

Spade Drill Bits

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



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Spade bits are flat paddle-shaped bits for fast drilling of larger holes (6-40 mm) in softwood and board materials, driven by a drill or driver at moderate speed. They are inexpensive and quick but can tear the exit side, so they suit utility and carcass work.

Key Features

- Sizes from 6 to 40 mm in sets
- Flat paddle with centre spur
- Spear-point versions for cleaner entry
- Hex shanks stop slippage in the chuck
- Long versions for deep or awkward holes

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Drill cable and pipe holes in studs
- Bore quick holes in timber for dowels and rods
- Drill rough through-holes in carcass work
- Sink large holes in fence posts and staging

Safe Operation

1. Mark the hole position and clamp the work
2. Set the drill speed to medium
3. Drill through with steady pressure, not leaning on it
4. Back out to clear chips on deep holes
5. Drill from both sides for clean exits on veneered boards

SAFETY NOTES

- The flat paddle can catch - keep a firm grip on the drill
- Keep fingers clear of the bit while spinning
- Wear eye protection against flung chips
- Do not use spade bits on metal
- Allow the bit to cool between holes

Maintenance & Consumables

- Keep the point and cutting edges sharp
- Clean resin from the paddle
- Store sizes in a case or rack
- Check the shanks are not distorted
- Replace worn bits when they burn or bind

Specification & Buying Notes

A set of 10-32 mm spade bits with hex shanks covers school needs at low cost. Buy quality steel; cheap sets dull fast in MDF and plywood.