

Edge Finders for CNC Mills

DT Workshop Equipment Reference — D&T / STEM resource for school workshops | Measuring & Inspection

An edge finder locates the exact edge of a workpiece on a mill or CNC machine: the rotating probe wobbles until its tip contacts the edge, and the spindle position is offset by the tip radius. It sets X and Y zero accurately and simply.

Key Features

- Cylindrical probes 10 mm diameter
- Wobble detection by eye or sound
- Operator safety tips
- Shank fit to the spindle collet
- Ball and point tip versions

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Find workpiece edges for zeroing
- Locate hole centres precisely
- Set up vises and fixtures offset
- Teach CNC coordinate setup

Safe Operation

1. Fit the edge finder in the collet
2. Spin it at around 1000 rpm
3. Approach the edge slowly until it kicks
4. Back off to align the halves by eye
5. Zero the axis with the tip radius offset

SAFETY NOTES

- Spin at the rated speed only
- Keep fingers clear while running
- Do not crash the probe into the work
- Remove the edge finder before machining
- Check the shank grips in the collet

Maintenance & Consumables

- Keep the tips clean and true
- Check for burrs and dents
- Store in its holder
- Replace worn tips
- Keep the shank clean

Specification & Buying Notes

A 10 mm cylindrical edge finder with matching shank suits the mill and CNC setups. Quality probes kick true; wobbling cheap ones give wrong edges. Buy a spare tip.