



Screwdriving and drilling in wood

Procedure:

How to quickly get the hang of it

Screw joints are a quick and easy alternative to glue joints in furniture construction. However, drilling in wood is more difficult than it looks. Here you will find out what to watch out for when screwdriving and drilling in wood.

- 1** Use a wood drill bit with a centring tip. You can use a twist drill bit for normal holes with small to medium diameter. An auger bit is recommended for drilling deep holes with diameter of 8–10 mm or more. The Forstner drill bit is suitable for drilling shallow holes of up to 30 mm diameter. The holesaw is ideal for drilling through-holes with 30 mm diameter or more.
- 2** Always use wood screws. They have a high-incline thread and a pronounced tip. The shank is cylindrical or conical.
- 3** (Cordless) screwdrivers and (cordless) drill/drivers are ideal for screwdriving. If you only need to drive screws occasionally, you can also use a drill.
- 4** Make sure that the bit you use in your tool fits the screw perfectly. Otherwise it might slip out of the screw during screwdriving. “Torx” screws offer the best grip, “cross head” screws (technical term: Pozidriv or Philips) are generally better suited than slotted screws.
- 5** You will achieve the best result by drilling along the grain of the wood. Set the right speed. If the speed is too low, the resulting hole will be untidy. If the speed is too high, there is a risk of the workpiece overheating and burn marks occurring. Place the drill bit cleanly against the workpiece.
- 6** Fix the workpiece using clamps to prevent it from slipping during drilling. Place a scrap panel underneath the workpiece, so that you can drill into the scrap panel without damaging your worktop. This also prevents fibres from being torn out when you drill through the workpiece.
- 7** To connect two pieces of wood with screws, always pre-drill a hole that is 0.5 to 1 mm larger than the screw diameter in the piece where you want to insert the screws first. In contrast, you should always pre-drill a hole that is 1 mm smaller in the piece you are screwing into. This ensures that the thread will grip well.
- 8** If you are using flat head screws, countersink the drilled hole deep enough for the head of the screw to disappear into it completely.

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