

Heat Guns

DT Workshop Equipment Reference — D&T / STEM resource for school workshops | Machinery & Power Tools



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A heat gun blows hot air from 50 to 650 degrees C for shrink tubing, softening plastic, stripping paint, drying adhesives and bending acrylic and PVC sheet. It is a versatile bench tool found in electronics, plastics and general workshop areas.

Key Features

- Temperature range roughly 50-650 degrees C
- Two or more heat settings plus air flow control
- Lighter and easier to control than a hot air paint stripper
- Nozzle attachments for concentrating airflow
- Cool-down setting to protect the element

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Shrink heat-shrink tubing over solder joints
- Bend acrylic and PVC sheet along a marked line
- Strip paint and soften adhesives for repairs
- Dry glued parts and speed up paint curing

Safe Operation

1. Set the temperature for the job and material
2. Wave the gun over the area rather than holding still
3. Keep the nozzle moving to avoid scorching
4. Test on scrap first when materials are unknown
5. Let the gun cool on its stand before storing

SAFETY NOTES

- The nozzle is very hot - never touch it or point it at people
- Do not aim hot air at flammables or glass
- Use ventilation - some plastics give off fumes
- Unplug when finished and place on a heat-proof stand
- Keep the cord away from the hot nozzle

Maintenance & Consumables

- Keep the air inlet clear of dust and fluff
- Replace worn nozzles when damaged
- Check the cord and switch for damage
- Store on a wall hook or in a drawer safely
- Clean any melted plastic off the nozzle when cool

Specification & Buying Notes

Choose a variable-temperature gun with an overheat cut-out and a stand. Look for wattage around 1600-2000 W for fast warm-up, and check the availability of nozzle accessories.