

# Sheet Metal Screw Thread Type Guide

**Tip:** Set your PDF viewer to "Actual size" before printing to maintain scale.

Type	Thread Design	Point	Best For	Material Action
Type A	Coarse, wide-spaced	Sharp gimlet	Thin sheet metal (up to 18 ga), wood, plastic	Forms threads (displaces)
Type AB	Intermediate spacing	Sharp point	Light gauge metal, plastics, plywood, general purpose	Forms threads (displaces)
Type B	Fine, close-spaced	Blunt point	Heavier gauge (18-24 ga), plastics, hardwoods	Forms threads (displaces)
Type 17	Machine screw threads	6 cutting edges	Stainless steel, non-ferrous metals, plastics	Cuts threads (removes material)
Type 23	Machine screw threads	Extended cutting	Thick sheet metal, castings, plastics	Cuts threads (removes material)
Type 25	Machine screw threads	3 cutting edges	Plastics, composites, brittle materials	Cuts threads (removes material)

## Key Selection Points

- **Forming (A, AB, B):** Displaces material - stronger grip but may crack brittle materials
- **Cutting (17, 23, 25):** Removes material - reduces stress, better for brittle materials
- **Type AB:** Most versatile - works in widest range of materials
- **Type B:** Requires pilot hole - finer threads for better holding in thick materials

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