2.4 PC Tools

As you study this section, answer the following questions:

- When working with computer hardware, what is the advantage of having a ratcheting handle on a screwdriver?
- What is a good tool to use to retrieve a screw that has fallen into a computer case?
- What types of electrical properties can a multimeter measure?
- How is a power supply tester used to test the output from a PC power supply?
- How does a loopback plug verify that a device can both send and receive signals?
- How can ESD damage computer components?
- What measures should you take to protect hardware against ESD damage?
- When a wrist strap is unavailable, how can you still protect the computer from ESD while working in it?

In this section, you will learn to:

- Use a PC toolkit

Key terms for this section include the following:

Term	Definition
Antistatic pad	An insulated covering that prevents static electricity from moving between objects and damaging computer components.
Antistatic wrist strap	A strap that connects you to an antistatic pad to prevent static electricity from damaging computer components.
Cable tester	A tool that verifies that network signals can travel throughout a network.
Combination ratchet/screwdriver	A multi-tool with interchangeable bits.
Extension magnet	A small magnet on a collapsible rod used to retrieve parts that fall into a computer case or another area that hands cannot reach.
IC insertion and extraction tool	A plastic and metal tool used to add and remove integrated circuit chips.
Loopback plug	A small tool used to test network communications.
Multimeter	A handheld device with a digital readout used to test electrical properties.
Power supply tester	A special multimeter used to test output from a PC power supply.
POST card	An expansion board used to troubleshoot computer system startup.
Three-pronged parts retriever	A small tool used to grasp and retrieve small parts that fall into places difficult to reach with hands.