AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD

Metric Series Hexagon Keys and Bits

ANSI B18.3.2M - 1979

For Socket Screw Products

REAFFIRMED 1990

FOR CURRENT COMMITTEE PERSONNEL
PLEASE SEE ASME MANUAL AS-11

SECRETARIAT

SOCIETY OF AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERS
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FOREWORD

The American National Standards Committee B18 for the standardization of bolts, screws, nuts, rivets and similar fasteners was organized in March 1922, as Sectional Committee B18 under the aegis of the American Engineering Standards Committee (later the American Standards Association, then the United States of America Standards Institute and, as of October 6, 1969, the American National Standards Institute, Inc.), with the Society of Automotive Engineers and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers as joint sponsors.

Subcommittee No. 9 was established in April of 1929 to undertake development and oversee maintenance of standards covering Socket Head Cap Screws and Set Screws. In line with a general realignment of the subcommittee structure on April 1, 1966, Subcommittee 9 was redesignated Subcommittee 3. Over the intervening years this activity has produced several versions of American National Standards covering inch series socket cap, shoulder and set screws bearing the B18.3 designation.

At the December 4, 1974 meeting of American National Standards Committee B18, Subcommittee 3 was assigned the task of preparing standards for metric series socket screw products paralleling that contained in the latest ANSI B18.3 document. The subcommittee was also instructed to continue coordination with the International Standards Organization, ISO Technical Committee 2 and Working Group 3 under that activity, and to the extent possible keep the proposals for metric standards under development in conformance with agreements reached therein.

Subsequent meetings of Subcommittee 3 held in February, 1975 and January, 1976 resulted in general agreement on the following basic principles to be considered in developing the metric version of the standard: (1) To assure consumers continuity of performance integrity consistent with inch socket screw products, the metric standards should maintain the same quality levels as their inch counterparts; (2) to facilitate and expedite the processing, acceptance and adoption of the metric versions, proposals for the various product categories should be prepared as separate and complete product standards; (3) to promote understanding and assimilation during the transition to metric the dimensional symbols, designations, terminology and basic formats of the metric standards should be kept similar to that used in the ANSI B18.3 document.

At the November 10, 1976 meeting of Subcommittee 3, it was agreed the socket screw industry document covering metric hexagon keys should be circulated for subcommittee consideration as a proposed standard. It was noted that this document included the 0.7, 0.9 and 1.3 mm key sizes which were soft conversions of the 0.028, 0.035 and 0.050 inch keys, respectively, required for wrenching the 1.6, 2 and 2.5 mm set screws already called for in ISO standards and that although there were differences in the tolerance structure and strength capabilities, the keys contained therein would satisfy the dimensional and mechanical requirements of the existing ISO standard covering keys for sizes 2.5 mm and larger. Subcommitteee acceptance of the content ensued and the document, modified to more closely suit the ANSI format, was approved by letter ballot to American National Standards Committee B18. Following its approval by the sponsor organizations, the proposal was duly submitted to the American National Standards Institute and was granted recognition as an American National Standard on May 17, 1979.

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AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD

METRIC SERIES HEXAGON KEYS AND BITS

1 GENERAL

1.1 Scope

1.1.1 This standard contains the complete dimensional, mechanical and performance requirements for Metric Series Hexagon Keys and Bits of nominal sizes from 0.7 mm to 36 mm recognized as "American National Standard." They are primarily intended to be used for tightening and loosening metric series hexagon socket screw products but may also be suitable for use on other products having metric hexagon socket wrenching provisions.

1.1.2 The inclusion of dimensional data in this standard is not intended to imply that all the products described are stock production sizes. Consumers are requested to consult with manufacturers concerning lists of stock production sizes.

1.2 Interchangeability with ISO Keys

1.2.1 Dimensions. Keys in 2.5 mm and larger nominal sizes produced to this standard will conform dimensionally to International Standard, Assembly Tools for Screws, Bolts and Nuts–Hexagon Socket Screw Keys–Metric Series, ISO 2936-1973. At present, ISO 2936 does not cover nominal key sizes smaller than 2.5 mm.

1.2.2 Strength. The strength capability of keys made to the ISO 2936 standard is such that the keys are not considered suitable for driving high strength screws, such as property class 12.9 hexagon socket cap screws and property class 45H hexagon socket set screws.

1.3 Large Keys and Bits

For nominal socket sizes above 24 mm it is recommended that bits be used in conjunction with standard hexagon wrenches or power drives. When the application makes the use of keys necessary the keys should conform to the dimensions specified herein. Bits are available in nominal sizes 24 mm and smaller but the lengths have not been standardized.

1.4 Dimensions

All dimensions in this standard are given in millimeters (mm) unless otherwise stated. For plated hexagon keys or bits all dimensions are before plating.

1.5 Options

Options, where specified, shall be at the discretion of the manufacturer unless otherwise agreed upon by manufacturer and purchaser.

1.6 Responsibility for Modification

The manufacturer shall not be held responsible for malfunctions of product determined to be due to plating or other modification when such plating or modification is not accomplished under his control or direction.

1.7 Marking

Hexagon keys in nominal sizes 2 mm to 10 mm, inclusive, shall be permanently and legibly marked with the nominal size and manufacturer's identification. On nominal sizes larger than 10 mm markings shall be optional.

1.8 Designation

Hexagon keys and bits shall be designated by the following data in the sequence shown:

Specification (ANSI document) number, followed by a dash; nominal key (or bit) size; Product name; series (for keys); and protective coating, if required.

Examples:

B18.3.2 6 mm Hexagon Key, Short Series

B18.3.2 8 mm Hexagon Key, Long Series, Nickel Plated

B18.3.2 32 mm Hexagon Bit

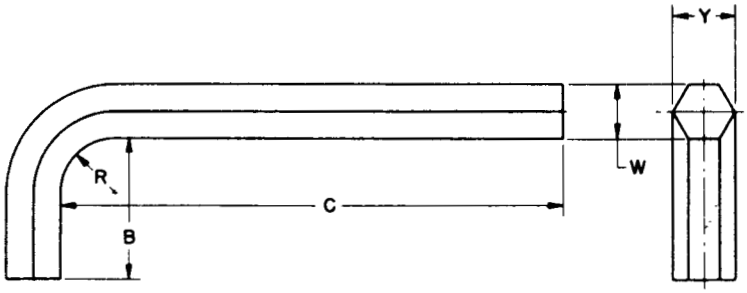

FIG. 1 KEY

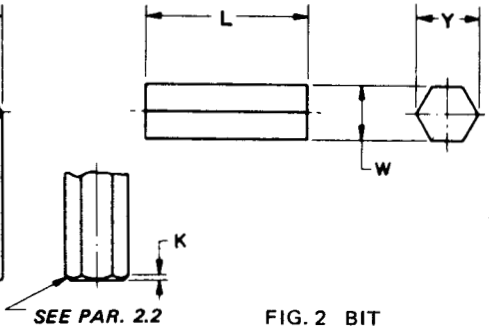

FIG. 2 BIT

Table 1 Dimensions of Metric Hexagon Keys and Bits

Nominal Key or Bit and Socket Size	W		Y		B		C				R	L	K
	Hexagon Width Across Flats		Hexagon Width Across Corners		Length of Short Arm		Length of Long Arm				Radius of Bend	Length of Bit	Chamfer Length
							Short Series		Long Series				
	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Min	±1.5	Max
0.7	0.711	0.698	0.798	0.762	8	3	34	28	69	63	1.5	–	0.08
0.9	0.899	0.876	0.998	0.960	11	6	34	28	71	65	1.5	–	0.10
1.3	1.270	1.244	1.422	1.372	16	11	44	39	75	69	1.5	–	0.14
1.5	1.500	1.470	1.690	1.640	14	13	45	43	78	76	1.5	–	0.14
2	2.000	1.970	2.250	2.200	16	15	50	48	83	81	2.0	–	0.14
2.5	2.500	2.470	2.820	2.770	18	17	56	53	90	87	2.5	–	0.14
3	3.000	2.960	3.399	3.340	20	18	63	60	100	97	3.0	–	0.18
4	4.000	3.960	4.532	4.470	25	23	70	66	106	102	4.0	–	0.24
5	5.000	4.960	5.690	5.630	28	26	80	76	118	114	5.0	–	0.30
6	6.000	5.950	6.828	6.760	32	30	90	86	140	136	6.0	–	0.36
8	8.000	7.950	9.136	9.030	36	34	100	95	160	155	8.0	–	0.49
10	10.000	9.950	11.470	11.340	40	38	112	106	170	164	10.0	–	0.62
12	12.000	11.950	13.764	13.590	45	43	125	119	212	206	12.0	–	0.76
14	14.000	13.930	16.058	15.880	56	53	140	133	236	229	14.0	–	0.85
17	17.000	16.930	19.499	19.300	63	60	160	152	250	242	17.0	–	1.04
19	19.000	18.930	21.793	21.580	70	67	180	171	280	271	19.0	–	1.16
22	22.000	21.930	25.234	25.000	80	76	200	190	335	325	22.0	–	1.36
24	24.000	23.930	27.525	27.240	90	86	224	213	375	364	24.0	–	1.49
27	27.000	26.870	30.969	30.710	100	95	250	238	–	–	27.0	100.0	1.68
32	32.000	31.840	36.704	36.430	125	119	315	300	–	–	32.0	100.0	1.99
36	36.000	35.840	41.292	40.900	140	133	355	338	–	–	36.0	100.0	2.25

For additional requirements refer to applicable paragraphs in the text on Pages 1, 3 and 4.

2 DIMENSIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

The following requirements supplement the dimensional data presented in Table 1 and shall apply to the respective features of keys and bits.

2.1 Truncation of Hexagon Corners

The truncation or rounding of the hexagon corners within the specified width across corners dimensions shall be evident on all corners.

2.2 Ends

Each end shall be perpendicular to the axis of the respective arms of keys and the longitudinal axis of bits within 4 deg and the edges may be sharp radiused or chamfered at the option of the manufacturer. Where ends are chamfered, the length of the chamfer shall not exceed the values listed for "K" in Table 1.

2.3 Angle of Bend

The angle of bend between the axis of the short arm and the axis of the long arm on hexagon keys shall be ±2 deg.

3 MATERIAL, PROCESSING AND MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

Keys and bits shall conform to the following requirements pertaining to materials, processing, mechanical and physical properties, and testing and sampling procedures:

3.1 Material and Heat Treatment

Hexagon keys and bits shall be fabricated from an alloy steel having two or more of the following alloying elements: chromium, nickel, molybdenum or vanadium in sufficient quantity to assure that the mechanical and physical requirements specified under Paragraph 3.3 can be met when the keys and bits are hardened by quenching from the austenitizing temperature and tempered.

3.2 Finish

The finish on keys and bits shall be an oiled black oxide coating or the oxide coating resulting from heat treatment, unless otherwise specified by the purchaser.

3.3 Mechanical and Physical Requirements

3.3.1 Hardness. Hexagon keys and bits will have a hardness range of Rockwell C50 to C57 for nominal sizes up to and including 12 mm, and Rockwell C45 to C53 for sizes 13 mm and larger. For sizes 2 mm and smaller, the microhardness requirement is Knoop 565 to 685 or the Vickers' equivalent.

3.3.2 Torsional Strength. Hexagon keys and bits when subjected to the torsional strength test defined in Paragraph 3.3.2.1 shall withstand the torsional moments specified in Table 2 without taking a permanent angular deflection or set of more than 10 deg. The test key or bit shall not exhibit any flaws, cracks or other defects which might affect its serviceability and the portion engaged in the socket shall show no distortion or rounding of corners.

For nominal sizes up to and including 8 mm, the key or bit shall be further tested to failure in accordance with the torsional shear test described in Paragraph 3.3.2.2. The failure shall occur as a clean and relatively square, shear fracture. Any splintering or brittle type failures shall be cause for rejection.

Table 2 Torsional Moments for Torsional Strength Test

Nominal Key Size	Torsional Moment N·m	Nominal Key Size	Torsional Moment N·m
0.7	0.1	10	252
0.9	0.2	12	420
1.3	0.6	14	670
1.5	1.0	17	1180
2	2.1	19	1670
2.5	4.7	22	2450
3	7.7	24	3200
4	17.8	27	4300
5	35	32	6800
6	57	36	10000
8	126		

3.3.2.1 Torsional Strength Test. The key or bit shall be inserted into a hexagon socket adapter designed for the size being tested. See Figure 3. The socket size in the adapter shall not exceed the nominal hexagon size by more than 0.025 mm and the adapter shall have a hardness of Rockwell C60 or greater for nominal sizes up to and including 14 mm and Rockwell C45 minimum for sizes larger than 14 mm. The depth of key engagement shall be equal to the nominal key size for the 1.5 mm and larger sizes and equivalent to 1.5 times the nominal key sizes for sizes smaller than 1.5 mm. With the socket adapter mounted in a suitable test fixture (see Figure 4), a torsional moment equal to 20 percent of that listed in Table 2 shall be applied to the key or bit, then released. The angular reference line thereby established shall be recorded.

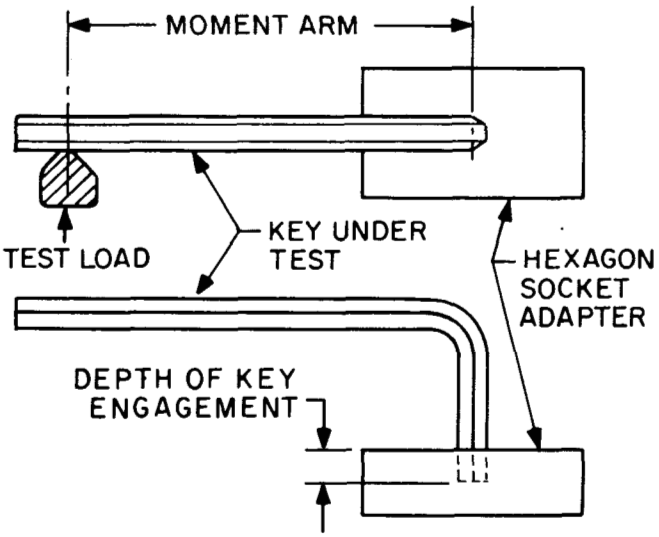

FIGURE 3. TORSIONAL MOMENT LOAD APPLICATION

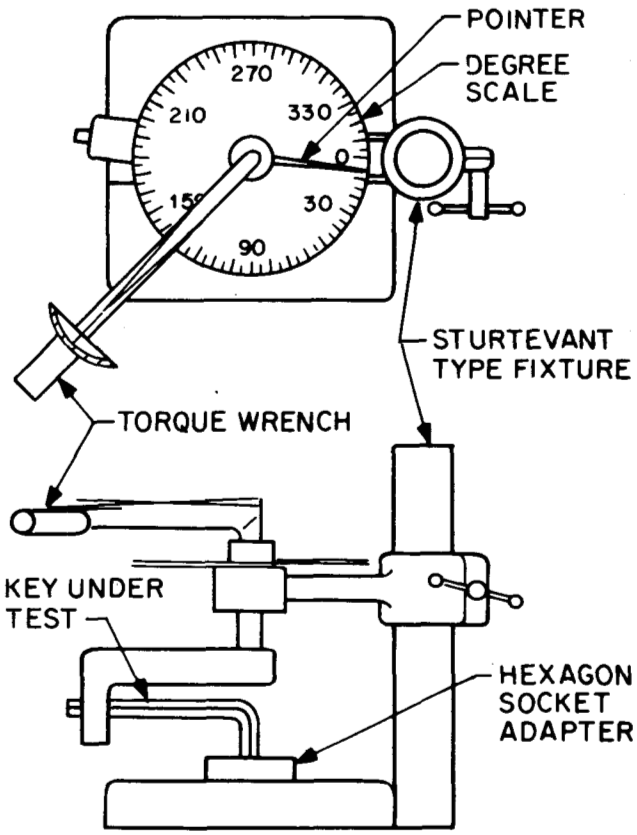

FIGURE 4. TYPICAL TORSIONAL STRENGTH TEST FIXTURE

The full torsional moment given in Table 2 shall be applied, then released, and the resulting angular displacement noted. The permanent set (difference between the angular readings) shall be determined and the test specimen examined.

3.3.2.2 Torsional Shear Test. For sizes up to and including 8 mm, the test key or bit shall be reinserted into the hexagon socket adapter in the torsional strength test fixture to a depth at least equal to that specified in Paragraph 3.3.2.1. The torsional moment shall be increased until the key or bit fails and the fracture examined to determine compliance with Paragraph 3.3.2.

3.3.3 Sample Size. The tests required under Paragraphs 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 shall be performed on a random sample size selected in accordance with Table 3.

Table 3 Sample Size for Mechanical Testing

Lot Quantity	Sample Size
Up to 50	2
51 to 500	3
501 to 35 000	5
Over 35 000	8