



## SCREWS EXPLAINED: GAUGE, SIZE, CLEARANCE HOLES, PILOT HOLES AND PLASTIC MASONRY WALL PLUGS.

Here's a table of screw data I've put together, based on my own experiences over the years because I find manufacturers recommendations are often too general or non-specific.

Gauge	Metric equivalent	Pilot hole	Clearance hole	Masonry plug size
3	2.5mm	1.0mm	3.0mm	Yellow (5mm hole)
4	3.0mm	1.5mm	3.5mm	Yellow (5mm hole)
6	3.5mm	2.0mm	4.0mm	Red (6mm hole)
8	4.0mm	2.5mm	4.5mm	Red (6mm hole) or Brown (7mm hole)
10	5.0mm	3.0mm	5.5mm	Brown (7mm hole)
12	5.5mm	3.5mm	6.0mm	Brown (7mm hole)
14	6.5mm	4.0mm	7.0mm	Blue (10mm hole)

Remember that these pilot hole recommendations are typical for softwoods. Hardwoods may well need a larger pilot hole because the wood is denser (harder). It's always advisable to back out and re-drill a larger pilot hole if the screw gets too tight rather than risk breaking a screw.

### Tip

**By coincidence**, the size of an imperial screw head also roughly equates to the gauge. For example, an 8-gauge screw has an 8mm wide head.

*Hope that helps, feel free to send this to anyone you think it might help!*

*Stay well*

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