

Drive & Security Screw Identification

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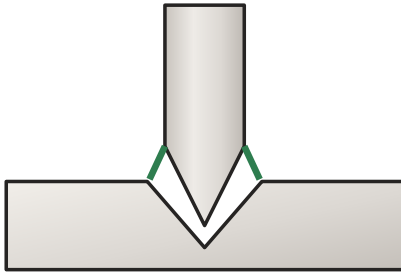


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What's the recess in that screw head — and what bit does it take? Match the shape below, including the tamper-resistant ones that need a special driver.

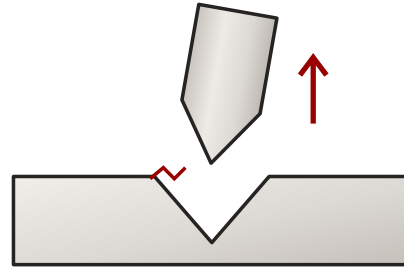
The **drive** is the shape cut into the screw head — it decides which bit or driver fits. Match the recess to the pictures below. Using the wrong one (a Phillips bit in a Pozidriv head is the classic) cams out and chews up the head:

RIGHT BIT



seats fully — grips the walls

WRONG BIT



sits shallow — rides out and chews the head

Common drives



Slotted

A single straight slot. The original — a flat-blade driver.



Phillips

A cross with tapered ends. The everyday cross-head; a "PH" bit.



Pozidriv

Like Phillips but with four extra fine lines. Needs a **PZ** bit, not PH.



Square (Robertson)

A square socket. Grips hard and resists cam-out.



Torx (star)

A six-point star. Common on decking, electronics, automotive. A "T" bit.



Hex (Allen)

A six-sided socket. Takes a hex key / Allen wrench.



Combination

Slotted and Phillips in one head — driven by either.



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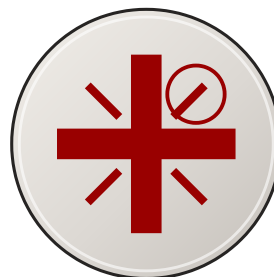
The Phillips vs. Pozidriv trap

PHILLIPS · PH bit



plain cross, arms narrow outward

POZIDRIV · PZ bit



look for 4 thin extra lines

≠

They look nearly identical, but a Phillips bit in a Pozidriv screw (or vice-versa) cams out and rounds the head. Pozidriv has four faint extra lines between the cross arms — if you see them, reach for a PZ bit.

Security / tamper-resistant drives



Pin-in Torx

Torx with a **pin in the center** — a standard bit won't seat. Needs a security Torx bit.



Pin-in hex

Hex socket with a center pin. Needs a security (hollow) hex key.



Spanner (snake-eye)

Two round holes. Driven only by a matching two-pin spanner bit.



Tri-wing

Three angled slots from the center. Aerospace and electronics; a tri-wing bit.



Torq-set

An offset cross — looks like Phillips but the arms are stepped. Needs a torq-set bit.



One-way (clutch)

A slot that drives in but not out — a flat driver slips on removal. Install-only by design.

If you're stuck

Need to remove a security screw?

Most tamper-resistant drives have a matching bit — bring the screw or a clear photo and we'll identify the drive and set you up with the right one.

One-way (clutch) screws

are the exception: they're built not to come out, and usually need to be drilled or gripped out.

Stripped a head? That's often a wrong-bit story — the right driver and a fresh screw usually beat fighting a chewed-up one.

Reference values drawn from the governing standards. For critical applications, confirm against the standard and the manufacturer's published data.
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