

Flexible Shaft Attachments for Rotary Tools

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



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A flexible shaft attachment moves the rotary tool's motor away from the hand, driving a slim handheld handpiece through a flexible driveshaft. This gives precise, lightweight control for jewellery work, engraving and fine carving with less vibration and weight in the hand.

Key Features

- Shafts around 900-1000 mm long
- Fits most rotary tool collet chucks
- Handpiece with collet for small shanks
- Both ends have secure locking nuts
- Hang hooks for bench mounting

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Engrave and carve with fine control
- Drill and grind jewellery and small parts
- Work in awkward and delicate positions
- Reduce hand fatigue in long fine sessions

Safe Operation

1. Fit the shaft drive end into the rotary tool chuck
2. Lock the tool in its stand or hang it above the bench
3. Fit the accessory into the handpiece collet
4. Run at low speed and guide with light touch
5. Flex the shaft smoothly without sharp bends

SAFETY NOTES

- Do not bend the shaft sharply - it can snap
- Keep the spinning handpiece away from fingers and cords
- Check the handpiece collet holds bits securely
- Do not run at full speed for long periods
- Store the shaft coiled loosely

Maintenance & Consumables

- Lubricate the shaft per the maker's schedule
- Check the drive cable for kinks and wear
- Replace the handpiece collet when worn
- Clean the handpiece after each use
- Store hanging, not in a tight knot

Specification & Buying Notes

Buy a shaft engineered for the same brand as the rotary tool for a true fit. Quality shafts run smooth and cool; cheap ones bind and wear out fast.