

Electric Tapping Machines

DT Workshop Equipment Reference — D&T / STEM resource for school workshops | Metalworking Machines



Photo via Wikimedia Commons (Tapping_guitar.jpg)

An electric tapping machine drives taps into pre-drilled holes at controlled speed and reversing, producing clean machine threads with less effort and fewer broken taps than hand tapping. It is the dependable way to thread multiple holes in production and repair work.

Key Features

- Tapping capacities from M3 to M16
- Variable speeds with automatic reversing
- Depth stops for blind holes
- Column and bench-mounting designs
- Torque control to reduce breakage

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Tap production runs of holes quickly
- Thread blind holes with accurate depth
- Repair and re-thread damaged holes
- Tap softer metals with control

Safe Operation

1. Drill the correct tapping hole first
2. Fit the tap and align with the hole
3. Set the speed and depth stop
4. Start gently and let the machine advance
5. Reverse out and clear chips

SAFETY NOTES

- Wear eye protection - chips fly regularly
- Clamp the work firmly to the table
- Keep hands clear of the tap spindle
- Do not force the feed - let the tap cut
- Switch off before changing taps

Maintenance & Consumables

- Keep taps and collets clean
- Check the chuck and spindle alignment
- Lubricate the column and gears
- Replace worn depth stops
- Store taps in labelled cases

Specification & Buying Notes

Choose a machine with adjustable torque and a sensitive feed for small taps. Column models improve control. Buy tap sets in the thread sizes the workshop actually uses.