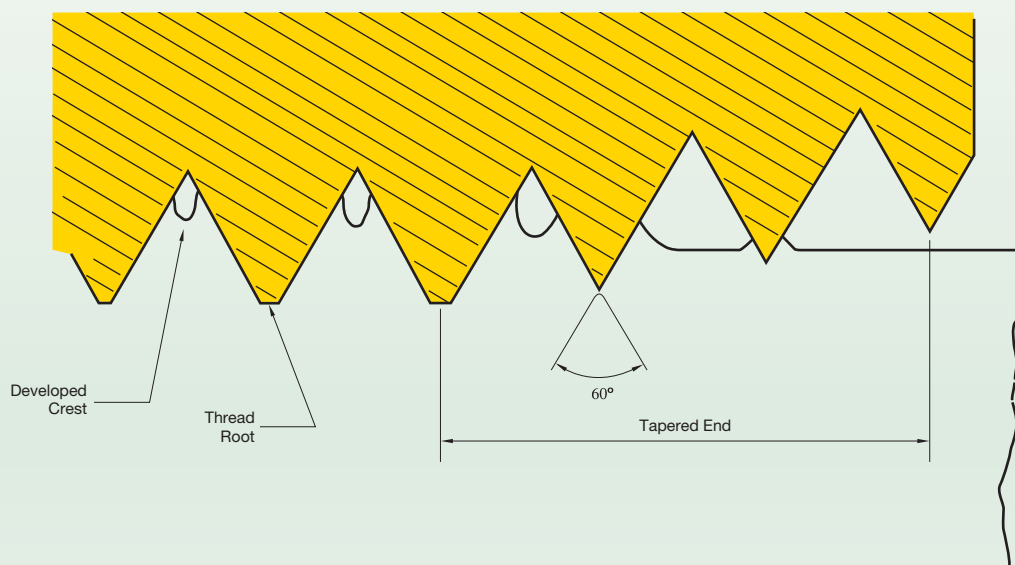


Unlike cutting taps, which remove material, forming taps generate an internal screw thread by displacing material and forming it into the V-shaped thread. A common misconception is that a thread rolling action occurs. Instead, the threads are formed over the tapered entry section of the tap as the tap rotates into the hole. A succession of deeper penetrating lobes over the entry plastically displaces material radially between the tap's thread flanks until the entry length is reached. At this point, the thread is fully formed at the correct thread height.



Forming taps have numerous advantages over cutting taps. The most obvious advantage is that forming taps do not create chips. There are no chip removal problems. Bird nesting is a situation that occurs when chips wrap around the shank of spiral-fluted taps when tapping blind holes in long chipping materials. Forming taps help this to be avoided. Since forming taps avoid this problem, they are stronger and more resistant to breakage. Another misconception is that forming taps produce stronger threads. Although the forming process strain hardens the thread flanks, it has very little effect on the major diameter, the location where internal threads strip.

Forming taps can only be used in ductile materials. Due to increased friction relative to cutting, forming taps require higher torque than cutting taps. In some situations, oil-based lubrications are required, and this might not be convenient on CNC machining centres that use water soluble coolant. In this situation, the lubricant concentration should be increased.

Since forming taps displace material, larger diameter pre-tap holes are required. This is especially important when converting from cutting taps to forming taps. If a cutting tap hole size is used, the displaced material will over-fill the tap's threads and breakage will result. Please consult hole size charts for forming taps.