Tap Drill Sizes - Fractional Form Taps

To minimize tapping problems and lengthen tool life, use the largest drill possible to produce a minor diameter that will result in the lowest percentage of full thread consisten with adequate strength. A minor diameter that provides a 55% to 65% thread is sufficient for most requirements, but in some cases a higher percentage of thread may be necessary to conform with the minor diameter limits of the thread class specified.

* Generally, deeper than 1 1/2 times the hole diameter.

Suggested Percentage of Full Thread in Tapped Holes

Material		*Deep Hole Tapping	Average Commercial Work	Thin Sheet Stock or Stamping
Free Cutting	Aluminum, Brass, Bronze, Cast Iron, Copper, Mild Steel, Tool Steel	60% - 70%	65% - 70%	75% - 85%
Hard or Tough Cutting	Cast Steel, Drop Forging, Monel Metal, Nickel Steel, Stainless Steel	55% - 65%	60% - 70%	

Tap Size	Threads Per Inch			Minor Diameter		Tap Drill Diameter - Form Taps				
	UNC	UNF	8-Pitch	Min. 2B	Max. 2B	75% Thread	70% Thread	65% Thread	60% Thread	55% Thread
						(in)	(in)	(in)	(in)	(in)
0	–	80	–	0.0465	0.0514	0.0536	0.0540	0.0545	0.0549	0.0554
1	64	–	–	0.0561	0.0623	0.0650	0.0655	0.0661	0.0666	0.0672
	–	72	–	0.0580	0.0635	0.0659	0.0663	0.0669	0.0673	0.0679
2	56	–	–	0.0667	0.0737	0.0769	0.0774	0.0781	0.0787	0.0794
	–	64	–	0.0691	0.0752	0.0780	0.0785	0.0791	0.0796	0.0802
3	48	–	–	0.0764	0.0845	0.0884	0.0890	0.0898	0.0905	0.0913
	–	56	–	0.0797	0.0865	0.0899	0.0904	0.0911	0.0917	0.0924
4	40	–	–	0.0849	0.0939	0.0993	0.1000	0.1010	0.1018	0.1028
	–	48	–	0.0894	0.0968	0.1014	0.1020	0.1028	0.1035	0.1043
5	40	–	–	0.0979	0.1062	0.1123	0.1130	0.1140	0.1148	0.1158
	–	44	–	0.1004	0.1079	0.1134	0.1141	0.1150	0.1157	0.1166
6	32	–	–	0.1040	0.1140	0.1221	0.1230	0.1243	0.1252	0.1264
	–	40	–	0.1110	0.1190	0.1253	0.1260	0.1270	0.1278	0.1288
8	32	–	–	0.1300	0.1390	0.1481	0.1490	0.1503	0.1512	0.1524
	–	36	–	0.1340	0.1420	0.1498	0.1507	0.1518	0.1526	0.1537
10	24	–	–	0.1450	0.1560	0.1688	0.1700	0.1716	0.1729	0.1746
	–	32	–	0.1560	0.1640	0.1741	0.1750	0.1762	0.1772	0.1784
12	24	–	–	0.1710	0.1810	0.1948	0.1960	0.1976	0.1989	0.2006
	–	28	–	0.1770	0.1860	0.1978	0.1990	0.2002	0.2014	0.2028
1/4	20	–	–	0.1960	0.2070	0.2245	0.2260	0.2279	0.2295	0.2315
	–	28	–	0.2110	0.2200	0.2318	0.2329	0.2342	0.2354	0.2389
5/16	18	–	–	0.2520	0.2650	0.2842	0.2861	0.2879	0.2898	0.2917
	–	24	–	0.2670	0.2770	0.2912	0.2927	0.2941	0.2955	0.2969
3/8	16	–	–	0.3070	0.3210	0.3431	0.3452	0.3474	0.3495	0.3516
	–	24	–	0.3300	0.3400	0.3537	0.3552	0.3566	0.3580	0.3594
7/16	14	–	–	0.3600	0.3760	0.4011	0.4035	0.4059	0.4084	0.4108
	–	20	–	0.3830	0.3950	0.4120	0.4137	0.4154	0.4171	0.4188
1/2	13	–	–	0.4170	0.4340	0.4608	0.4634	0.4660	0.4686	0.4712
	–	20	–	0.4460	0.4570	0.4745	0.4762	0.4779	0.4796	0.4813
9/16	12	–	–	0.4720	0.4900	0.5200	0.5229	0.5257	0.5285	0.5313
	–	18	–	0.5020	0.5150	0.5342	0.5361	0.5379	0.5398	0.5417
5/8	11	–	–	0.5270	0.5460	0.5787	0.5817	0.5848	0.5879	0.5910
	–	18	–	0.5650	0.5780	0.5967	0.5986	0.6004	0.6023	0.6042
3/4	10	–	–	0.6420	0.6630	0.6990	0.7024	0.7058	0.7092	0.7126
	–	16	–	0.6820	0.6960	0.7181	0.7202	0.7224	0.7245	0.7266
7/8	9	–	–	0.7550	0.7780	0.8183	0.8221	0.8259	0.8297	0.8334
	–	14	–	0.7980	0.8140	0.8386	0.8410	0.8434	0.8459	0.8483
1	8	–	–	0.8650	0.8900	0.9363	0.9405	0.9448	0.9490	0.9533
	–	12	–	0.9100	0.9280	0.9575	0.9603	0.9632	0.9660	0.9866

FORMULA: TAP DRILL SIZE

$$\text{Drill Size} = \text{Tap Major Dia} - \frac{0.0068 \times \%\ \text{of Full Thread}}{\#\ \text{of Threads Per Inch}}$$

Example: Determine Drill Size for 2"—12N Tap,70% Full Thread.
Basic Major Diameter of Tap = 2.0000"
0.0068 x 70 = 0.4760 ÷ 12 = 0.0397"
Drill Size = 1.9603"

FORMULA: PERCENTAGE OF FULL THREAD

$$\%\ \text{of Full Thread} = \text{Threads Per Inch} \times \frac{\text{Tap Major Dia - Drill Dia}}{0.01299}$$

Example: Determine the % of Full Thread for 2"—12N Tap, using 1.9603" Drill.
Threads Per Inch = 12
2.0000 - 1.9603 = 0.0397 ÷ 0.0068 = 5.838
Percentage of Full Threads = 70%

Suggested Pipe Tap Drill Sizes

Tap Size		1/16	1/8	1/4	3/8	1/2	3/4	1	1-1/4	1-1/2	2	2-1/2	3	3-1/2	4
Drill Sizes	Taper Pipe Tap*	D	R	7/16	37/64	45/64	59/64	1-5/32	1-1/2	1-47/64	2-7/32	2-5/8	3-1/4	3-3/4	4-1/4
	Straight Pipe Tap†	1/14	11/32	7/16	37/64	23/32	59/64	1-5/32	1-1/2	1-3/4	2-7/32	2-21/32			

*Sizes given permit direct tapping without reaming the hole, but only give a full thread for the first two or three threads.
†For Dryseal Straight Pipe Threads suggested drill sizes are as shown, except; 1/4" pipe, use .444 drill size.