

Drill Bit Size for Screws (Pilot & Clearance)

Which bit to use: a pilot bit into the receiving piece and a clearance bit through the top piece.

Screw	Pilot bit (softwood)	Pilot bit (hardwood)	Clearance bit
#6	3/64	1/16	9/64
#8	7/64	1/8	11/64
#10	1/8	9/64	3/16
#12	9/64	5/32	7/32

Note: Drill the clearance hole through the top b

Reference values only — verify against the governing standard or manufacturer before use.