

Dowel Pins (Wood and Metal)

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



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Dowel pins are cylindrical rods used two ways: wooden dowels form glued joinery pins in furniture, while hardened steel dowel pins locate and align machined parts in jigs and presses. Each suits its material's joints and alignments.

Key Features

- Wooden dowels 6-25 mm diameter
- Steel dowel pins with chamfered ends
- Precision ground steel grades
- Lengths from a few mm to metres
- Hardened for press-fit use

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Glue joint pins in furniture and frames
- Align parts in jigs and fixtures
- Press-fit locating pins in machines
- Edge-join panels with concealed dowels

Safe Operation

1. Drill matching holes with a dowel jig
2. Chamfer the dowel end to start
3. Glue and insert flush
4. For steel pins, size the hole to the fit
5. Test alignment before final assembly

SAFETY NOTES

- Wooden dowels are sharp when cut - dispose of offcuts
- Wear eye protection when cutting and drilling
- Use the correct drill size for steel pins
- Keep steel pins separate from wood stock
- Store sharp steel ends capped

Maintenance & Consumables

- Keep dowel stocks sorted by size
- Check steel pins for burrs
- Store dowels dry and straight
- Keep matching drill sizes with the jig
- Restock the common diameters

Specification & Buying Notes

Wooden dowel in 6, 8 and 10 mm with a dowel jig and drills covers joinery; steel dowel pins for jig work in the precision sizes. Quality dowels are straight-grained.