HOW TO BUILD ANYTHING

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ebook series #1

3 Tools

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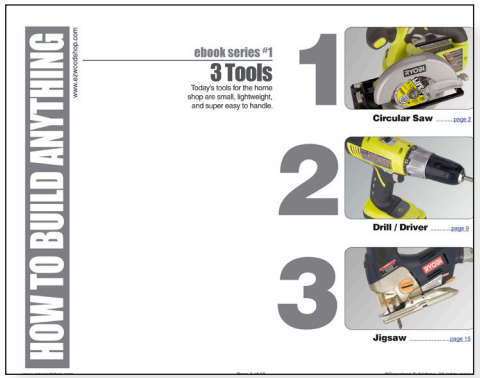
Top 3 Mistakes: Drill / Driver Go



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Of all the power tools you might be tempted to buy, only three are really necessary for getting started in building wood projects – a circular saw, a drill/driver, and a jigsaw. I'll take an inside look at each tool – with tips & tricks.

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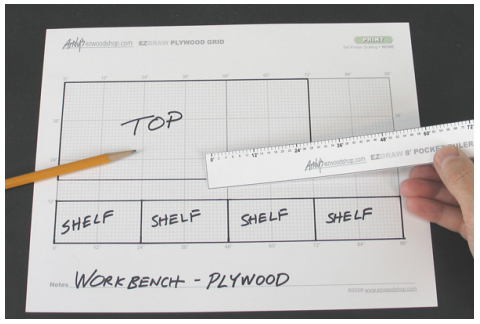

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Why a Cordless Drill?

It's funny that most of what I do with a drill has nothing to do with drilling. More often I'm driving screws, not making holes. Both are very different kinds of tasks, which explains why drills have so many knobs and adjustments. Hopefully these controls will make some sense as your read further.

A Note About Safety

When I talk about the dangers of using tools, it's hard to put the cordless drill in the same category as a power saw. However, that doesn't mean a cordless drill is harmless. An 18v motor has enough muscle to twist your elbow out of joint if you're not careful. The most likely time for this to happen is when the bit breaks through the backside of a board – which can cause the bit to bind up in the wood.

There's not much you can do to prevent this. Just be prepared with some extra gripping power as your bit breaks through to the other side of the board.

OOPS!

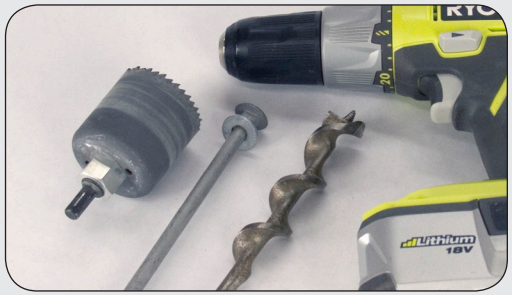
Top 3 Mistakes Using a Drill / Driver

Wrong Speed

When switching between drill bits and drill drivers, it's easy to forget the change the drill speed setting accordingly.

Use ***low-speed (1)*** for ***driving screws*** and bolts. This offers more control and more torque for driving stubborn woodscrews.

Use ***high speed (2)*** for ***drilling holes***. This helps clear out sticky wood debris from the pilot hole while you drill.

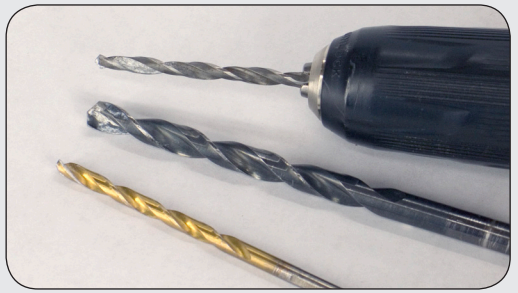


Overworking

Cordless drills work fine for driving screws in bookcases and tables. However, be careful with larger projects.

For example, building a deck or shed can quickly overheat smaller cordless drills and shorten the life of the battery and the tool.

For the big jobs, consider using a special impact driver to fasten hardware like lag screws and carriage bolts.



Using Dull Bits

We're all guilty—using the same bit over and over until we're doing nothing but stirring up a lot of heat

Dull bits not only waste time—they wear out the motor. When buying cheap bits, accept the fact that these will be "disposable" bits.

Keep a set of cheap twist bits for down-and-dirty jobs, and a nicer set of pilot-point bits for wood projects.

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Torque Adjustment Ring

The most misunderstood feature in a cordless drill is the torque adjustment ring. The best way to understand what this control does is to think of how you use hand-held screwdrivers. You let the feel of the screwdriver tell you how much (or how little) force to put on the screw, without stripping the head or driving it too deep into the wood. When an18-volt motor is controlling things instead, you can easily strip the head of a woodscrew in a matter of seconds, or drive a woodscrew so far into a board that comes out the other side (yikes).

Enter the adjustable torque clutch! This is a great feature that lets you control just how much power you'll unleash on a woodscrew. Look for an adjustable ring located behind the chuck that starts at 0 and goes up to something like 20 or 25. Zero is the softest setting…and 25 totally unleashed. Start out at zero and slowly move up in numbers until you have just right amount of torque to drive the screw just below the surface of the board—but no further.

Series 5 Learn more about:
Drilling & Driving

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