

Electronic Tool Tip #16 – Pin Vise & Twist Drill Set

OK – Heads up! How often do you need to make a *really tiny* hole... smaller even than the smallest twist drill size that the chuck on your faithful cordless drill can grip? I don't know about you, but I actually find myself doing that quite often. Or, how about if it's not a really small hole, but instead something about a sixteenth of an inch in diameter, but in an unusual location? Have I got your attention yet?

Fairly regularly, I find myself in the unenviable position where the suction tube of my solder station de-soldering pump gun is blocked solid with solidified solder that will not re-melt because it is just far enough away from the heat to do any good. Removal of that solder plug is just about impossible, and it caused me a lot of frustration until I realized that I had the perfect tool for clearing it out – the Pin Vise and Twist Drill Set shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1 - Pin vise and twist drill set

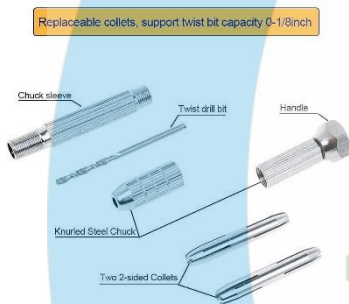


Figure 2 - Pin vise exploded view

This kit includes a set of twenty pieces of metric-sized twist drills in high-speed steel ranging from 0.3mm to 1.6mm in diameter. While they can be useful, they are certainly not the best part of this tool kit. No... that honor goes to the pin vise (Figure 2). This item includes two double-ended collets that will tightly grip twist drills from 0.012" through 0.125" (0.3mm to 3mm). I routinely use it with a standard 0.0625" twist drill to clear out the solder plugs from my de-solder gun.

The pin vise is comprised of five nicely-machined pieces – a body sleeve, a handle with a swivel cap, a collet chuck, and two collets. The collet not in use stores inside the body sleeve under the handle section. The collets are each double-ended, providing four grip ranges that overlap slightly, thus ensuring good grip coverage within the specified twist drill diameter limits.

The set of twist drills is supplied in a slide-top carrier with each drill in its own slot. While the sliding top has an opening that can be indexed with the individual drill slots for extraction of a single drill from the carrier, I find it easier to slide the cover all the way off instead of fussing with the individual slot positions. It is almost impossible to know what diameter drill is in which slot in the carrier. It just makes better sense and is usually quicker to open it all the way and look at the drill sizes to select the desired diameter.

This kit is available online from Amazon, at a price of \$7.98 (USD) plus shipping if you are not an Amazon Prime member. Of course, the government has to get its share, so tax will also be applied. Point your browser to <https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0105567BU> if you want to investigate this item for yourself.