

Self-Tapping Sheet Metal Screws

DT Workshop Equipment Reference — D&T / STEM resource for school workshops | Fasteners & Hardware

Self-tapping screws cut their own thread into sheet metal, plastic and thin sections as they are driven, with hardened points and sharp threads that start without a pilot in thin stock. They fix panels, brackets and fabrication work fast.

Key Features

- Pancake, pan and countersunk heads
- Self-tapping thread-cutting points
- Hardened steel, zinc, stainless
- Sizes from 3.5 to 6.3 mm
- Drill-point versions for one-step work

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Assemble sheet metal and brackets
- Fix panels, guards and housings
- Attach plastic to metal
- Rapid fabrication joins

Safe Operation

1. Start with a small pilot where needed
2. Hold the screw square to the surface
3. Drive at the correct speed and pressure
4. Stop at the set depth to avoid strip-out
5. Countersink where flush is needed

SAFETY NOTES

- Sharp points - handle with care
- Wear eye protection when driving
- Do not use in load-bearing structure
- Keep out of children's reach
- Check the screw has gripped before loading

Maintenance & Consumables

- Store sorted by size and type
- Check the points are sharp
- Keep the driver bits matched
- Restock commonly used sizes
- Audit the fastener drawers

Specification & Buying Notes

Self-tappers in 3.5 and 4.8 mm with drill points cover most sheet work. Quality hardened steel bites clean; cheap screws skid and strip the hole.