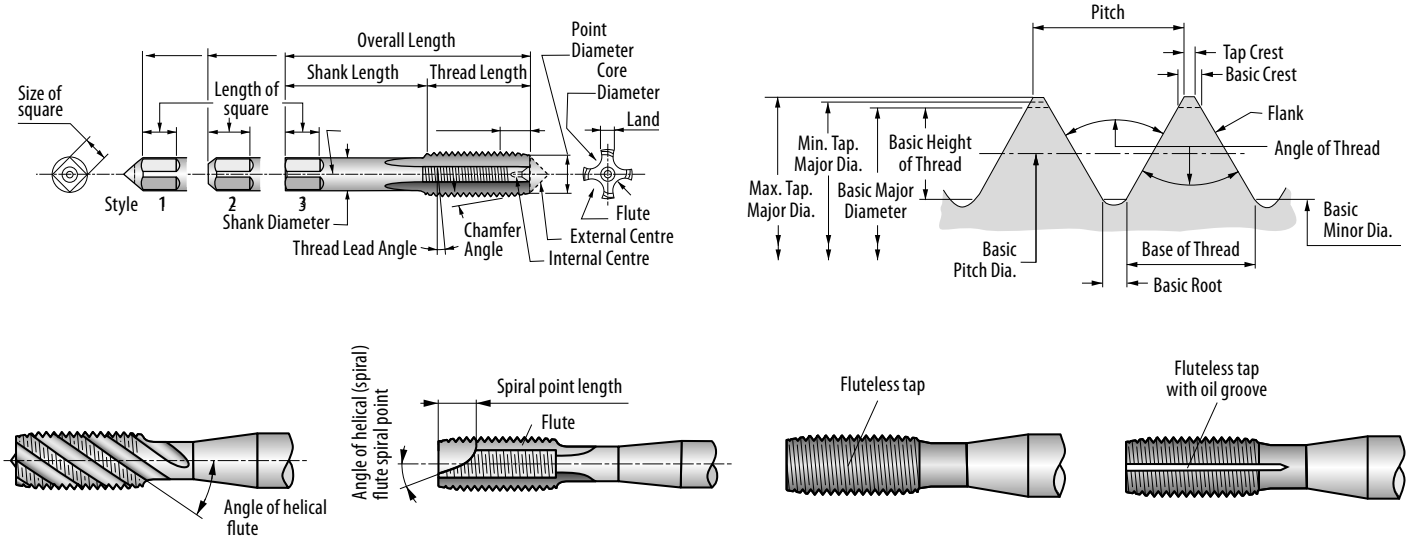


THREADING – GENERAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION



Allowance: The minimum clearance or maximum interference which is intended between mating parts.

Angle of Thread: The angle included between the flanks of a thread measured in an axial plane.

Back Taper: A slight taper on the threaded portion of the tap making the pitch diameter near the shank smaller than that at the chamfer.

Basic: The theoretical or nominal standard size from which all variations are made.

Chamfer: The tapered and relieved cutting teeth at the front end of the threaded section. Common types of chamfer are taper, 8 to 10 pitches long, plug, 3 to 5 pitches and bottoming, 1 to 2 pitches.

Crest: The top surface joining the two sides or flanks of a thread.

Cutting Face: The leading side of the land.

Flute: The longitudinal channels formed on a tap to create cutting edges on the thread profile.

Heel: The following side of the land.

Height of Thread: In profile, distance between crest and bottom section of thread measured normal to the axis.

Hook Face: A concave cutting face of the land. This may be varied for different materials and conditions.

Interrupted Thread: Alternate teeth are removed in the thread helix on a tap; usually restricted to those having an odd number of flutes.

Land: One of the threaded sections between the flutes of a tap.

Lead of Thread: The distance a screw thread advances axially in one turn.

Major Diameter: The largest diameter of the screw or nut on a straight screw thread.

Minor Diameter: The smallest diameter of the screw or nut on a straight screw thread.

Neck: The reduced diameter, on some taps, between the threaded portion and the shank.

Pitch: The distance from a point on one thread to a corresponding point on the next thread, measured parallel to the axis.

Pitch Diameter: On a straight screw thread, the diameter of an imaginary cylinder where the width of the thread and the width of the space between threads is equal.

Point Diameter: The diameter at the leading end of the chamfered portion.

Radial: The straight face of a land, the plane of which passes through the axis of the tap.

Rake: The angle of the cutting face of the land in relation to an axial plane intersecting the cutting face at the major diameter.

Relief: The removal of metal behind the cutting edge to provide clearance between the part being threaded and a portion of the threaded land. Also, see back taper.

CHAMFER RELIEF: The gradual decrease in land height from cutting edge to heel on the chamfered portion of the tap land to provide radial clearance for the cutting edge.

CONCENTRIC RELIEF: Radial relief in the thread form starting at the back of a concentric margin.

ECCENTRIC THREAD RELIEF: Radial relief in the thread form starting at the cutting edge and continuing to the heel.

Root: The bottom surface joining the flanks of two adjacent threads.

Side or flank of thread: The surface of the thread which connects the crest with the root.

Shank: The portion of the tap by which it is held and driven.

Spiral Point: An oblique cutting edge ground into the lands to provide a shear cutting action on the first few threads.

Square: The squared end of the tap shank.

Thread: The helical formed tooth of the tap which produces the thread in a tapped hole.

Thread Lead Angle: The angle made by the helix of the thread at the pitch diameter, with a plane perpendicular to the axis.

Threads Per Inch: The number of threads in one inch of length.

Thread: **SINGLE:** A thread in which lead is equal to pitch.

DOUBLE: A thread in which lead is equal to twice the pitch.

TRIPLE: A thread in which lead is equal to triple the pitch.



THREADING – GENERAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION

General hints on tapping

The success of any tapping operation depends on a number of factors, all of which affect the quality of the finished product.

1. Select the correct design of tap for the component material and type of hole, i.e. through or blind, from the Materials Classification chart.
2. Ensure the component is securely clamped – lateral movement may cause tap breakage or poor quality threads.
3. Select the correct size of drill from the relevant catalogue page. Always ensure that work hardening of the component material is kept to a minimum.
4. Select the correct cutting speed as shown on the catalogue product page.
5. Use appropriate cutting fluid for correct application.
6. In NC applications ensure that the feed value chosen for the program is correct. When using a tapping attachment, 95% to 97% of the pitch is recommended to allow the tap to generate its own pitch.
7. Where possible, hold the tap in a good quality torque limiting tapping attachment, which ensures free axial movement of the tap and presents it squarely to the hole. It also protects the tap from breakage if accidentally 'bottomed' in a blind hole.
8. Ensure smooth entry of the tap into the hole, as an uneven feed may cause 'bell mouting'.

Tap tolerance vs tolerance on internal thread (nut)

Tolerance class, Tap			Tolerance, Internal thread (Nut)					Application
ISO	DIN	ANSI BS						
ISO 1	4 H	3 B	4 H	5 H	–	–	–	Fit without allowance
ISO 2	6 H	2 B	4 G	5 G	6 H	–	–	Normal fit
ISO 3	6 G	1 B	–	–	6 G	7 H	8 H	Fit with large allowance
–	7 G	–	–	–	–	7 G	8 G	Loose fit for following treatment or coating

THREADING – GENERAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Tap Geometries & Applications

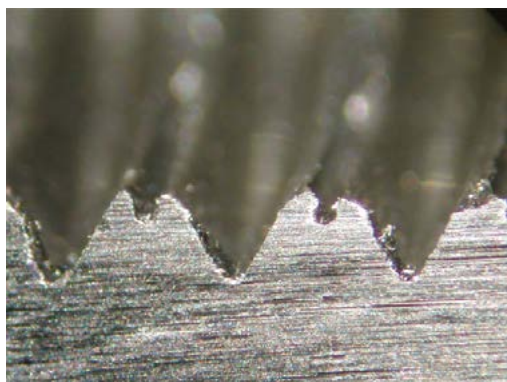
Description	Chips	Description	Chips
Taps with straight flutes Straight flutes are the most commonly used type of tap. Suitable for use on most materials, mainly short chipping steel and cast iron, they form the basis of the program.		Taps with flutes only on the chamfer lead The cutting part of the tap is formed by gun nosing in the same manner as for a spiral point tap, the function being to drive the chips forward ahead of the cutting edges. This design is extremely rigid which facilitates good machining results. However, the short length of the gun nosing limits its application to a depth of hole less than about 1.5 x Ø.	
Taps with interrupted thread The interrupted thread ensures less friction and therefore less resistance, which is particularly important when threading material which is resilient and difficult to machine (e.g. aluminium, bronze). It is also easier for lubricant to penetrate to the cutting edges, thus helping to minimize the torque generated		Taps with spiral flutes Taps with spiral flutes are intended primarily for threading in blind holes. The helical flute transports the chips back away from the cutting edges and out of the hole, thus avoiding packing of chips in the flutes or at the bottom of the hole. In this way, danger of breaking the tap or damaging the thread is minimised.	
Spiral point taps The tap has a straight fairly shallow flute and is often referred to as a gun nose or spiral point tap. The gun nose or spiral point is designed to drive the chips forward. The relatively shallow flutes ensure that the sectional strength is maximised. They also act to allow lubricant to reach the cutting edges. This type of tap is recommended for threading through holes.		Cold forming taps Cold forming taps differ from cutting taps in that the thread is produced by plastic deformation of the component material rather than by the traditional cutting action. This means that no chips are produced by their action. The application range is materials with good formability. Tensile strength (R_m) should not exceed 1200 N/mm² and the elongation factor (A₅) should not be less than 10%. Cold forming taps without flutes are suitable for normal machining and are especially suitable when vertically tapping blind holes. They are also available with through coolant.	
Nut taps These taps are generally used to thread nuts but can be used also on deep through holes. They have a shank diameter smaller than the nominal and a longer overall length, because their function is to accumulate nuts. They are used on special machines designed to thread huge amounts of nuts. They can work in steel and stainless steel. The first serial tap has a very long chamfer, in order to spread the cutting load on almost two thirds of the thread length.		Through coolant taps The performance of taps with through coolant holes is higher than the same taps used with external lubrication. These kinds of taps allow better evacuation of the chip, which is transported away from the cutting area itself. Wear on the cutting edge is reduced, since the cooling effect on the cutting zone is higher than the heat generation. Lubrication can be oil, emulsion or air pressurised with oil mist. Working pressure not less than 15 bar is required, but good results can be obtained with minimal lubrication.	

THREADING – GENERAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION

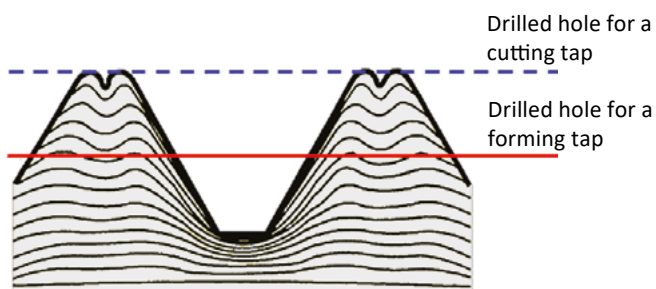
Flow Of Material When Forming A Thread

The tapping hole size depends upon the material being drilled, the cutting conditions selected and the condition of the equipment being used. If material is pushed up at the thread entry by the tap and/or

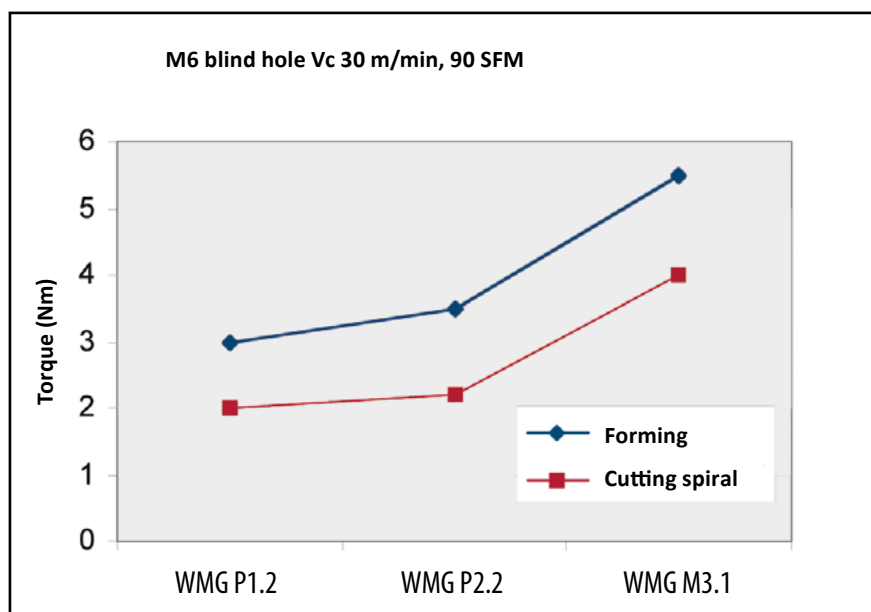
the life of the tap is too short, select a slightly larger drill diameter. If on the other hand the profile of the thread formed is insufficient, then select a slightly smaller drill diameter.



Section of thread obtained by forming tap on steel C45



Cold forming taps require more power on the spindle, compared to a cutting tap of the same size, since it generates higher torque.



Torque comparison between forming and cutting taps in different material groups.



THREADING – GENERAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Trouble Shooting When Tapping

Problem	Cause	Remedy
Oversize	Incorrect tolerance	Choose a tap with lower thread tolerance
	Incorrect axial feed rate	Reduce feed rate by 5-10% or increase compression of tap holder
	Wrong type of tap for application	Use spiral point for through hole or spiral flute for blind hole. Use coated tool to prevent built up edge. Check Catalogue or Product Selector for correct tool alternative
	Tap not centered on the hole	Check tap holder and position tap centre on the hole
	Lack of lubrication	Use good lubrication in order to prevent built up edge. See lubricant section in technical handbook
	Tap speed too slow	Follow recommendation in Catalogue / Product Selector
Undersize	Wrong type of tap for application	Use spiral point for through hole or spiral flute for blind hole. Use coated tool to prevent built up edge. Use tap with higher rake angle. Check Catalogue or Product Selector for correct tool alternative
	Incorrect tolerance	Choose a tap with higher tolerance, especially on material with low oversize tendency, such as cast iron, stainless steel
	Incorrect or lack of lubricant	Use good lubrication in order to prevent chip blockage inside the hole. See lubricant section in technical handbook
	Tap drill hole too small	Increase drill diameter to the maximum value. Check tapping size drill
	Material closing in after tapping	See recommendation in Catalogue / Product Selector for correct tool alternative
Chipping	Wrong type of tap for application	Choose a tap with lower rake angle. Choose a tap with longer chamfer. Use spiral point taps for through hole and spiral flute for blind holes, in order to avoid chip blockage. Check Catalogue or Product Selector for correct tool alternative
	Incorrect or lack of lubricant	Use good lubrication in order to prevent built up edge. See lubricant section in technical handbook
	Taps hit bottom of hole	Increase depth of drilling or decrease depth of tapping
	Work hardening surface	Reduce speed, use coated tool, use good lubrication. See section for machining of stainless steel in technical handbook
	Swarf trapping on reversal	Avoid sudden return of tap on reversal motion
	Chamfer hits hole entrance	Check axial position and reduce axial error of tap point on hole centre
	Tap drill hole too small	Increase drill diameter to maximum value. Check tapping size drill



THREADING – GENERAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Trouble Shooting When Tapping

Problem	Cause	Remedy
Breakage	Tap worn out	Use a new tap or regrind the old one
	Lack of lubricant	Use good lubrication in order to prevent built up edge and chip blockage. See lubricant section in technical handbook
	Taps hit bottom of hole	Increase depth of drilling or decrease depth of tapping
	Tap speed too high	Reduce cutting speed. Follow recommendation in Catalogue / Product Selector
	Work hardening surface	Reduce speed. Use coated tool Use good lubrication. See section for machining of stainless steel in technical handbook
	Tap drill hole too small	Increase drill diameter up to maximum value. See tap drill tables
	Too high torque	Use tapping attachment with torque adjustment clutch
	Material closing in after tapping	See recommendation in Catalogue / Product Selector for correct tool alternative
Rapid wear	Wrong type of tap for application	Use tap with lower rake angle and/or higher relief and/or longer chamfer. Use coated tool. Check Catalogue or Product Selector for correct tool alternative
	Lack of lubricant	Use good lubrication in order to prevent built up edge and thermal stress on cutting edge. See lubricant section in technical handbook
	Tap speed too high	Reduce cutting speed. Follow recommendation in Catalogue / Product Selector
Built up edge	Wrong type of tap for application	Use tap with lower rake angle and/or higher relief. Check Catalogue or Product Selector for correct tool alternative
	Lack of lubricant	Use good lubrication in order to prevent built up edge. See lubricant section in technical handbook
	Surface treatment not suitable	Choose a tap with the recommended surface treatment
	Tap speed too low	Follow recommendation in Catalogue / Product Selector