

Pneumatic Brad Nailers

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

A pneumatic brad nailer drives small headless nails with compressed air for pinning mouldings, trim, panels and jigs without leaving visible holes or splitting thin timber. It is fast, precise and ideal for production-style work in the workshop.

Key Features

- Brad sizes from 15 to 50 mm typical
- 18-gauge brads for small headless fixing
- Sequential or bump firing modes
- No-mar tip protects the surface
- Adjustable depth of drive

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Pin mouldings and trims without clamping
- Assemble frames, boxes and small carcasses
- Tack panels and backs into place
- Attach jigs and guides before final screwing

Safe Operation

1. Select the brad length to match the material
2. Set air pressure so the brad sinks to the right depth
3. Press the nose on the surface before firing
4. Space pins evenly and avoid end grain splits
5. Use a nail puller to remove misplaced pins

SAFETY NOTES

- Never point a loaded nailer at anyone
- Keep fingers clear of the nose
- Disconnect the air when clearing jams
- Wear eye protection - nails can ricochet
- Do not fire into knots in thin timber

Maintenance & Consumables

- Oil the tool daily through the air inlet
- Clear jams with the release and the air off
- Check the trigger and safety mechanism
- Drain the compressor tank regularly
- Keep spare brads in the right gauge and length

Specification & Buying Notes

A lightweight 18-gauge nailer with a no-mar tip suits school work. Check it runs on the workshop compressor pressure (70-100 psi). Buy greased collated brads in strips.