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# Hot tap drill

User manual

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# Hot tap drill

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## **Publisher**

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# 1 Introduction

Congratulations! You purchased the most reliable hot tap drill tool in the world.

The VPInstruments hot tap drill has been designed for the compressed air industry, making it the best hot tap drilling tool for this specific market.

Hot tap drilling by hand, gives you more feeling with the drilling process. This way the drilling is easier, smoother and more importantly: safer!

Check the packaging box for any inconsistencies. Should there be any shipping damage, notify the local carrier. At the same time a report should be submitted to Van Putten Instruments BV, Marlotlaan 1G, 2614 GV DELFT, The Netherlands.

**This manual is dedicated to:**

VPA.8000.1012  
VPA.8001.1002

See our instruction video on [https://youtu.be/h1UN3f7gK8A?si=FAeJ2\\_keowjPjQwr](https://youtu.be/h1UN3f7gK8A?si=FAeJ2_keowjPjQwr)

For technical questions or support inquiries, please contact us by email at [support@vpinstruments.com](mailto:support@vpinstruments.com).

**Attention:**



Hot tap drilling is a skilled process. When hot tapping: safety is of the essence. Use the correct tools, take all safety precautions and practice first in unpressurized conditions. Read this complete user manual carefully and follow up all guidelines correctly and with care, for your own safety!

# 2 Applications

Find below a list of applications for which you can use the VPInstruments hot tap drill. Always take all safety precautions! Do not use the drill for other applications, since this can result in a dangerous situation. If you have another application, please ask the VPInstruments sales team for advice.

Gases up to 20 bar (g):

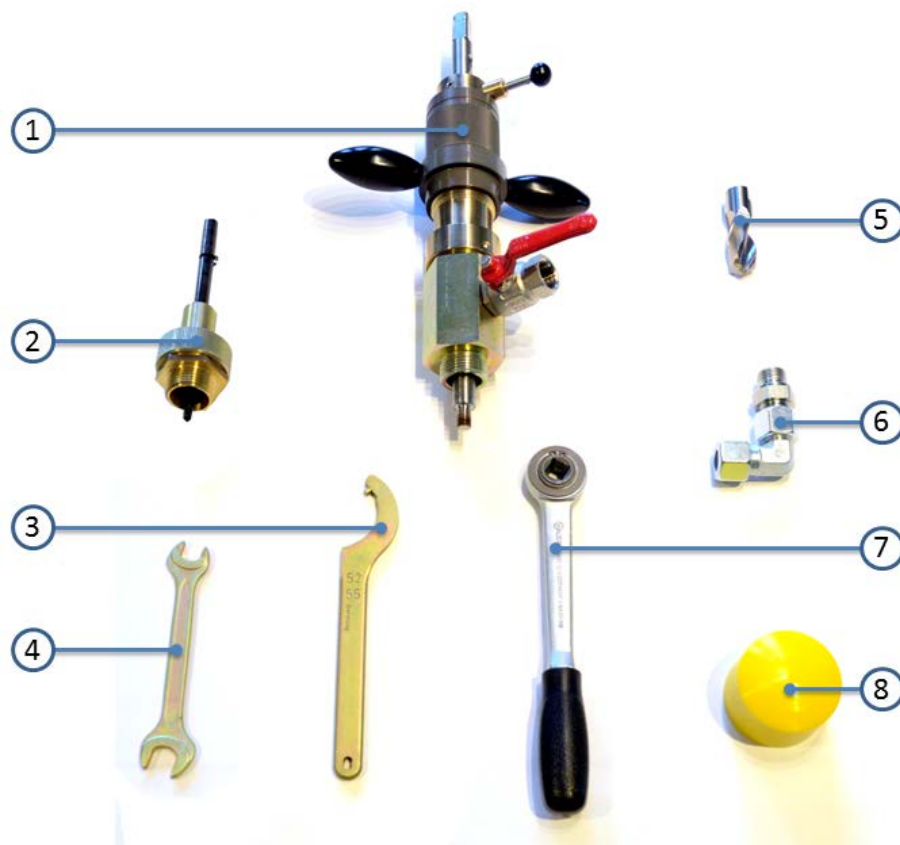
- Compressed air
- N2
- Argon
- CO2 (ventilation)

Pipe materials:

- Steel
- Stainless Steel
- (impact-resistant) PVC
- ABS

### 3 Product overview

#### Case contents



#### Product overview

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | Hot tap drill   |
| 2 | Center point (Not included in economy version)                                  |
| 3 | Hook wrench 52/55   |
| 4 | Wrench 14/17  |
| 5 | Drill bit 21 mm x M10 - L70mm (with economy model drill bit 21mm x M10 x 150mm) |
| 6 | Chip collector (with economy model different style)                             |
| 7 | Ratchet wrench  |
| 8 | Yellow PU hand cap  |

Hot-tap tool (max 20 bar (g)), with Stainless steel 3-whole drill shaft, 16 mm L=345



#### Product overview

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| 1 | Feed in socket |
| 2 | Drill shaft    |
| 3 | Lock pin       |

Items not included in Hot tap drill case package, but necessary for a right flow meter installation:

- Adjustable wrench to tighten the drill on the hot tap saddle
- 1" full bore ball valve
- 1" to 0,5" reducer
- Teflon tape



For US hot tap saddles with NPT service outlet, we offer a 1" BSP to NPT thread adapter.

## 4 Safety

- Always check corporate and local regulations on safety guidelines. Do you have permission to drill?
- Secure your working position. Make sure you are stable. Use a safety harness when at height.
- Check if you have a 1" full bore valve!
- Make sure your drill bit is sharp!
- Always check if the hot tap drill is in excellent condition, check if it is clean and complete. Check if the specifications of the drill matches the specifications of your application (pressure, diameter, material of the pipe, etc.).
- When you are drilling in pressurized conditions, the drill will be under pressure as soon as you have pierced the pipe. The shaft will be pushed up by the pressure, so double check your safety

pin! If the lock pin is suddenly removed, the shaft will be pushed out! So always do as follows: Use the yellow PU hand cap for extra grip! Hold back the drill shaft, remove the lock pin and slowly guide the shaft upwards to prevent a dangerous situation.

- After drilling in pressurized conditions, the internal body of the hot tap drill is under pressure!
- Maximum pressure is 20 bar (g).
- Always wear safety gear when drilling.

## **5 Before drilling**

- You have familiarized yourself with whole process of drilling and the drill itself.
- Be sure to use the right hot tap saddle (type, diameter range). The saddles have to be dry and clean before installation.
- Make sure your saddle is in the right position.
- Make sure that the hot tap drill is in excellent condition and ready for use (clean, dry, lubricated, etc.)
- Check if the drill, adapter, shaft, etc. are mounted correctly.
- Check how the hot tap drill works. (see youtube video)
- Check the pressure and medium in the pipe.
- Check the material and the wall thickness of the pipe.
- Be aware that you are drilling in a pressurized pipe!

## 6 Installation of a hot tap saddle



Check your hot tap saddle user manual for all the right details! This chapter provides general rules only. Hot tap saddles need to be installed very carefully and on a complete dry, oil free, smooth surface for a correct and safe installation. Always pressure test the saddle before drilling a hole

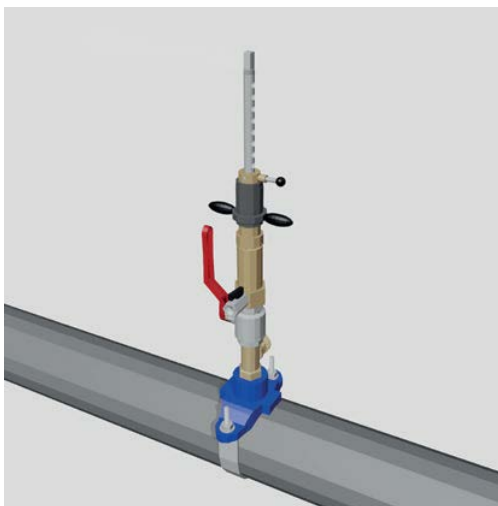
- Check if the outer diameter of the pipe matches the diameter range on the label of the hot tap saddle.
- Make sure that the pipe where you want to install the hot tap saddle, is clean and has a smooth surface; paint or coatings will not be a problem as long as the surface is clean, smooth and not damaged. If necessary, use sandpaper, a brush or means, to clean and smoothen the surface.
- Remove the nuts and rings from the saddle and remove the bracket.
- Place the saddle on the pipe. Make sure that the rubber fits well with the pipe.
- Place back the bracket on the saddle. The thread-ends go through the saddle, on which the rings and nuts need to be mounted back. Both sides need to be tightened equally.
- Tighten the saddle by tightening the nuts equally.
- Perform a pressure test according to the Pressure Equipment Directive, or applicable local legislation on pressure testing BEFORE drilling the hole.
- Mount a 1" full bore ball valve on the hot tap saddle.



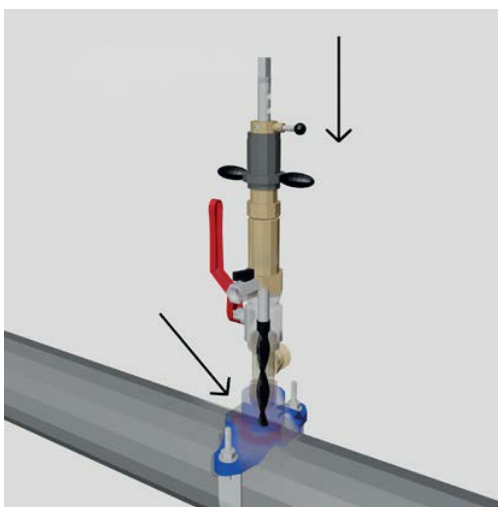


## 7 Hot tapping with the VPI hot tap drill

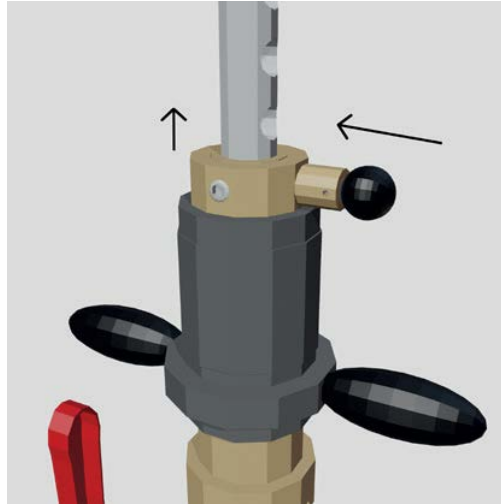
1. Once the hot tap saddle is rightly dimensioned and equipped, screw on the center point and hit it with a hammer to make a center point in the pipe.
2. Assemble the drill to make it ready, complete and fit for drilling.
  1. Screw the drill bit to the drill shaft and tighten it with the provided wrenches!
  2. Screw the chip collector to the adapter on the tool.
  3. Slide the drill shaft (with drill) upwards in the hot tap tool.
  4. Turn the feed in socket to the highest position (= the thread is just not visible).
3. Mount the complete tool on the ball valve that is installed on the Hot tap saddle (use Teflon tape for a good sealing). (Use an adapter if the saddle has a NTP service outlet)
4. Make sure you have opened the ball valve
5. Place the ratchet wrench on the head of the drill shaft.



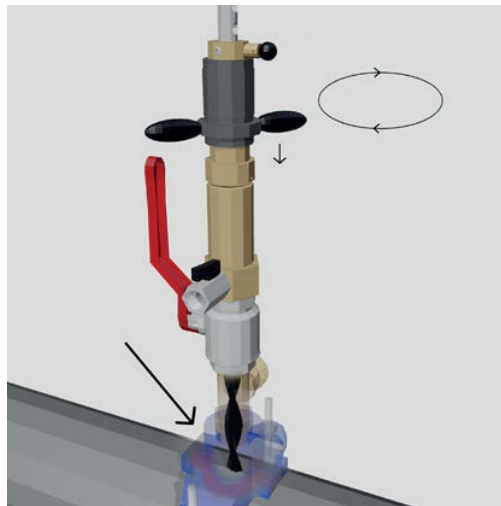
6. Slowly and carefully lower the drill shaft until the drill head touches the pipe surface (the ball valve is open).



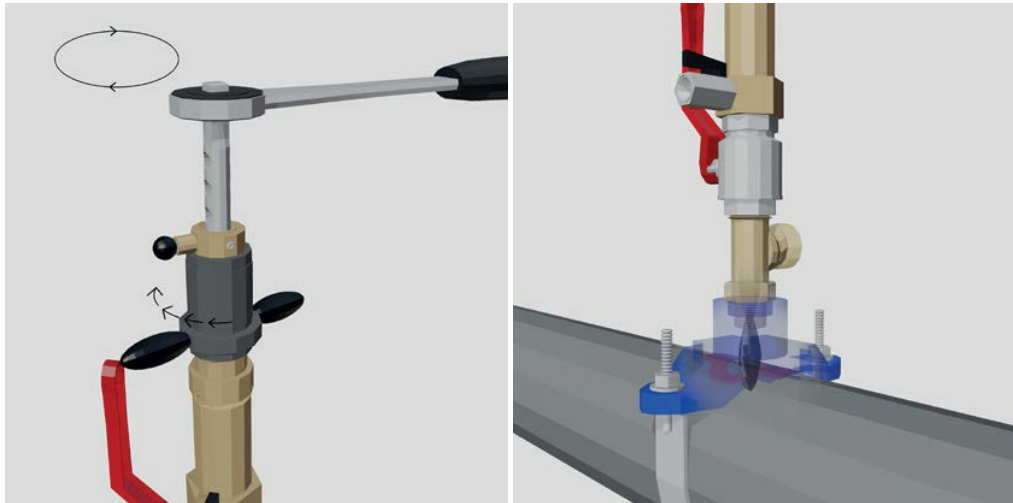
7. Lift the drill shaft a little bit (1mm is already sufficient) and fix the lock pin of the feed in socket.



8. Use the ratchet wrench to turn the shaft clockwise. Turn the feed in socket carefully downwards until the cutting tool touches the pipe surface.



9. Open the ½" vent ball valve on the adapter to let the chip collector work. When the pipe is pierced, there will be air flowing through the filter and this will act as a chip receiver/collector. The chips will be blown outwards because of the pressure and will not go inside the pipe.
10. Use your hand (on the head of the ratchet wrench) to support the drilling process to make it as stable and smooth as possible.
11. Start the drilling by turning the shaft clockwise using the ratchet wrench and to turn the feed in socket for the drill. **IMPORTANT:** this is an intuitive job! Giving too much force on the feed in socket can result in damage to the drill, the entire hot tap tool or parts of it.

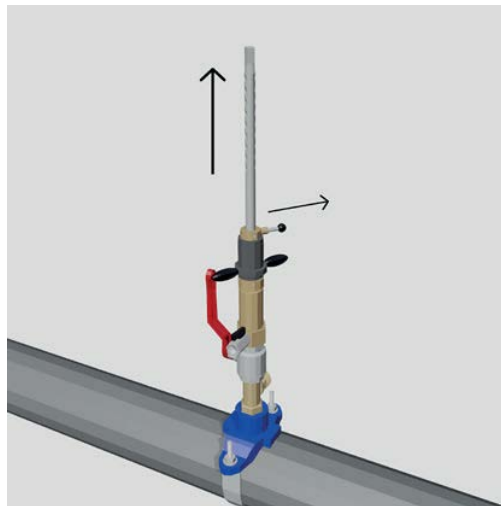


12. Repeat step nr. 11 until the pipe is completely pierced.

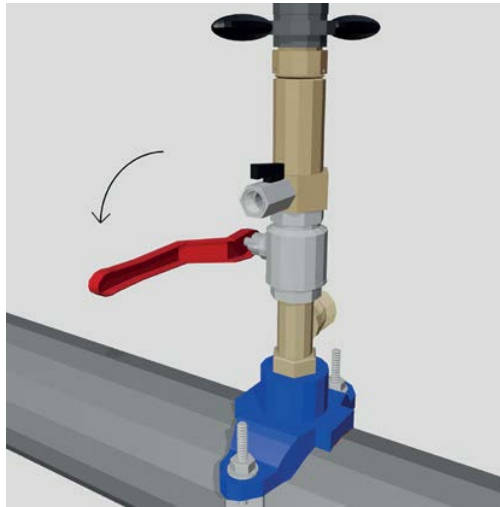
13. When the drill cannot go deep enough to pierce the pipe completely, you have to move the drill shaft one hole. Lift the feed in socket and move the lock pin one hole. (You can do this by turning counter clockwise) **IMPORTANT:** The drill shaft can already be under pressure!! Hold back the drill shaft by hand (you can use the yellow PU-hand cap), carefully pull out the lock pin, push the drill shaft downwards and put the lock pin in the next hole. Repeat step 4 to 11.

**When the pipe is fully pierced:**

- A. Hold back the drill shaft by hand (you must use the yellow PU-handcap, do not hold shaft by hand when under pressure!), turn back the feed in socket and carefully pull out the lock pin.
- B. Slowly and carefully guide the drill shaft upwards.



- C. Close first the ball valve on the hot tap saddle and second the ½" vent ball valve on the adapter.



- D. Remove the hot tap tool from the hot tap saddle.
- E. Make sure you don't loosen the 1" ball valve when unscrewing the Hot Tap Drill!
- F. Remove the chip receiver and clean it. Put it back on the adapter.
- G. Disassemble the hot tap tool. Clean and dry it. Lubricate the parts, check the conditions of the drill (replace it if necessary), mount the tool back together and put it back in the explorer case (if available); ready for your next usage.

## Notes

## Notes

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