Fastener Basics

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Common Fastener Types



Hex bolts, or *hex cap screws*, are used in machinery and construction. Can be used with a nut, or in a tapped hole. Fully threaded hex bolts are also known as *tap bolts*.



Wood screws have large threads and a smooth shank for pulling two pieces of material together. They can be used in wood and other soft materials.



Sheet metal screws have sharp points and threads, and are designed to be driven directly into sheet metal. They can also be used in softer materials like plastic, fiberglass, or wood.



Machine screws are fully treaded for use with a nut or in a tapped hole. Certain types are sometimes referred to as *stove bolts*.



Socket screws are machine screws with an internal hex socket (*Allen*) drive. Longer lengths may have a smooth shank.



Lag bolts, or *lag screws*, are large wood screws with hex heads. Typically used for wood construction and landscaping.



Carriage bolts have smooth, domed heads with a square section underneath that pulls into the material to prevent spinning during installation.



Nuts are used to fasten machine threaded fasteners in through-hole applications. *Lock nuts* help prevent loosening.



Washers spread the load over a greater surface area when tightening a bolt, screw or nut. *Lock washers* help preventing loosening.

Tip: Find a more comprehensive fastener type chart at http://boltdepot.com/info

Grade / Class and Fastener Strength

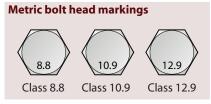
Fastener **Grade** (US) or **Class** (metric) refers to the mechanical properties of the fastener material. Generally, a higher number indicates a stronger, more hardened (but also more brittle) fastener.

For a chart of fastener grades, head markings and mechanical properties, see Bolt Depot's Grade markings and Strength Chart at http://boltdepot.com/info

US bolt head markings







Note: In addition to these markings, the head will often have a manufacturer stamp.

Fastener Materials

Note: Do not rely on this guide for color-matching. The appearance of these materials sometimes differs significantly from the photos below.

Zinc-plated steel is a low carbon steel for general use. Relatively inexpensive, with the zinc plating providing moderate corrosion resistance suitable for indoors or otherwise dry conditions. Color is





either a blue-ish tint or yellow depending on the exact process.

Hot-dipped galvanized steel has a thicker zinc coating for better corrosion resistance, making it suitable for



outdoor use. Because of the thick plating, only galvanized nuts and washers will fit galvanized bolts. The coating typically has a rough, dull grey finish.

Stainless steel offers good corrosion resistance, making it suitable for outdoor and marine applications, but is more expensive than zinc plated.



Chrome and **nickel plated steel** are smooth and polished for appearance. The plating offers moderate corrosion resistance.



Brass and bronze are copper alloys with good corrosion resistance. More expensive than steel, these materials are typically used for decorative applications. Colors can vary significantly.



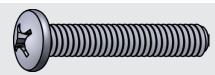
Alloy steel is highly hardened and usually black oxide and/or oil coated, offering little

corrosion resistance.





How Fasteners are Notated: An Example



Machine screws, Phillips pan head, Stainless steel 18-8, #12-24 x 1"

Fastener type

Material



Drive Types





Frearson











Hex socket (Allen)



(Robertson)



Phillips and Slotted drives are common in screws, but prone to cam-out (stripping). Combo drives, that can be used with either driver, are available for many fastener types.

Frearson and Pozidriv are similar to Phillips, but less prone to cam-out.

Hex socket (Allen) drives are compact and easy to drive, but prone to cam-out.

Torx and **Square** drive are resistant to cam-out and can be installed singlehanded.

Note: Most drive types (Frearson and Slotted being notable exceptions) require the correct driver size for proper installation.

Head Styles



Hex heads are typically used with larger bolts and screws, and tightened with a wrench.



Pan heads have a slightly domed head that sits above the surface.



Flat heads are installed in a countersunk hole for a flat surface.



Round heads are tall domed heads, used primarily for decorative purposes.



Oval heads are a low domed and countersunk heads, used primarily for decorative purposes.



Truss heads are slightly domed, with a wide head for an extra large surface area.



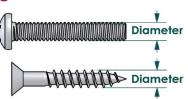
Socket heads are narrow with a socket drive, and knurled or smooth sides.



Button heads feature a medium dome. Typically used with a hex socket drive.

Measuring Diameter

types of fasteners, the diameter is measured on the outside of the threads.



Note: US diameters under 1/4" are given as numbers (e.g. #12) instead of inches, in order of increasing size. If you need to find the actual diameter, use a table corresponding to your fastener type at http://boltdepot.com/info

Thread Count and Thread Pitch

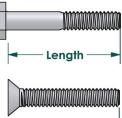
Machine threaded fasteners specify a thread density in Threads Per Inch (US) or as a Thread Pitch in mm (Metric).

For a given diameter, a fastener may be available in coarse (standard), fine and sometimes super fine thread.

Measuring Length

Fastener length is usually measured from where the material is assumed to be to the end of the fastener.

Thus, countersunk fasteners



are measured overall and non-countersunk fasteners are measured from under the head.

Length

Nut and Washer Sizes

Nut and washer sizes indicate the screw or bolt they fit. For example:



Different washer patterns have different outside diameters. For example, hardened US washers are available in USS (wider) and SAE (narrower) patterns. Fender washers have large outside diameters.







More Information

At http://boltdepot.com/info you'll find:

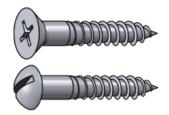
- In-depth fastener info
- Charts and tables
- Printable lay-over charts and tools for quickly identifying fastener sizes and types
- Much more...



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Fastener Categories



Wood Screws

Screws with a smooth shank and tapered point for use in wood. Abbreviated WS



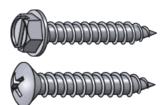
Machine Screws

Screws with threads for use with a nut or tapped hole.
Abbreviated MS



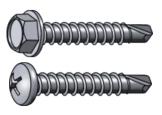
Thread Cutting Machine Screws

Machine screws with a thread cutting (self tapping) point.



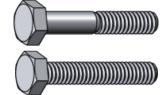
Sheet Metal Screws

Fully threaded screws with a point for use in sheet metal.
Abbreviated SMS



Self Drilling SMS

A sheet metal screw with a self drilling point.



Hex Bolts

Bolts with a hexagonal head with threads for use with a nut or tapped hole. Abbreviated HHMB or HXBT.



Carriage Bolts

Bolts with a smooth rounded head that has a small square section underneath.



Lag Bolts

Bolts with a wood thread and pointed tip.
Abbreviated Lag.



Socket Screws

Socket screws, also known as Allen Head, are fastened with a hex Allen wrench.



Set Screws

Machine screws with no head for screwing all the way into threaded holes.



Eye Bolts

A bolt with a circular ring on the head end. Used for attaching a rope or chain.



Eye Lags

Similar to an eye bolt but with wood threads instead of machine thread.



J-Bolts

J shaped bolts are used for tie-downs or as an open eye bolt.



U-Bolts

Bolts in U shape for attaching to pipe or other round surfaces. Also available with a square bend.



Shoulder Bolts

Shoulder bolts (also known as stripper bolts) are used to create a pivot point.



Elevator Bolts

Elevator bolts are often used in conveyor systems. They have a large, flat head.

Fastener Categories (continued)



Sex Bolts

Sex bolts (a.k.a. barrel nuts or Chicago bolts) have a female thread and are used for through bolting applications where a head is desired on both sides of the joint.





Mating Screws

Mating screws have a shoulder that matches the diameter of the sex bolts they are used with.



Hanger Bolts

Hanger bolts have wood thread on one end and machine thread on the other end

Head Styles





A countersunk head with a flat top. Abbreviated FH





Oval

A countersunk head with a rounded top. Abbreviated OH or OV



Pan

A slightly rounded head with short vertical sides. Abbreviated PN



Truss

An extra wide head with a rounded top.







Round

A domed head. Abbreviated RH





Hex

A hexagonal head Abbreviated HH or HX





Hex Washer

A hex head with built in washer.





Slotted Hex Washer

A hex head with built in washer and a slot.





Socket Cap

A small cylindrical head using a socket drive.





Button

A low-profile rounded head using a socket drive.

Drive Types





Phillips and Frearson

An X-shaped drive. Abbreviated PH





Slotted

A slot in the head. Abbreviated SL





Combination

A combination of slotted and Phillips drives. Abbreviated combo





Socket, Hex or Allen

A hexagonal hole for use with an Allen wrench.





One Way

Installs with a normal slotted driver but can not be removed without special tools.





Square

Also known as Robertson drive. Abbreviated SQ or SD.





Torx

A six-pointed star pattern, specifically designed to prevent cam-out and stripped heads.

Washer Types



A flat washer, used to distribute load. Available in SAE, USS and other patterns.



Fender

An oversize flat washer used to further distribute load especially on soft materials.



A washer used to obtain a 'finished' look. Usually used with oval head screws.



Split Lock

The most common style of washer used to prevent nuts and bolts from backing out.



External Tooth Lock

A washer with external 'teeth'. Used to prevent nuts and bolts from backing out.



Internal Tooth Lock

A washer with internal 'teeth'. Used to prevent nuts and bolts from backing out.



Square

A square shaped washer.



Dock

Dock washers have a larger outside diameter and are thicker than standard.



Ogee

Thick, large diameter, cast iron washers with a curved or sculpted appearance. Typically used in dock and wood construction.



A soft neoprene washer bonded to a metal backing. Used to seal out air/water or dampen noise and vibration.



Nut Types



HexA six sided nut. Also referred to as a Finished Hex Nut.



Heavy HexA heavier pattern version of a standard hex nut.



Nylon Insert LockA nut with a nylon insert to prevent backing off. Also referred to as a Nylock.



JamA hex nut with a reduced height.



Nylon Insert Jam Lock A nylock nut with a reduced height.



WingA nut with 'wings' for hand tightening.



CapA nut with a domed top over the end of the fastener.



Acorn
Acorn nuts are a high crown
type of cap nut, used for
appearance.



FlangeA nut with a built in washer like flange.



TeeA nut designed to be driven into wood to create a threaded hole.



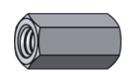
Square A four sided nut.



Prevailing Torque Lock
A non-reversible lock nut used
for high temperature applications.



K-Lock or Kep
A nut with an attached
free-spinning external tooth
lock washer.



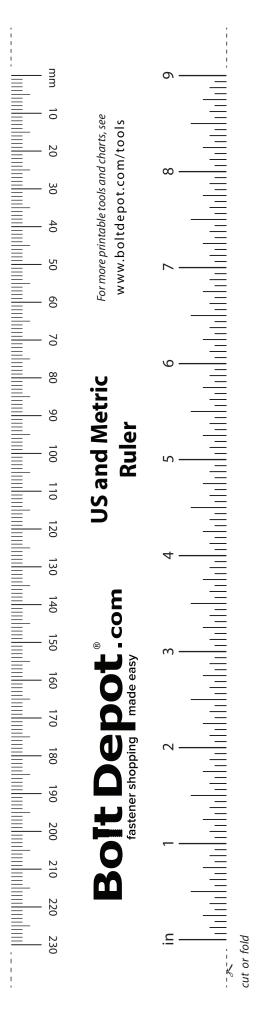
CouplingCoupling nuts are long nuts used to connect pieces of threaded rod or other male fasteners.



Slotted
Slotted nuts are used in conjunction with a cotter pin on drilled shank fasteners to prevent loosening.



Castle
Castle nuts are used in
conjunction with a cotter pin
on drilled shank fasteners to
prevent loosening.



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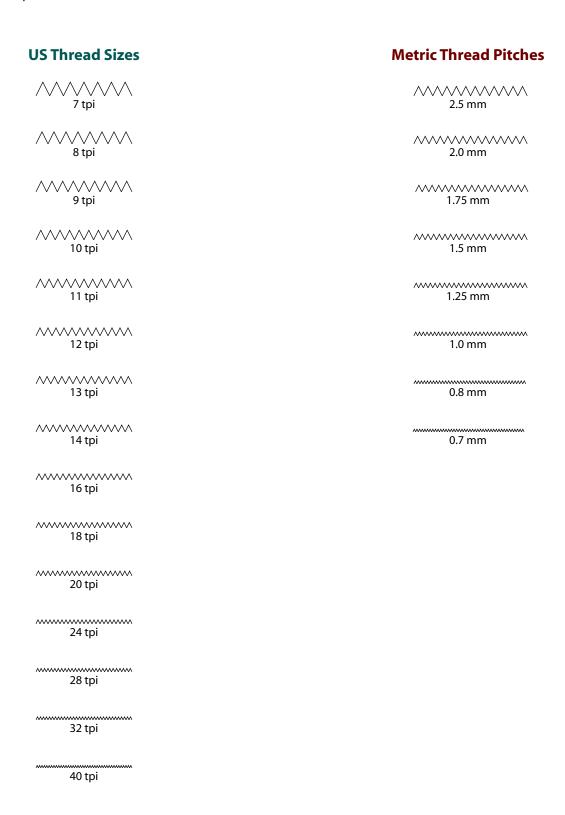
IMPORTANT: Make sure to print this chart to **Actual Size** (no scaling).

After printing, check the ruler (e.g. against the short side of a letter size paper - $8 \frac{1}{2}$ in - or another ruler) to ensure correct scale. See boltdepot.com/tools for more details.

US and Metric Thread Sizes



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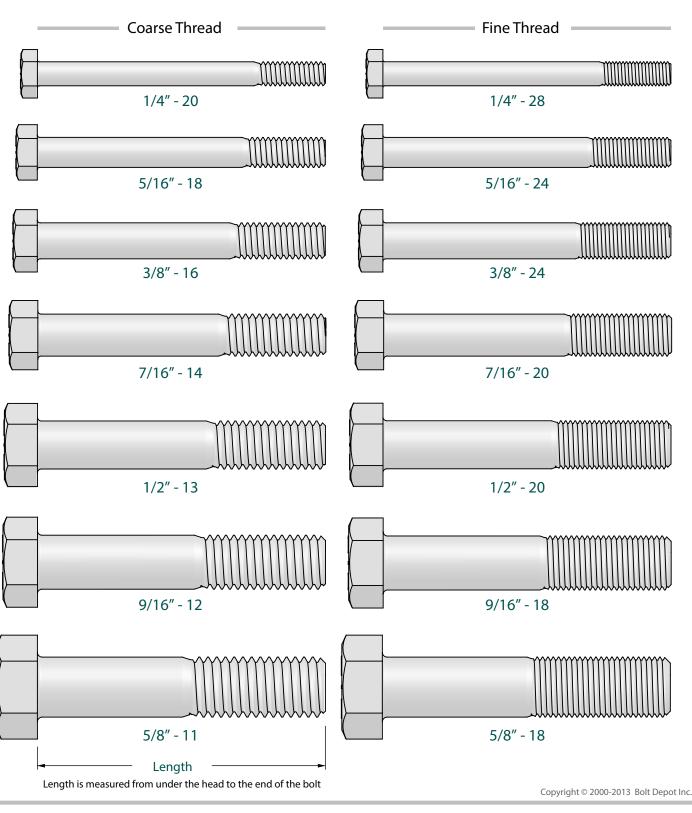
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Standard US Hex Bolt Sizes and Thread Pitches



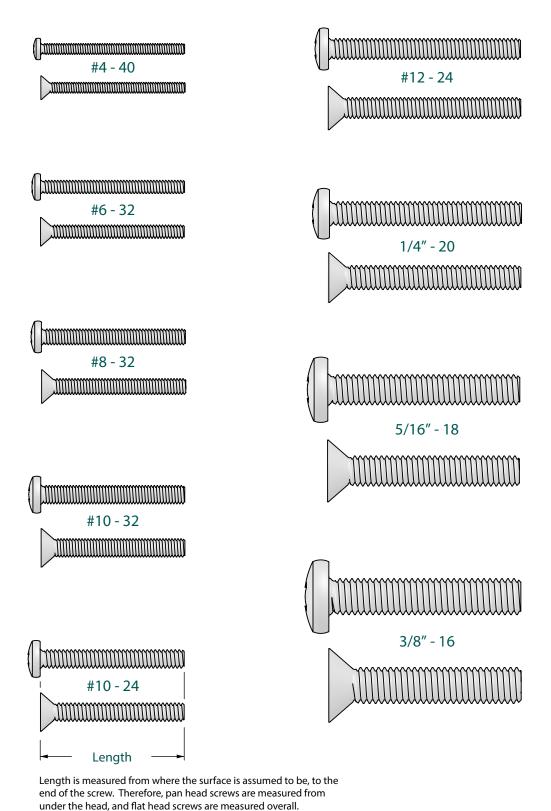
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Standard US Machine Screw Sizes



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Sheet Metal Screw Sizes



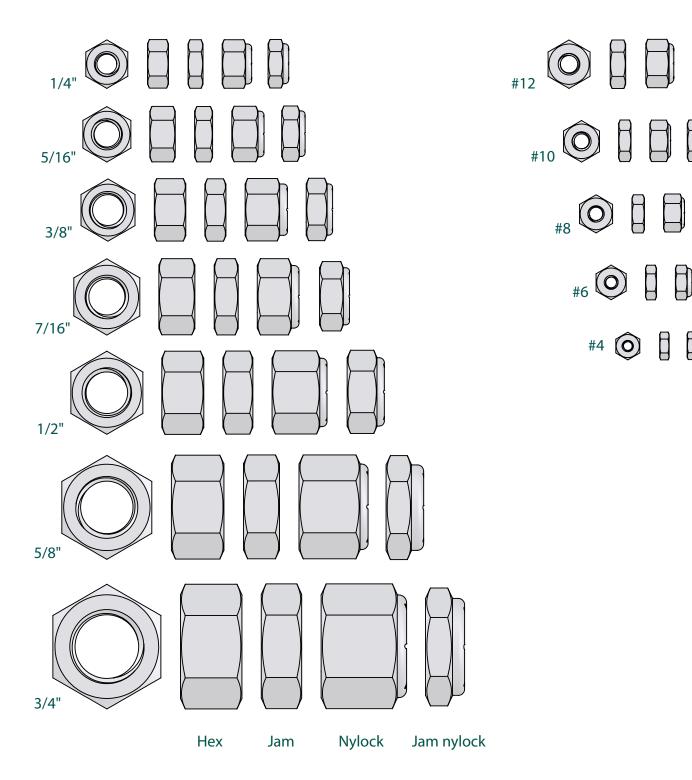


	Pan Oval Flat #4	
	#6	
	#8	
	#10	
	#12	
	#14	
 Length →	Fastener length is measured from where the material surface is assumed to be, to the end of the fastener.	→ Length →

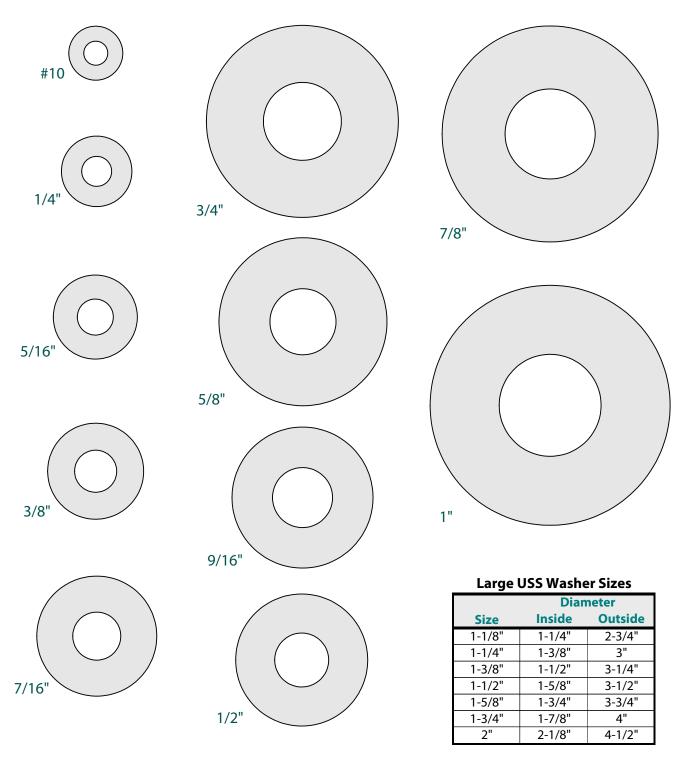
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0	1 2 3 4 5 6 inches





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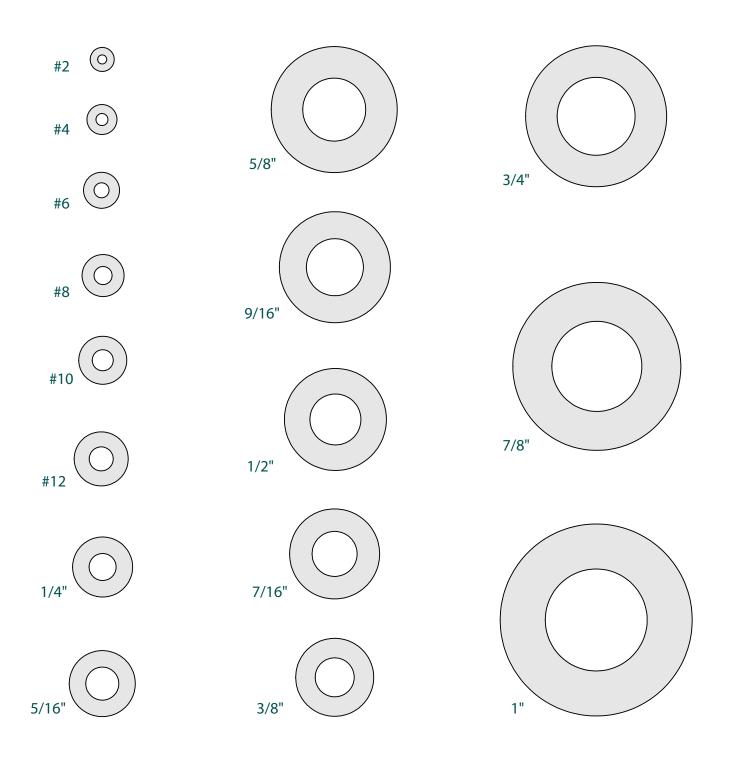


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SAE Flat Washer Size Chart



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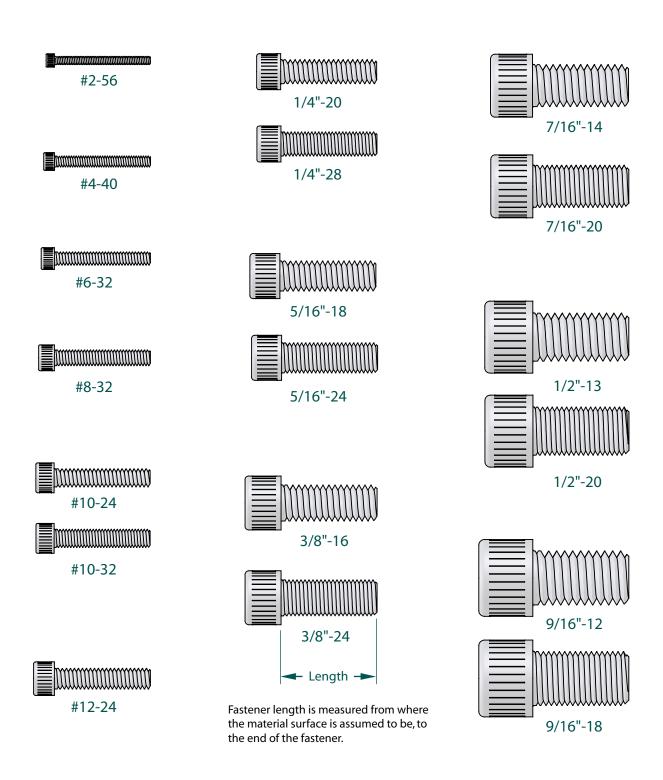


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Socket Cap Size Chart

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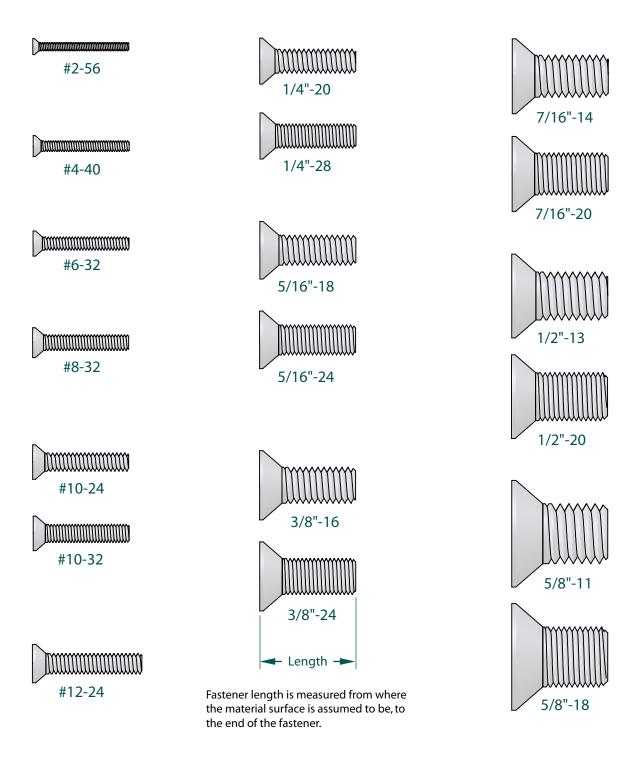


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Socket Flat Head Size Chart

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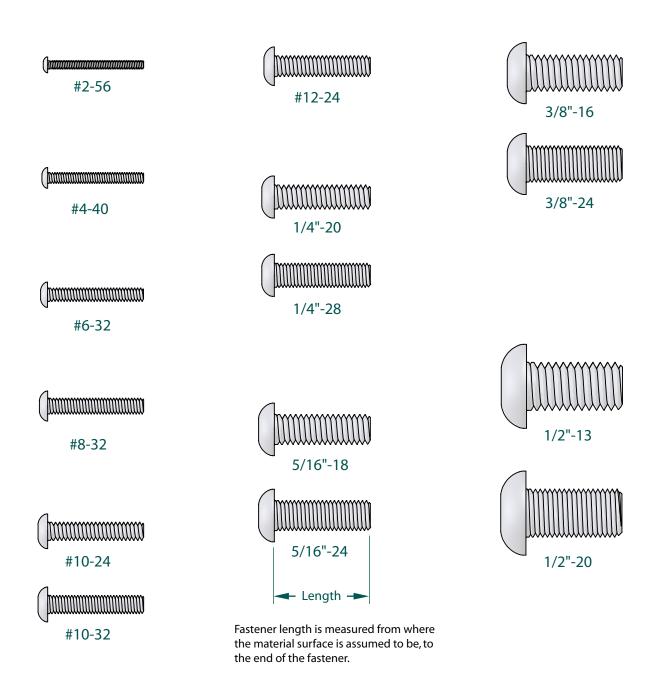


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Socket Button Head Size Chart



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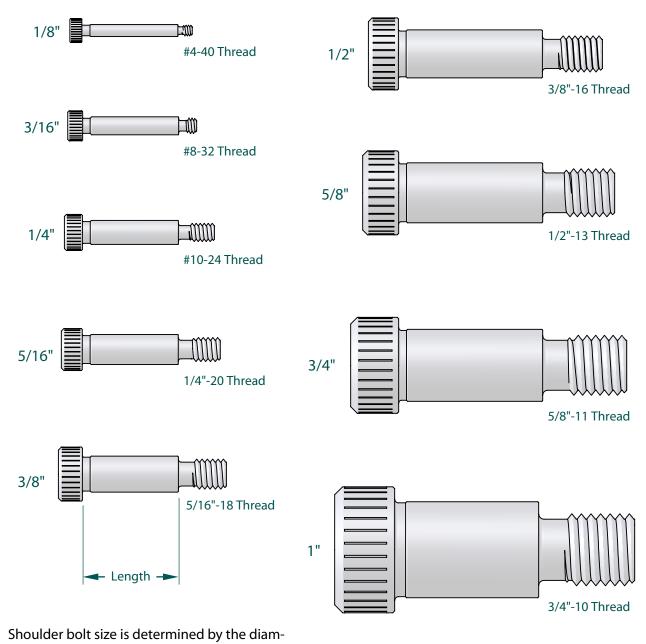


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Shoulder Bolt Size Chart

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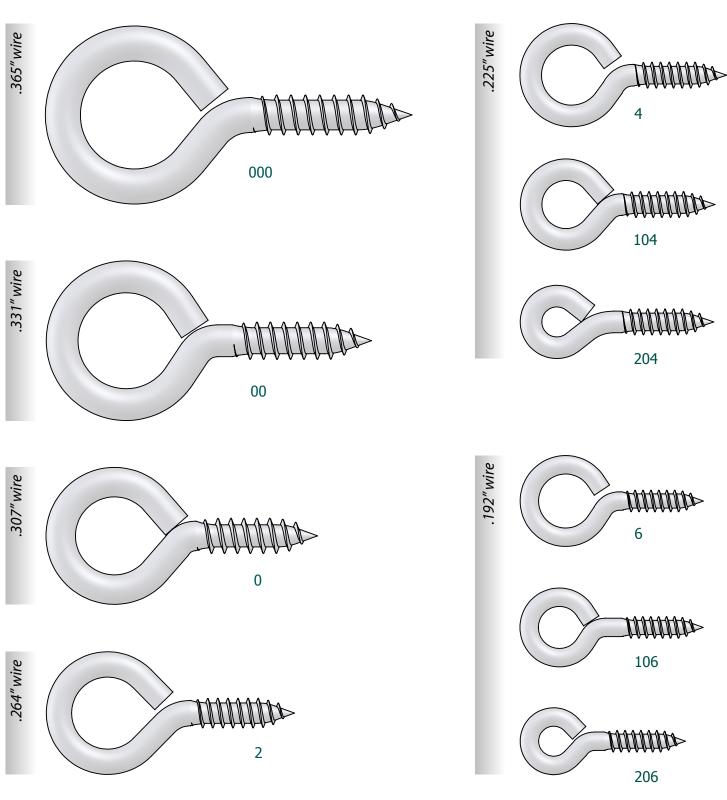




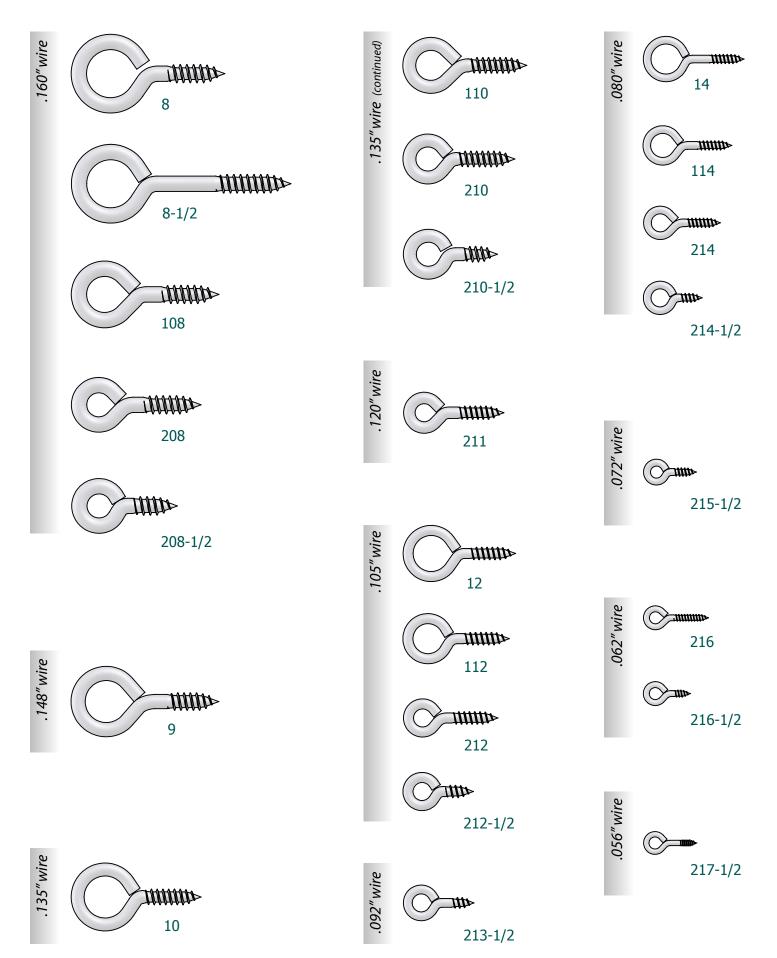
eter and length of the shoulder.

NOTE: The smaller threaded section is the same length and diameter for all shoulder bolts with the same shoulder diameter.

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Standard Metric Hex Bolt Sizes and Thread Pitches



6 inches

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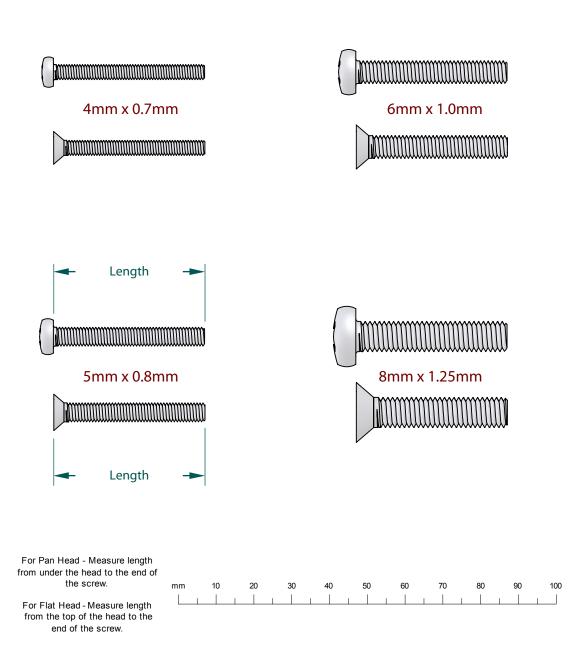
IMPORTANT:

(Note: Head sizes may differ from what is shown due to differences between metric standards) 4mm x 0.7mm 10mm x 1.25mm 14mm x 2.0mm 5mm x 0.8mm 10mm x 1.0mm 6mm x 1.0mm 14mm x 1.5mm 7mm x 1.0mm 12mm x 1.75mm 8mm x 1.25mm 16mm x 2.0mm 12mm x 1.5mm 8mm x 1.0mm 10mm x 1.5mm 12mm x 1.25mm 16mm x 1.5mm Length Length is measured from under 100 the head to the end of the bolt Copyright © 2000-2013 Bolt Depot Inc.

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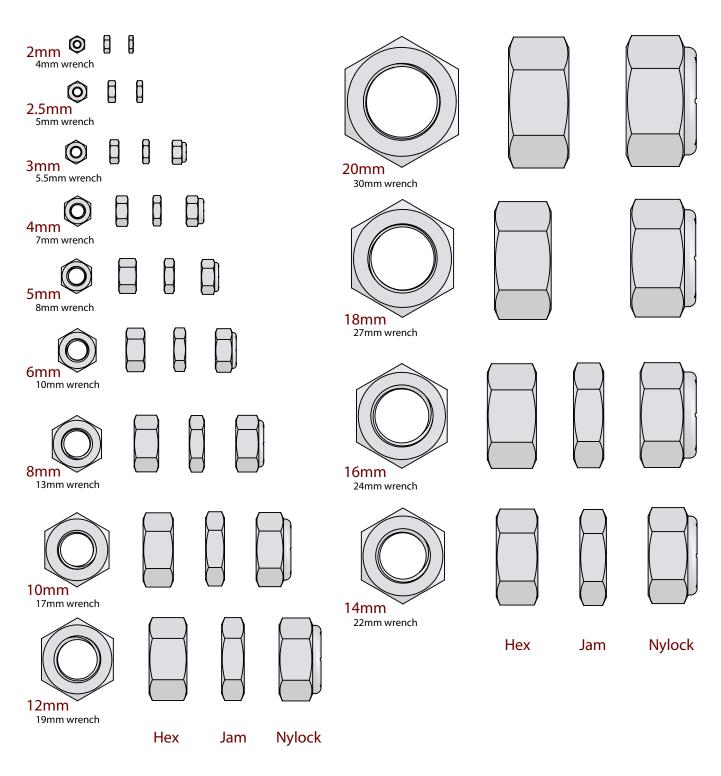


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Metric Nut Size Chart

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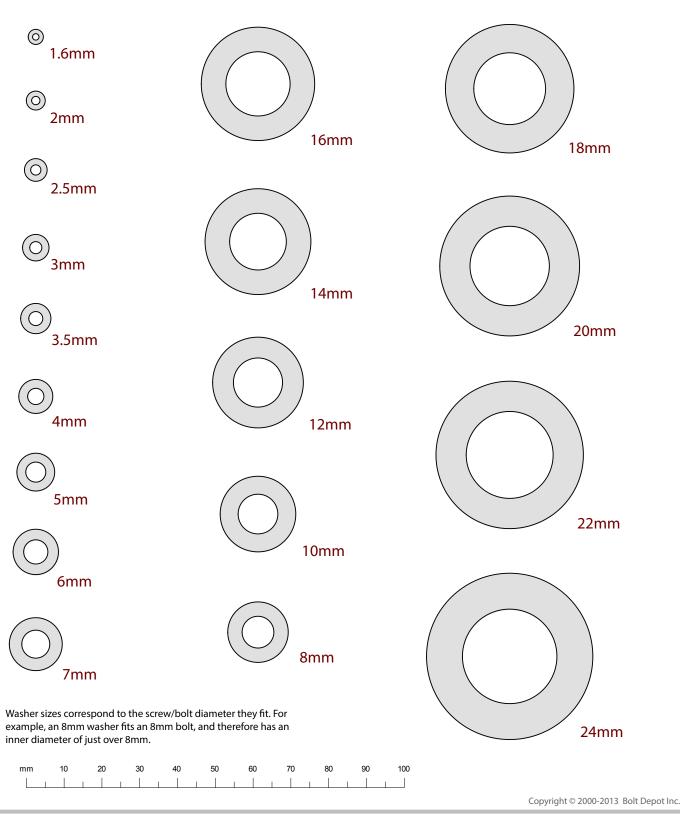
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0	1 2 3 4 5 6 inches

Metric Flat Washer Size Chart



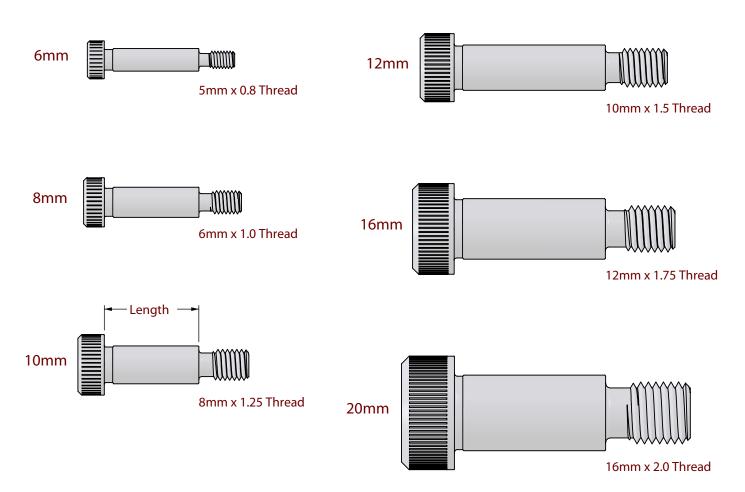
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Metric Shoulder Bolt Size Chart



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Shoulder bolt size is determined by the diameter and length of the shoulder.

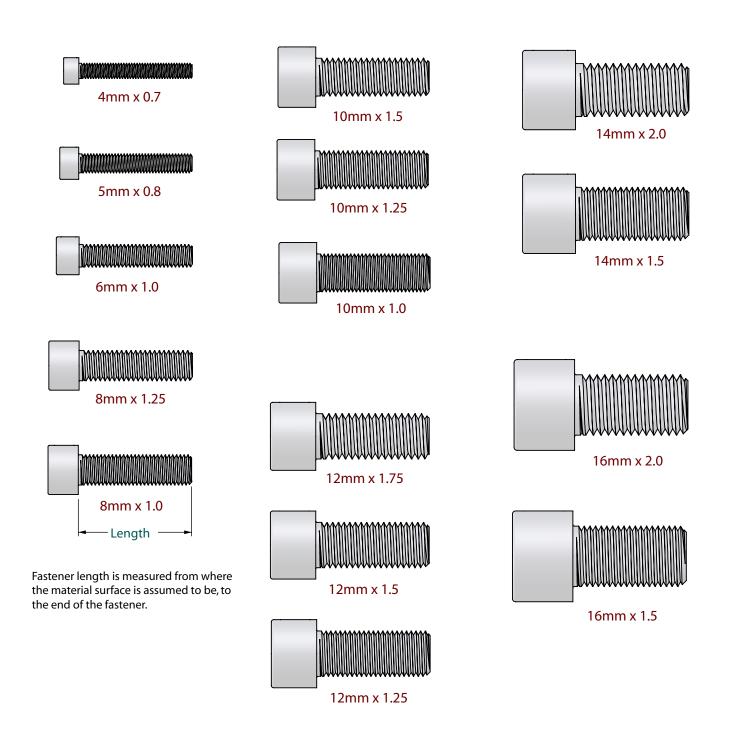
NOTE: The smaller threaded section is the same length and diameter for all shoulder bolts with the same shoulder diameter.

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Metric Socket Cap Size Chart





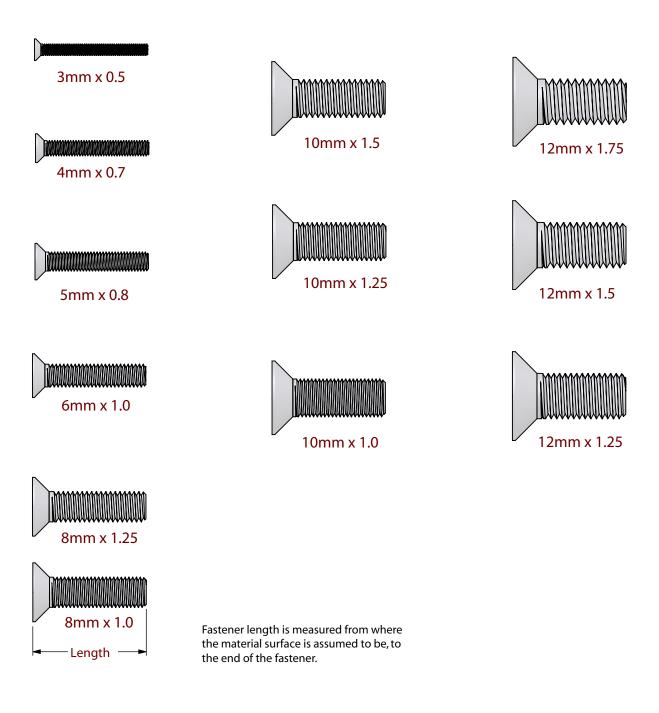


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Metric Socket Flat Head Size Chart



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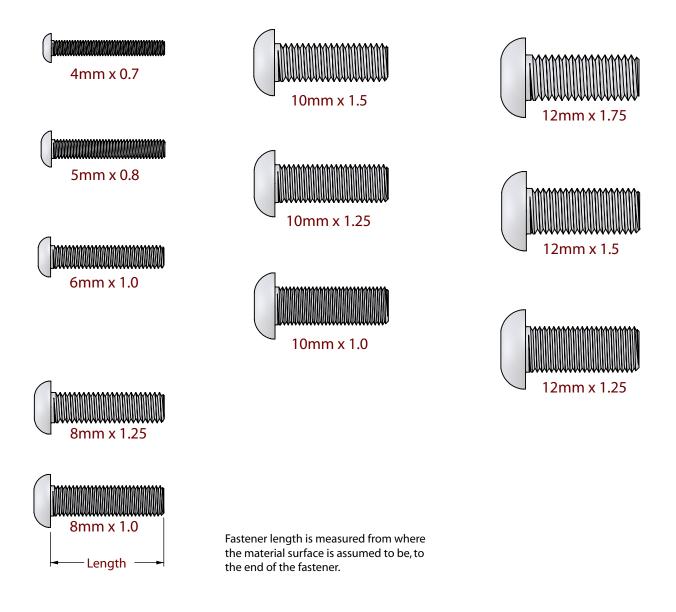


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Metric Socket Button Head Size Chart



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