding without gloves—you're going to hurt your hands. Busted knuckles, scarred palms, and calloused hands are a veritable rite of passage for mechanics of all skill levels and experience. Looking at my own hands, I have cuts, scars, and bruises from rushing around and forgetting to slip on a pair of gloves. Although we don't have the time to break down the stubborn and egotistical mindset of men, we did test out 12 mechanic's gloves to find out which one earned the designation of *Truckin' Tough*.

We've heard some people swear by brand X and some say they won't buy anything but brand Y, but we wanted to form our own opinion. To help us decide which glove we thought was best, we first looked at design, including fit, dexterity, and protection. We then tried several real-world tests, which consisted of trying to pick up loose washers on the ground, gripping power/impact tools, and picking up an oil soaked wrench. Knowing each reader will use their gloves in different capacities, we also used a heat gun and infrared thermometer to determine the heat protection. Once all of the tests were completed, we closely examined overall grip, value, and design. Here are the results. **Truckin'**

**Editor's note:**  
We tested these gloves for several weeks doing at-home wrenchin' and in our office's shop. Whereas we're confident in our scoring system, we can't vouch for the longevity and wear of each glove.



**1. Western Safety Mechanic's Gloves PN: 68308 \$12.99 harborfreight.com**

Continuing to impress us with performance and value, Harbor Freight's own Western Safety mechanic's gloves ranked at or near the top of each test. As the only glove to pass our washer pick-up test, the Harbor Freight gloves proved well thought-out and engineered. Providing a true fit, good palm cushioning, and fingertip grip and protection, the Western Safety gloves also came in at a wallet-friendly \$12.99. Obviously, when protecting your hands, price isn't the end-all deal breaker, but when you can get a quality glove with high-end features for less money, the purchase becomes that much sweeter.



**2. Mechanix Wear M-Pact PN: MPT-52-010 \$29.99 mechanix.com**

For those of you working at shops or using air and cordless tools often at home, the Mechanix Wear M-Pact is a quality glove. Featuring Poron XRD extreme impact protection in the palm area, the M-Pact glove has superior cushioning, quality knuckle and backside finger protection, and it has extra wear pads on the forefinger and thumb. The M-Pact also excelled during the heat gun testing. Running slightly on the big side, we'd recommend trying on a pair before spending the \$29.99.

**3. Craftsman Professional Mechanic PN: 47559 \$24.99 craftsman.com**

One of the best fitting gloves in our test, the Craftsman Professional mechanic glove featured gel and foam padding in the palm to help absorb vibration. Extra grip and padding in the thumb and first two fingers was also a welcomed addition. Flexible and comfortable, the Craftsman Professional glove is an above-average example designed for the hard-working mechanic. Despite the features, it didn't have what it took to claim First or Second place.



**4. Firm Grip Heavy Duty PN: 2012L \$19.99 homedepot.com**

Once the Firm Grip Heavy Duty glove is slipped on, you'll quickly appreciate the fit, dexterity, and protection offered from the gloves available from Home Depot. Knuckle, backside of fingers, and palm were all areas protected by the Firm Grip gloves, and they also featured a terry-cloth type of material for sweat removal on your brow. Each fingertip has a rubberized texture for added gripping power, though the tips did start to show early signs of wear.

