

Sheet Metal Brakes and Shears

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



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A sheet metal brake bends straight, clean folds in sheet metal along its full length, while shears cut sheet metal cleanly without burrs or distortion. Together they turn flat sheet into boxes, trays, brackets and panels for metal projects.

Key Features

- Bending widths from 300 to 2000 mm
- Throat lengths and capacity in steel thickness
- Finger brakes for narrow and box work
- Guillotine and bench shears
- Accurate angle stops and back gauges

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Fold boxes, trays and brackets from sheet
- Cut sheet to size for projects
- Make chimney, gutter and flanging work
- Produce clean edges for welding

Safe Operation

1. Mark the bend line and set the back gauge
2. Lift the clamping beam onto the line
3. Fold the leaf to the angle stop
4. Cut sheet with the shear holding the line
5. Deburr cut edges before handling

SAFETY NOTES

- Keep fingers clear of the clamping and cutting edges
- Wear gloves against metal edges
- Do not exceed the rated material thickness
- Handle large sheets with two people
- Clear offcuts and slivers immediately

Maintenance & Consumables

- Clean and oil the pivot points
- Check the blades for chips
- Tighten any loose bolts
- Store fingers and stops in their rack
- Check the locking mechanisms

Specification & Buying Notes

A 600-1200 mm bench brake with finger sections covers most school sheet metal work. Match shear capacity to the same material. Good clamping force and clear angle stops matter more than extras.