

Forstner Drill Bits

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



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A Forstner bit drills clean, flat-bottomed holes with a sharp rim that cuts the edge before the centre spur, so it can bore into the edge of a board or make overlapping holes without wandering. It is the bit of choice for hinge recesses, dowel holes and clean through-holes in furniture work.

Key Features

- Sizes from 10 to 50 mm typical
- Flat-bottom cutting with a centre spur
- Rims that cut clean edges without tear-out
- Suitable for drilling at an angle
- Shank sizes 8-10 mm with hex drives often

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Cut hinge recesses flush with the surface
- Drill flat-bottom holes for dowels and dominos
- Bore overlapping holes for curves and slots
- Drill angled holes that stay true

Safe Operation

1. Mark the centre and start at low speed
2. Drill slowly with steady pressure
3. Clear chips regularly on deep holes
4. Check depth with a stop collar for flat bottoms
5. Stop before breaking through to avoid tear-out

SAFETY NOTES

- Keep fingers clear of the rim - it is razor sharp
- Clamp the work before drilling
- Do not force the bit; let the rim cut
- Wear eye protection
- Ensure the chuck grips the shank firmly

Maintenance & Consumables

- Keep the rim edges sharp for clean cuts
- Clean resin from the rim and spur
- Store sizes in a labelled case
- Sharpen the rim with a specialised hone
- Replace bits that burn or bind

Specification & Buying Notes

Buy the common sizes used in class furniture making (15, 25, 35 mm) from a good brand. The rim sharpness out of the box matters. Some sets include a depth stop collar.