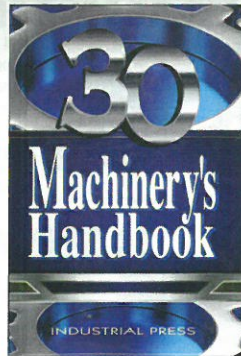


Book Review

by GEORGE BULLISS

30th Edition Machinery's Handbook Review

The latest edition of that old shop standard, *Machinery's Handbook*, was recently sent to me for review. I've had a copy in my toolbox for years and it's seen enough use that I open to the frequently used areas simply by referencing the oil stains. Every now and then something new pops up in the shop and *Machinery's Handbook* is the first thing I reach for.



My first question on receiving the book was, "Do I really need an update?" Well, some aspects of machining have changed little in the over 100 years the Handbook has been around, but there have certainly been a few advances along the way. For instance, sections on powder metal and fluid power have been added. Metric equivalents have also been added to better reflect the reality that many shops operate with a mix of metric and imperial dimensioning. The CNC section, which has been around for a while, features new material and has had a thorough review and reorganization.

It's also not just the new material that drives the release of a new edition; with a mountain of reference material such as this, review and improvement is an ongoing process. Over 1,400 illustrations have been redrawn to improve and clarify and a number of charts have been added.

A couple of these new charts will be of particular interest to the home shop machinist. The reaming allowance chart provides a suggested amount of material to leave in the drill hole prior to reaming, based on the reamer size. Now you no longer have to guess at how much undersize to drill your hole – something that's especially important when using very small reamers.

The other chart that caught my eye was one that featured tap drill sizes based on the percentage of thread engagement. The standard 75% engagement found on drill charts is simply not needed for most home shop (or even most industry) threading applications. Do yourself a favor and consider stepping down a bit in the percentage of thread engagement for those uses that don't require extreme strength. Just a small difference in tap drill size can make a big difference in the ease of tapping.

The 30th edition of *Machinery's Handbook* is available in the standard toolbox sized edition, a 7" x 10" desktop size with larger print, and on CD as well. To order yours, visit www.industrialpress.com or give them a call at (888) 528-7852.

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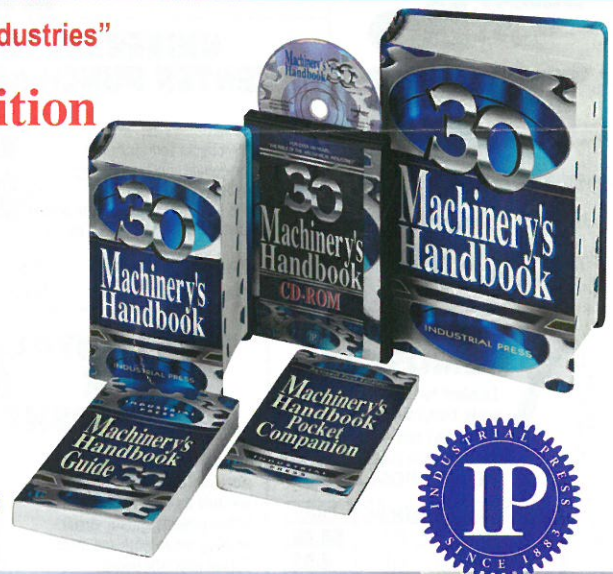
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