

Hacksaws and Spare Blades

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

A hacksaw cuts metal with a fine-toothed blade in a tensioned frame, used for cutting rod, tube, bar and sheet to size. Correct blade selection, tension and stroke make clean square cuts instead of wandering, blunt struggles.

Key Features

- Adjustable frames for blade lengths
- Blades 10-14 TPI for general work
- High-speed steel and bi-metal blades
- Pistol-grip handles
- Blade tensioning levers

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Cut steel, brass, aluminium and tube
- Cut bolts, rods and bar stock
- Trim metal fittings for projects
- Cut plastic sheet and conduit

Safe Operation

1. Fit the blade teeth facing forward
2. Tension until firm and straight
3. Mark the cut line and start at the heel
4. Use long, even strokes with slight pressure
5. Lubricate for metal cuts

SAFETY NOTES

- Wear eye protection - chips fly
- Clamp the work securely
- Keep fingers clear of the blade path
- Replace damaged blades immediately
- Do not force through tough sections

Maintenance & Consumables

- Clean the frame and blade
- Release blade tension after use
- Keep spare blades in a case
- Replace dull blades promptly
- Store in the tool rack

Specification & Buying Notes

A solid adjustable hacksaw frame plus a stock of bi-metal blades (14 and 18 TPI) covers school metalwork. Quality bi-metal blades outlast HSS on tough jobs.