

THREAD MILL TROUBLESHOOTING

PROBLEM	CAUSE	SOLUTION
TAPERED THREADED HOLE	TOOL PRESSURE	Reduce the chip load and/or make more radial passes.
NO-GO GAGE GOES & GO GAGE DOES NOT GO	THREAD OVERCUTTING	Use a tool of smaller diameter with correct pitch. Make sure helical "ramp in" is used.
TEETH ARE CHIPPING	TOOL PRESSURE	Reduce feed rate per tooth.
	BUILT-UP EDGE	Use a coated tool to help reduce built-up edge.
RAPID WEAR	TOOL RUBBING NOT CUTTING	Increase chip load per tooth.
TEETH ARE BURNING	TOO MUCH HEAT	Reduce speed. Use a coated tool. Increase coolant.
TOOL BREAKS	TOO MUCH TOOL PRESSURE	Helical "arc in" must be used. Reduce feed rate and/or use more radial passes. Adjusted Feed Rate (AFR) must be used. (See Thread Mill Feed and Speed Chart)

Thread milling tools form a thread using a motion referred to as "helical interpolation." This process involves the machine simultaneously moving all three axes. The resulting motions are circular and axial. The "X" and "Y" axes move in a circular manner and the "Z" axis in an axial direction per 360° at a distance equal to the pitch of the thread being machined. The tool should "ramp in" over 90° in order to avoid breakage. This must be a helical move. Move "Z" axially by $\text{pitch} \div 4$ since 90° is $360^\circ \div 4$.

Bottom-to-top climb cutting machining is recommended when machining a right-hand thread. This will avoid re-cutting any chips. For left hand threading, a top-to-bottom machining with a right-hand helical tool is the preferred method. Refer to troubleshooting chart above for solutions to potential thread milling problems.

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