Wood Screw Sizes Chart

Gauge, diameter, pilot holes, clearance holes and drive bits for #2 to #18 wood screws

Gauge	Major dia. (in)	Closest fraction	Metric approx.	Pilot hole hardwood	Pilot hole softwood	Clearance (shank) hole	Phillips bit	Square bit	Torx bit*
#2	0.086	3/32"	2.2 mm	1/16"	1/16"	3/32"	PH1	SQ0	-
#3	0.099	7/64"	2.5 mm	5/64"	1/16"	7/64"	PH1	SQ0	-
#4	0.112	7/64"	2.8 mm	5/64"	1/16"	7/64"	PH1	SQ0	T8-T9
#5	0.125	1/8"	3.2 mm	3/32"	5/64"	1/8"	PH2	SQ1	T9-T10
#6	0.138	9/64"	3.5 mm	7/64"	3/32"	9/64"	PH2	SQ1	T10-T15
#7	0.151	5/32"	3.8 mm	7/64"	3/32"	5/32"	PH2	SQ1	-
#8	0.164	5/32"	4.2 mm	1/8"	7/64"	11/64"	PH2	SQ2	T15-T20
#9	0.177	11/64"	4.5 mm	9/64"	1/8"	3/16"	PH2	SQ2	-
#10	0.190	3/16"	4.8 mm	9/64"	1/8"	13/64"	PH2-PH3	SQ2	T20-T25
#12	0.216	7/32"	5.5 mm	5/32"	9/64"	7/32"	PH3	SQ3	T25-T27
#14	0.242	1/4"	6.1 mm	11/64"	5/32"	1/4"	PH3	SQ3	-
#16	0.268	17/64"	6.8 mm	3/16"	11/64"	9/32"	PH3	-	-
#18	0.294	19/64"	7.5 mm	7/32"	13/64"	5/16"	PH3	-	-

How to read a size: "#8 x 1-1/4" = gauge 8 (diameter about 0.164 in.) and 1-1/4 in. long. Major diameter = 0.060 + 0.013 x gauge. Highlighted rows (#6, #8, #10) are the most common sizes for woodworking and home projects.
Pilot holes: drill to the screw's thread depth. Go one size up in dense hardwood (oak, maple) and one size down in very soft wood. Quick check: hold the bit in front of the screw. You should see the threads on both sides, but not the solid core. **Clearance hole:** drill through the top board only, so the screw pulls the two boards together.
Length rule: at least 2/3 of the screw length should go into the bottom (base) piece.
* Torx/star bit size depends on head style: flat heads usually take one size smaller than pan or washer heads, and construction screw brands vary. Use the bit supplied in the box when there is one. Metric values are conversions, not metric screw sizes. Pilot and clearance sizes follow common woodworking drilling charts; test on scrap first.

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