

Keyhole Saws

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



Photo: Pitoutom — Public domain — via Wikimedia Commons (Keyhole-saw.jpg)

A keyhole saw (pad saw) has a narrow, pointed blade set in a handle for making starter cuts and enlarging holes in wood, plasterboard and panels, cutting where a larger saw cannot start. It is the tool for opening up access holes and repairing panels.

Key Features

- Narrow pointed blades
- Interchangeable blade types
- Lengths 250-350 mm
- Rounded wood handles
- Coarse and fine teeth

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Start cuts in panels and boards
- Enlarge holes for switches and pipes
- Cut curves and cut-outs in material
- Trim openings in repairs

Safe Operation

1. Mark the cut opening clearly
2. Drill a starter hole if needed
3. Insert the blade and saw along the line
4. Use short, even strokes
5. Turn the blade for corner cuts

SAFETY NOTES

- Keep the point and teeth away from skin
- Check what is behind the material
- Wear eye protection
- Do not force the blade through knots
- Store with the blade covered

Maintenance & Consumables

- Check the blade fits the handle
- Clean and oil the blade
- Replace worn blades
- Store in the tool drawer
- Keep a spare blade with the saw

Specification & Buying Notes

A keyhole saw with two or three blade types and a firm handle covers cut-out work. Quality blades cut clean; bent blades wander off line.