

Benchtop English Wheels

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



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An English wheel is a forming machine with a flat anvil wheel and a crowned upper wheel that stretches and smooths sheet metal into compound curves, the tool behind car panels, aircraft skins and sculptural metalwork. Benchtop versions suit school projects.

Key Features

- Wheel throat depths from 400 to 700 mm
- Interchangeable anvil wheels of varying crowns
- Quick-release adjustable pressure
- Bench or floor stands
- Steel construction with heavy frame

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Form smooth curved panels for vehicles
- Shape sculptural and architectural metal
- Planish and stretch sheet into crowns
- Produce symmetrical curved parts

Safe Operation

1. Select the anvil crown for the curve needed
2. Set the gap slightly tighter than the sheet
3. Pass the sheet back and forth across the wheels
4. Move the sheet to work different areas
5. Check the shape against the template often

SAFETY NOTES

- Keep fingers clear of the wheel gap
- Do not run the sheet against the rollers fast
- Check the frame bolts and stand stability
- Wear gloves when handling formed edges
- Adjust pressure only when the wheels stop

Maintenance & Consumables

- Clean and polish the wheel surfaces
- Check bearings for smooth running
- Tighten the frame and stand bolts
- - Oil the adjustment threads
- Store the wheel covered in a dry area

Specification & Buying Notes

A benchtop English wheel with a selection of anvil crowns and a solid stand gives school metalwork real forming capability. Check the throat depth suits the panel sizes planned.