

Technical Data

Tool Selection

TOOL MATERIAL

- Solid Carbide: Primarily used in CNC operations. Material provides best rigidity and long tool life.
- Carbide Tipped: Incorporates the wear resistance of carbide and the toughness of a HSS body-mainly hand held.
- HSS: Primarily used in hand routing. Material provides a tough body and sharper cutting edge.
- PCD: Long life in abrasive materials.

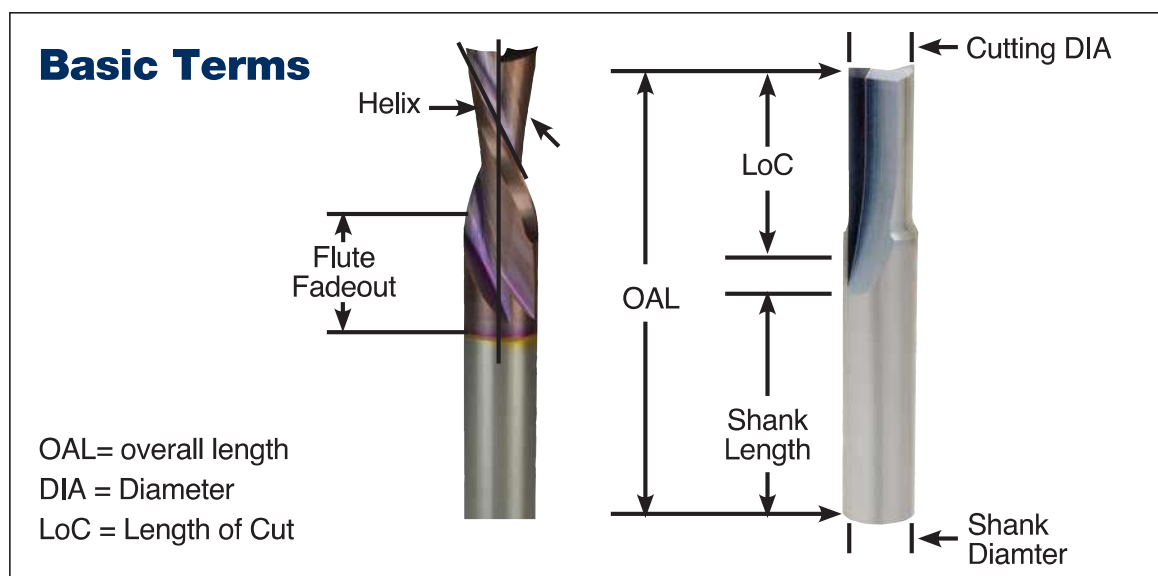
FLUTE GEOMETRY

- Straight flute: Offers a neutral cutting action-highest force.
- Upcut flute: Provides the best surface finish and allows for good chip extraction. May cause part lifting if vacuum or fixturing is not sufficient.
- Downcut flute: Provides a downward force which helps eliminate part lifting. Chip rewelding MAY occur if there is no space below the part for chip expansion.
- Compression: Used for laminated materials, produces a good top and bottom finish on the part.

NUMBER OF FLUTES

- Single Flute: Allows for larger chiploads in softer materials
- Two Flute: Allows for better part finish in harder materials.
- Multiple Flutes: Allows for an even better part finish in harder materials.

Note: As the number of cutting edges increase, your feed rate should increase to prevent burning and premature tool dulling.



OPTIMIZING SPEED AND FEEDS

1. Start off using the recommended chipload and RPM for the material you are cutting.
2. Increase the feedrate until the part finish starts to decrease or you risk moving the part off the vacuum. Decrease the feed by 10%.
3. Next decrease your RPM by a set increment until your surface finish deteriorates again. Once this happens increase your RPM until the finish is acceptable.
4. You have now optimized your speed and feed by taking the largest chip possible.

Note: This should be done in the first sheet of material to prevent tool dulling due to excessive heat.

TOOL HEAT

If a feed rate is too low, heat will be generated causing the cutting edge to break down and dull quickly. To check this, run a nest of parts and stop the spindle. When the spindle has stopped rotating, carefully feel the tool's temperature. It should be at or near room temperature. If the tool is hot, review "Optimizing Speed and Feeds".