
Subject: Using a fly cutter

Posted by [lon](#) on Sat, 21 Aug 2004 16:05:46 GMT

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I just wondered if there's an answer to the question of getting plug out of a fly cutter-- those hole saws used with a drill press or power drill. Only thing I thought of is boring nearly all the way through then using the drill bit center as a guide on the reverse side, finishing the cut so the plug doesn't get wedged in the hole saw. Coming up on a project for arrays, a hole saw makes the job both easier and gives a smoother cutout.

Subject: Re: Using a fly cutter

Posted by [wunhuanglo](#) on Sat, 21 Aug 2004 19:52:48 GMT

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A fly cutter is something quite different from a hole saw (see link). You "can't" get a plug stuck in a fly cutter. A hole saw is a tubular piece of steel, one end ground and set into saw teeth, the opposite end enclosed with a (tapped) through hole for an arbor. The reason the plug gets stuck in a hole saw is that the tooth set toward the ID of the saw makes a very nice grip on the edge of the plug. The method you suggest helps, because when you cut through, most of the plug will be proud of the saw, leaving space to grip it and pull it off the centering bit. It also helps breakout on the exit side of the hole. Another thing you could try are a newer hole saw configuration that is part fly cutter and part hole saw. The cylinder of the hole saw is still there, but there is a large diagonal cut up the side of the cylinder to clear chips. At the base of the cut is a single piece of carbide on the leading edge that does the actual cutting. They cut very, very fast and they don't hold the plug like a "regular" hole saw does.

<http://www.geocities.com/budb3/arts/toolp/flycut.html>

Subject: Re: Using a fly cutter (should be hole saw)

Posted by [lon](#) on Sat, 21 Aug 2004 20:32:50 GMT

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Oh yes. Ok. Hole saw, not fly cutter. Nope I don't want to mess with with a fly cutter in a drill press or anywhere else. I have a hand drill and a couple hole saws. Other thing is there is no way to get precision like on a 'brad point' with a tool like this. But a standard brad point drill bit is not long enough as is the special grooved centering drill bit sold for hole saws. Could a machine shop put a brad point on one of those centering drills and how much would such a job cost? Plus those centering bits are just barely long enough to chuck up anyway.

Subject: Re: Using a fly cutter (should be hole saw)
Posted by [wunhuanglo](#) on Wed, 25 Aug 2004 09:57:10 GMT
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In the hole saws I have (and had), the arbors are removable from the hole saw itself. The bit in the arbor is held in place with a set screw. I don't see why you can't insert any bit you want to use. I don't think there's anything particularly special about the bit that comes with the average hole saw, at least the ones (Lenox) that I have.

Subject: Re: Using a fly cutter (should be hole saw)
Posted by [lon](#) on Wed, 25 Aug 2004 16:58:42 GMT
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I tried that first... plain 1/4 drill. Too short. Not waaay too short but short. Even the special center bit is not very long.
