

Pocket Hole Jigs

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

A pocket hole jig drills angled pilot holes into one workpiece so that self-tapping screws can draw it tightly onto the piece next to it. It makes fast, strong joints for frames, cabinets and repairs without clamps for glue drying, and is very beginner-friendly.

Key Features

- Angled drilling guides at 15 degrees typical
- Clamps, stops and guides for repeatability
- Sets the drill depth and stop collar
- Works with standard pocket screws
- Floor standing, bench and handheld designs

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Join face frames and cabinet carcasses
- Attach aprons and rails to table legs
- Repair furniture by re-screwing joints
- Build quick prototypes and stage props

Safe Operation

1. Set the jig depth to the material thickness
2. Clamp the work and drill the pocket holes
3. Choose pocket screws long enough to pull the joint
4. Spread glue, align and drive the screws
5. Check the joint is square before the glue sets

SAFETY NOTES

- Drill only into the workpiece, secured in the jig
- The drill bit exits the work - keep fingers behind it
- Use a dust extractor or mask for the fine dust
- Keep the screwdriver bit seated in the screw
- Do not use pocket screws where visible on show faces

Maintenance & Consumables

- Replace worn hardened stop collars
- Keep the drill and driver bits sharp
- Clean dust out of the jig after use
- Store with the bit set complete
- Check clamp pads for wear

Specification & Buying Notes

A metal jig with a clamping system and depth stop is better than cheap plastic ones. Buy pocket screws in the main lengths (25-64 mm) with the square-drive bit that matches.