



How to: Drill Press

Safety First!!!

Always be aware of your surroundings and where the On/Off button is located on the machine.

- Wear safety glasses, and don't wear loose clothing or long-sleeve shirts that can get caught in the rotating spindle.
- Use a brush or vacuum cleaner to remove debris from the work piece.
- If you have long hair, wear a cap. Hair can get caught in the spindle.

Drilling Holes

- Use only sharp bits. Dull drill bits make the work harder.
- Remove chips from deep holes and re-plunge the tool. Built-up chips can score the sides of a precision hole or prematurely wear out a drill bit.
- Use clamps or vises to hold the work piece in place. Large drill bits can grab the material and throw it at the operator.
- Adjust depth stops before drilling. Set the depth stop a little high and then measure the hole. You can always drill out more material, but it is tough filling a hole that's too deep.
- Reduce the drill pressure as the bit nears the bottom of the hole. This prevents the bit from gouging the material on the far side of the hole.
- Set the speeds of the drill motor before drilling the hole. Adjust speeds before placing the motor under load.

Shop Cleaning

- Keep the work surface of the drill press table clean. Errant chips under the work piece can create crooked holes.
- Sweep the area around the drill press often.
- Metal chips can get stuck in the soles of shoes and even work their way up to your foot.

Ask for Help

- If you're unsure on safe operation procedures or have any questions, please ask for assistance from a shop steward or fellow maker. We're here to help!

YOU + MAKE + TALENT