

Thread Inserts for Wood and Plastic

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



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Thread inserts are brass or steel fittings that screw into wood or plastic and provide a machine-tough threaded hole, so bolts can be removed and refitted repeatedly without stripping the material. They keep machined bases, jigs and 3D prints serviceable.

Key Features

- Brass wood inserts and steel threaded bushes
- Metric M3-M10 bores
- External threads grip the host material
- Heat-set types for 3D printed plastic
- Installation drivers or taps

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Provide tough threads in chipboard and MDF
- Insert into 3D printed plastic parts
- Create serviceable mounts in jigs
- Repair stripped holes in wood

Safe Operation

1. Drill the correct pilot hole
2. For wood, screw the insert in with the driver
3. For plastic, heat the insert and press in
4. Check the insert sits flush and true
5. Fit the bolt without overtightening

SAFETY NOTES

- Inserts are small and sharp - keep away from children
- Heat-set tools are hot - handle with care
- Wear eye protection when drilling
- Do not use damaged inserts
- Store inserts sorted by size

Maintenance & Consumables

- Keep the insertion drivers and taps
- Check the insert bores are clean
- Store with the pilot drill chart
- Restock the common sizes
- Keep a heat-set tool for plastics

Specification & Buying Notes

For plastics, heat-set brass inserts matching the printer's holes; for wood, self-tapping brass inserts with the correct drill. Quality inserts hold threads through hundreds of cycles.