

THE PRO'S OPINION

THE RIGHT SCREWDRIVER FOR THE RIGHT JOB

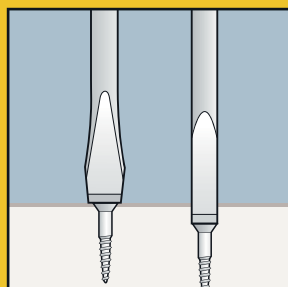
Jannik Olsen, carpenter



The first decision is which type of tip shape you require
Slotted, Phillips, Pozi or Torx

SLOTTED - ideal for traditional cabinet making

For quality craftsmanship slotted screws still look the most attractive, particularly when the slots line up perfectly. Slotted screwdrivers are made with flared tips and parallel tips. For most work select a flared tip screwdriver, but you should select a parallel tip that is the same width as the screw slot, if you need to drive the screw below the surface of the wood without damage. Select a tip that matches the width of the screw slot, too wide and it will damage the work, too narrow and it may damage the screw slot.



TORX - ideal for maintenance and service engineers

This is the strongest and most wear resistant screw type most commonly found in machinery, cars and domestic appliances and commonly used for timber and decking screws.

PHILLIPS & POZI - ideal for general joinery and construction

Phillips and Pozi are popular in all forms of joinery and construction, and are now used universally and referred to by their point size, 1, 2, 3 or 4 PT.

The geometry of the screw recesses is different so avoid 'making do' with the 'wrong' screwdriver. The driving faces of the Phillips screw all taper down to the tip, whereas with Pozi they are parallel which is designed to reduce 'Cam Out', the point when the screwdriver lifts out of the recess damaging the screw.

HANDLE

For maximum performance a screwdriver handle should be moulded to the bar, with a soft grip and a round smooth end cap, which offers comfort and improved grip to provide greater torque turning power.

BAR AND TIP

Chrome vanadium steel provides a strong, corrosion resistant bar. Sand blasted tips have a fine texture, which provides an even more secure grip in the slot or recess as the harder steel of the tip 'bites' into the softer screw.

THE PRO'S OPINION MAKE YOUR SCREWDRIVERS WORK HARDER

Peter Karlsson, construction worker



USE A RATCHET SCREWDRIVER

Ratchet screwdrivers make tightening screws faster and easier. Choose a screwdriver with a solid mechanism that will cope with high torque loads. Top end professional ratchet screwdrivers - like the FatMax Xtreme - have tough, ultra fine mechanisms and come with a range of interchangeable bits to suit all fastener types.

BIGGER HANDLES = MORE TORQUE

For really stubborn fasteners, larger handled soft grip screwdrivers work best as they allow maximum purchase. For these fasteners selection of a heavy duty driver is essential as poor quality screwdrivers can chip or round when under high loads. And remember to use the right bit pattern. Pozidriv for Pozidriv and Phillips for Phillips. Always use the biggest slotted blade that the fastener and position will allow.

MULTIBIT SCREWDRIVERS - MORE FASTENERS, LESS BULK

For maintenance on the go multibit screwdrivers – ratchet or fixed – make life easier as they allow you to carry a variety of bit patterns without the bulk of carrying a whole screwdriver set. Choose a multibit that has internal storage – usually in the handle – for even more convenience and fewer lost bits.

BRADAWL - FOR QUICK SCREWDRIVING WITHOUT POWER TOOLS

When driving screws straight into soft timber without a pilot – use a bradawl to mark an indent where the screw needs to be driven. This will make sure the screw goes exactly where you want it to.