

Center Squares

DT Workshop Equipment Reference — D&T / STEM resource for school workshops | Measuring & Inspection



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A centre square is a small tool shaped like a V with a rule through its centre, used to find the centre of round or cylindrical stock before drilling, turning or machining. It is the quick, reliable way to locate axes on dowels, bars and turned parts.

Key Features

- 90 degree V that sits on the cylinder
- Sliding rule that crosses the centre point
- Marking edge scribes the centre line
- Fits stock diameters from 3 to 60 mm typical
- Pocket-size steel construction

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Mark centres on dowels and round bars before drilling
- Locate centres for turning between centres
- Set up stock in 4-jaw chucks
- Check drilled holes are truly centred

Safe Operation

1. Rest the V snugly against the cylinder
2. Scribe a line along the rule edge across the end
3. Turn the square 90 degrees and scribe again
4. The crossing point is the centre
5. Centre-punch the crossing before drilling

SAFETY NOTES

- The rule edge is sharp - handle with care
- Keep the stock steady so the square cannot slip
- Wear eye protection when centre-punching
- Do not use as a scraping or pry tool
- Store with other marking tools, edges guarded

Maintenance & Consumables

- Wipe the tool clean and lightly oil
- Check the rule still crosses on the centre line
- Keep the V faces free of burrs and dents
- Check the rule slide is tight
- Store in the marking-out kit tray

Specification & Buying Notes

A hardened steel centre square with a clear etched rule serves years of class work. Check the rule slides without wobble and the V is a true 90 degrees.